

## Pacific Island Multi-Country Programme

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### Executive Summary

#### Important Achievements

UNICEF Pacific made great strides in 2015 in strengthening equitable service delivery for water, sanitation and hygiene in schools. In 2015, building on partners' strengthened capacity for birth registration, UNICEF facilitated a mobile approach to reach the hard-to-reach, building a partnership across Ministries, and leveraging emergency response. This resulted in a quantum leap in the percent of people with births registered in Vanuatu, and coverage also increased significantly through a mobile approach in Kiribati. In both countries, UNICEF Pacific procured children's vaccines for 13 Pacific Island Countries (PICs); supported PICs with vaccine introduction (inactivated polio, human papillomavirus, pneumococcal, rotavirus, measles and rubella) and special immunisation campaigns; responded to two outbreaks (measles in Vanuatu, rotavirus in Solomon Islands (SI)); strengthened cold chains through equipment and technical assistance; and contributed to vaccine feasibility assessments, vaccine management studies, evaluations and training. The campaign after Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu undoubtedly prevented a measles outbreak. Capacity and results for neonatal care and for treatment of acute malnutrition increased. Kiribati was assisted to develop an Education Sector Plan and quality service standards and teacher codes of conduct were introduced in several countries. UNICEF Pacific's operations team managed an unprecedented number of recruitments of staff and consultants in 2015, as well as reducing operational costs through streamlining, and provided leadership on cost recovery and coherence in the Joint United Nations Presence system.

#### Shortfalls

Violence against children and women continues to be endemic, despite progress on updating laws and policies; training police; support to NGOs; raising public awareness; commitment of leaders, (especially in Fiji), to speak out; and a Pacific Conference attended by the Secretary General's Special Representative. Another area where progress is constrained is the low percentage of children in the Pacific enrolled in early childhood education, and in general, insufficient cross-sector linkages for early childhood development. UNICEF Pacific lacks capacity to adequately support northern Pacific countries; including serious inequities in access to services, and clear needs for assistance in some States after typhoons. Progress is constrained on the goal of zero transmission of HIV from mother to child. Another shortfall was that funds were not raised nor partners leveraged to introduce U Report, or any other mechanism for children's participation in child rights monitoring.

#### Collaborative partnerships

Among the many partnerships that contribute to positive changes for Pacific children, four are highlighted for 2015. The Pacific Immunisation Partnership facilitates immunisation managers from 15 PICs to understand the latest international standards and protocols and get answers to technical questions; garner evidence for priorities in their plans and budgets; mutually support one another with their knowledge and practical experiences; and set common goals. UNICEF is the Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Children, and also contributes to implementation and reporting on the CEDAW, CRPD, and Universal Periodic Reporting. Supporting 14 PICs to do this is possible through our important partnership with SPC's Rights

and Resources team and with the UN Office for the High Commissioner on Human Rights. The Pacific WASH Coalition of partners facilitates knowledge and experience sharing, joint research, improves coordination; and reduces resources wasted on “re-inventing the wheel” or repeating mistakes. The Pacific Humanitarian Team grew into a partnership of hundreds. Sector specialists are now better connected to each other, and both preparedness and response are better coordinated and more coherent. UNICEF Pacific leads the WASH Cluster, co-leads the Education Cluster, and participates in the Health and Nutrition, Protection (including gender based violence and child protection areas) and Logistics Clusters.

### **Changes to Focus**

In 2015 UNICEF Pacific allocated significant time and resources to responding to (i) Category 5 Cyclone Pam, and (ii) the ongoing 2015-2016 El Niño event, the worst since 1997-1998. During the end 2015-start 2016 period, there was a rotavirus outbreak in SI and a Cyclone in Tonga and Fiji. Climate change has brought more frequent and more intense natural disasters to the Pacific, in addition to the long-term deleterious effects, especially on atoll nations. Thus, UNICEF Pacific will sharpen its focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including disaster resilience building. The launch in 2015 of both a UN Joint Programme, and three Health Ministries’ consolidated work plans and budgets for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health is a milestone for breaking down silos and increasing efficiency and effectiveness of health services for women and children.

### **Humanitarian Assistance**

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are among the most vulnerable in the world to cyclones, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, king tides, tsunamis and rising ocean levels. UNICEF Pacific is strongly engaged in preparedness, coordination and response and belongs to the Pacific Humanitarian Team, which includes UN agencies, multi- and bilateral partners, NGOs and national disaster management offices from all PICTs. UNICEF Pacific has a well-trained, coordinated Rapid Response Team, and also draws on regional and global surge staff when needed. UNICEF Pacific is the cluster lead in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education (with Save the Children), as well as the lead on sub-cluster groups on nutrition and child protection areas. During 2015, UNICEF Pacific responded to four cyclones, drought and three disease outbreaks, and were effective in capacity building, coordination, assessment, preparation and response, including supply delivery.

A scenario-based update of the UNICEF web-based early warning and preparedness system was conducted in preparation for the South Pacific cyclone season of November to April. By year end, emergency contingency supplies were positioned in Fiji, SI, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu. The New Zealand Government, UNICEF New Zealand, and UNICEF Pacific signed an agreement for a revolving fund for contingency supplies in Fiji and Samoa. UNICEF Pacific prepared contingency agreements with Oxfam and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support cluster coordination and distribution of emergency supplies.

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam struck Vanuatu on the night of 13 March 2015. Before making landfall in Vanuatu, Tropical Cyclone Pam and other storms caused sea surges, flooding, rain and winds in the SI, Tuvalu and Kiribati. The Governments of Tuvalu and SI declared States of Emergency, and Tuvalu also requested international assistance. Tropical Cyclone Pam caused the worst damage across Vanuatu. Winds were estimated to have reached 250 kmph, with gusts of 320 kmph. As a result, an estimated 166,600 people (more than half the population)

required urgent humanitarian assistance. The Government of Vanuatu declared a State of Emergency, and requested international assistance.

Between March and May 2015, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) were hit by three super typhoons (Maysak, Noul and Dolphin), cumulatively affecting more than 25,000 people. The Government of FSM declared a State of Emergency after both Maysak and Dolphin. Although not a major actor, UNICEF Pacific contributed emergency health supplies, a water quality testing kit, and technical expertise for immunisation.

Through both the OCHA-coordinated appeal, and the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (HAC), UNICEF-Pacific received nearly US\$US\$ ten million from many governments and UNICEF national committees. This was the largest ever emergency response managed by the Office, and the first time that corporate Level 2 emergency procedures were activated in the Pacific, facilitating critical and rapid support through staff and partner deployment, prioritization for supply orders and shipping, and streamlined financial and procurement procedures. Most humanitarian targets were either met or surpassed, and stakeholders were largely appreciative in Government-led Lessons Learned exercises and in UNICEF's After Action Review. There were also valuable recommendations towards strengthening operational and emergency preparedness processes. The After Action Review also highlighted that FSM received too little attention compared with Vanuatu. Recommendations from lessons learned and review exercises are being implemented and should further strengthen resilience-building, preparedness and response.

The current 2015-2016 El Niño event is the worst since 1997-1998, with serious drought conditions in areas of Fiji, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu. UNICEF Pacific supported WASH Cluster coordination at regional level and has identified preparedness measures for most-at-risk countries, including Fiji, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu. The Government-led Fiji WASH Cluster developed a drought contingency plan, created water conservation and WASH awareness materials, identified pre-positioned supplies based on scenarios, and improved linkages with other clusters, including education, health and shelter. The Fiji Government continues to lead a large scale drought response. In Vanuatu, the Government-led WASH, Health and Nutrition and Education Clusters carried out assessments, prepared plans and are implementing drought response in tandem with Cyclone Pam recovery work. The latter however, has suffered bureaucratic delays. In SI, UNICEF continued to supply WASH emergency supplies to communities suffering from El Niño drought, and responded to a serious rotavirus outbreak in December.

An updated UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal covering Pacific Island countries was prepared for 2016, calling for an additional US\$US\$ 5 million for response to El Niño.

## Summary Notes and Acronyms

CCA – climate change adaptation  
CEDAW – UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women  
CRPD – UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
CMT – UNICEF Country Management Team  
CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child  
CRO – Civil Registration Office  
CRVS – civil registration and vital statistics  
DGMWR – Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (Vanuatu)  
DRR – disaster risk reduction

ECCE – early childhood care and education  
ECD – early childhood development  
ECE – early childhood education  
EU – European Union  
FSM – Federated States of Micronesia  
GPE – Global Partnership for Education  
GPS – Global Positioning System  
HACT – harmonized approach to cash transfers  
ICT – information and communication technology  
IMEP – integrated monitoring and evaluation plan  
Kmph – kilometres per hour (wind speed)  
LTA – long-term agreement  
Mbps – megabytes per second  
MOE – Ministry of Education  
MOU – memorandum of understanding  
NGO – non-governmental organisation  
OCHA – UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
PICs – Pacific Island Countries  
PICTs – Pacific Island Countries and Territories  
PIFS – Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat  
PRC4ECCE – Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education  
RR – regular resources  
RMI – Republic of the Marshall Islands  
RMNCAH – reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health  
SI – Solomon Islands  
SMT – UN Security Management Team  
SPC – Secretariat of the Pacific Community  
TC – tropical cyclone  
UN – United Nations  
UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework  
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme  
UNDSS – UN Department of Safety and Security  
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund  
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund  
UNSRSG – UN Special Representative to the Secretary General  
UPR – universal periodic reviews  
WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene  
WHO – World Health Organization  
WiNS – WASH in Schools

## Capacity Development

UNICEF Pacific’s capacity development support is tailored to widely varying needs in 14 countries and territories. The Multi-Country Programme aims to strengthen capacity for essential public services for children by overcoming constraints in data collection and analysis; planning; policies and legislation, budget allocations; implementation; and performance management. Awareness of quality standards remains low and service provision costs are high because of wide dispersal of people across islands. UNICEF Pacific provides long term in-country technical support in Fiji, SI, Kiribati, Samoa and Vanuatu and remote or mission expertise to all countries.

UNICEF Pacific supported Water, Sanitation and Hygiene partners to participate in the UNICEF-Emory University WASH in schools distance-learning course, which resulted in rapid hygiene advances in schools in Kiribati, implementation of a pilot initiative in Fiji, and progress in SI and Vanuatu. Training and use of smart phones and software for collection of data on water points continued and was also used for rapid emergency assessment for the first time.

A new module on child functioning and disability developed by UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics was tested in the Samoa Demographic and Health Survey. Bottleneck analysis on maternal and child health service delivery in three countries increased capacity for prioritised, evidence-based plans and budgets. Integration workshops resulted in coherent work plans and budgets for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health.

The first school-based, self-learning, in-service teacher training module for Grades 1 and 2 teachers was launched in targeted schools of SI through an orientation for head teachers, selected teachers and provincial education authorities.

Publication of a child protection in emergencies toolkit was followed by training in SI, targeting areas affected by El Niño weather damage. The focus was capacity strengthening to prevent violence against children and women.

## **Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

Highlights of evidence generation for policies and advocacy included: UNICEF Pacific, the World Health Organization, UN-Habitat and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community prepared a report on the status of water and sanitation access, and the development of post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal targets for water, sanitation and hygiene.

A multi-country report and four country reports using the Global Indicator Framework for Monitoring and Measuring Child Protection were written and published. They represent a robust body of evidence to inform policy and budgetary reforms in the focus countries. The report Harmful Connections published jointly with UNFPA is a compelling consolidation of evidence on violence against children and women in the Pacific. The publication is already proving to be a strong tool in raising awareness with governments. The assessment of the Fiji Care and Protection Allowance, carried out in 2014, was published and launched in 2015, accompanied by policy briefs and advocacy plan. Recommendations were pursued by the Ministry, which has received additional staff and budget to continue and expand the programme.

As part of the Public Finance for Children initiative, a study was initiated jointly with the Regional Office to explore ways to establish a fiscal monitoring system for children in the Pacific Island Countries. The study will offer a methodology for the government, UNICEF and other stakeholders to undertake child-related public expenditure planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Further to the publication in December 2014 of “Children, women and men with disabilities in Vanuatu: What do the data say?” which proposes an analysis of disability data from pilot survey, census, DHS and education information system, the Vanuatu Government completed a national pilot survey on persons with disabilities. UNICEF expects to support other Pacific Island countries to carry out similar work in 2016.



## Partnerships

UNICEF Pacific co-leads or contributes to four UNDAF Groups and engages in seven UN Joint Programmes, including the new Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child & Adolescent Health Programme. Three of these Programmes were evaluated in 2015.

UNICEF Pacific works closely with multiple partners on the Pacific Regional Sexual Health and Well-Being Agenda, and works with five different departments of SPC. UNICEF Pacific contributes technical expertise for three Global Fund grants for HIV and AIDS. The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is an important partner within the Pacific Plan for Regional Cooperation and collaborates with a Sustainable Development Working Group on Treaty Reporting, and with the Pacific Disability Forum. UNICEF Pacific is a lead partner in the Pacific Immunisation Programme Strengthening partnership and the Brisbane Accord Group (for scaling-up and modernising birth registration). UNICEF Pacific is the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education. Within the Pacific Humanitarian Team, UNICEF Pacific leads or co-leads on WASH, education and child protection and participates in Health and Nutrition and logistics.

The Pacific WASH Coalition remains a critical partnership. UNICEF Pacific, the Asian Development Bank, UN-Habitat and the World Bank worked with the Water and Sanitation Programme of the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility to produce the report *Unsettled: Water and Sanitation in Urban Settlement Communities of the Pacific*.

The Vanuatu Women's Beach Volleyball Team helped UNICEF support measles and rubella immunisation campaigns, and both this team and the New Zealand All Blacks Rugby team are advocates for Pacific children's health and well-being. UNICEF Pacific partners with the Oceania Football Confederation on the Just Play programme, which combines sports with learning on healthy lifestyles, inclusiveness and diversity.

UNFPA, UNICEF Pacific, UN Women, WHO and SPC partner with Ministers of Health on the "Kaila Action Agenda" to strengthen resilience to climate change.

## External Communication and Public Advocacy

Diverse initiatives supported effective advocacy for the rights and needs of Pacific children in 2015. These included emergency communications, public advocacy, major events, the engagement of Pacific ambassadors and extensive social media outreach.

Strengthened relationships with UNICEF National Committees, the Regional Office and Headquarters enabled significantly expanded reach and impact for children through shared expertise, joint planning, collaboration in emergency response and collaborative advocacy for children's rights.

UNICEF Pacific successfully advocated for children affected by Cyclone Pam, bringing live updates from Vanuatu before, during and after the unprecedented Category 5 cyclone. UNICEF accounted for 34 per cent of global media coverage on the cyclone, supporting mobilisation of nearly US\$10 million to enable rapid and effective emergency response and recovery measures. UNICEF also documented the experiences and recovery of 100 cyclone-affected children throughout 2015, ensuring their voices were heard by national and global audiences. Public advocacy supported work to End Violence against Children in the Pacific. Social media platforms promoted new evidence on family violence, supporting increased discussion. Journalists from five Pacific countries were oriented on Ethical Reporting on Children before

covering a regional conference in Fiji. The conference featured the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (UNSRSG) on Violence against Children and the President of Fiji. The UNSRSG's advocacy linked to compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols was also supported.

UNICEF Pacific successfully advocated for children's futures in the lead-up to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, Paris COP21, meeting. Advocacy for, and with, children also focused on the El Niño-linked drought, with Opinion Editorials on the Pacific context shared globally and three videos featuring a nine year old child from Vanuatu, viewed more than a million times.

Social media reach grew significantly: from 9,080 to 30,000+ Facebook followers, and with significant growth on Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

### **South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Pacific facilitated South-South cooperation through Pacific regional conferences, workshops and training events, often co-organised with regional partners, building knowledge networks, fostering dialogue, experience-sharing, peer-reviews and decision-making among participating governmental and non-governmental staff. Pacific coalitions such as the Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening, the Pacific WASH Coalition, the Pacific Human Resources Association and the Early Childhood Education Council were important for South-South knowledge and experience sharing and also for agreements on common strategies, policies, and standards. UNICEF Pacific staff and funds frequently facilitated technical support from one country to another, both within the Pacific and from countries outside the Pacific.

Highlights of South-South cooperation in 2015 included:

Strengthened coordination with Pacific civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) partners culminated in the UNICEF-supported first Pacific Civil Registrars Network meeting, attended by Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Chuuk State in FSM, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu, SI, New Zealand and Australia. The network provides a unique platform for knowledge and best practice exchanges among civil registrars, as well as for arranging other ways to assist each other. Participants also discussed modalities for achieving goals towards the wider Asia Pacific Regional Action Framework on CRVS. Promising innovations in the field of CRVS were explored, with the presence of technical expertise to showcase options available to support Pacific governments to achieve universal birth registration.

UNICEF Pacific brought expertise and materials from Myanmar to help teachers in Vanuatu develop stories, books and assessments for psycho-social assistance after Cyclone Pam. UNICEF Pacific facilitated a government official from Tonga to go to Malaysia to learn about prevention of cyber-bullying and Pacific government officials went on study tours to Laos and Sri Lanka to learn about a "three star" approach to improve and sustain water, sanitation and good hygiene behaviour in schools.

### **Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

UNICEF Pacific worked with the Ministry of Education Fiji on a WASH in Schools (WiNS) pilot in 15 primary schools. The programme started with a bottleneck analysis and then used the Three Star Approach to WiNS, including the school-led construction of group hand-washing facilities. At baseline, none of the schools had group hand-washing facilities or were regularly supplying soap. Only 29 per cent of students were consistently washing hands with soap after using the

toilet, and only 41 per cent before eating. At the end of the school year, 13 out of 15 schools had constructed group hand-washing facilities, and at one school students bring their own water bottle for hand washing. Consequently, 96 per cent of students now wash their hands with soap after using the toilet, and 94 per cent before eating. In Kiribati, UNICEF Pacific advocated successfully for Tippy Taps to be installed at all schools and health clinics. Working together on design and construction of these facilities encouraged local innovation in Fiji and Kiribati, was an opportunity for collaboration between school managers and the community, and resulted in increased awareness of the importance of hand-washing. Another benefit of the group hand-washing facilities was the proper supervision of hand-washing by the teachers and prefects, and peer reinforcement.

Recognising that lack of formal registration limited people's ability to access relief services, for the first time, birth registration was included as a key target of an emergency response in the Pacific, specifically, in Vanuatu. Very strong partnerships were activated with civil registration, education and health services, supported by a Just Play programme, for a mobile registration campaign. As a result, 69,044 people including 22,150 children were registered, overwhelmingly exceeding the original target of 6,400, and contributing to a massive increase in national child and adult birth registration rates, including issuance of certificates.

### **Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

Cross-sector partnerships between Civil Registries, Ministries of Health and Education, local authorities, faith based organisations, and public and private media are critically important in raising rates of birth registration. Success in protecting children against violence also requires an integrated, cross-sectoral approach: Fiji has a child help-line that refers children and caregivers to different sector service providers, including health, police, social workers, schools. In addition, health care workers have guidelines and protocols for referring abuse cases.

In 2015, UNICEF facilitated cross-sectoral linkages for water, sanitation and hygiene, bringing together Ministries of Education, Ministries of Health, Departments of Water and local government authorities. In Kiribati, the partnership resulted in a proliferation of group hand-washing stands at schools and health centres across Tarawa Island, and improvements in access to latrines at all ten schools. Hand-washing was also promoted during vaccination campaigns, especially for the introduction of rotavirus vaccine. In SI, partnerships were built between Ministry of Health and Medical Services, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that specialise in community development and education, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Provincial Government: this led to a national WASH baseline survey and WASH in Schools activities benefitting teachers and students. A partnership in Vanuatu forged between the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Training, and local authorities led to 26 drinking water safety and security plans and training of trainers on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation.

UNICEF's work on building the evidence base for strengthening service delivery for children with disabilities relies on cross-sectoral partnerships, with national statistics offices, sector Ministries and international experts. The most effective child rights monitoring for compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Children occurs in Pacific countries with committed participation by committee members from different sectors.

### **Service Delivery**

UNICEF Pacific helps governments define, implement and monitor quality service standards for health, nutrition, WASH, education and protection, including related to disaster resilience and



climate change adaptation. In 2015 UNICEF Pacific continued to support data collection, analysis of inequitable access, and strengthening of immunisation coverage, and this improved service delivery in FSM, Samoa, Kiribati, Vanuatu and SI. UNICEF Pacific supported second generation surveillance for HIV and AIDS and worked to prevent mother-to-child transmission. While advocating for regular budget inclusion of medical supplies to treat acute malnutrition, UNICEF Pacific continued to procure these for hospitals when supplies felt short, aiming to end deaths from malnutrition. Translating policies, laws and strategies into increased demand for, supply and use of services is particularly challenging for personnel working in child protection. UNICEF Pacific supported Kiribati with dissemination of a manual and regulations, training of police, and support to a juvenile offender diversion programme. Technical and financial support to mobile birth registration services in Vanuatu and Kiribati greatly increased the percentage of births registered and reduced rural-urban disparity. UNICEF Pacific also supported the Civil Registry Office in SI; this resulted in increased capacity to deliver registration services in eight out of ten provinces. Based on findings from knowledge, attitude and practice surveys, UNICEF Pacific supported Ministries of Education in SI and Vanuatu to develop and print 2000 early childhood storybooks that reinforce culture, guide children towards literacy, and reinforce bonding with caregivers. Reducing inequity in access to toilets and a healthy living environment, UNICEF Pacific continued to provide technical assistance to strengthen water and sanitation sector policies for rural islands and informal settlements, and simultaneously to mobilise communities to end open defecation. Environmental health and health officers in Fiji were trained to improve enforcement of water quality standards and monitor for typhoid, which is endemic.

### Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

All Pacific Island countries have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). All but Palau and Tonga have also ratified the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), although Palau signed it in September 2011. UNICEF Pacific has been supporting governments in the Pacific with their reporting obligations on the CRC. Six countries (Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Nauru) are on track with their reporting. Nauru submitted its first state party report in 2015 (19 years overdue), and Nauru and Samoa will have their State reviews with the CRC Committee in 2016. In 2015, UNICEF Pacific engaged in the Pre-Session process with Committee members in preparation for the state reviews next year. UNICEF Pacific provided CRC support through various modalities. Two CRC workshops were organised in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to assist with overdue reports. A first draft was developed for FSM during the workshop and technical support was provided to both draft reports, in line with agreed timelines developed by Government partners. UNICEF Pacific is providing ongoing technical and financial support to the implementation of CRC Committee recommendations through National Coordinating Committees in Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Four submissions were made to the human rights mechanisms, wherein UNICEF Pacific highlighted progress, concerns and made recommendations relating to the situation of children in the countries concerned. Two submissions were made through the UN Country Team Joint Submissions for Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR). UNICEF Pacific participated in the practice UPR session for Kiribati to assist the Government to prepare. An additional report was made for a Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) review for the Cook Islands. UNICEF Pacific continues to work closely with OHCHR and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team in capacity development of both government and civil society partners for human rights monitoring, addressing recommendations, and reporting.

## Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

UNICEF Pacific's gender-related priorities are a reduction of gender-based violence and gender-responsive adolescent health. The "End Violence against Children Conference" organised by UNICEF Pacific and hosted by Fiji saw the presence of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the participation of 13 Pacific Island Country governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and faith-based organisations. A report, *Harmful Connections: Examining the Relationship between Violence against Women and Violence against Children in the South Pacific*, was produced by UNICEF and UNFPA; it draws on data from five country studies and examines the connection between gender-based violence and violence against children, and the inter-generational impact of this violence.

In Kiribati and Vanuatu, HIV and AIDS work plans were integrated with health work plans to better align with the Pacific Regional Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy. The Health, Nutrition and HIV and AIDS programme also undertook advocacy throughout the year on reducing the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women, and contributed to reducing childbearing risks to women through provision of solar powered child birth kits in Vanuatu.

UNICEF Pacific was a major contributor to the UN Gender Score Card exercise, led by UN Women, that was completed in November 2015.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme completed the Assessment of Gender Mainstreaming of WASH Implementing Partners in Vanuatu. This report considers gender and social inclusion issues in WASH programmes at national, provincial, community and household levels, and identifies issues and opportunities for greater participation and empowerment of vulnerable women and marginalised groups across the sector. The findings and recommendations will be used by the Government of Vanuatu, UNICEF and WASH service providers to inform their policies and practice. The WASH programme also carried out a menstrual hygiene management study and began implementing an awareness-raising and advocacy strategy with Ministries of Education, to increase access to WASH facilities at schools, enabling girls to manage menstrual hygiene with dignity, and improving their school attendance and self-confidence.

## Environmental Sustainability

Climate vulnerability is a fundamental obstacle for sustainable development in the Pacific, as vividly illustrated by the devastation of more numerous and intense cyclones in 2015, as well as by the impact of El Niño-aggravated drought. To risk-inform UNICEF programmes, UNICEF Pacific performed Child Centred Risk Assessments in Fiji, Vanuatu, SI and Kiribati. Significant parts of the cold chains for vaccines in the Pacific are powered by solar panels. However, Tropical Cyclone Pam proved these solar panels to be vulnerable to strong wind gusts and UNICEF Pacific assisted in addressing this sustainability challenge by increasing the systems' resilience during the reconstruction in Vanuatu. This approach is also informing work to develop the cold chain in SI and is suitable for other disaster-prone countries that rely on solar powered refrigerators and light. Moreover, an innovative solution using solar panels ("solar suitcases") was also piloted in three maternal and child healthcare centres in Vanuatu, to maintain continuous, quality childbirth service during power outages. Solar panels were also introduced in five schools in SI. UNICEF Pacific partnered with UNFPA, WHO and the Ministry of Health, Fiji to host a ten country conference on climate change and produce a commitment paper by Ministers on mitigating the effects of climate change on women's and children's health.

Climate change advocacy was ramped up in preparation for the 21st UN Conference of Parties meeting in Paris, with effective media outreach, Opinion Editorials and social media activity supporting global reach. UNICEF Pacific also supported the preparation for the Executive Director's planned meeting with the Kiribati delegation and produced audio-visual documentation of the impacts of climate change from a child's perspective. Advocacy for, and with, children also focused on the El Niño-linked drought, with children in Kiribati producing their own stories and UNICEF Pacific Opinion Editorials shared globally. Three videos featuring a nine-year-old child from Vanuatu were viewed more than a million times on global and regional platforms.

## Effective Leadership

The UNICEF Pacific Multi Country Office underwent restructuring and re-organising for greater efficiency in 2014. 2015 management priorities were achieved: inter alia, signed work plans with counterparts across countries and sectors; close all 2014 audit recommendations; strengthen Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) in five high cash transfer countries; leadership on reform of the UN Joint Presence system (including the first standardised MoU for all offices and introducing cost recovery); institute changes in preparation for roll out of Global Shared Service Centre; train all staff on UN ethical standards; effective preparation and response for natural disasters. The exercise in closing 23 audit recommendations was useful as the Office streamlined and improved procedures and processes, built staff capacity, and realised efficiency gains through reduced business processing time. Despite regular, frequent review and assistance, delays in partners' activities and accounting continued to be problematic; management had devised a new approach in 2016. The Office also reduced risks identified in the enterprise risk management plan through systematic action. In addition to programmatic and operational areas, this also included leadership within the UN on staff security, including quality and quantity of life vests, and innovating through introducing satellite tracking and communication devices for staff in four countries.

HACT measures are challenging for a multi-country Office, but despite this, micro-assessments were completed, staff and partners trained, assurance plans completed and implemented. The first Level 2 emergency response in the Pacific (after Cyclone Pam) challenged the staff to quickly adapt, learn and expand programme and business operations in a very difficult logistical environment. Support from UNICEF headquarters, regional office and other country offices complemented the hard work by Pacific staff and resulted in a very effective response, especially through supplies for children.

## Financial Resources Management

All programme and operations sections and country (field) offices review and take actions on financial indicators twice a month, followed by monthly review at the Multi-Country Management Team meeting. The Office reduced operational costs by increased vigilance on stationery and electricity usage, more competitive contracting, and better long-term agreements with vendors, but mostly through a reduction of 20 per cent in the Suva, Fiji rental costs by an open-space re-design that decreased floor space. Total funding from all sources available in 2015 was US\$US\$ 26,852,291; a large increase over 2014 due to humanitarian income. The Office used 100 per cent of its Institutional Budget of US\$US\$ 300,926 and 100 per cent of its Regular Resources of US\$US\$ 6.1 million. There was US\$US\$ 11.5 million in Other Resources, of which 95 per cent was utilised. There was also US\$US\$ 7.6 million in humanitarian funds, of which 97 per cent was used, mostly in Vanuatu for Cyclone response, but also in SI, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Federated States of Micronesia.

Strengthening financial assurance was a 2015 management priority. The Office contracted four macro-assessments in collaboration with UNDP and UNFPA; completed 11 micro assessments; undertook 32 out of 37 planned spot checks and completed 75 out of 82 planned monitoring visits. Staff and partners were trained in financial assurance in Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu. Nevertheless, there was only slight improvement on timely liquidation. As at 31 December 2015, an amount of US\$US\$ 314,172 of disbursement outstanding for a period over 6 months was not yet liquidated. Constraints include slowness of money moving from Treasury to Government Ministries and implementing departments; high turnover of partner staff; far-flung island geography and human resource capacity in general.

All of the 15 remaining audit recommendations from 2014 were closed in 2015, with improvements to work processes sustained. All bank reconciliations were managed successfully throughout 2015.

### Fund-raising and Donor Relations

Funds available to UNICEF Pacific in 2015 totalled US\$US\$ 26,852,291: regular resources US\$US\$ 7,646,942; other regular resources (ORR) US\$US\$ 11,534,500 and other resources for emergency use, US\$US\$ 7,670,849. Overall financial utilisation was 97 per cent . 25 out of 30 grants that expired in 2015 were 100 per cent used; the other five ranged between 95-99 per cent utilisation. Only 5 of the 69 grants managed in 2015 required extensions to be agreed with donors. By year-end new ORR funds mobilised exceeded the overall Office target by 15 per cent , due mostly to fundraising for immunisation (special campaigns and vaccine introductions) and WASH, while other programme areas still had insufficient funds to achieve all of their planned programme results. All 48 donor reports due in 2015 were submitted on time to donors, despite the additional heavy reporting load due to short term funds raised for Cyclone Pam response. Donors for emergency and/or development work were: Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Andorra, Canada, Estonia, Japan, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea, the European Union, the GAVI Fund, UNAIDS, UNDP-MDTF, UNFPA-USA, UNOCHA, UN Trust Fund for Human Security and UNICEF National Committees in: Andorra, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan (Vaccine Committee), French, Germany, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Republic of South Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and United States of America.

A new three-year, three-country contribution agreement was signed with Australia for a UN Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health; UNICEF is Administrative Agent overall and Managing Agent in one country. New funding was agreed with New Zealand, through the UNICEF New Zealand Committee, for WASH in Vanuatu, and for placement of contingency supplies; with the Australian National Committee for rotavirus vaccines in Kiribati, for education sector development through the Global Partnership for Education and for strengthening the vaccine cold chain in Vanuatu through the Japan Committee.

### Evaluation

The five-year Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) outlines requirements for research and studies, surveys, monitoring systems and evaluations linked to the key programme component results and core indicators presented in the summary results matrix of the 2013-2017 multi-country programme. A one-year plan is prepared every year. Terms of reference for major evaluations funded or supported by UNICEF include a standard set of evaluation criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability; and advice is

sought from the Regional Evaluation Adviser. The Office's Research, Evaluation and Studies oversight committee took on the additional assurance responsibility of UNICEF's new ethical research guidelines. The Programme Management Team ensures that all research, studies, surveys, assessments and evaluations fit with strategic priorities. Implementation of planned management responses is assessed during mid- and end-year reviews, and is tracked as part of quarterly programme reviews. Projects evaluated or evaluations finalised in 2015 included: a Community Based Child Protection Facilitation package in Fiji; Cyclone Pam After Action Review; the UNTHFS WASH project in Vanuatu and SI, and an evaluation of Pacific Enable, which is a UN joint programme on Disability. Recommendations from those assessments are tracked by the Programme Management Team through internal management responses agreed with relevant partners, and contribute to strengthening cooperation. UNICEF Pacific also participated in Government or OCHA-led humanitarian Lessons Learned exercises and contracted out its own After Action Review of the Level 2 Corporate Response to Cyclone Pam.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Pacific benefitted tremendously in 2015 from re-structuring and reforming measures begun through a mid-term review in 2014, and completed in 2015. Staff costs were reduced and operating costs were reduced by about US\$150,000 per year, despite increases in airfares, rent and other expenses by vendors. Starting in January, rental costs in Suva, Fiji were reduced significantly through a redesign that permitted reduction in floor space. This had the positive impact of freeing funds, especially regular resources, for programme implementation. In 2015, the Office participated in 13 joint UN Long Term Agreements (LTAs), but out of these only two were effectively used and resulted in savings: namely, for travel and internet. UNICEF Pacific negotiated a Long Term Agreement on behalf of all UN agencies, for an Internet Service Provider that not only reduced costs but also increased bandwidth from 4 mbps to 7 mbps. A major LTA processed in 2015 by UNICEF Pacific for mobile telecommunications services will provide a package to the whole UN at lower cost and good quality. UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN WOMEN signed a joint agreement with regards to cost-sharing amongst them and for cost recovery from other UN agencies for their use of staff, space and services offered through the UN Joint Presence offices in different Pacific countries; this should result in savings in 2016. Travel costs remain high for this 14 country office in the Pacific, especially because poor telephone and internet connectivity makes remote conferencing impossible. Travel plans and routings were carefully reviewed by managers while staff also took on more multi-tasking, for example, monitoring for different programmes on one trip. A policy on consultant contracts specifying that they must pay for and arrange their own travel was enforced with more rigour.

### Supply Management

In 2015 UNICEF Pacific managed a significant increase in supplies related to Cyclone Pam response; increases in amounts and types of vaccine orders and in supplies to treat malnutrition; and replenishment of contingency supplies. UNICEF Pacific and UNICEF Supply Division continue to play an instrumental role for vaccine procurement for thirteen countries of the Pacific through the Vaccine Independence Initiative. The amount for the supply value of vaccines for 2015 reached US\$ 1.5 million. The total value of procurement (supplies and institutional contracts) was US\$ 6.3 million, out of which US\$ 2.0 million was for emergency supplies. At 30 December 2015, the value of supplies in five warehouses in three countries was US\$ 1.1 million; 71 per cent was earmarked for continuing emergency response or emergency contingency.



<b>UNICEF Pacific Islands Multi Country Programme 2015</b>	<b>Value in US\$</b>
<b>Total supplies</b>	<b>4,004,401</b>
Programme supplies	3,839,194
Operational supplies	165,207
<b>Total Institutional contracts</b>	<b>2,284,531</b>
Programme contracts	1,874,573
Operational contracts	409,958

Supply of goods and services to Pacific countries is 90 per cent dependent on providers from other regions, out of which 85 per cent came through Supply Division. A new procurement specialist post enabled the Office to embark on capacity building for Ministries of Health on demand forecasting, and ordering; more efficient processing of invoices; and supply chain data management. In 2015, a customised forecasting tool was developed for Pacific countries in order to better plan their annual vaccine orders depending on estimated consumption trends.

In Vanuatu and SI, a logistics consultant was hired to explore and document vendor options for procurement, warehousing, and transport by sea, air and boat; her findings will be actioned by managers in early 2016.

UNICEF Supply Division conducted a supply training in 2015 for UNICEF Pacific staff on supply planning and management, and this resulted in marked improvements in supply planning and ordering.

### **Security for Staff and Premises**

UNICEF Pacific MCO undertook a number of actions in 2015 to enhance the safety and security of staff and premises. An allocation of US\$41,500 from UNICEF regional security funds was used to buy first aid kits, trauma bags, life vests with light and GPS, a defibrillator, and a satellite-based emergency communication devices. Staff participated in UN DSS-led training on first aid, safe driving in 4x4 vehicles; and women's safety.

Assessments, designs and contracts were completed for the move by the SI UN Joint Presence Office to a much safer, new building. In Kiribati another location, farther from tidal surges, has not been found, but new fencing was installed to reduce other risks. The Vanuatu Office is currently MOSS compliant and proved to be resistant to a Category 5 Cyclone during Tropical Cyclone Pam; within a week after the event it was operational. The Fiji Office has been cleared by UNDSS and the Fijian Occupational Health Safety Authority.

Staff in the UNICEF Pacific office in Fiji participated in a tsunami evacuation exercise conducted by UNDSS, with cooperation from Suva City first responders. While overall the exercise was successful, useful lessons were learned and immediately applied to improve staff safety in case of a tsunami.

UNICEF Pacific is a member of the UN Security Management Team (SMT) and its subgroup on emergency communications. UNICEF Pacific purchased devices and contracted a satellite company to successfully test a new emergency communication system (In Reach Solution) with which one can send text messages via instant messaging, other social media, or email. The devices also have in-built Geographic Positioning System as well as pre-loaded safety and security-related messages. This system will be scaled up to more staff in 2016, and mandatory for those going on boat trips and visiting remote field locations.

## Human Resources

Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review, post changes resulted in a higher than usual number of recruitments in 2015. There are a total of 89 fixed term posts. Fifteen new posts were filled, while three were under recruitment in December. Four posts are on hold due to non-funding. UNICEF Pacific also recruited eight new people due to staff reassignments and separations, with another four still under recruitment. There were no exceptional deviations from approved funding sources for any post.

During the year, 87 short-term consultants were hired, fulfilling requests for short-term technical assistance, many of which were related to the Level 2 Cyclone Pam response. The Human Resources section also facilitated recruitment of stand-by partners, temporary appointments and surge staff from other UNICEF offices for the cyclone response.

The Human Resources Development Team prepared a staff learning plan for 2015 that was nearly 100 per cent implemented (and included additional learning opportunities that arose during the year). Learning was done through on-line courses, local workshops and a mix of Pacific and other international travel.

The office improved its efficiency on the timely completion of staff performance appraisals: Completion status for the planning phase was 93 per cent (68 out of 73 staff) and timely finalisation of key assignments was 90 per cent (69 out of 77).

The UNICEF Pacific team addressed issues identified in the 2014 Global Staff Survey. The Staff Association led half day discussions, and worked with all staff and the Country Management Team (CMT) on an action plan for each office. Progress and constraints were monitored through CMT meetings. A UNICEF Pacific internal survey in October 2015 recorded significant positive differences in most areas as compared to the 2014 survey, but it also highlighted some areas where the Office still needs to improve.

## Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific migrated from the Lotus Notes/Domino system to MS Outlook/Exchange, and to Skype for Business, One Drive for Business, Outlook Web Access. The utilisation of cloud-based office tools is a big advantage for a multi-country office whose staff travel frequently within the Pacific. There has been an increase in online meetings, trainings and document sharing. On the other hand, many Pacific countries, and even more islands within countries, remain with no or very limited internet access, and costs remain very high. Therefore traditional email with attachments and instant messaging remain the main or only way to reliably reach some UN staff and many partners. The Office will be changing internet service providers in SI and Kiribati in order to improve the current poor internet availability situation.

Creation of the UNICEF Pacific SharePoint site is underway. This will further enhance the ability to share documents, share a common office calendar, and allow remote access to relevant data – but, again, staff in some locations will not be able to benefit and thus the office needs to maintain parallel data storage and transmission systems.

Following Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, while the private sector was working to restore ICT service, Government and UN staff made heavy use of an emergency service provided by World Food Programme and of an emergency operations centre run by UNICEF. On the implementation of

open-source and mobile tools for partners, UNICEF Pacific with its Government of Vanuatu partner, used Akvo Flow software and smart phones for rapid emergency assessments. UNICEF Pacific participates in the Joint UN ICT Working Group, and UNICEF Pacific took the lead on common UN Internet service, and common UN mobile services, while also buying into a standard UN conferencing platform and equipment for joint UN offices in several Pacific countries.

## Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

### ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

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

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

The Pacific MCO benefitted tremendously in 2015 from re-structuring and reforming measures begun through a mid-term review in 2014, and completed in 2015. Staff costs were reduced and operating costs were reduced by about US\$ 150,000 per year, despite increases in airfares, rent and other expenses by vendors. Starting in January, rental costs in Suva, Fiji were reduced significantly through a redesign that permitted reduction in floor space. This had the positive impact of freeing funds, especially regular resources, for programme implementation. In 2015, the Office participated in 13 joint UN Long Term Agreements (LTAs), but out of these only two were effectively used and resulted in savings: namely, for travel and internet. UNICEF Pacific negotiated a LTA on behalf of all UN agencies, for an Internet Service Provider that not only reduced costs but also increased bandwidth from 4 mbps to 7 mbps. A major LTA processed in 2015 by UNICEF Pacific for mobile telecommunications services will provide a package to the whole UN at lower cost and good quality. UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN WOMEN signed a joint agreement with regards to cost-sharing amongst them and for cost recovery from other UN agencies for their use of staff, space and services offered through the UN Joint Presence offices in different Pacific countries; this should result in savings in 2016. Travel costs remain high for this 14 country office in the Pacific, especially because poor telephone and internet connectivity makes remote conferencing impossible. Travel plans and routings were carefully reviewed by managers and some staff helped by not availing business class entitlements, while staff also took on more multi-tasking, for example, monitoring for different programmes on one trip. A policy on consultant contracts specifying that they must pay for and arrange their own travel was enforced with more rigour.

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

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

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific took a number of significant steps to deliver its programme in the most effective and efficient manner possible, including implementing all audit recommendations, responding appropriately to the level 2 (L2) emergency that affected Vanuatu, adopting appropriate quality assurance mechanisms for cash transfers to partners, preparing effectively for the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC), and contributing to the adoption of appropriate cost recovery and cost sharing mechanisms for the United Nations Joint Presence in the Pacific. The implementation of all 23 recommendations included in the 2014 audit catalysed UNICEF Pacific to revisit its procedures and processes and to improve capacity. The response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu, required a surge in UNICEF Pacific's activities and increased financial support by US\$10 million. During the reporting period, UNICEF Pacific

invested significantly in ensuring that appropriate quality assurance mechanisms were in place for implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), a common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-government implementing partners. UNICEF Pacific's preparations for implementation of the GSSC, which will be fully operational by the end of 2016, were commended and approved by the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific.

After the 2014 Mid-Term Review (MTR), UNICEF Pacific has been implementing a revised five-year multi-country programme, which has resulted in a more focused, efficient approach to programming, including reduced staffing and an adapted human resources structure. The UNICEF Pacific Country Management Team (CMT) met twelve times during 2015, reviewing progress against indicators and overseeing a number of statutory committees, such as the HACT committee. Finally, the UNICEF Pacific Annual Management Plan was reviewed in July 2015, as was the Risk Control Self-Assessment (RCSA).

**OUTPUT 2** Staff cost related to the Financial and Administrative management of the Office.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Pacific has strived to reduce its operational costs by closely monitoring budget utilization. The UNICEF Pacific Country Management Team (CMT) reviews financial indicators on a monthly basis and takes appropriate actions as needed. After decreasing its office space utilization, in 2015 UNICEF Pacific benefitted from a 20 per cent reduction in rental costs in Suva, Fiji. A similar trend has been achieved for other operational costs such as electricity and office stationery.

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific utilized 100 per cent of its Institutional Budget of US\$300,926. Total funding from all sources available was US\$32.6 million. The utilization rate was 98 per cent per cent for Regular Resources. With regard to Other Resources, out of US\$14.8 million, 96 per cent was utilized. Of US\$9.8 million made available in emergency funds, a 92 per cent utilization rate was achieved.

UNICEF Pacific invested significantly in ensuring that appropriate quality assurance mechanisms were in place for implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT). Four macro-assessments were commissioned in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In addition, 32 micro-assessments were undertaken out of the 37 earmarked in the quality assurance plan (91 per cent). Similarly, 75 programmatic visits were undertaken out of 82 planned (93 per cent). Training sessions on HACT were conducted for partners in Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu.

UNICEF Pacific has deployed significant efforts in monitoring and following up on the liquidation of cash advances. There was a slight improvement in the quality of cash transfer operations in 2015. However, liquidation of cash advances among implementing partners remains a concern. As at 31 December 2015, an amount of US\$ US\$ 499,752, representing disbursement outstanding for a period of six to nine months, was not yet liquidated.

With regard to the 2014 audit, the 15 recommendations that were outstanding at the beginning of 2015 were closed during the first semester. UNICEF Pacific has successfully completed bank reconciliations.

## **OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity**

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

During 2014, UNICEF Pacific undertook a major exercise to determine its human resources needs in line with the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) and programmatic focus areas. New posts and post changes resulted in a high number of recruitments in 2015. Out of 22 fixed-term posts approved by the Programme Budget Review (PBR) in 2014, 15 positions were filled, with three positions currently under recruitment and four positions on hold due to lack of funding. The office also recruited eight positions against existing approved posts due to staff reassignments and separations, with four posts currently under recruitment. According to the staffing structure approved by the PBR in 2014, UNICEF Pacific has 89 fixed-term posts, of which 75 positions are currently filled, with eight posts under recruitment. The recruitment of consultants occupied an important part of human resources work in 2015, with a total of 87 consultants/individual contractors hired. The Human Resources Section was heavily involved in the emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, supporting the deployment of surge staff (18) and stand-by partners (15), and recruiting local and international consultants (18).

UNICEF Pacific's Human Resources Development Team has been implementing and monitoring a learning plan, including on-line training, workshops and international training opportunities.

UNICEF Pacific continues to improve its efficiency with regard to the timely completion of staff performance appraisals. The status of the 2015 planning phase of key assignments was 93 per cent (68 out of 73 staff) and the finalization of key assignments was 90 per cent (69 out of 77).

In addressing the results of the 2014 global staff survey, UNICEF Pacific, in consultation with the Staff Association, held a half-day retreat for all staff to develop strategies on the office action plan. Further, an internal survey was conducted in October 2015 to assess the implementation of measures taken and to receive feedback from staff. The exercise suggests that significant improvements have been realized since the global staff survey was conducted in 2014.

**OUTCOME 2** 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:**

Critical programme milestones were achieved in 2015 to position Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In the area of immunization, 13 PICTs benefited from the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII), accessing World Health Organization (WHO)-prequalified vaccines at competitive prices and receiving UNICEF Pacific technical support for forecasting and stock management. During the year, UNICEF expanded the VII to include cold chain equipment and essential health commodities.

Five countries and territories (Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) received technical support and funds to develop costed polio vaccine switch plans, and all five introduced the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) in line with the Global Polio Endgame Strategy. Kiribati became the first Pacific country to introduce IPV in June 2015, where the switch to IPV was integrated with introduction of the rotavirus vaccine, which is part of a new comprehensive child survival package (that includes nutrition, integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions).

UNICEF Pacific supported new vaccine feasibility assessments in three PICTs (Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). In Samoa and Tuvalu, additional support was provided for World Immunization



Week activities. Technical assistance was provided to Fiji's Ministry of Health for post introduction evaluation of three new vaccines. In order to generate evidence for decision-making, UNICEF Pacific, in partnership with WHO and the US Centres for Disease Control, led an exploratory mission on assessment of vaccine wastage in Fiji and SI. Finally, a measles/rubella campaign was successfully conducted in Vanuatu, reaching approximately 104,000 children with the life-saving vaccine.

In the area of maternal and new-born health, critical strides were made in integrating focused antenatal care with prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. As part of World Prematurity Day (17 November), UNICEF Pacific donated baby blankets, resuscitation sets, thermometers and respiration counters to ten countries and territories. In support of the Every New-born Action Plan, a new-born baseline assessment was conducted in Kiribati, the findings of which have been incorporated into a revised national health strategic plan. The Vanuatu Ministry of Health was supported to develop a comprehensive baseline assessment of reproductive, maternal, new-born, adolescent and child health (RMNCAH) services. This was followed by a series of provincial and national RMNCAH bottleneck analyses and operational planning meetings. UNICEF Pacific developed a regional framework on IMCI and supported two countries, Fiji and SI, in implementing IMCI-related activities, including a project on amoxicillin dispersible tablets in SI.

During the year, UNICEF, WHO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) formally signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a multi-donor trust fund for the Joint Programme on RMNCAH in three PICTs (Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu). In line with the new Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030), 10 PICTs attended the first-ever regional meeting on climate change and health. UNICEF Pacific also developed a working paper on climate change and children.

To address high levels of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, and to prevent mortality due to SAM, UNICEF Pacific undertook a number of activities in 2015. The Federated States of Micronesia were provided with a range of nutrition supplies, including vitamin A, deworming tablets, iron-folic acid tablets, multiple micronutrient powder, therapeutic food and anthropometric equipment. In Samoa, 70 children with SAM were treated as in-patients in health facilities; in Fiji 67 cases were treated and supported with therapeutic supplies.

UNICEF Pacific organized a regional technical meeting to adapt global facility-based management of SAM training modules and guidelines adapted to the local context. In addition, a UNICEF/WHO regional meeting on the double burden of malnutrition was attended by participants from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu. Draft plans of action were developed, aligned with the WHO 2025 targets for nutrition.

UNICEF Pacific supported Fiji's 2015 Demographic and Health Survey. Finally, in response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu in March 2015, UNICEF Pacific supported several outreach sessions to boost immunization coverage and distribute nutrition supplies.

**OUTPUT 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.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Thirteen Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) benefited from the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) in 2015, accessing World Health Organization prequalified vaccines at competitive prices and receiving UNICEF Pacific technical support for forecasting and stock management. During the year, UNICEF expanded the VII to include cold chain equipment and essential health commodities.

In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Pam, UNICEF Pacific provided Vanuatu with technical support and funds for an emergency measles outbreak response, the re-establishment of the country's vaccine cold chain system, provision of intensified outreach services and training of healthcare workers. UNICEF Pacific also led an effective vaccine management assessment in Vanuatu. Post-cyclone support was also provided to the Federated States of Micronesia, where UNICEF Pacific supported the deployment of an immunization specialist for six months to provide training to nurse aids and to assist with the planning and implementation of supplementary immunization activities.

All PICTs were supported to complete annual WHO/UNICEF joint reporting forms, which include data on immunization coverage rates. Five countries and territories (Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) received technical support and funds to develop costed polio vaccine switch plans, and all five introduced the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) in line with the Global Polio Endgame Strategy. Kiribati became the first Pacific country to introduce IPV in June 2015, where IPV introduction was integrated with introduction of the rotavirus vaccine. UNICEF Pacific conducted new vaccine feasibility assessments in Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Tuvalu also received financial support and technical assistance to update the national immunization handbook and to implement World Immunization Week activities. In Samoa, UNICEF Pacific also funded technical support for national immunization efforts and provided financial support to mark World Immunization Week.

In Fiji, UNICEF Pacific provided technical assistance during a post introduction assessment of three new vaccines. In addition, UNICEF Pacific, in partnership with the World Health Organization and the US Centres for Disease Control, led an exploratory mission on assessment of vaccine wastage in Fiji and SI.

**OUTPUT 2** 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:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific provided the Government of Kiribati with financial and technical assistance to introduce and implement a comprehensive child survival package centred on the rotavirus vaccine. Support included cold chain capacity assessment, review and production of data collection tools, development and production of training materials, development of a communication strategy, and organization and delivery of trainings across the country.

Introduction of the rotavirus vaccine, which was launched on 5 August, was integrated with Kiribati's nutrition, integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes. Communities were involved in the introduction of the vaccine, resulting in the establishment of village youth volunteers and welfare groups, which are now promoting hygiene practices and assisting public health nurses.

Preparations for the introduction of the rotavirus vaccine were also combined with those for the

introduction of the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV). IPV was successfully introduced on 15 June and is now included in Kiribati's routine vaccination schedule.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Pacific continued to assist Kiribati in monitoring and improving the vaccine cold chain system. A walk-in cold room was procured and installed in South Tarawa, 10 clinics in South Tarawa were equipped with fridge tags and 20 solar refrigerators were distributed to outer islands.

With assistance from UNICEF Pacific, the Government of Kiribati developed a national switch plan to move from use of the trivalent oral polio vaccine to use of the bivalent oral polio vaccine. In 2016, UNICEF Pacific will provide the Government with technical assistance for the switch.

UNICEF Pacific also contributed in an immunization week, led by the Government and the World Health Organization, in which communities were reminded of the importance of vaccinations. Cold chain equipment and vaccination records were checked at clinics on South Tarawa; 167 immunization defaulters were identified and follow-up actions were taken in an attempt to have them fully vaccinated.

Integrated child health interventions were carried out in four islands with relatively poor immunization coverage rates (Butaritari, Maiana, Marakei and North Tarawa), benefiting 1,580 children under five years of age, including 210 who were detected as having low weight and who are now undergoing feeding programmes. UNICEF Pacific intends to carry out further missions to low-performing islands in 2016.

**OUTPUT 3** 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 SI.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Pacific supported the Government of SI to introduce three new vaccines in 2015. The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) was introduced nationwide in February, as was the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) in October. The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine was launched as a demonstration in two provinces (Isabel and Honiara City Council) in April. With UNICEF Pacific technical support, 150 national and provincial health workers were trained on PCV, IPV and HPV delivery. During the year, vaccines and other immunization-related supplies were procured in a timely manner through the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII). Strengthened collaboration between the Government, World Health Organization and UNICEF Pacific on joint programming and annual operational planning helped improve immunization service delivery.

A joint GAVI (formerly known as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations) review mission was conducted in 2015, with UNICEF as the lead agency. As a result of the mission, and in consultation with a range of stakeholders, a new application to GAVI has been developed, with a focus on health systems strengthening (SI will remain a GAVI transition country for the next two years due to changes in GAVI eligibility policy).

With support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF Pacific, the Government of SI revised its national immunization policy and vaccine cold chain policy. Forty-two cold chain items (e.g. fridges, coolers, etc.) were received and are being distributed in the provinces.

Trainings for health workers on the Reaching Every District (RED) strategy were held in Honiara City Council, Isabel, Makira, Malaita, Temotu and Western provinces.

To explore innovative ways to improve immunization coverage, a hepatitis B outside-the-cold-chain pilot was funded by UNICEF Pacific, with technical input from the US Centres for Disease Control and WHO. A vaccine-wastage assessment was also conducted.

Finally, during 2015 the measles outbreak response in SI wrapped up after blood samples were confirmed negative for measles antibodies.

#### **OUTPUT 4 EPI Plus**

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

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific provided Vanuatu with intensive support to respond to a measles outbreak that began in January. Support included contact tracing, selective immunization for defaulters and social mobilization. The response was effective in mitigating a more widespread outbreak.

Despite Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu in March 2015, efforts to improve routine immunization coverage continued. A nationwide measles and rubella vaccine campaign was concluded successfully, reaching 103,676 children 1 to 15 years of age. The campaign was integrated with delivery of the oral polio vaccine (OPV), vitamin A supplementation and deworming tablets (32,665 children received the OPV vaccine, 33,327 children received vitamin A supplementation and 24,961 children received deworming tablets).

The inactivated polio vaccine was successfully introduced into Vanuatu's routine immunization routine. The vaccine is given at 14 weeks of age.

With support from UNICEF Pacific, 13 refrigerators, including four ice-lined refrigerators and nine solar refrigerators, were procured and installed, improving the vaccine cold chain. An additional 18 solar refrigerators were procured as part of the response to Tropical Cyclone Pam and are currently being installed. In total, Vanuatu has received 40 refrigerators, which will eventually increase its cold chain storage capacity by up to 90 per cent .

An effective vaccine management assessment was conducted and shared with the Ministry of Health. The assessment report will help improve vaccine management in the country.

Finally, there were no reports of vaccine stock-outs at the national level during the year.

#### **OUTPUT 5 Multi-Country T2/T3: Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely New-born, maternal and Nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels.**

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

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to provide assistance to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island Countries to deliver quality new-born, maternal and nutrition interventions. Efforts were undertaken to coordinate and integrate focused antenatal care with prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu, maternal and new-born baseline assessments were undertaken, with the results feeding into government plans. In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Pam, 60 health facilities in Vanuatu were equipped with new-born health kits and healthcare workers were trained on use of the kits.

UNICEF Pacific developed a regional framework on the integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI), and provided funds to Fiji and SI for IMCI-related activities, including facilitating a project on amoxicillin dispersible tablets in SI.

As part of World Prematurity Day (17 November), UNICEF Pacific donated baby blankets,

resuscitation sets, thermometers and respiration counters to ten countries and territories, including Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tokelau and Tuvalu.

To address high levels of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, and to prevent mortality due to SAM, UNICEF Pacific undertook a number of activities in 2015. The Federated States of Micronesia were provided with a range of nutrition supplies, including vitamin A, deworming tablets, iron-folic acid tablets, multiple micronutrient powder, therapeutic food and anthropometric equipment. In Samoa, 70 children SAM were treated as in-patients in health facilities; in Fiji 67 cases were treated and supported with therapeutic supplies. Further, UNICEF Pacific provided financial support to Fiji to adapt global training modules and guidelines on facility-based management of SAM.

A UNICEF/WHO regional meeting on the double burden of malnutrition was attended by Ministry of Health staff from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu. Draft plans of action were developed. UNICEF Pacific also supported Fiji, Samoa, SI and Vanuatu to attend the East Asia and Pacific regional consultation on the prevention and treatment of SAM.

Finally, UNICEF Pacific supported the implementation of the 2015 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in Fiji. The survey report is expected in early 2016. Additionally, the findings from the UNICEF Pacific-supported 2014 DHS for Samoa are now available and are forming the basis of future policy and programming.

**OUTPUT 6** Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely New-born, maternal and Nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels in Kiribati.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Pacific continued to provide assistance to strengthen Kiribati's capacity to deliver quality new-born, maternal and nutrition interventions in 2015. Two of four hospitals in the country (Betio and Tungaru), were declared "Mother-and-Baby Friendly", recognizing that they have established policies and practices encouraging maternal and child health.

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific procured child survival and neonatal intensive care unit equipment for the National referral hospital. In addition, ten clinics received foetal heart Dopplers, improving the capacity of nurses to provide quality antenatal care.

The government's Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) team conducted Kiribati's first ever death audit. The audit covered January to May 2015 and reviewed two maternal deaths, five stillbirths and seven neonatal deaths.

Following the community-based maternal and neonatal care (CBMNC) pilot conducted in 2014, treatment seeking has improved within communities, resulting in increased use of oral rehydration salts and zinc for the treatment of diarrhoea and increased admission to the Tungaru Central Hospital of severely malnourished children. Treatment seeking behaviour has also been enhanced by the integrated rotavirus training provided to public health nurses and community/youth welfare volunteers. The trainings covered immunization, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI).

UNICEF Pacific provided supplies for vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months) and deworming (12-59 months) activities that were carried out from March to May with a coverage rate of 67



per cent ). A second round was held later in the year (with coverage yet to be reported). UNICEF Pacific also provided therapeutic foods for facility-based management of SAM . All 12 clinics on South Tarawa and 22 health centres on Kiribati's outer islands are now equipped with growth monitoring tools such as height boards, scales and mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes.

Finally, UNICEF Pacific supported two health officials from Kiribati to participate in the UNICEF/WHO Meeting on the Regional Action Plan for Reduction of the Double Burden of Malnutrition, which was held in Fiji.

**OUTPUT 7** Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely New-born, maternal and Nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels in SI.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to provide the Government of SI with assistance to scale up quality new-born, maternal and nutrition interventions. With regard to early essential new-born care (EENC), 350 health workers, including doctors, nurses, midwives and students, were trained on the World Health Organization (WHO) EENC training package. Twenty-two health facilities, representing approximately 6 per cent of health facilities in the country, have been oriented on EENC.

Community-based Maternal and New-born Care (CBMNC) and EENC initiatives progressed in Makira and Central provinces, with continued support from community volunteers and World Vision, a non-governmental organization (NGO). Health workers in Central Province were provided with CBMNC and EENC-related training and supportive supervision. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) appointed a focal person for new-borns, who is supporting EENC activities.

Life-saving neonatal intensive care unit equipment and supplies were procured and distributed to the National Referral Hospital and Kirakira and Tulagi hospitals in the provinces. Hospital staff were provided with hands-on training on the use and maintenance of the equipment.

The Mother-Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative focused on training and/or certification of three hospitals (Kilu'ufi, Kirakira and Tulagi) and reassessment of the four previously certified hospitals.

UNICEF Pacific also implemented a range of activities to strengthen the capacity to deliver nutrition services in SI. Thirty health workers attended a national meeting to discuss and agree on a modality for distribution and reporting of micronutrient supplementation, especially vitamin A and deworming medication. With technical assistance from a UNICEF Pacific-supported intern, health workers from 27 health facilities and catchment areas in Honiara City Council and Guadalcanal Province have strengthened capacity to provide children with micronutrient powders.

In addition to providing anthropometric and biochemical test kits, UNICEF Pacific supported the training of 32 health workers on anthropometric assessment and information gathering for the nutrition modules of the 2015 Demographic Health Survey. This support will ensure the availability of updated data to monitor trends in the nutrition situation of children and women in the absence of an established nutrition surveillance system. Preliminary data are expected in early 2016, which will help guide policies and programmes

UNICEF Pacific supported one official from MHMS to attend a UNICEF regional workshop on SAM in Bangkok. Similarly, two MHMS officials were supported to attend the UNICEF/WHO Meeting on the Regional Action Plan for Reduction of the Double Burden of Malnutrition, which was held in Fiji.

**OUTPUT 8** Strengthened national capacity to deliver quality and timely New-born, maternal and Nutrition interventions at health facility and community levels in Vanuatu.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to provide the Government of Vanuatu with assistance to scale up quality new-born, maternal and nutrition interventions. As part of the emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu in March, approximately 11,875 children 6 to 59 months of age received multiple micronutrient powders and approximately 9,040 caregivers of children under 2 years of age received counselling on infant and young child feeding. In addition, the distribution of new-born kits to 60 cyclone-affected health facilities (and the training of health workers on use of the kits) improved access to essential health care services. Later in 2015, emergency support transitioned to responding to the El Niño-induced drought. As part of the response, UNICEF Pacific imported high-energy biscuits from Australia, which are being distributed to children under 5 years of age in Northern Tanna.

With support from UNICEF Pacific, the national roll-out of training on the integrated management of SAM was conducted in May, covering 25 participants from the three main hospitals and two health centres in Efate, Santo and Tafea. The training equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to provide both facility- and community-based management of SAM.

While organizational changes in the Ministry of Health led to delays in maternal and new-born health programme implementation, a joint workplan was developed and signed for the United Nations Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH). This is the first time that activities and budgets from the three United Nations agencies involved in the joint programme in Vanuatu (UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund and World Health Organization) have been consolidated into a single work plan. To support implementation, UNICEF Pacific has recruited RMNCAH specialists in all provinces. Finally, UNICEF Pacific supported three officials from the Ministry of Health to participate in the UNICEF/WHO Meeting on the Regional Action Plan for Reduction of the Double Burden of Malnutrition, which was held in Fiji. This support contributed to the inclusion of reduction of the double burden of malnutrition in the national action plan.

**OUTCOME 3** 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:**

The overall objective of UNICEF Pacific in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is to contribute to the realization of children's rights to survival and development through support to national programmes that increase equitable and sustainable access to, and use of, safe water and basic sanitation services, and promote improved hygiene.

As a region, the Pacific has shown the lowest increase in access to improved drinking water and sanitation since 1990 and is off-track to meet the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation. Based on the proportion of people without access to sanitation, SI (52 per cent ), Fiji

(15 per cent ), Vanuatu (14 per cent ) and Kiribati (8 per cent ) and FSM (6 per cent ) require the most support. These figures validate UNICEF Pacific's programmatic focus on Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu. Due to the high absolute number of people without access to sanitation in Fiji, UNICEF Pacific provides limited WASH support to the country, mainly through a WASH in schools programme. As UNICEF has no permanent presence in the North Pacific, assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia and other countries is provided on an ad-hoc basis.

The UNICEF WASH Strategic Plan (2014-2017) covers six inter-related intervention areas:

- i. Access to water supply and maintaining drinking water safety
- ii. Access to sanitation and hygiene behaviour
- iii. WASH sector development
- iv. WASH in schools
- v. WASH emergency preparedness and response
- vi. Climate and disaster risk resilience

Funding to implement the strategy in the Pacific is available from existing projects funded by the European Union and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, complemented by funds from the Swedish International Development Agency and the New Zealand Aids Programme. Additional funding from thematic set-aside funds are available for WASH resilience, which will be complemented by funds from the Government of the Netherlands.

During 2015, significant emergency funds were mobilized after Tropical Cyclone Pam affected Vanuatu, SI, Kiribati and Tuvalu. UNICEF Pacific provided emergency support to the four countries to ensure children and women had protected and reliable access to WASH facilities. This support was coordinated through the Pacific Humanitarian Team and provided in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies. The recovery programmes have been designed to allow a comprehensive 'build back better' approach to address the underlying causes of underachievement in access to improved water and sanitation, as well as the disaster and climate risks impacting the sector.

UNICEF Pacific supported governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and communities to improve access to safe drinking water in rural and peri-urban areas in Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu, using innovative and appropriate technologies such as rainwater harvesting systems and hydraulic ram pumps.

During 2015 UNICEF Pacific also provided support to improve access to, and use of, basic sanitation, focusing on eradicating open defecation and scaling up sanitation in rural and peri-urban areas. Demand-driven, community-based sanitation approaches were used to generate demand and achieve open defecation free communities. Behaviour change was fostered through the introduction of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation methods, targeted hand-washing campaigns (with involvement of the private sector), and triggering for hand washing in communities.

Technical assistance was provided for the development and implementation of WASH sector policies in Kiribati, SI, and Vanuatu, with an emphasis on rural and peri-urban services. This included support around policymaking, budgeting, the development of minimum standards and sector-wide approaches.

Through enhanced data collection, monitoring and mapping, support was also provided to enhance the advocacy and evidence base required for sector reform and for attracting adequate

investment. An analysis of the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Update for the Pacific was published and widely distributed. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, UN-Habitat and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, UNICEF prepared a synthesis report on the status of water and sanitation access, and the development of post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal targets for water, sanitation and hygiene. Pacific best practices were shared through partnerships with the [Pacific WASH Coalition](#) and regional science and research institutes such as the University of the South Pacific, International Water Centre, University of North Carolina and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

In cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, UN-Habitat and the World Bank, UNICEF Pacific fostered a partnership with the Water and Sanitation Programme of the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility to assess the status of water and sanitation in peri-urban areas in the region.

UNICEF Pacific supported governments, NGOs and communities in the promotion of WASH in schools, including training for teachers, hygiene promotion (including hand washing and menstrual hygiene management), development of minimum standards and the construction of WASH facilities. Behaviour change approaches such as the Three Star Approach were piloted in schools in Fiji and Kiribati (with replication beginning in SI and Vanuatu).

**OUTPUT 1** 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:**

Through the UNICEF Multi-Country Office, the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme supports the improvement of WASH governance and provides technical assistance based on demand. During the reporting period, the programme improved evidence and advocacy in informal settlements in Melanesia, scaled up WASH in schools in Fiji, and improved WASH resilience.

In partnership with the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and UN-Habitat, UNICEF Pacific contributed to the report, "*Unsettled: Water and Sanitation in Urban Settlements Communities of the Pacific*", covering Fiji, Papua New Guinea, SI and Vanuatu. The findings were reviewed with government representatives and donors at the Pacific Urban Forum in March 2015 and are intended to support governments to legislate, plan and budget for equitable WASH services.

UNICEF Pacific mobilized WASH partners from Fiji and the Pacific to participate in the UNICEF/Emory University WASH in schools distance-learning course and introduced new monitoring tools, such as Akvo Flow and Akvo RSR. Through the application of UNICEF's Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES), a bottleneck analysis was carried out to assess barriers to equitable access to WASH in schools.

In Fiji, UNICEF Pacific supported 15 schools in Nausori to pilot the Three Star Approach for WASH in Schools in partnership with the Fijian Teachers' Association (FTA). The results include the construction of group hand-washing facilities and an increase in supervised hand washing. The approach is being replicated in another 85 schools through Ministry of Education.

UNICEF Pacific supported a pilot programme on typhoid epidemiology and prevention in Fiji with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. The pilot strengthened the Ministry for Health and Medical Services in typhoid monitoring, and improved the evidence base for WASH

interventions. Environmental health officers in Fiji are being supported to improve their role in enforcing water quality standards.

**OUTPUT 2** 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:**

UNICEF Pacific supported the Government of Kiribati in improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in 36 schools in four outer islands and 70 out of 142 communities on 16 outer islands. Activities were conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Education, and island councils. Support was provided through the “Water and Sanitation on the Outer Islands of the Republic of Kiribati” (KIRIWATSAN) Project (Phase I), funded by the European Union, and the Kiribati WASH in Schools Project, funded by the New Zealand Partnerships for International Development Fund.

In 2015, the KIRIWATSAN team provided hydro-geological assessment results to communities on four islands (Butaritari, Maiana, Makin and Marakei). A contractor engaged in the project prepared to install 100 rainwater harvesting tanks on outer island, but a new Government requirement for environment licences for sand and gravel mining delayed progress by four months.

Following the earlier introduction of Community-Led Total Sanitation on 14 outer islands, the team focused on monitoring and sustaining sanitation behaviour change on nine islands. Since January 2015, three islands have formed island welfare groups to ensure active monitoring and reporting from individual village welfare groups.

Implementation of the Kiribati WASH in Schools Project began in January 2015 with the recruitment of two new posts, a WASH in schools officer and a WASH specialist. UNICEF held pre-inception meetings with partners to develop activity work plans for all schools on four islands (Abaiang, Maiana, Marakei and North Tarawa). With support from UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, North Tarawa has introduced the Three Star Approach for WASH in Schools.

With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education launched a WASH in schools policy that was approved by Kiribati’s Cabinet on 19 November 2015 and launched on 2 December 2015. The policy will pave the way for national minimum standards for WASH in schools.

Working with a number of government stakeholders, the New Zealand-based Institute of Environmental Science and Research has developed an innovative WASH safety planning approach that can be used to select appropriate WASH infrastructure options for schools or communities.

**OUTPUT 3** WASH and health centres use improved water and sanitation facilities with a focus on outer islands, rural and peri-urban villages in the SI.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Pacific supported the provision of improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in communities, schools and health centres in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, World Vision SI and Live and Learn Environmental Education. Funding for these activities was provided by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, European Union and Government of Australia.

The UNICEF supported programme reached 10,492 people of 21 communities in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Isabel and Makira Provinces and Honiara City with WASH activities and services. Sanitation programmes reached 6,420 people, including through Community-Led Total Sanitation approaches. 'Triggered' communities are now working towards open defecation free status, though no communities have yet been declared free of open defecation. Though good progress was made on provision of water supply and community sanitation and hygiene promotion, community commitment to the elimination of open defecation has been weaker than anticipated.

WASH in schools activities, such as the formation of student WASH clubs and the training of staff, benefited 6,941 students and 309 teachers. UNICEF Pacific supported the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the development of a national hygiene campaign, which was launched on Global Handwashing Day (15 October). The first phase of the campaign will be rolled in 15 schools in Guadalcanal, where hand washing will be promoted among children 6 to 14 years of age.

UNICEF is conducting a national WASH sector baseline survey, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, WaterAid and the Government of Australia.

**OUTPUT 4** 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:**

During 2015 UNICEF Pacific conducted a range of activities to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Vanuatu. The Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (DGMWR) was provided with technical assistance to improve its capacity around information management, policy development, resource allocation and sector coordination. The increased capacity was evident in the department's response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck the country in March 2015, and in the development of a two-year action plan for the implementation of the national water strategy.

Community drinking water safety and security planning was introduced as a participatory approach to allow communities to identify their own water improvement plans. The universal application of this approach will ensure that improvement and rehabilitation plans address water quality and quantity issues, with the full ownership of communities. To date, 26 drinking water safety and security plans have been completed in communities on Efate, Emae, Epi and Tanna. These activities accelerated DGMWR's standardization of drinking water safety and security methods for the sector, incorporating pilot approaches and field trials supported by the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

WASH in schools activities were conducted on Efate and Epi, where the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education approved the construction and restoration of water supplies, appropriate latrine and bathing facilities (including disability access and gender-segregated latrines), and hand-washing stations for 25 schools. Additional WASH facilities were installed in 34 schools throughout Epi, East Efate, North Efate and peri-urban Port Vila, and were accompanied by information and awareness sessions.

Four community water supply improvement projects were launched in East Malo, Lamap, Wala Rano and West Ambae. Feasibility studies were also completed for East Malo and West Ambae. UNICEF Pacific mapped the WASH capacity of non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) to identify partnerships and contracting modalities for implementation in 2016. Communities on Tanna conducted a training of trainers on the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) approach and developed community work plans. DGMWR, in collaboration with ADRA (an international non-governmental organization), continued to map water sources in two provinces using mobile phones.

**OUTPUT 5** 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:**

As many Pacific Island Countries are classified as most-at-risk of natural disasters and emergencies, support for building preparedness and response capacity is key to reduce the effects and impacts of these events. With an El Niño-induced drought now being experienced in the region, countries need early warning systems, preparedness measures and contingency plans, especially for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), critical services that are impacted by drought.

In response, UNICEF Pacific has been supporting WASH Cluster coordination at regional level through the Pacific Humanitarian Team and has identified preparedness measures for most-at-risk countries, including Fiji, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu. The Fiji WASH Cluster developed a drought contingency plan, created water conservation and WASH awareness materials, identified pre-positioned supplies based on scenarios, and improved linkages with other clusters, including education, health and shelter.

UNICEF Pacific prepared contingency Programme Cooperation Agreements with Oxfam and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support cluster coordination and assist with the distribution of WASH supplies in countries where UNICEF has no WASH presence. Oxfam will strengthen WASH Cluster coordination capacity in Tonga in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners Caritas and the Tonga National Youth Congress. IFRC will provide support with the distribution of WASH supplies through national Red Cross Societies.

UNICEF's Pacific WASH Resilience Programme provides support to select countries to establish a model for building resilience to environmental changes and shocks to WASH services. Outcomes of the programme include child-centred vulnerability and risk assessments to inform the prioritization and design of investments and activities; drinking water safety and security planning for communities in Fiji and Vanuatu; and the development of a comprehensive model for WASH resilience based on outcomes of a climate change, disaster risk and WASH policy review.

**OUTPUT 6** 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:**

Kiribati has limited exposure to natural disasters such as cyclones, but periodically faces drought conditions related to the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon as well as periodic outbreaks of diarrhoea due to water-borne and water-washed diseases (most prevalent on the island of South Tarawa). In addition, rising sea levels could lead to groundwater contamination, threatening the capital's water supply.

In expectation of a strong El Niño in 2015-2016, UNICEF Pacific is working with partners in



Kiribati to develop contingency plans to mitigate the potential impact of increased rainfall.

UNICEF Pacific is also working closely with the New Zealand-funded drought resilience project (2014–2019), implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, on mainstreaming drought management and achieving drinking water safety and security. Further, UNICEF Pacific continues to support the national drought committee, which is chaired by the National Disaster Management Office.

WASH sector coordination was constrained by human resource challenges within the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities. For instance, the National Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee has not been meeting frequently, due mainly to a general lack of capacity within the Water Engineering Unit.

**OUTPUT 7** Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation. (CCA) have the capacity in coping up with disasters and adapting to the climate change in relation to WASH Sector in the SI.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The SI cluster system, led by the government, includes a WASH Cluster under the Internally Displaced Persons and Social Welfare Cluster. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services' Rural WASH Programme leads the WASH Cluster, with support from UNICEF as co-lead. WASH Cluster meetings have been held on a monthly basis to provide updates on emerging threats and to coordinate preparedness and response activities. Partners shared information on prepositioned items, including WASH supplies held by UNICEF Pacific for a caseload of 5,000 people. Supported by a drought planning consultant, the WASH Cluster prepared for the El Niño-induced drought through enhanced mapping of hotspots, agreements on rapid assessment forms, and development of radio and other communication messages.

In 2015 UNICEF Pacific, in coordination with government authorities, supported SI Red Cross to respond to tropical cyclones Pam and Raquel. In Malaita province Cyclone Pam damaged houses, hygiene facilities and food gardens, and resulted in water shortages. UNICEF Pacific provided WASH supplies and communication materials, which were distributed by SI Red Cross. Health promoters/volunteers reached about 1,000 affected families. To respond to the El Niño-induced drought, water containers, soap and communications materials were provided to the government to reach 16 schools (benefiting more than 5,000 children in Guadalcanal and Central Province).

**OUTPUT 8** 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:**

In 2015 UNICEF Pacific's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme in Vanuatu was significantly impacted by Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck the country in March. To respond to the emergency, UNICEF provided the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources and the WASH Cluster with cluster coordination staff, supplies and emergency financing (mobilized under the Cyclone Pam Humanitarian Action Plan). Further support was provided through the development of a recovery and rehabilitation plan. Although immediate relief was provided, the recovery process has been impacted by the El Niño-induced drought and declining drinking water supplies.

Building on the successful introduction of mobile phones for the collection of WASH data, rapid

assessment surveys were developed to help respond to the cyclone and drought. The use of mobile phones allowed for a quick assessment of preliminary data, helping identify critical response needs. A drought index was used to support islands with critical water shortages. A national strategic response plan was developed to address: 1) emergency provision of water; 2) reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged water infrastructure; and 3) development of alternative water sources.

Key messages related to El Niño and WASH were disseminated through radio, print media and text messages. In addition, drama was used to reach schools and communities with messages on hygiene and immunization.

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

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

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific contributed to quality early learning and development opportunities in the region through advocacy and the provision of technical support to ministries of education. As the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (PRC4ECCE), UNICEF prepared an ECCE regional status report, comparing the ECCE system in each country based on the endorsed regional Guidelines. This qualitative report, compiled through self-reporting country questionnaires, was finalized with country representatives, and provides the base to measure the progress countries are making in translating the regional guidelines into their own specific needs. Preliminary findings show that all 14 countries highlighted the “policy and legislation” sub-component as a priority for action. The Status report was presented to the Pacific Heads of Education Systems meeting in October 2015 and it was endorsed by the Heads. This ongoing monitoring of the regional Guidelines will not only provide momentum at country level to continue striving for improvement in ECCE services, but it will support the visibility of ECCE as a priority issue at national and regional level through maintaining agenda status during the Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEEdMM) in 2016. A PRC4ECCE regional meeting held in September 2015, focused on the priority theme policy and legislation analysing components of strategic ECCE policies.

The PRC4ECCE action plan for 2015-2017 was finalized, and a new operational plan was drafted. Communications activities included the dissemination of five regional PRC4ECCE newsletters, which were sent to 203 national and regional stakeholders, and promotion of the PRC4ECCE Facebook page, which has 666 ‘followers’ and 212 people on the PRC4ECCE Group page.

In addressing the issues of legislation and policy in early childhood, UNICEF continued to play a lead role in the ECE sub-sector in SI and Kiribati. In SI, UNICEF Pacific supported the review of the ECCE sub-sector as part of education sector planning for 2016-2020. The review provided the Ministry of Education with information that will help determine its focus and commitment to ECCE, especially in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One key recommendation is to consider one-year pre-primary education for all five-year-olds in SI. While the recommendation is aligned with the SDGs, for SI this would require a major overhaul of the ECCE sub-sector and its systems. As a preliminary step, the ministry has included ECCE in the draft Education Act, which will be submitted to Parliament for approval in 2016. In Kiribati, UNICEF Pacific supported the development of draft ECCE legislation, which will also be submitted to Parliament in 2016. In Tuvalu, the minimum quality service standards for ECCE centres were endorsed by Cabinet, and early learning development standards were developed,

which will inform ECCE curriculum development.

UNICEF Pacific also continued its work on the ground through strengthening family support in early childhood development (ECD). Knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) studies conducted in 2014 in SI and Vanuatu showed that reading was the least common early learning activity done by parents, and that fathers had extremely limited involvement in the learning activities of young children. To address these issues, UNICEF Pacific, in collaboration with the ministries of education in both SI and Vanuatu, used a communication for development approach to support the development of children's books that include key messages for parents. In both Vanuatu and SI a range of stakeholders, including writers, illustrators, teachers, people with disabilities and government officials, attended a one-week workshop to develop the communication materials for children and their families. In Vanuatu the materials focused on responding to young children's psychosocial needs and disaster risk reduction in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck the country in March 2015. Ten children's storybooks, targeting children under 8 years of age, as well as 10 posters for public awareness were developed, field-tested and then used in the orientation of 20 master trainers. Subsequent trainings for teachers were completed in Shefa, Tafea and Penama provinces and Malekula Island, benefiting 5,017 young children. To date more than 2000 sets of books have been printed and is being distributed to targeted families and ECCE centres. Early childhood teachers have been trained on using these materials to address children's psychosocial needs after Cyclone PAM. The children's books produced in both countries also aim to support young children's emergent literacy. A planning meeting was held with key stakeholders in SI to identify the best way to disseminate and utilize the books.

Partnerships have been established and strengthened with internal and external stakeholders. UNICEF Pacific was represented at the World Bank's Pacific Early Age Readiness and Learning (PEARL) workshop on measuring student outcomes to inform policy and programming decisions on school readiness and early literacy, where a presentation on PRC4ECCE's regional ECCE guidelines was held. UNICEF Pacific's Education Section participated in the high-level conference "Ending Violence Against Children", with a presentation and panel discussion on ECD, parenting and brain development. This served to advocate for coordination and collaboration between child and social protection and early childhood services for child, parenting, and family support.

The lack of country-specific data on ECCE remains a challenge in the Pacific; many countries need support to strengthen their education management information systems to incorporate data on ECCE services. The development of the next Pacific Education Development Framework provides an opportunity to revisit ECCE indicators and data collection methods.

**OUTPUT 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:**

As secretariat of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (PRC4ECCE), UNICEF Pacific completed an ECCE regional status report, based on the endorsed regional Guidelines which were presented during the Pacific Heads of Education Systems meeting in October 2015. The report analysed the five system components within each country and found that ECCE systems in two countries (Cook Islands and Nauru) were "fully established", while systems in four countries (Fiji, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands and Vanuatu) were rated "emerging-", two countries (Federated States of Micronesia and SI) were

rated “fully emerging”, three countries (Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu) were rated “latent-emerging”, and one country (Kiribati) was rated “fully latent”. The ECCE system in Palau ranged from “latent” to “established”. The ongoing monitoring of regional ECCE Guidelines will not only provide momentum to continue improving services at the country level, but will also support the visibility of ECCE as a priority issue at the national and regional level through maintaining agenda status during the PHES and Forum Education Ministers Meeting.

The PRC4ECCE action plan for 2015-2017 was finalized, and a new operational plan was drafted. Communications activities included the dissemination of five regional PRC4ECCE newsletters, which were sent to 203 national and regional partners, and promotion of the PRC4ECCE Facebook page, which has 666 ‘followers’, and 212 people on the PRC4ECCE Group page.

PRC4ECCE presented on the regional ECCE Guidelines at the World Bank’s regional Pacific Early Age Readiness and Learning (PEARL) workshop. UNICEF Pacific’s Education Section participated in the Child Protection’s regional high-level conference on “Ending Violence Against Children”, with a presentation and panel discussion on ECD, parenting and brain development. A regional PRC4ECCE meeting was held in September 2015 focusing on policy and legislation as the priority theme identified.

To address the needs of the most marginalized children and to increase their access to early childhood learning opportunities, a small-scale funding agreement was signed with a local community-based organization to support expansion of mobile kindergartens from three to five squatter settlements in Suva, Fiji. Technical assistance to the Hilton Early Intervention Centre in Suva, Fiji, was provided to support early childhood education for children with disabilities. Technical assistance was also provided to the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People to strengthen services for early intervention.

**OUTPUT 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:**

The recent education sector analysis that was conducted with support from UNICEF, as part of the education sector planning process, indicates that Kiribati has institutions but not a system of education for early childhood care and education (ECCE). The recent Kiribati status report on use of the regional ECCE Guidelines prepared by UNICEF, re-confirms Kiribati’s lack of systemic structure. The gross enrolment rate in ECCE is 34 per cent, indicating lack of access for many communities. The services that are available are provided by local councils, churches and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and are not funded by the government. There are no quality performance indicators for ECCE and no accessible information on the quality or duration of children’s early childhood education experiences.

To increase access to ECCE programmes, UNICEF Pacific has been working with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to address the main bottleneck, which is a lack of clear legislative and policy guidelines for the sub-sector. The absence of any legislative and policy grounds has greatly limited the MoE’s ability to respond effectively to the early childhood education sub-sector.

To address this challenge, the MOE, through its sector coordination mechanism: the Education Partners in Kiribati (EPiK), established a working group in which UNICEF is a member. The first task of this working group has been drafting an ECCE bill, which will provide the legislative

framework for the sub-sector. UNICEF Pacific provided financial and technical support to this effort. Legislation has been drafted and the working group has held consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including preschool teachers and healthcare workers. The draft Act contains provisions for the standardization of a curriculum and the registration of teachers and services. The draft bill will be submitted to the new Kiribati's Cabinet in 2016.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017 young children in targeted areas in the SI benefit from increased access to quality ECD programmes through regional and in-country interventions, including during emergencies

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to play a lead role in the early childhood education (ECE) sub-sector in SI. At the national policy level, UNICEF supported the review of the ECE sub-sector as part of education sector planning for 2016-2020. The review provided the Ministry of Education with information that will help determine its focus and commitment to ECE, especially in light of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One key recommendation is to consider one-year pre-primary education for all five-year-olds in SI. While the recommendation is aligned with the SDGs, for SI this would require a major overhaul of the ECE sub-sector and its systems. As a preliminary step, the ministry has included ECE in the draft Education Act, which will be submitted to Parliament for approval in 2016. The challenges in strengthening this sub-sector include among others capacity development, financing and buy-in from the key stakeholders.

To help improve children's readiness for school, UNICEF Pacific continued its initiative in parenting support in early childhood development (ECD) with focus on school readiness at home using an integrated approach. In partnership with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), disability groups, local media, illustrators, graphic designers, writers, Ministry staff and ECE teachers, UNICEF Pacific supported the development of seven children's books for use by parents and children at home. While the field-testing and revision of the draft books (and four posters) was delayed, they are now ready for printing and distribution to families in targeted areas in Guadalcanal in 2016.

In order to have a concrete and systematic approach to implementation of the parenting support, a strategic meeting was held with key stakeholders in Honiara to discuss the findings of the KAP study and to identify the right course of intervention in targeted communities. Ministry of education took the lead in this process and will be implementing the parenting initiative in collaboration with local groups in targeted communities using initially the children's books as the tool for increasing parent-child interaction and discussion on topics in the children's book.

**OUTPUT 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:**

With improved focus on the early childhood care and education (ECCE) sub-sector in Tuvalu, and increased Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) budgetary allocation, the sub-sector is witnessing several reforms. MEYS has signalled increased commitment to the sector by offering to pay the salaries of all teachers, which have historically been funded through a mix of government grants and community contributions. This will complement ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the quality of service delivery, which are being supported by the Achieving Education for All in Tuvalu Programme (AEfATP), a partnership between the Government of

Tuvalu, the Government of Australia and UNICEF Pacific. While an emerging enabling environment for ECCE is emerging in the country, sustained commitment can be further bolstered through systemic efforts to update legislative instruments, such as the Education Act and ECCE policy. Strategically planned initiatives in the sector, further articulated in its education plan and annual budget, can also improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its financial commitment to ECCE.

In 2015, school management committees from 18 ECCE centres were trained to develop annual improvement plans and budgets, benefiting 702 children. Most centres utilized their grants to improve their learning environments. Additionally, AEFATP supported skill upgrades for 25 unqualified teachers (including three teachers from the special school, which caters to the needs of students with disabilities), who are expected to obtain ECCE certificates from the University of the South Pacific by mid-2016. AEFATP is also supporting the implementation of early learning development standards and improved child development at home; 122 stakeholders, including teachers and parents, were trained on two islands in 2015.

MEYS is witnessing delays in the development of ECCE curriculum and implementation of the World Bank Learning Programme because of competing priorities and lack of human resources to implement multiple initiatives. Overall, an ad hoc approach by MEYS to improve ECCE quality, coupled with weak monitoring, makes it unclear if stipulated outcomes are being achieved at the decentralized levels. Thus, there is a critical need for strategic prioritization and well-planned implementation of MEYS' objectives in the sector.

Finally, UNICEF Pacific supported Tuvalu's emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, responding to the psychosocial needs of 337 children in ECCE centres, helping facilitate their return to normalcy by providing early learning materials.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu in March 2015, severely damaged or completely destroyed most early childhood care and education (ECCE) centres in the country. This widespread destruction and the loss of teaching and learning materials cut off this vital service to young children. Based on the Cluster emergency response plan developed with a range of partners, including the Government of Vanuatu, UNICEF Pacific focused its education in emergencies efforts on two severely affected provinces: Shefa (Port Vila urban area) and Tafea.

In Shefa, more than 75 per cent of ECCE centres (85) were severely damaged or completely destroyed, affecting 2,178 young children and their teachers. UNICEF Pacific provided ECCE emergency supplies, such as tarpaulins and early childhood development (ECD) kits, to 10 centres (including two ECD kits that were provided to the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People), benefiting 576 children (including 247 girls).

All 143 ECCE centres in Tafea province were severely damaged or destroyed. Through UNICEF Pacific assistance, 100 per cent of the 143 ECCE centres received emergency supplies, including tents, tarpaulins and ECD kits, benefiting more than 13,637 young children (including 6,428 girls).

To address children's psychosocial needs, UNICEF Pacific, in collaboration with the Ministry of



Education and Training (MoET), organized a workshop on developing materials for young children and parents. The workshop focused on the provision of psychosocial support and disaster risk reduction messages. A group of illustrators, teachers, writers and disabled people produced 10 children's storybooks, targeting children under 8 years of age, as well as 10 posters for public awareness. The materials were field-tested and then used in the orientation of 20 master trainers. Subsequent orientations of teachers on responding to children's psychosocial needs were completed in Shefa, Tafea and Penama provinces and Malekula Island, benefiting 5,017 young children (including 2,720 girls). An additional 2,000 sets of the ECD storybooks are now ready for printing and wider distribution to families and institutions. PA partnership was also developed with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People to support the emergency response for disabled children.

Tropical Cyclone Pam created a highly challenging situation in which it was difficult to operate. Although MoET prioritized emergency support to primary and secondary schools, UNICEF ensured equitable support to affected ECCE centres, and increasing access of young children to ECCE centres especially in the coming year.

**OUTCOME 5** 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:**

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam hit the Pacific in March 2015, affecting Kiribati, SI, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, with Vanuatu sustaining the most damage. UNICEF Pacific immediately provided education in emergencies support to Vanuatu and to the other affected countries.

In Vanuatu, UNICEF Pacific provided emergency support to primary schools in the most affected provinces of Shefa and Tafea, and in Penama (UNICEF's province of focus for education activities in the country). Temporary learning spaces were provided through the provision of tents, school-in-a-box kits, recreation kits, teacher kits and student backpacks. Across the three provinces, 23,876 children (including 11,431 girls) from 168 primary schools benefitted from the support. A 'tips for teachers' book and a student workbook were produced to help primary teachers address children's psychosocial needs and anxieties. Twenty master trainers were trained on the use of these materials and UNICEF supported the roll out of trainings in the provinces of Shefa and Tafea and Malekula Island. In total, 1,401 education providers and caregivers were trained, with 30,574 children benefitting. A partnership was also developed with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People to support the emergency response for disabled children.

The key challenge faced during the Vanuatu response was the logistics for distribution of the supplies to islands. The Ministry of Education will continue to need support in building its capacity in cluster coordination and managing data. A key lesson learned is to ensure the Ministry has a dedicated and experienced staff that could support the emergency on an ongoing basis.

In addition to Tropical Cyclone Pam, El Nino so interrupted school's activities in the peak months of October and November. As a result, some primary schools in Penama, Shefa and Tafea provinces in Vanuatu and in SI were closed early. UNICEF distributed jerry cans to selected schools in SI and Vanuatu to facilitate water collection from other sources and ensuring availability of drinking water for children in classrooms.

UNICEF Pacific also supported Tuvalu's emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. Support was provided to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to assess the damage to educational facilities and the cyclone's impact on students and teachers. School backpacks were provided to children in nine schools, benefiting 411 girls and 439 boys. UNICEF also provided nine early childhood care and education (ECCE) centres with learning materials, benefiting 337 children. An evaluation of the response in the country suggests gaps in the preparedness of schools to act as evacuation centres and the need to improve children's ability to cope with natural disasters.

Support provided to Kiribati's response to the cyclone was relatively small, benefiting approximately 100 children in one primary school and one preschool. UNICEF Pacific also provided Kiribati's National Disaster Management Office with education in emergency supplies as part of pre-positioning for future emergencies.

Continuing with the new strategic shift to improve learning outcomes, UNICEF is supporting targeted interventions in strengthening systems in teachers' education and continuous professional development (CPD). During 2015 UNICEF Pacific supported the development of the first school-based, in-service training module on teaching literacy and numeracy for Grade 1 and 2 teachers in Guadalcanal province in SI. In Vanuatu, UNICEF supported the development of draft literacy and numeracy module for Grade 4-6 teachers in Penama Province. In both SI and Vanuatu, UNICEF supported capacity development of head teachers in instructional leadership so that they can better mentor and coach teachers.

In Kiribati, a UNICEF Pacific report on multi-grade teaching indicated that 50 per cent of teachers do not feel very confident in teaching multi-grade classrooms, many of which are located in remote areas and have very little pedagogical support. Most teachers expressed the need to have training on multi-grade teaching. To improve learning outcomes for the most marginalized children in Kiribati, UNICEF Pacific supported the development and delivery of a multi-grade teacher training course and guidebook. As of 31 December 2015, 50 multi-grade teachers in 21 schools have been trained on the course by the Kiribati Teacher College, benefiting 1,132 children (582 boys and 550 girls).

In Tuvalu, the national minimum quality service standards in schools have now been endorsed by the Cabinet. UNICEF Pacific provided technical support to strengthen devolved decision-making at the school level. School management committees have been established and school improvement plans developed for 13 schools, benefitting 2,466 students. UNICEF supported improved relationships between schools and local island councils by strengthening local governance mechanisms around school-based management. Continued scaffolding and ongoing support is required for schools to embed these reforms into their day-to-day operations. Transportation and access to different islands continues to be a huge challenge due to the unfavourable, unreliable shipping schedules that impact timely and cost-effective delivery of activities.

Partnerships between the WASH and child protection programme areas increased particularly in Kiribati and Tuvalu. In Kiribati a bottleneck analysis was carried out jointly to identify the key areas of intervention for WASH in Schools, while in Tuvalu, UNICEF Pacific is supporting the development of a child protection policy for schools.

As lead agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in Kiribati, UNICEF Pacific provided the Ministry of Education with an education sector analyst to assist in developing the

country's next education sector strategic plan. The analysis has been completed, providing the evidence needed to prioritize and address key inequities in the education sector.

**OUTPUT 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:**

UNICEF is an observer on the board of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Education Quality and Assessment Programme formerly known as the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Quality. UNICEF has been working in collaboration with SPC in the strengthening of the education information management systems (EMIS) in the Pacific in particular for ECCE data collection in 13 Pacific Island countries. UNICEF-Pacific also continued to engage with education related regional fora, such as the Pacific directors of education meeting and the follow up to the Forum of Education Ministers. Finally, UNICEF continued to be engaged with the education cluster in Fiji especially for Cyclone Pam response and El Nino preparedness.

**OUTPUT 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 lead agency, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in Kiribati, UNICEF Pacific provided the Ministry of Education with an education sector analyst to assist in developing the country's next education sector strategy. The analysis has been completed, providing the evidence needed to prioritize and address key inequities in the education sector.

Multi-grade schools have teachers teaching students from several different grades together in the same classroom. In Kiribati, multi-grade schools are often located in remote areas and tend to have the least pedagogical support. A UNICEF survey conducted among teachers found that 50 per cent do not feel very confident teaching multi-grade classrooms. Most teachers expressed the need to have training on multi-grade teaching. To improve learning outcomes for the most marginalized children in Kiribati, UNICEF Pacific supported the development and delivery of a multi-grade teacher training course and guidebook. To date, 50 multi-grade teachers (47 per cent of all multi-grade teachers) in 21 schools have been trained on the course by the Kiribati Teacher College, benefiting 1,132 children (582 boys and 550 girls).

UNICEF Pacific has also supported adherence to a teachers' code of ethics (CoE) in Kiribati. A workshop on CoE was conducted with 26 head teachers in South Tarawa and North Tarawa. Data show that the attendance of teachers in South Tarawa has significantly increased from the baseline of 77 per cent in 2014 to 92 per cent in 2015, while punctuality of teachers increased from 61 per cent in 2014 to 81 per cent in 2015. While corporal punishment is slowly declining, it remains a critical issue that needs to be addressed through capacity building on positive disciplining.

A bottleneck analysis conducted by UNICEF Pacific in North Tarawa in 2015 found that nine out of the 10 schools assessed did not have any toilet facilities for children. As a result, the construction of toilets and hand-washing facilities was included in school improvement plans, and with the support of UNICEF, all nine schools have now built toilets, benefiting 574 children. The schools have also have built 'tippy taps' for hand washing with soap. UNICEF Pacific has

also supported the schools to implement the Three Star Approach to WASH in Schools; seven out of the 10 beneficiary schools in North Tarawa have achieved one-star status.

Finally, UNICEF Pacific provided education in emergencies support to 161 children (including 84 girls) who attended schools on a remote island of Tamana which were destroyed by Cyclone Pam.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017 children in SI 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:**

Low quality teaching practices are the main bottlenecks that constrain learning achievement in SI, particularly in literacy and numeracy. No national system of continuous professional development (CPD) has been established to meet the continuous in-service teacher education needs. To help address this situation, UNICEF Pacific is taking an integrated approach to meet the needs of teachers. In 2015 UNICEF conducted a baseline survey on teacher-classroom interaction in five wards in Guadalcanal province. The preliminary results indicate that a large portion (46 per cent ) of class time is spent doing individual seatwork, consisting of copying and doing exercises. The final report, which confirms the government's concerns regarding quality of teaching and learning in schools, was shared with the ministry.

Additionally, UNICEF Pacific supported the development of the first school-based, in-service training module on teaching literacy and numeracy for Grade 1 and 2 teachers in Guadalcanal. Orientation on the module and an accompanying Activity Book was organised for 40 teachers and 25 head teachers. The teachers' self-assessment form completed before the orientation, show that the majority (74 per cent ) of teachers agree that their students have little or no experience speaking English, and are unable to interact in English. Clearly, English continues to be a challenge for teachers and a main factor in low literacy. However, 29 per cent of teachers indicated that they use opportunities throughout the day to link English learning to other learning.

To support head teachers in mentoring and coaching teachers, an instructional leadership training manual was developed and 36 head teachers in targeted schools were trained. However, the competing demands on head teachers, and their lack of time to observe classroom teachers and provide feedback, remains a challenge. To help address this, head teachers have been encouraged to hold regular CPD sessions with their teachers using the module.

To help establish a teachers' code of ethics (CoE) for SI, UNICEF Pacific conducted a baseline survey among teachers and students in three wards in Guadalcanal province. The baseline showed a discrepancy between the views of students and teachers regarding corporal punishment, while both agreed that teacher and student absenteeism is a critical issue. Following the baseline, ethical leadership training was conducted with 23 head teachers, where they drafted a teacher CoE for the country, which will include provisions around teacher and student attendance, corporal punishment and schools' learning and health environment and their inclusion in the school improvement plans.

**OUTPUT 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, in 2015 UNICEF Pacific supported interventions to strengthen teacher education, curriculum development, school-based management and the national education information management system (TEMIS).

Approximately 48 teachers from early childhood care and education (ECCE) centres as well as primary and secondary schools received training on the teacher competency framework. Concerns around equitable access to professional development opportunities continue to be a challenge, with constraints around unreliable transportation to the outer islands and the human resource and financial costs involved in delivering on-site training.

To support recent curriculum reforms by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) to move to an outcomes-based approach to learning, UNICEF Pacific supported the development of new teacher resources in science, math and English for Years 7 and 8. Forty-eight teachers were trained on the use of the science resources. Curriculum resources for Years 7 and 8 in Math and English are being developed wherein 47 received training on the math resources and 55 were trained on the English resources.

UNICEF Pacific provided technical support to strengthen devolved decision-making at the school level. School management committees have been established and school improvement plans with utilization of school grants developed for 13 schools, benefitting 2,466 students. UNICEF also supported improved relationships between schools and local island councils by strengthening local governance mechanisms around school-based management. Continued support required for schools to fully embed these practices. However, sustainability of these initiatives will hinge on the incorporation of school-based management in the Education Act.

Working with the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, UNICEF Pacific continued to support Tuvalu's education management information system, including through upgrades to infrastructure and strengthened data analysis capacity.

Several administrative bottlenecks have been addressed, thereby increasing programme efficiency, effectiveness and governance. AEFATP has also developed a monitoring framework to improve its reporting, which will closely be linked to the results and sustainability of the Programme.

UNICEF Pacific also supported Tuvalu's emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. Support was provided to MEYS for damage assessment and school backpacks were provided to children in nine schools, benefitting 411 girls and 439 boys.

**OUTPUT 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:**

In March 2015, Tropical Cyclone Pam severely damaged or completely destroyed many primary schools in Vanuatu, leaving children and their teachers without learning facilities and materials and interrupted the regular programme interventions.

UNICEF Pacific provided emergency support to primary schools in the most affected provinces of Shefa and Tafea, and in Penama (UNICEF's province of focus for education activities in the

country). Temporary learning spaces were provided through the provision of tents, school-in-the-box kits, recreation kits, teacher kits and student backpacks. Across the three provinces, 23,876 children (including 11,431 girls) from 168 primary schools benefitted from the support.

A 'tips for teachers' book and a student workbook were produced to help primary teachers address children's psychosocial needs and anxieties, along with messages on disaster risk reduction. Twenty master trainers were trained on the use of these materials and UNICEF supported the roll out of trainings in Shefa, Tafea and Malakula Island. In total, 1,401 education providers and caregivers were trained, with 30,574 early childhood and primary aged children benefitting.

In addition to Tropical Cyclone Pam, the El Niño weather phenomena led to a drought in Vanuatu and interrupted school activities in October and November; many primary schools in Penama, Shefa and Tafea provinces closed early due to lack of water in schools.

One of the key challenges the education cluster faced was related to limited number of cluster members who could immediately respond to the emergency and provide assistance to schools. While MoET staff responded tirelessly to this large emergency, it was noted that additional capacity building will benefit the ministry especially in cluster coordination and management.

UNICEF's regular education programme in Penama province resumed in August, with the development of draft literacy and numeracy modules for Grade 4-6 teachers, which will be used as part of school-based in-service teacher training programme and support to strengthening continuous professional development system. Field-testing and consultations on the draft module were held with principals and teachers in seven schools in Shefa and Penama provinces and with 22 education officials. A baseline survey on teaching practices was also conducted in primary schools in Penama province to help measure the impact of in-service teacher training.

**OUTCOME 6** 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 are generally weak across all countries in the Pacific. In 2015, UNICEF Pacific, working in collaboration with regional, national and sub-national partners, continued to provide technical and financial resources to strengthen routine reporting and to support the generation of strategic information on HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Currently there exist numerous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems and/or tools in each country, none of which are adequately collecting data for reporting on global, regional or national indicators. UNICEF Pacific has advocated for partners to work together to develop one M&E system, which could then be adapted by countries. Initial meetings were held to agree upon the design of the M&E system before roll out begins in early 2016. In SI, UNICEF Pacific supported the HIV/STI Unit within the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to assess its current data collection tools. Together with UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF also supported Fiji in drafting a facility-level reporting tool. This will form the basis of the proposed regional facility-level reporting tool.

UNICEF Pacific supported the rollout of second generation sentinel surveillance on HIV and syphilis at 12 antenatal clinics in eight provinces in SI. UNICEF contributed to the development of a technical proposal; the training of national research assistants (antenatal clinic nurses); provided feedback on the preliminary results and draft reports; and supported the launch of the



final report on 1 December 2015. The SGSS contains strategic information which will be used to meet global reporting obligations and for planning of the HIV/STI programme going forward.

UNICEF Pacific partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to implement programmatic mappings, population size estimations and behavioural surveillance of key populations at higher risk, with a particular focus on adolescents. UNICEF is technically and financially supporting studies in Kiribati, Samoa and Vanuatu, and is providing technical support along with UNAIDS, WHO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for the studies in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. Terms of reference were developed and an academic institution selected to perform the studies. The studies will be conducted in three waves, with the final wave scheduled for completion in October 2016.

In collaboration with regional and national partners, UNICEF Pacific supported the development of an operational plan for the Pacific Sexual Health and Well-Being Shared Agenda (2015-2019), a document that provides countries with guidance on integrating programmes for a more comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health. Further consultations with countries are required to ensure the operational plan is consistent with national strategic plans.

UNICEF Pacific, along with UNAIDS, WHO and SPC, supported Fiji's Ministry of Health and Medical Services in drafting the 2016-2020 HIV/STI National Strategic Plan (NSP). The plan is aligned with the latest technical guidance, including 'test and treat' and the UNAIDS fast-track goals. Consultation meetings were held with representatives from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, regional partners, key populations and people living with HIV. The plan is expected to be finalized and launched in early 2016.

Support was provided to Fiji and SI to develop annual HIV work plans for 2015-2016. UNICEF Pacific, along with UNAIDS and WHO, continued to advocate for the development of M&E systems and costed implementation plans that are aligned with HIV/STI national strategic plans. In Kiribati and Vanuatu, HIV/AIDS work plans were integrated with health work plans in an effort to better align with the Pacific Regional Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy, the United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF) health outcome, and the Ministry Annual Operational Plans and budgets.

UNICEF Pacific collaborated with UNAIDS to support 12 Pacific Island Countries in the preparation of Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting, with direct support provided to Fiji and SI. With UNAIDS leading this process, more countries successfully submitted their reports in 2015 (12) than in 2014 (10).

UNICEF Pacific is a member of the regional technical working group for the Pacific Islands Regional Multi-Country Coordinating Mechanism. Through the working group, UNICEF Pacific advocated for the scale-up of HIV testing services, prevention of parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) services and prevention activities for adolescents. In 2015, UNICEF supported the submission of a Global Fund concept note, which was approved, resulting in approximately US\$6.5 million in new funding for HIV and STI programming over the next 2.5 years. UNICEF Pacific and other regional partners, including UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP and SPC, put forth significant effort to focus funding on high-impact interventions, especially PPTCT. Although funding for PPTCT was substantially increased from the amount in the initial draft proposal, it remains limited. Moreover, with the focus of the Global Fund grant on key populations at higher risk, HIV prevention activities for adolescents continue to be underfunded and need additional attention, particularly for 10-15 year olds, who are often missed by programming.

**OUTPUT 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:**

In Fiji, UNICEF Pacific and other regional partners supported the development of a national annual work plan that was endorsed by the HIV/AIDS Board. In SI, UNICEF supported the finalization of the HIV/STI Unit annual operational plan for 2015/2016. National annual work plans in Vanuatu and Kiribati were integrated with reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) work plans to allow for better coordination and integration.

To support the collection of strategic information, UNICEF Pacific supported SI in rolling out second generation sentinel surveillance for HIV/syphilis.

The new surveillance system provides strategic information that will be used to meet global reporting obligations and help guide the HIV/STI programme.

UNICEF Pacific partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to roll out programmatic mappings, population size estimations and behavioural surveillance of key populations at higher risk, with a particular focus on adolescents. UNICEF is technically and financially supporting studies in Kiribati, Samoa and Vanuatu, and is providing technical support along with UNAIDS, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for the roll out of studies in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. The studies will be conducted in three waves, with the final wave scheduled for completion in October 2016.

Together with UNAIDS, WHO and SPC, UNICEF Pacific supported Fiji in drafting the 2016-2020 HIV/STI National Strategic Plan. The plan is aligned with the latest technical guidance, including 'test and treat' and the UNAIDS fast-track goals. Consultation meetings were held with representatives from government, non-governmental and faith-based organizations, regional partners, key populations and people living with HIV. The plan is expected to be finalized and launched in early 2016.

UNICEF Pacific, as a member of the regional technical working group for the Pacific Islands Regional Multi-Country Coordinating Mechanism, supported the submission of a Global Fund concept note, which was approved, resulting in approximately US\$6.5 million in new funding for HIV and STI programming for the next 2.5 years.

**OUTCOME 7** 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:**

In 2015 UNICEF Pacific worked with the ministries of health in Fiji and SI to introduce early infant diagnosis of HIV to help ensure HIV-positive babies are started on life-saving treatment as soon as possible. Previously, blood samples were sent to Australia, New Zealand or the United States of America for testing. As facilities usually waited until they had a complete batch of samples before dispatching them, there were significant delays. In many cases, the tests were not performed or the wait was several months long. This had detrimental effects on the health of the child, as without treatment half of all children born with HIV will die by the age of two and the majority will die by the age of five. The introduction of early infant diagnosis is

considered an important step in the HIV response in the Pacific. The services will be closely monitored to inform future roll out in other Pacific Island Countries.

UNICEF Pacific also supported Fiji and SI to introduce HIV viral load testing. Monitoring a patient's viral load is important for making decisions about pregnancy and birth, as well as for making decisions about the effectiveness of treatment.

The availability of HIV testing and counselling services is low in the Pacific. In 2015, UNICEF Pacific noted serious limitations in the use of HIV rapid diagnostic tests in Fiji, Kiribati and SI. Currently the test is not administered at the point of care and thus the client does not receive their result until their next appointment. This affects the quality of the tests; has created bottlenecks for testing services as laboratory technicians are not available in the outer islands; and has serious implications for prevention of parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) services, as pregnant women receive their results either very late in pregnancy or after the birth of their child.

UNICEF Pacific is advocating for and/or working with the governments of Fiji, Kiribati and SI to ensure the administration of HIV rapid diagnostic tests is at the point of care, as per World Health Organization (WHO) technical guidance.

Along with UNAIDS and WHO, UNICEF Pacific worked with the government of SI to update national guidelines on PPTCT, HIV testing and antiretroviral therapy to align with 2015 WHO guidance. Kiribati was supported to integrate PPTCT services with maternal and child health services; these efforts are well advanced on South Tarawa.

Given a generally low level of knowledge of HIV, low condom use, high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and high rates of gender-based violence, adolescents in the Pacific are at considerable risk of HIV. UNICEF Pacific, along with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the governments of Kiribati, Samoa, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu, are founding members of the regional steering committee established to manage a joint grant to reduce the risk of STIs and HIV and to decrease vulnerabilities among adolescents and youth (Pacific Regional Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme). Terms of reference for the steering committee were developed and finalized in 2015. Under this programme, UNICEF is supporting the collection of strategic information about key populations, which will help provide information on adolescent populations at higher risk. Terms of reference for population size estimates, programme mapping and behavioural surveillance for key populations at higher risk have been developed in collaboration with the regional technical working group. An academic institution has been contracted to carry out the studies, with the technical support of the working group. The studies will be conducted in three waves, with the final wave scheduled for completion in October 2016.

Through the joint programme, UNICEF Pacific is also supporting the roll out of sports for development activities in Samoa and Tonga. A contract has been signed between the Oceania Football Association and the programme, which will include the delivery of messages on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and STIs, is set to start in early 2016.

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific supported the submission of a Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria concept note, which was approved, resulting in approximately US\$6.5 million in new funding for HIV/STI programmes over the next 2.5 years. UNICEF and other regional partners, including UNAIDS, WHO, UNDP and SPC, put forth a great deal of effort to focus the proposal on high-impact interventions, particularly PPTCT.

**OUTPUT 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:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific worked with the ministries of health in Fiji and SI to introduce early infant diagnosis testing to help ensure that HIV-positive babies are started on life-saving treatment as soon as possible. UNICEF Pacific also supported Fiji and SI to introduce HIV viral load testing to inform decisions about pregnancy and delivery, as well as the effectiveness of antiretroviral treatment.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Pacific noted serious limitations in the use of HIV rapid diagnostic tests in Fiji, Kiribati and SI. Currently the tests are not administered at the point of care, delaying the client's receipt of the result and reducing the number of clients who receive their results. UNICEF Pacific is working with the three governments to ensure that HIV rapid diagnostic tests are administered at the point of care. In 2015, UNICEF Pacific supported 35 health facilities in SI to roll out HIV point-of-care testing.

As per the recommendations of the mid-term review, UNICEF Pacific supported countries to integrate prevention of parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) services with maternal and child health services. Kiribati is well advanced in the integration of these services on South Tarawa, although further support in the use of rapid diagnostic tests will help improve the quality and coverage of services.

UNICEF, along with UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO), worked with the Government of SI to draft updated guidelines on PPTCT, HIV testing and antiretroviral therapy, aligned with 2015 WHO guidance.

There are gaps in PPTCT and antiretroviral therapy adherence in many Pacific Island Countries. UNICEF Pacific, in collaboration with UNAIDS, WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), has attempted to address these gaps via the new Global Fund multi-country grant, which provides an additional US\$6.5 million for HIV/STI programming for the next 2.5 years. A new initiative included in the grant is the development of a telemedicine centre in Fiji to support other countries in the enrolment of patients and monitoring of antiretroviral therapy.

**OUTPUT 2** 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 Pacific, with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the governments of Kiribati, Samoa, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu, is a founding member of the regional steering committee to manage a joint grant to reduce the risk of STIs and HIV and decrease vulnerabilities among adolescents and youth (Pacific Regional Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme). Terms of reference for the steering committee were developed and finalized in 2015.

UNICEF Pacific is supporting the collection of strategic information about key populations, which will help provide information on adolescent populations at higher risk. Terms of reference for population size estimates, programme mapping and behavioural surveillance for key populations at higher risk were developed in collaboration with the regional technical working group. An academic institution has been contracted to carry out the studies with the technical support of the working group. The studies will be conducted in three waves, with the final wave

scheduled for completion in October 2016.

UNICEF Pacific is also supporting the roll out of sports for development activities in Samoa and Tonga. A contract has been signed with the Oceania Football Association and the programme, which will include added focus on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and STIs, is set to start in early 2016.

Together with the Government of SI, UNICEF Pacific conducted a mapping of youth-friendly health services (YFHS). A plan was developed to support the nine YFHS centres with HIV testing and counselling supplies and health education materials on sexual and reproductive health, life skills and STI/HIV prevention. In Kiribati, site visits revealed that the location of YFHS in schools might impede utilization, as adolescents may fear the lack of confidentiality. Methods of delivering services may have to be reconsidered, especially given the low population in many of the country's islands. Technology may be helpful in this area.

**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:**

Legal and regulatory frameworks for child protection have been strengthened or are currently being reformed in seven of 14 Pacific Island Countries. With the support of UNICEF Pacific, law reform is being undertaken in Cook Islands (Family Law Bill), Kiribati (Juvenile Justice Act), Republic of Marshall Islands (Disability Act), Samoa (Child Care and Protection Bill), and SI (Child and Family Welfare Bill). Both Fiji and Vanuatu have made progress in developing child protection policies. Kiribati, which now has one of the strongest legal frameworks for child protection in the Pacific, passed the Juvenile Justice Bill in 2015, which sets standards for the youth justice system, with a focus on keeping children out of adult prisons. Kiribati also ratified two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and on children in armed conflict).

In countries where child protection laws are being reviewed or developed, family safety/protection laws, which focus on responding to domestic violence, are being harmonized with the growing body of child protection law.

While positive trends have been noted in legal and policy reform, implementation of strengthened legal frameworks remains a challenge due to weak dissemination of laws to professionals tasked with implementation (including police, judiciary and social workers), and lack of resources to realize the structural changes mandated by the laws. Political instability and changes in governments have also challenged legal and policy reforms. In SI, for example, the change in government in late 2014 resulted in a change in policy direction under the new government, causing difficulties for line ministries in identifying fiscal and policy space for child protection. This has resulted in delays in presenting the Child and Family Welfare Bill to Cabinet and Parliament.

Improvements in the coverage and quality of service delivery for the prevention and response to violence against children has been mixed. Services are almost non-existent in countries such as SI, Republic of Marshall Islands and Vanuatu, whereas a full range of services are provided in Fiji and, to a lesser extent, Samoa. Models that promote partnerships and coordination are proving most successful at reaching children, in particular in Fiji where the health sector has developed health worker guidelines for recognizing, responding to and referring child protection

cases, and where inter-agency guidelines were developed for the coordination and referral of cases. During 2015, Fiji launched a child helpline, which received 6,704 calls within the first 10 months of operation. Of these, 544 cases were identified as in need of child protection services and were referred to counselling. Between January and August 2015, 612 cases were separately received by the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, almost the same number that was received during all of 2014 (628 cases). In Samoa, the main non-governmental organization (NGO) service provider received 200 reports of child abuse, of which 108 were sexual abuse cases.

During 2015, more children had their births registered than ever before in Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu. Resiliency of the birth registration system was tested in Vanuatu, where, in response to Tropical Cyclone Pam in March, a total of 22,150 children were registered in the affected provinces, of which 11,828 received replacement certificates for lost or damaged certificates. In SI, the roll-out of the model birth registration system expanded from four to eight provinces (out of 10) in 2015. As a result, birth registration coverage has increased from 0.01 per cent in 2012, to 15 per cent in 2014 and 40 per cent in 2015. Government budgets for civil registration offices were increased in both SI and Vanuatu, and in SI a five-year investment plan for the civil registration system was developed and endorsed by the Government.

Key lessons to success in extending coverage of birth registration across the three focus countries include: decentralization of service delivery to local levels; development of partnerships, particularly between civil registry and health, education, local authorities and faith based organizations; and mobile campaigns, targeting remote and vulnerable communities to ensure equity.

UNICEF Pacific's continued support to partners around planning for and responding to child protection in emergencies resulted in the strong response to Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, with more than 10,000 children and adolescents accessing psychosocial support. A Pacific child protection in emergencies toolkit has been developed with partners and is being rolled out. The toolkit aims to support the establishment of effective mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children during emergencies and is consistent with the global Child Protection Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Action.

With the exception of Fiji, which has a national budget line for child protection, the adequate resourcing of child protection services has been a challenge. To address this issue, a number of countries have requested UNICEF Pacific support around costing child protection laws and policies.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2017, PICs children are better protected by strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks at national level, including in emergencies.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific supported a number of Pacific Island Countries to strengthen national legal, regulatory and policy frameworks for child protection. In May UNICEF hosted the Pacific Regional End Violence Against Children Conference in Nadi, Fiji. The conference, the first of its kind in the region, was attended by the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, representatives from 13 Pacific Island Country governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and faith-based organizations. Representatives from Pacific Countries made commitments around ending violence against children. Following the conference legal reform has progressed in Cook Islands (Family Law Bill), Kiribati (Juvenile Justice Act), the Republic of Marshalls Islands (Disability

Act), and Samoa (Child Care and Protection Bill), and in Fiji a high-level campaign combating sexual abuse has been launched. Country action plans on ending violence against children have been developed in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, SI, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Strengthening of the national child protection system is on track in Fiji; a national child protection policy was submitted to Cabinet for final endorsement. An inter-agency protocol on child protection, which covers procedures for coordination of services, has been endorsed by the Solicitor General's Office and has been signed by ministries of education, health, labour, women, children and poverty alleviation and police.

In Samoa, the Law Reform Commission completed a study on introducing a sexual offender's register; the establishment of the register has been endorsed by all partners and will begin in 2016. Special safeguards for the protection of children who commit sexual offences are included in the provisions. The Child Care and Protection Bill has been reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and is being prepared for submission to Parliament.

Child protection system assessments were completed for in Vanuatu and SI. These used the Governance Indicator Framework and, together with the earlier completed assessments in Fiji and Kiribati, these reports represent a robust body of evidence to inform policy and budgetary reforms in the focus countries. A four- country comparative analysis has also been completed.

In Nauru, a child protection situation analysis was completed, with finalization of the report underway.

**OUTPUT 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:**

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to support Kiribati to develop and strengthen legal, regulatory and policy frameworks for the protection of children, adolescents and youth. Roll-out of the Child, Young People and Family Welfare (CYFW) Act of 2013 has been constrained since the beginning of 2015. Vacancies in key positions are one of the reasons for this, although efforts have been made to fill these positions by both UNICEF Pacific and the Government of Kiribati. The Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs (MWYSA) conducted training on implementation of the CYFW Act for all assistant social welfare officers. A draft referral protocol was developed during the process.

The CYFW Act does not require teachers to report episodes or risks of child abuse. While the draft education bill is reported to prohibit corporal punishment, it is not clear what other elements of child protection it will include. In an effort to address this, UNICEF Pacific's child protection and education sections worked with the Ministry of Education and government partners to promote child protection issues through the roll-out of the code of ethics for teachers. During 2015 a workshop on ethics was conducted with 26 head teachers in South Tarawa and North Tarawa.

The enabling environment for child justice was strengthened with Parliament's passing of the Juvenile Justice Act. The President signed the Act in December 2015 and planning is underway to roll-out the legislation. The Act is significant as it ensures child-sensitive justice procedures



for child victims, witnesses and offenders, limits detention of children, and mandates the separation of children from adults in custody. It establishes a separate juvenile court and mandates that courts have child-friendly spaces. In addition, in September the Government of Kiribati acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017 SI 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:**

In SI the change in Government at the end of 2014 greatly impacted government priorities around child protection, resulting in key line ministries, such as the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, removing child protection outcomes from their corporate plans. Enactment of the Child and Family Welfare Bill, which was scheduled to be considered by Parliament in 2015, has been postponed multiple times. During 2015, a working group was formed, with representatives from key ministries, the Office of the Attorney General and UNICEF Pacific, to ensure the bill and the Family Protection Act are aligned in terms of definitions, procedures and forms, and that they are consistent with the latest legislative developments. UNICEF Pacific also provided technical support to the Government to review the penal code to strengthen child protection provisions.

With UNICEF Pacific support, the National Action Advisory Committee on Children finalized the country's report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and submitted the report to Cabinet for endorsement. UNICEF Pacific continues to provide support to the Government in developing a progress report on addressing the issues and concerns raised in the concluding observations of the previous report.

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific undertook robust advocacy by organizing the visit of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to SI in May 2015. High-level meetings with the judiciary and other stakeholders were held, as were events with youth. During the visit, the Government committed to signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. On-going support is being provided to the Child Protection Taskforce in developing a cabinet paper to support ratification. Ratification of the optional protocol will provide the opportunity to carry out the legal reform needed to ensure protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

With support from UNICEF Pacific, the Government completed a plan to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics, including an investment plan. The investment plan identifies the resources required to scale up birth registration over a five-year period and the partnerships necessary to fully resource the plan.

**OUTPUT 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 emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu in March 2015, put UNICEF Pacific's policy and legislative initiatives temporarily on hold, particularly as the main partner, the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, was fully mobilized in relief and recovery efforts. Initiatives resumed in the final quarter of 2015.

The national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Committee received the Law Commission's report on the amended Civil Status Registration Act CAP 61. Ongoing discussions were held with State Law Office to complete the amendments ready for tabling in Parliament in 2016. The amendment will legally allow other stakeholders (including health workers, teachers, youth and area secretaries) to facilitate civil registration tasks at the sub-national level. Discussions were held with the State Law Office to complete the amendments; the act will be tabled in Parliament in 2016.

Long-term government commitment to strengthened civil registration has been ensured through incorporation of two important indicators in Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan: 100 per cent registration of births by 2024; and 80 per cent death registration by 2024. This places Vanuatu in a good position to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal to provide legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030.

With support from UNICEF Pacific, the Ministry of Justice and Community Services is finalizing the combined second, third and fourth periodic state party reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child for submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The Ministry of Justice finalized plans for the development of a national children's policy and child protection legislation. Discussions and preparations towards this end are ongoing between the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Government of Australia and UNICEF Pacific.

Increased commitment to implementing structural reforms within the Ministry of Justice and Community Services has been noted, with the Public Service Commission approving a number of new positions. While two new positions have been funded by the Government, a positive step towards strengthening human resources for child protection policy development and service delivery, budget allocations to cover all new positions have not been forthcoming as yet.

An evaluation of the police capacity building programme is underway; field-work has been completed, with approximately 50 individuals participating. The final report is to be delivered in January 2016; the results will be used to review the approach to building capacity of professionals in the law and justice sector.

**OUTPUT 5** 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 2015. The first Pacific Civil Registrars Network meeting was held in Fiji in May, attended by Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, SI and Vanuatu. The network, which is aligned with the Asia Pacific Regional Action Framework on CRVS, provides a unique platform for South-South cooperation among civil registrars as well as an opportunity for sharing good practices. The meeting showcased innovations available to support Pacific governments in achieving universal birth registration.

UNICEF Pacific's child protection in emergencies toolkit was launched in October 2015, with training in SI targeting Makira (one of the provinces most impacted by the El Niño weather phenomena) and Honiara. The toolkit is designed for child protection practitioners and aims to

support the establishment of effective mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children during emergencies. Consistent with the global Child Protection Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Action, the toolkit includes guidance on communications, coordination, prevention and response, mainstreaming child protection in emergencies, and monitoring and evaluation.

In Samoa, UNICEF Pacific's partnership with the non-governmental organization (NGO) Samoa Victim Support Group has resulted in improved coordination among child protection stakeholders and strengthened assistance to child victims during court processes. The NGO is the main service provider for child victims of abuse and exploitation in Samoa.

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination between United Nations partners on tackling violence against children and women in the Pacific, a joint UNICEF Pacific/United Nations Population Fund publication, "Harmful Connections", was launched in May 2015. The publication is a compelling consolidation of evidence on violence against children and women in the Pacific, providing secondary analysis of existing data. The publication is proving to be a strong tool in raising awareness on violence against children and women with governments.

Finally, a multi-country evaluation on capacity building of police forces in Fiji, Kiribati and Vanuatu is underway, with field-work completed and draft findings presented. The final report will be available in 2016.

**OUTPUT 6** By 2017 Kiribati government and civil society strengthen quality of and access to child protection services

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The small number of social workers in Kiribati, combined with the remoteness of many of the country's islands, makes it difficult to ensure access to quality child protection services. Strategies to address these issues include strengthening linkages between community- and family-based services to include formal measures to prevent and respond to violence against children, a principle included in the Child, Young People and Family Welfare (CYFW) Act of 2013.

During 2015, implementation of the CYFW Act was supported through the finalization of the child protection implementation manual and regulations, and roll-out of the manual in Kiritimati, Teraina and Tabuaeran. Police carried out activities to raise awareness of the act in schools and communities, reaching more than 8,000 children. The capacity of police to implement the Standard Operating Procedures for Handling Children in Contact with the Law was strengthened through a series of trainings for front-line police. Diversion of young offenders was supported with taking part in an alcohol recovery programme.

UNICEF Pacific continued to support the decentralization of civil registration services in Kiribati. During the reporting period, birth registrations in rural areas increased from 68 per cent to 89 per cent. Coverage disparities were reduced through a mobile birth registration campaign in the outer islands. In the second half of 2015 activities focused on Abaiang, which previously had low birth registration coverage rates. Two civil registration officers provided mobile birth registration services at traditional *maneaba* (meeting houses) in each village, resulting in a 100 per cent increase in registration rates. Mobile outreach will be expanded to other low-performing outer islands in 2016. The birth registration service points established in the main Tarawa Hospital and in Betio continued to boost birth and death registrations. A significant increase in birth registration rates has also been achieved by stationing civil registration staff in the two main hospitals in Tarawa.

Training on birth notification was completed for health workers. The training covered the importance of birth registration, role of nurses in filling out the new birth registration form, and how to register adoptions. The training also encouraged registration of the mother's name on birth notifications, using the mother's health card as identification. This is to stop the practice whereby adoptive parents put their name directly on the birth notification, thus bypassing the formal adoption process. The national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Committee continues to grow is developing a 10 year strategic plan although technical assistance in required to finalize and cost the plan.

**OUTPUT 7** By 2017, SI 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:**

Progress was made in 2015 in strengthening birth registration and child protection in emergencies in the SI. Access to birth registration continued to improve, with roll-out of the decentralized system in eight of 10 provinces. The births of 12,893 people were registered in 2015, of which 50 per cent were children aged 18 years and under. Of all births recorded in the database, 41 per cent are children under five years of age.

The SI Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Steering Committee, with the support of partners from the Brisbane Accord Group, completed the five-year CRVS improvement plan, which UNICEF Pacific supported both technically and financially.

Robust advocacy from UNICEF Pacific resulted in the Government recognizing the importance and mandate of the Civil Registry Office. The budget allocation to civil registration saw an increase of approximately US\$124,000 (SBD\$1 million) in 2015 in comparison with 2014. The connection of the National Referral Hospital to the national government server has enabled access to the Civil Registry Office database. Nurses at the hospital are now able to enter birth registration data into the national database, easing the burden on the Civil Registry Office.

The capacity to respond to child protection in emergencies was strengthened through roll-out of UNICEF Pacific's child protection in emergencies toolkit in Makira province and Honiara. Approximately 50 people participated in trainings. Makira is one of the provinces most affected by the El Niño weather phenomena; the introduction of the toolkit will enable partners to better respond to its effects. As a result of the training, the provincial disaster management office has formed a Child Protection Taskforce. The taskforce has facilitated awareness sessions in two communities in Makira; more are planned for 2016.

Significant challenges remain in delivering both prevention and response services for children affected by violence, exploitation and abuse, particularly outside of the capital Honiara. The Department of Social Welfare, which is within the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, continues to have challenges (financial and human) that greatly constrain its capacity to provide services.

**OUTPUT 8** 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:**

Child protection services in Vanuatu are relatively weak. During 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to provide assistance to improve access to child protection services to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation. A planning session was held with the Ministry of Justice and Community Services and other partners on Tanna to review the pilot initiative to establish a child protection system. A four-month plan was developed, with clear objectives, indicators and timeframes. One of the priority activities identified was the establishment and training of provincial and community child protection committees.

Together with the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, UNICEF Pacific facilitated three child protection workshops; the first to provide an orientation to the Tafea Provincial Child Protection Committee; the second to test modules included in the draft child protection community facilitation package (held on Tanna); and the third to provide an orientation to the Port Narvin Community Child Protection Committee on Erromango. The latter was attended by 45 participants, including members of the provincial and community child protection committees, community leaders, church leaders, women and youth.

Due to increased staff capacity, the Ministry of Justice developed a draft document on piloting child protection systems, which will be shared with stakeholders for discussion before finalization in 2016.

In response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, birth registration coverage were significantly strengthened with priority given to ensuring registration of the population and facilitate access to emergency relief assistance. UNICEF Pacific supported Vanuatu's Civil Registry Office to train more than 650 registration officers in the provinces of Malampa, Penama, Shefa and Tafea. The registration officers trained include members of provincial civil registry and vital statistics committees, area secretaries, teachers, health workers and youth. To date, 69,044 people (22,150 children and 46,894 adults) have benefited from the mobile registration campaign, exceeding the target of 6,400 children. The campaign was successful in registering approximately one quarter of the population of Vanuatu in a six-month period. This initiative, led by Vanuatu's Civil Registration Office, is a model for inter-ministerial cooperation, bringing together diverse partnerships at national and provincial levels. The campaign will be rolled out in the remaining provinces of Sanma and Torba in 2016.

An assessment of Vanuatu's child protection system was published. This comprehensive analysis of human resource management and financial reform will enable government and civil society partners to monitor and measure the quality of managerial decisions and resource allocation to child protection in the country.

**OUTCOME 9** 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:**

Physical or corporal punishment of children is widely accepted in the Pacific and remains the most common form of disciplining children. Other forms of punishment include emotional abuse, such as public humiliation, and severe verbal abuse. Children in the Pacific experience high rates of violence, either as direct victims, or through exposure to family violence. Gender norms further reinforce attitudes and practices that result in violence against children. In the Pacific, both women and children are considered subordinate to men, and there exist high rates of intimate partner violence. A large proportion of children in the Pacific are growing up in

households where violence is the norm. Approaches that holistically address family violence are therefore needed to address the root causes of violence against children and to prevent children from becoming future victims and perpetrators of violence in adulthood.

With support from UNICEF Pacific, positive parenting is being promoted in Fiji and rolled out in Kiribati and Vanuatu. In Fiji, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs launched the community facilitation package “Children are a Precious Gift from God”. The package, which promotes positive parenting and community action for child protection, has been adapted to incorporate positive traditional practices and translated into Fijian. Use of the package, and a similar tool in Kiribati, enabled positive parenting programmes to reach 30 per cent of the population in Fiji and 10 per cent in Kiribati. The contribution of this approach to positive changes in parent and caregiver skills, knowledge and behaviour is not yet known; an evaluation of the approach will take place in 2016.

During 2015, the promotion of safe, violence-free schools expanded in Fiji to include all early childhood education centres, with the roll-out of the child protection policies in schools. Several other Pacific Island Countries are taking a similar approach and developing codes of ethics or policies to reflect child protection standards, particularly in Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Advocacy and knowledge sharing around ending violence against children has resulted in improved understanding of the underlying factors and consequences of violence against children. In May, UNICEF Pacific hosted the Regional End Violence Against Children Conference in Nadi, Fiji. The conference, the first of its kind in the region, was attended by the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, representatives from 13 Pacific Island Country governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and faith-based organizations. Measures to address violence against children were widely endorsed during the conference.

Prevention of violence against children programmes, including campaigns in schools, awareness raising on bullying and cyber-safety, and media campaigns on child abuse, resulted in an increasing number of children being reached with information: 60 per cent in Fiji; 30 per cent in Kiribati; 40 per cent in Vanuatu; and 65 per cent total population?.

**OUTPUT 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:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to support the Ministry of Education in Fiji with the ongoing roll-out of the child protection policy in schools and early childhood care and education centres. Also in Fiji, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs launched the community facilitation package “Children are a Precious Gift from God”. The package, which promotes positive parenting and community action for child protection, has been adapted to incorporate positive traditional practices and translated into Fijian.

As Internet coverage improves, cyber-safety issues are a concern in a number of Pacific Island Countries. In Tonga, a national campaign on cyber-bullying was carried out and the Government developed a multi-year plan to combat the problem.

Data from service providers in Fiji show that sexual abuse is one of the most common forms of abuse of children in the country. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has

taken leadership on promoting individual responsibility to combat child sexual abuse through a national multi-media campaign.

**OUTPUT 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:**

During 2015, consultations were held with faith-based organizations and other community-based stakeholders around the development of a community facilitation package to promote positive parenting and community action on child protection. The consultations reconfirmed some of the issues identified in previous consultations with social welfare officers and community leaders. As a result, a Kiribati-specific community facilitation package will be developed in the Kiribati language. The package will be rolled out in 2016 in coordination with the implementation manual for the Child, Young People and Family Welfare (CYFW) Act.

In partnership with Youth Division of the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, approximately 1,200 youth from thirteen islands (Abemama, Aranuka, Arorae, Beru, Betio, Kuria, Maiana, Nikunau, Nonouti, North Tarawa, Tab North, Tab South and Tamana) participated in research on the impact of climate change on child protection. In addition, life skills training was provided for young people, including youth from the two islands most affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam (Arorae and Tamana). The training covered how to survive and cope with emotions in times of crisis.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017, in SI parents, families and communities demonstrate strengthened knowledge, attitude and practices creating an enabling environment that protects children from violence, abuse and exploitation

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Violence against women and children is widespread in SI. Almost two-thirds (64 per cent ) of women 15 to 49 years of age who had ever been in a relationship experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, from an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Research shows that abused women are 4.5 times more likely to have children who are also abused and are more likely to have emotional and behavioural problems.

The elimination of violence requires multi-sectoral cooperation and collaboration from all stakeholders. However, developing partnerships to reach families and communities has been challenging in SI due to the limited reach of state and non-state actors. One response has been the development of the United Nations Joint Programme on Eliminating Violence against Women and Children, which brings together the Government of SI and six United Nations organizations (UN Women, United Nations Population Fund (UNDP), UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization (ILO). The joint programme is aligned with government policies and commitments to address violence against women and girls, and builds on United Nations commitments to support ending violence in the country. However, to date reach of the programme has been limited to Honiara. Partnerships are being explored with faith-based organizations and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that can reach communities outside the capital.

As part of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, UNICEF Pacific supported the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs to raise awareness on the Family

Protection Act.

UNICEF continues to support Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and other stakeholders to conduct awareness on the Family Protection Act as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign including to businesses including banks, SI Brewery Company and Solomon Airlines. Results of such awareness raising need to be monitored.

**OUTPUT 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:**

During 2015, progress was made in engaging youth in developing responses to violence against children in Vanuatu. In partnership with the Ministry of Youth Development, Sports and Training (MOYDST), UNICEF Pacific reached 10,602 children (including 5,183 girls) in Malampa, Penama, Shefa and Tafea through the Just Play Programme, which promotes physical activity for children 6-12 years of age through football-related activities, while also addressing a range of development issues, including child protection.

MOYDST also supported 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 drop-in centres and organization of a children's festival in Tanna.

In addition 1,272 service providers (561 women, 711 men), including teachers, faith-based organization staff and youth leaders, were trained by MOYDST in child protection in emergencies and psychosocial support. These service providers organized activities to promote psychosocial support in their communities, including structured play and recreational activities. Sporting activities targeting thirteen primary schools on Ambrym, Efate, Emae, Makira, Pentecost and Tanna were also supported. Service providers have also been trained on how to refer children and adolescents who show signs of prolonged changes in behaviour or trauma to health workers, who have had training on mental health.

The first draft of the child protection community facilitation package was completed by a UNICEF Pacific-supported consultant. The package will be field-tested in 2016.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The first building block in promoting children's rights is to identify those children who are most marginalized and disadvantaged. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have limited capacity to monitor the situation of children and track progress against key development goals. National statistical systems in PICs are among the weakest in the world and are chronically under-resourced in terms of qualified staff and operational budgets. Most PICs also lack high-quality administrative data sources, such as education and health databases and civil registration records. These challenges are compounded by weak coordination and cooperation between government ministries, and low capacity to analyse data and translate numbers into policy-relevant information.



In 2015, UNICEF Pacific began to see significant results from the investment in and advocacy for data on children. An evaluation of the national Care and Protection Allowance programme for the most disadvantaged children in Fiji was well received and has resulted in the adoption by the Government of Fiji of many of its core recommendations. During the year the Government of Vanuatu released the results of the 2014 Vanuatu Pilot Disability Survey, and several other governments have incorporated disability modules into upcoming national censuses. UNICEF Pacific will continue to support the collection, interpretation and use of data on people living with disabilities, particularly children.

Across the Pacific, it is estimated that one in four children and adults are living below the national poverty line. Social protection can be understood as a set of public actions that address not only income poverty and economic shocks, but also social vulnerability, thus taking into account the inter-relationship between exclusion and poverty. In 2015, as part of UNICEF's Public Finance for Children initiative, UNICEF Pacific and the Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific (EAPRO) initiated a study to explore ways to establish a fiscal monitoring system for children in PICs. The focus in 2016 will be to initiate work in Fiji and SI that can serve as examples to the region.

While all PICs have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), government systems to report on progress remain weak; only 6 of 13 PICs are currently on track with their CRC reporting obligations. In 2015, UNICEF Pacific undertook significant work to build the capacity of governments to actively engage with their CRC obligations, supporting two CRC workshops, providing technical and financial support for the implementation of CRC Committee recommendations in three countries, submitting four confidential submissions to United Nations human rights mechanisms, and making one report for a Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities review. The first building block in promoting children's rights is to identify those children who are most marginalized and disadvantaged. Pacific Island Countries (PICs) have limited capacity to monitor the situation of children and track progress against key development goals. National statistical systems in PICs are very weak and are chronically under-resourced in terms of qualified staff and operational budgets. Most PICs also lack high-quality administrative data sources, such as education and health databases and civil registration records. These challenges are compounded by weak coordination and cooperation between government ministries, and low capacity to analyse data and translate numbers into policy-relevant information.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2017, collection, analyses and dissemination of disaggregated data on the situation of children and women strengthened.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to work toward improving information on the situation of children with disabilities. A new survey module on child functioning and disability, developed by UNICEF and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, was field tested in the Samoa 2014 Demographic and Health Survey. In 2015, UNICEF Pacific facilitated analysis of the data and the writing of a technical paper on child disability in Samoa, in collaboration with Samoa Bureau of Statistics and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Learnings from the field test were presented at international forums on disability statistics and are contributing to the further development of the child functioning and disability questionnaire, which is expected to be finalized in 2016.

UNICEF Pacific also provided technical assistance to the Government of Tonga to prepare for a national disability survey, which is to be conducted at the end of 2016. Support began with a national workshop on disability and disability statistics, conducted jointly by UNICEF Pacific and the Tonga Ministry of Internal Affairs in December 2015.

During the year UNICEF Pacific delivered a number of trainings to build national capacity in statistical literacy and improve the use of child-relevant data in programme planning, decision-making and advocacy. The training was delivered to government ministries in Samoa and UNICEF staff in Fiji, Kiribati, SI and Vanuatu. The training in Samoa was linked to the preparation of the Children Equity Atlas, which will be produced by Samoa's National Statistics Office.

In 2015, inputs for the UNICEF global child poverty and social protection mapping were provided for 11 Pacific Island Countries and the annual Country Reporting on Indicators for the Goals (CRING) was updated for Tonga and Vanuatu.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2017, governments' policies, budgets and social protection systems enhance resilience and reduce disparities for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued its support to the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation to extend and improve Fiji's child-sensitive social protection programmes. In 2014-2015, UNICEF Pacific facilitated an assessment of the national Care and Protection Allowance (CPA) in Fiji. The study found a high rate of child poverty (35.3 per cent, compared to a national poverty rate of 30.6 per cent). The study also found that the programme provides a vital lifeline for recipients and is making a positive contribution to child well-being. However, coverage of the CPA is modest: approximately 5,000 children (less than 2 per cent of the child population) benefit from the allowance.

The report of the study was launched by the Minister of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation on 5 August 2015. An advocacy strategy was developed to maximize dissemination of the findings and recommendations, which include extending the CPA and improving its implementation. Advocacy materials developed include a video documentary, presentations and a cabinet paper to parliament and other government institutions, a press release and a factsheet. The Government of Fiji has shown increased attention and commitment to social protection for children by increasing the 2016 budget for the CPA.

In 2015, as part of UNICEF's Public Finance for Children initiative, UNICEF Pacific and the Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific (EAPRO) initiated a study to explore ways to establish a fiscal monitoring system for children in Pacific Island Countries. The study will provide a tool for governments, UNICEF and other stakeholders to regularly assess progress towards the principles included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as offer valuable lessons for child-related public expenditure planning, monitoring and evaluation.

**OUTPUT 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:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to support governments in the Pacific with their reporting obligations vis-à-vis the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Six countries (Cook

Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Samoa and Tuvalu) are on track with their reporting. During the year UNICEF Pacific engaged in the pre-session process in preparation for Samoa and Nauru's CRC state reviews, which will be held in 2016.

In addition, UNICEF Pacific provided CRC-related support through various modalities. CRC workshops were organized in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to assist with overdue reports. A first draft was developed for FSM during the workshop and technical support is being provided on an ongoing basis to both draft reports. UNICEF Pacific is also providing ongoing technical and financial support to the implementation of CRC Committee recommendations through national coordinating committees in Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Four confidential submissions were made to United Nations human rights mechanisms, whereby UNICEF Pacific highlighted progress and concerns and made recommendations relating to the situation of children in the countries concerned. Confidential submissions were also made for two Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR), a process that involves a periodic review of the human rights records of United Nations Member States. To assist the Government of Kiribati to prepare for its upcoming UPR, UNICEF Pacific participated in a mock UPR with government officials. An additional report was made for a Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities review for Cook Islands.

Together with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNICEF Pacific continued to strengthen partnerships in the region by providing capacity development support to both government and civil society partners.

**OUTCOME 11** Governments, communities, youth networks and media engage in advocacy, communication and partnerships to reduce inequities and promote care and protection of children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Strengthened relationships with Pacific-focused UNICEF National Committees, EAPRO and Headquarters enabled expanded reach and impact through shared expertise, joint planning, co-ordination in emergency and collaborative public advocacy as part of measures to position UNICEF Pacific as the leading voice for, and with, Pacific children.

The capacity of the UNICEF Pacific Communications team was significantly strengthened, with a new Communication Specialist (P4) as team lead, consultants for online communication (Suva) and Communication for Development (C4D)/Communication (Kiribati). The Vanuatu office staff member was also partly reallocated to Communications.

Social media reach and engagement grew exponentially; from 9,080 – 30,000+ Facebook followers with solid growth on other platforms. External Communications support was provided to all programmes for 'World Days' and public advocacy.

Public Advocacy milestones included the final CRC@25 celebration in the Cook Islands in February. Support was also provided for a regional conference on Ending Violence Against Children in May. Journalists from five Pacific countries were supported to attend, with an orientation on Ethical Reporting on Children before the conference. The conference featured the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (UNSRSG) on Violence against Children and the President of Fiji. Advocacy linked to compliance with the CRC and its Optional

Protocols was also supported as part the UNSRSG's travel to Fiji and the SI.

The Vanuatu Women's Beach Volleyball Team were engaged as Ambassadors in June. The September launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provided an opportunity to advocate for the rights of Pacific children, with extensive staff engagement and external communication. Support was also provided to the three Pacific Resident Coordinators for a UN-wide Op-Ed situating the SDGs within a Pacific context. Key staff were trained in effective media liaison and public advocacy in November and December.

Climate change was in focus in the lead up to the Paris COP21 meeting, with effective media outreach, Op-Eds and social media activity supporting global reach. Advocacy for, and with, children also focused on the El Niño-linked drought, with Op-Eds on the Pacific context shared globally and three videos featuring a 9-year-old child from Vanuatu, viewed more than a million times on global and regional platforms.

UNICEF Pacific successfully mobilised public support for children and communities affected by Category 5 Cyclone Pam in March, bringing live updates from Vanuatu before, during and after the cyclone. UNICEF accounted for 34 per cent of global media coverage (the largest 'Share of Voice' for online and broadcast media) for this Level 2 emergency, supporting mobilisation of nearly US\$ 10 million to enable rapid response and recovery measures in Vanuatu, the SI, Tuvalu and Kiribati. This was largely made possible through the pre-deployment of a Communication Specialist from Fiji to Vanuatu who worked with local staff to document government preparedness measures, raise awareness and communicate the impact on children and communities. More than 14,000 twitter mentions were recorded in the first 72 hours and UNICEF Pacific's YouTube channel received an unprecedented number of views, mostly linked to 'video blogs' successfully trailed during the emergency. This and other multimedia content was widely used with full attribution by global news channels.

A youth media NGO was engaged to document the experiences and recovery of 100 cyclone-affected children immediately after the cyclone and throughout 2015, ensuring their voices and views were heard by national and global audiences. The videos have been used by children's news shows in the UK, Australia and the Netherlands, and in regional and global advocacy and donor engagement, including World Humanitarian Summit Pacific consultations.

Beyond external communications, UNICEF Pacific led a robust integrated communications response for Cyclone Pam, supporting advocacy, resource mobilisation and C4D. Significant technical support and guidance were provided to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), key ministries and OCHA for coordination, media management, resource mobilisation (Flash Appeal) and press conferences. Support was also provided through relevant clusters and inter-cluster communications groups for the adaptation for C4D messages, IEC materials, radio spots, community outreach and SMS campaigns. UNICEF's Sports for Development (S4D) programme also supported a successful post-cyclone National Birth Registration campaign in Vanuatu and is increasingly drawn on as an enabler for social mobilisation activities.

C4D supported the social and behaviour change objectives of all programmes in 2015, including the development of two sets of children's books and posters on parenting (SI) and post-emergency psychosocial support for children (Vanuatu) through community-led workshops. C4D also supported social mobilisation for nationwide immunisation campaigns in Vanuatu and the SI, and the Rotavirus vaccine launch in Kiribati. A significant social norms-focused C4D campaign aimed at promoting handwashing among school-age children in the SI was developed. Ongoing technical assistance was also provided to Pacific government ministries

and NDMOs linked to emergency and development messaging and C4D activities.

Through expanded collaboration with the Oceania Football Confederation's (OFC) 'Just Play' programme, S4D has been used to spread key messages in Samoa, the SI and Vanuatu on health, education, protection, sanitation and emergencies among children, teachers and communities. More than 17,000 children were engaged in weekly 'Just Play' activities and festivals and 5000+ children took part in the XV Pacific Games activities in Papua New Guinea. Another 1600 children participated as part of the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa. An expansion to include children aged 13-16 years and three new countries is planned for 2016. The OFC's post-cyclone fundraising for UNICEF also raised US\$100,000.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2015, media and knowledge partners in Fiji, SI, Vanuatu, Kiribati and RMI produce and broadcast productions for, with and about children and youth, in support of UNICEF Pacific key programme results

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

As the key tool for Pacific-wide communication, UNICEF Pacific's social media reach and engagement grew exponentially in 2015; from 9,080 – 30,000+ Facebook followers with significant growth on other platforms, including Twitter, YouTube and a reinvigorated Instagram profile focused on engaging younger supporters. External communications support was provided to all programmes for 'World Days' and public advocacy.

In February 2015, the final CRC@25 celebration was held in the Cook Islands, supported by UNICEF's 'Just Play' S4D programme. 615 girls and boys, including children with disabilities, took part in the week-long event which incorporated Pacific One Minute Junior videos on issues such as climate change.

Strategic public advocacy support was provided for a regional conference on Ending Violence Against Children in the Pacific in May 2015. Social media platforms promoted new evidence on family violence, supporting increased discussion and leading to a big jump in Pacific-based Facebook followers and engagement across several channels. At the start of the conference, there were approximately 16,500 followers on Facebook, with a skew towards followers outside the region. By the end of the week, this had increased to 22,500. All 6,000 new followers were from the 14 Pacific countries. Twitter followers also increased and solid regional media pick-up was seen on the conference through Twitter. Journalists from five Pacific countries were also supported to attend, with a dedicated orientation on Ethical Reporting on Children before the conference. The conference featured the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (UNSRSG) on Violence against Children and the President of Fiji. Advocacy linked to compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols was also supported as part the UNSRSG's travel to Fiji and the SI.

Media coverage of children's issues increased by 54 per cent in 2014 (from 275 items at the end of December 2014 to 426 items at the end of December 2015). This is largely attributable to Cyclone Pam. Additional sources include UNICEF's continued support to a youth-led weekly radio programme through the SI Broadcasting Corporation, a weekly page in the Vanuatu Daily Post and a weekly radio programme to highlight child-relevant content and encourage protective family practices. There has also been a significant increase in activity and engagement on Facebook and Twitter, as well as an increase in advocacy-focused Op-Eds linked to current events, especially climate change.

Through expanded collaboration with the Oceania Football Confederation's 'Just Play'

programme, Sport for Development has been used to spread key messages in Samoa, the SI and Vanuatu on health, education, protection, sanitation and emergencies among children, teachers and communities. More than 17000 children were engaged in weekly 'Just Play' activities and festivals and over 5000 children took part in the XV Pacific Games activities in Papua New Guinea. Another 1600 children took part alongside 65 athletes from 11 nations in the Commonwealth Youth Games Athlete Development programme in Samoa. An expansion to include children aged 13-16 years, and expansion to three new countries is planned for 2016.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2015, 60 per cent of women and men, boys and girls, in areas experiencing greatest disparities are knowledgeable about key lifesaving, care and protection family practices, including during emergencies, in Kiribati.

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

In August 2015, UNICEF Pacific's C4D Officer supported the nationwide rollout of Rotavirus vaccine in Kiribati. This included support on C4D messaging, social mobilisation and external communications. The Communications Unit also supported donor engagement activities linked to this project, including engagement and capacity building of IKEA staff.

In Q3 the Government of Kiribati's birth registration efforts were documented and supported by UNICEF via an international videographer who produced a 10-minute documentary on the topic.

After three unsuccessful rounds of recruitment, an international Communication consultant was appointed in the fourth quarter to support communication and C4D efforts. A draft C4D strategy has been developed and will be finalised in the first quarter of 2016. The consultant is also focusing on establishing and strengthening communications systems for the Field Office, with a view to eventual recruitment, training and handover to a national staff member (budget pending).

In the fourth quarter of 2015, extensive communications outputs were generated, with a focus on advocacy linked to the COP21 climate change meeting in Paris. This included preparatory support for the Executive Director's planned meeting with the Kiribati delegation, and audio-visual documentation of the impacts of climate change from a child's perspective. In the same quarter, extensive support was also provided to mark World Toilet Day. A playful approach resulted in strong social media uptake for a small region – with one meme being shared 160 times and a Kiribati children's 'toilet song' video receiving 42,000 views.

The UN Joint Presence Office in Kiribati has a weekly article in the Newstar newspaper; UNICEF Pacific contributes regularly, highlighting specific projects and issues.

UN Women has now assumed responsibility for coordination of the Adolescent Girls' Initiative, housed in the youth division of MWYSA and supported by UN agencies, which focuses on girls' health, girls' education, girls' peer leadership, protecting girls from abuse and exploitation and counting girls. UNICEF Pacific will retain a support role to this initiative which also provides a strategic channel to promote C4D key messages for young people.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2015, 60 per cent of women and men, boys and girls, in areas experiencing greatest disparities are knowledgeable of key lifesaving, care and protection family practices, including during emergencies in Solomon

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

An integrated C4D strategy was developed with key stakeholders to influence WASH behaviours and social norms for school-age children in SI, with a focus on hand washing as a foundation behaviour that can be subsequently leveraged in relation to other behaviours. The strategy, targeting both in- and out-of-school children in Guadalcanal province (before nationwide scale-up), incorporates an evidence-based IEC package for both community and school awareness activities (due for roll out in 2016). Supporting activities in 2015 included 'Youth to Youth', a weekly one-hour radio talkback programme, produced by youth, for youth and broadcast by SIBC, new IEC materials and WASH radio messaging, aired in heavy rotation on both PAOA and SIBC radio stations. Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated on 15 October with active participation from school children in Honiara.

In March, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs marked International Women's Day. UNICEF Pacific organised press releases, media conferences and a live-to-air broadcast of the event, reaching families in isolated and remote parts of the country. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) with a radio talk show to mark World Water Day in the same month, supporting better understanding for rural and semi-urban dwellers around water sustainability.

UNICEF Pacific supported the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development with community-led development of 10 ECCD books and posters, focusing on the involvement of caregivers in children's learning and development.

The May visit of the UN SRSG resulted in increased government commitment towards enforcing the Family Protection Act and enactment of the Child and Family Welfare Bill. UNICEF's strong collaboration with national media ensured extensive coverage of the visit.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is progressing birth registration promotion. With UNICEF's support, an international videographer produced a documentary on the topic. The 'Just Play' S4D programme also supported birth registration social mobilisation efforts, resulting in registration of 100 children.

With UNICEF's support, the MHMS Nutrition Department presented a 15-minute weekly programme on PAOA FM to promote nutrition. The MHMS and Ministry of Agriculture collaboration helped families learn about breastfeeding, and using local foods to prepare healthy meals for children.

UNICEF supported government with community messaging, IEC materials, mass communication and social mobilisation in response to multiple humanitarian threats. This included Cyclone Pam, El Nino and the diarrhoea outbreak.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2015, 60 per cent of women and men, boys and girls, in areas experiencing greatest disparities are knowledgeable of key lifesaving, care and protection family practices, including during emergencies in Vanuatu.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

C4D activities in support of the nationwide measles and rubella immunisation campaign included SMS messaging, radio shows, radio spots and print articles. The 'Just Play' S4D programme supported significant social mobilisation efforts, as did the newly-appointed UNICEF Pacific Ambassadors, the Vanuatu Women's Volleyball team. EPI access for children with disabilities was supported via social mobilisation activities with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled

People. A total of 103,676 children were vaccinated against measles and rubella, 32,655 received Oral Polio Vaccine, 33,327 received Vitamin A, and 24,961 received de-worming tablets.

Weekly newspaper articles and radio shows continued through the year, supporting programming and advocacy objectives. Communications support was also provided for the launch of the Vanuatu Disability Monograph.

Cyclone Pam provided opportunities to expand and strengthen existing initiatives and trial new ones, including S4D initiatives such as 'Just Play Festivals' held in parallel with community birth registration days, and community-led development of 10 Early Childhood Care and Development books and posters, focusing on the involvement of caregivers in children's learning and development and psychosocial recovery from/preparedness for emergencies.

UNICEF had the largest 'Share of Voice' in online and broadcast media on Cyclone Pam and Vanuatu, recording 762 articles and extensive global television and online coverage, including the BBC and CNN. Twitter saw 26,000 mentions from 13 March to 13 April 2015. The cyclone response is now fully funded, an achievement directly supported by proactive communications in collaboration with UNICEF National Committees and donor partners, including the pre-deployment of a Communication Specialist to Vanuatu ahead of the cyclone's landfall.

UNICEF Pacific supported the UN and the Government of Vanuatu with the public launch of the Flash Appeal, as well as giving strategic advice on media and risk communications to NDMO and senior Ministers. The cyclone also led to new and effective partnerships with the 'Humans of Vanuatu' website and youth media organisation Further Arts, which supported child-led advocacy through the voices of 100 affected children (a cohort tracked over the year following the cyclone). Videos produced during this time have been used in high-level international advocacy on climate change, resource mobilisation and social media. UNICEF has continued to provide coordinated technical support to programme and cluster/sub-cluster C4D initiatives, including adaptation of relevant key messages, development and printing of IEC materials, SMS campaigns, interpersonal communication and broadcast of radio spots (e.g. on hygiene messaging and birth registration). The Communications Unit is also assisting the UNICEF-supported C4D specialist deployed to NDMO for national C4D coordination.

A four-person delegation of cyclone survivors from Vanuatu were supported to travel to Fiji to speak at the Pacific Humanitarian Team meeting on 'Communicating with Affected Communities'. This included a 9-year-old boy from Tanna Island (affected by both Cyclone Pam and El Niño-linked drought) who was subsequently featured in a series of videos produced by an international videographer deployed to Tanna Island. These videos have been viewed more than a million times on global and regional platforms.

**OUTCOME 12** Programme results enhanced through effective planning, monitoring, evaluation, joint UN coordination, and resource mobilization.

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

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific continued to implement the recommendations included in the 2014 Mid-Term Review, including separating programme planning, monitoring and evaluation (PME) from advocacy and communication components, with the PME management structure now reporting directly to the Deputy Representative. A temporary planning specialist and a UNV research officer were recruited, increasing UNICEF Pacific's capacity. UNICEF Pacific and the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific entered into a dialogue on strengthening



UNICEF Pacific's planning, monitoring and evaluation culture and practices. A Research, Evaluations, Studies and Ethics Committee has been created in response to the new procedures for quality assurance and ethics.

Significant work was done by the Pacific Office in the area of planning, monitoring and evaluation in relation to Cyclone Pam, including participation in needs assessments, joint response and recovery planning, situation reporting, humanitarian performance monitoring, field monitoring and lessons learnt exercises for the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, health and protection clusters. UNICEF Pacific also conducted an internal After Action Review that examined UNICEF's preparations for and response to Tropical Cyclone Pam and Typhoon Maysak in the context of special procedures for large scale emergencies. With regard to joint United Nations planning, UNICEF Pacific was part of a Flash Appeal that was successful in fully funding UNICEF's response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. During 2015 UNICEF Pacific participated in a number of joint coordination mechanisms, including a newly established United Nations Working Group on Youth in the Pacific. Independent, external evaluations were completed in the second half of 2015 of two joint programmes: the *Pacific Enable* project for people living with disabilities was undertaken jointly with the WHO, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific, International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Volunteers and the Pacific Disability Forum (a regional body); the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security-funded *Community resilience and coping with climate change and natural disasters in Vanuatu* project undertaken jointly by UNICEF, UNDP, FAO and the Government of Vanuatu. UNICEF is actively supporting the UNDAF evaluation process, and preparations for the next cycle, through the UN programme monitoring and evaluation working group chaired by the UNICEF Pacific Deputy Representative.

The office's progress towards implementation of the Monitoring Results for Equity System was examined through a self-assessment process validated at the Annual Review meeting. The limited effectiveness of previous implementation approaches was acknowledged, although a number of areas of good practice were identified to guide acceleration in 2016.

Field monitoring and programme assurance activities have been significantly improved through active participation of the PME team in the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers committee, the development of a new trip report template and process as well as coaching during programme review meetings.

**OUTPUT 1** Planning, monitoring, and resource mobilization and evaluation by UNICEF and partners supports achievement of results for most disadvantaged children and women in Pacific Region.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Improvements in field monitoring and programme assurance benefitted 10 of the 14 countries where field visits and programme monitoring are conducted. Field monitoring has been significantly improved through recommendations of the office Harmonised approach to Cash Transfers committee, the development of a new trip report template and process, as well as coaching sessions during programme meetings (WASH and Child Protection including staff from field offices) and at the Annual Review meeting.

The Research, Evaluations, Studies and Ethics Committee created in response to the new procedures for quality assurance and ethics will consider all Research, Evaluations and studies being conducted by UNICEF Pacific.

Projects evaluated or evaluations finalised in 2015 included: a Community Based Child Protection Facilitation package in Fiji; the UNTHFS-funded joint UN projects in Vanuatu and SI, the introduction of solar power in SI schools, and an evaluation of the UN joint programme on Disability. Recommendations from those evaluations are tracked by the Programme Management Team through internal management responses agreed with relevant partners, and contribute to strengthening cooperation. UNICEF Pacific also participated in Government or OCHA-led humanitarian Lessons Learned exercises and contracted out its own After Action Review of the Level 2 Corporate Response to Cyclone Pam.

The UNDAF evaluation in 2016 as well as the UNICEF Situation Analysis of children in the Pacific to be conducted in 2016 will provide further opportunities for improved programme planning, monitoring and evaluation.

### **OUTCOME 13** Effective & Efficient Programme Management & Operations Support

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

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific took a number of significant steps to deliver its programme in the most effective and efficient manner possible, including implementing all audit recommendations, responding appropriately to the level 2 (L2) emergency that affected Vanuatu, adopting appropriate quality assurance mechanisms for cash transfers to partners, preparing effectively for the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC), and contributing to the adoption of appropriate cost recovery and cost sharing mechanisms for the United Nations Joint Presence in the Pacific. The implementation of all 23 recommendations included in the 2014 audit catalysed UNICEF Pacific to revisit its procedures and processes and to improve capacity. The response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu in March 2015, required a surge in UNICEF Pacific's activities and increased financial support by US\$10 million. During the reporting period, UNICEF Pacific invested significantly in ensuring that appropriate quality assurance mechanisms were in place for implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), a common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-government implementing partners. UNICEF Pacific's preparations for implementation of the GSSC, which will be fully operational by the end of 2016, were commended and approved by the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific.

After the 2014 Mid-Term Review (MTR), UNICEF Pacific has been implementing a revised five-year multi-country programme, which has resulted in a more focused, efficient approach to programming, including reduced staffing and an adapted human resources structure. The UNICEF Pacific Country Management Team (CMT) met twelve times during 2015, reviewing progress against indicators and overseeing a number of statutory committees, such as the HACT committee. Finally, the UNICEF Pacific Annual Management Plan was reviewed in July 2015, as was the Risk Control Self-Assessment (RCSA).

### **OUTPUT 1** Cross Sectoral - Emergency Preparedness & Response

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

The Pacific is prone to multiple disasters every year and there is a need for coordination of disaster preparedness and response that meets UNICEF Core Commitments for Children and matches efforts and services provided by key humanitarian organisations and government institutions. UNICEF Pacific collaborates with the National Disaster Management Offices in disaster-prone countries and contributes to emergency preparedness and response with UN agencies and other partners through the established Cluster approach, and the Pacific Humanitarian Team, coordinated by UNOCHA. Disaster Risk Reduction (including Emergency

Preparedness) and Humanitarian Response are mainstreamed in all programmes and reflected in workplans. An update of the UNICEF web-based early warning and preparedness system was undertaken, in preparation for potential impacts of the confirmed serious "El Nino" event, already causing additional natural disasters in many countries, and expected to lead to serious drought conditions in a number of countries in the coming 6 months.

The office has established an Emergency Response Team (PERT) comprising trained and experienced staff from both Programme and Operations, including field based staff. The PERT meets throughout the year, on DRR and preparedness as well as to plan and coordinate response when necessary.

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific responded to four cyclones, drought and three disease outbreaks, and was effective in capacity building, coordination, assessment, preparation and response, including supply delivery. The most significant disaster was Tropical Cyclone Pam, category 5, which affected SI, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and Kiribati. In response to the UNICEF HAC appeal, more than US\$8 million was mobilised from various sources including from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and many National Committees, especially New Zealand, to address immediate needs in health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection. UNICEF-Pacific also supported emergency response in the North Pacific, following cyclone Maysak.

UNICEF Pacific used core and other sources of funds, including emergency thematic funds to support contingency stocks management, supplies orders and distribution, field monitoring, and facilitate surge deployment in all sectors, including an emergency coordinator to Vanuatu.

A scenario-based update of the UNICEF web-based early warning and preparedness system was conducted in preparation for the South Pacific cyclone season of November to April. By year end, emergency contingency supplies were positioned in Fiji, SI (SI), Kiribati, Palau, Samoa and Vanuatu. The New Zealand Government, UNICEF New Zealand, and UNICEF Pacific signed an agreement for a revolving fund for contingency supplies in Fiji and Samoa. UNICEF Pacific prepared contingency agreements with Oxfam and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to support cluster coordination and distribution of emergency supplies.

An updated UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal covering Pacific Island countries was prepared for 2016, calling for an additional US\$ 5 million for response to El Nino.

**OUTPUT 2** Enhanced capacity of the Field Offices in Kiribati, SI, Vanuatu and Country Office in Fiji in programme implementation and monitoring

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2015, UNICEF Pacific took a number of significant steps to deliver its programme in the most effective and efficient manner possible, including implementing all audit recommendations, responding appropriately to the level 2 (L2) emergency that affected Vanuatu, adopting appropriate quality assurance mechanisms for cash transfers to partners, preparing effectively for the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC), and contributing to the adoption of appropriate cost recovery and cost sharing mechanisms for the United Nations Joint Presence in the Pacific. The implementation of all 23 recommendations included in the 2014 audit catalysed UNICEF Pacific to revisit its procedures and processes and to improve capacity. The response to Tropical Cyclone Pam required a surge in UNICEF Pacific's activities and increased financial support by US\$10 million. During the reporting period, UNICEF Pacific invested significantly in

ensuring that appropriate quality assurance mechanisms were in place for implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), a common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-government implementing partners. UNICEF Pacific's preparations for implementation of the GSSC, which will be fully operational by the end of 2016, were commended and approved by the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific.

### **OUTPUT 3** Staff Support

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

During 2014, UNICEF Pacific undertook a major exercise to determine its human resources needs in line with the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) and programmatic focus areas. New posts and post changes resulted in a high number of recruitments in 2015. Out of 22 fixed-term posts approved by the Programme Budget Review (PBR) in 2014, 15 positions were filled, with three positions currently under recruitment and four positions on hold due to lack of funding. The office also recruited eight positions against existing approved posts due to staff reassignments and separations, with four posts currently under recruitment. According to the staffing structure approved by the PBR in 2014, UNICEF Pacific has 89 fixed-term posts, of which 75 positions are currently filled, with eight posts under recruitment. The recruitment of consultants occupied an important part of human resources work in 2015, with a total of 87 consultants/individual contractors hired. The Human Resources unit was heavily involved in the emergency response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, supporting the deployment of 18 surge staff and 15 stand-by partners, and recruiting local and international consultants (18).

UNICEF Pacific's Human Resources Development unit has been implementing and monitoring a learning plan, including on-line training, workshops and international training opportunities. UNICEF Pacific continues to improve its efficiency with regard to the timely completion of staff performance appraisals. The completion status of the 2015 planning phase of key assignments was 93 per cent (68 out of 73 staff) and finalization of key assignments was 90 per cent (69 out of 77). In addressing the results of the 2014 global staff survey, UNICEF Pacific, in consultation with the Staff Association, held a half-day retreat for all staff to develop strategies on the office action plan. Further, an internal survey was conducted in October 2015 to assess the implementation of measures taken and to receive feedback from staff. The exercise suggests that significant improvements have been realized since the global staff survey was conducted in 2014.

**OUTCOME 14** Children affected by emergencies in Pacific Islands receive support as per UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children

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

People living in Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards, including floods, droughts, cyclones/typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, king tides and tsunamis. The impact of these events on small countries with dispersed populations can quickly overwhelm local coping capacity. Climate change is exacerbating the exposure to many of these hazards. UNICEF Pacific is strongly engaged in preparedness, coordination and response and belongs to the Pacific Humanitarian Team, which includes UN agencies, multi- and bilateral partners, NGOs and national disaster management offices from all PICTs. UNICEF Pacific is the cluster lead in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education (with Save the Children), as well as the lead on sub-cluster groups on nutrition and the child protection area of responsibility.

PICs experienced a number of extreme natural hazards in 2015. In March, Vanuatu was struck

by Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam. An estimated 166,600 people (more than half the total population) required urgent humanitarian assistance. People in Kiribati, SI and Tuvalu experienced flood damages as a result of sea storm surges. The Governments of SI, Tuvalu and Vanuatu declared States of Emergency, and Tuvalu and Vanuatu formally requested international assistance.

In addition, from March through May, the Federated States of Micronesia were hit by three 'super typhoons' (Maysak, Noul and Dolphin), which cumulatively affected more than 25,000 people.

During 2015, UNICEF Pacific and its partners supported the governments of cyclone- and typhoon-affected PICs, providing affected children with life-saving interventions and supporting early recovery efforts. Through both the OCHA-coordinated appeal, and the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (HAC), UNICEF-Pacific received nearly US\$ ten million from many governments and UNICEF national committees. This was the largest ever emergency response managed by the Office, and the first time that corporate Level 2 emergency procedures were activated in the Pacific, facilitating critical and rapid support through staff and partner deployment, prioritization for supply orders and shipping, and streamlined financial and procurement procedures. Most humanitarian targets were either met or surpassed, and stakeholders were largely appreciative in Government-led Lessons Learned exercises and in UNICEF's After Action Review.

The current 2015-2016 El Niño event is forecast to be the worst since 1997-1998 and possibly the most catastrophic ever experienced by the PICs, bringing both drought and larger, more frequent storms. The socio-economic impacts of drought, which has already been felt in Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu, combined with the increased likelihood of severe cyclones, require enhanced action on disaster risk reduction (DRR). From mid-2015, UNICEF Pacific also began responding to El Niño-related disasters. This approach included working with communities and governments to identify alternate, safe water sources to improve water security, particularly in drought affected countries (Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu) and integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) lessons into psychosocial counselling for children, caregivers and teachers.

UNICEF Pacific supported government efforts to reach emergency-affected populations, through both community- and clinic-based interventions, including identification of acute malnutrition cases for referral and treatment, infant and young child feeding counselling, and distribution of micronutrients.

The overlapping effects of Tropical Cyclone Pam and El Niño-induced drought on the island of Tanna, Vanuatu, resulted in elevated rates of malnutrition among children in 2015. UNICEF Pacific supported the Government of Vanuatu to respond to the emergency with surge technical assistance for malnutrition screening and treatment, and the distribution of high-energy biscuits. UNICEF Pacific also supported the Government's response to an outbreak of rotavirus (causing severe diarrhoea) in the SI, from December 2015.

An updated UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal covering Pacific Island countries was prepared for 2016, calling for an additional US\$ 5 million for response to El Niño.

**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:**

Tropical Cyclone Pam, which struck Vanuatu in March 2015, caused widespread damage across the country, affecting more than half of the population. UNICEF Pacific built upon its well-established regular programme and established presence in the country to provide a fast and effective emergency response. The response was planned and implemented in coordination with the Government of Vanuatu, other humanitarian agencies and partners as set out in the Humanitarian Action Plan and the Vanuatu National Recovery Plan.

Through both the OCHA-coordinated appeal, and the UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children appeal (HAC), UNICEF-Pacific received nearly US\$ 10 million from many governments and UNICEF national committees. This was the largest ever emergency response managed by the Office, and the first time that corporate Level 2 emergency procedures were activated in the Pacific, facilitating critical and rapid support through staff and partner deployment, prioritization for supply orders and shipping, and streamlined financial and procurement procedures. Most humanitarian targets were either met or surpassed, and stakeholders were largely appreciative in Government-led Lessons Learned exercises and in UNICEF's After Action Review. There were also valuable recommendations towards strengthening operational and emergency preparedness processes.

In response to the cyclone, UNICEF Pacific participated in government-led assessments, response and recovery across all sectors. Results are set out in detail in the context specific indicators, aligned with UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children. Areas of Vanuatu where crops and water storage systems were damaged by Tropical Cyclone Pam were particularly vulnerable to the impacts of below normal rainfall during the current El Niño. The island of Tanna in particular experienced increased rates of malnutrition among children. In response, UNICEF Pacific provided technical support, funding and supplies, including the emergency distribution of high-energy biscuits to children in 20 communities.

**OUTPUT 2** Solomon Emergency Response- Affected children in SI 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 2015, UNICEF Pacific responded to a number of emergencies in SI, including Tropical Cyclone Pam in March, Tropical Cyclone Raquel in June and an outbreak of rotavirus in December.

The SI cluster system, led by the government, includes a WASH Cluster under the Internally Displaced Persons and Social Welfare Cluster. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services' Rural WASH Programme leads the WASH Cluster, with support from UNICEF as co-lead.

While Government declared a State of Emergency following Cyclone Pam, no international assistance was requested and emergency response relied on locally based partners, including UNICEF. With funding from various donors, including the Government of Japan, support focused on the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector and included participation in WASH assessments led by the Government. In Malaita province Cyclone Pam damaged houses, hygiene facilities and food gardens, and resulted in water shortages. UNICEF Pacific provided WASH supplies and communication materials, which were distributed by SI Red Cross. Health promoters/volunteers reached about 1,000 affected families. To respond to the El

Niño-induced drought, water containers, soap and communications materials were provided to the government to reach 16 schools (benefiting more than 5,000 children in Guadalcanal and Central Province).

**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:**

In Tuvalu, a low lying atoll country with a population of approximately 11,206 across nine islands, 4,630 people were directly affected by large scale flooding that resulted from Tropical Cyclone Pam, and were in need of food assistance and safe drinking water. It is estimated that there was a 25 per cent GDP loss as a result of the cyclone and 90 per cent damage to food crops on three islands namely Nui, Nukulaelae and Nanumaga.

With funding from the government of Japan, DFAT, other donors and access to a charter plane from the French government, UNICEF quickly responded to the Government of Tuvalu's request for international assistance.

Support included the provision of an emergency health kit (with medicines, equipment and consumables for 10,000 people) and water purification tablets to produce 5,000 litres of potable water, as well as basic school supplies and early childhood centres materials. The aim was to facilitate return to normalcy (and lessen replacement costs on affected families) and support quick psycho-social and emotional recovery of children.

UNICEF Pacific provided school backpacks to nine primary schools, benefiting 850 children (411 girls and 439 boys, about half of the country's primary school population), as well as creative arts materials, benefiting 337 young children in nine early childhood care and education centres. Good coordination with the Government of Tuvalu, donors and development partners allowed for a quick response to the emergency.

**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:**

Four metre-high waves were experienced in Kiribati on 13 March (where the highest point is 3 metres above sea level), causing extensive damage to the Dai Nippon Causeway and to many sea walls on the main atoll of Tarawa. The impact of the cyclone was strongest on the southern islands, particularly Tamana and Arorae.

In response to the impact of Cyclone Pam in Kiribati, UNICEF released prepositioned supplies including: one school-in-a box for 40 students; and one recreation kit for 80 students, and provided emergency water, sanitation and hygiene support with funding from the Government of Japan.

In expectation of a strong El Niño in 2015-2016, UNICEF Pacific is working with partners in Kiribati to develop contingency plans to mitigate the potential impact of increased rainfall. UNICEF Pacific is also working closely with the New Zealand-funded drought resilience project (2014–2019), implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, on mainstreaming

drought management and achieving drinking water safety and security. Further, UNICEF Pacific continues to support the National Drought Committee, which is chaired by the National Disaster Management Office.

**OUTPUT 5 Federated States of Micronesia (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:**

Between March and May 2015, the FSM was hit by three super typhoons (Maysak, Noul and Dolphin), cumulatively affecting more than 25,000 people. The Government of FSM declared a State of Emergency after both Maysak and Dolphin. Although not a major actor, UNICEF Pacific contributed emergency health and nutrition supplies (1,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts - enough to treat 166 children with diarrhoea), 100 packs of multiple micronutrient powder - enough to prevent malnutrition in 50 children), a water quality testing kit, and technical expertise for immunisation.

**Document Centre**

**Evaluation and Research**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sequence Number</b>	<b>Type of Report</b>
Surveillance of HIV and Syphilis Infections among Antenatal Clinic Attendees in SI	2015/021	Survey
Harmful Connections - Examining the relationship between violence against women and violence against children in the South Pacific.	2015/016	Study
Children, Women and Men with Disabilities in Vanuatu - what do the data says	2015/015	Study
The child sensitive Social Protection in Fiji -Assessment of the Care and Protection Allowance Report	2015/014	Study
Fiji Tracking Progress in Maternal and Child Survival -Case Study	2015/012	Study
Child Protection Case study-Partnerships lifting Birth registration numbers in Vanuatu	2015/011	Study
Child Protection case study - How ground breaking legislation is promoting child protection in Kiribati	2015/010	Study
Partnership Promoting Birth Registration in Kiribati	2015/009	Study
Children are precious gift from God- Community Based Facilitation manual	2015/008	Study
Child Protection Systems Governance -Four Pacific Countries Regional Overview	2015/006	Study
Study of Parental Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Related to Early Childhood Development -Vanuatu	2015/007	Study
Baseline Study of Teacher-Classroom Interaction in SI	2015/005	Study
Child Protection System Governance Indicators Framework Assessment Summary -Kiribati	2015/020	Study
Child Protection System Governance Indicators Framework Assessment Summary -Fiji	2015/019	Study



Child Protection Systems Governance Indicator Framework Assessment Summary - Vanuatu	2015/018	Study
Child Protection Systems Governance framework Assessment - SI	2015/017	Study
UNICEF After Action Review – Tropical Cyclone Pam & Typhoon Maysak	2015/004	Review
Community Resilience and Coping with Climate Change and Natural Disasters in Vanuatu	2015/002	Evaluation
Pacific Enable Evaluation	2015/003	Evaluation
End of term Evaluation of SI Solar Power Pilot Project	2015/001	Evaluation

### Other Publication

Title
UNICEF Stencils for Suva Office and Vanuatu, Solomon and Kiribati Field Offices
Pacific guidelines for the development of national quality frameworks for ECCE
CRC Banners
CRC Articles Booklets
Looking Back Moving Forward A snapshot of UNICEF'S work for Pacific Island children 2014-2015
Child Protection Brochures for Medical Services Pacific
Early Learning and Development Standards for Children between Ages 3-6
Report on the PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
Child Protection in Emergencies – Participants Booklets
Child Protection in Emergencies – Cards Flip Charts
Child Protection in Emergencies: A Toolkit for Practitioners in the Pacific Island Countries

### Lessons Learned

Document Type/Category	Title
Innovation	Mobile birth registration overcomes logistical challenges in a humanitarian situation in Vanuatu
Lesson Learned	Group Handwashing in Fijian Schools