Pakistan

Executive summary

Pakistan is a lower-middle income country with approximately 208 million people; it is the sixth largest country in the world in terms of population. Pakistan had a gross domestic product growth of 4.9 per cent in 2016 and ranked 147 out of 187 in the Human Development Index 2016. High levels of inequality, unemployment, underemployment and a multi-dimensional poverty rate of 38.8 per cent persist.

In 2017, Pakistan experienced a complicated political context, tensions among political parties and the influence of conservative religious movements present in the public domain.

The United Nations Country Team, including UNICEF Pakistan, invested significant resources and efforts in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) near Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan, especially regarding the return of temporarily displaced people and the transition from humanitarian to development assistance.

The new UNICEF Pakistan Country Programme (CP) 2018–2022 was approved by the Executive Board after consultations with the federal and provincial governments. Implementation in 2017 incorporated a transition strategy that built upon the key results of the current CP and emphasized scaling up models, shifting from a project approach to a programme approach, balancing humanitarian and development work and strengthening partnerships with the Government.

Key achievements in 2017 were:

- Wild polio cases were reduced to just eight in 2017 (from 20 in 2016). This 60 per cent decrease is a result of the one team and one plan approach shared by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partnership and the Government of Pakistan.
- The Reach Every District, Reach Every Community approach was scaled-up from 35 districts in 2016 to 55 districts in 2017, while increasing immunization coverage (Penta3) from 67 per cent to 82 per cent, reaching almost 1.7 million children.
- UNICEF Pakistan scaled up strategies for safe sanitation. Almost 847,000 women and 589,000 men obtained access to facilities and services; in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), 4,072 villages were certified as open defecation free, thus protecting over 2 million people, including 423,154 boys and 440,426 girls.
- UNICEF Pakistan provided technical assistance to the Government in the development and implementation of its communication plans on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and breastfeeding, which reached nearly 5 million people. (This will be the platform for the behavioural change strategy in the coming years).
- The enactment of a second provincial child protection bill, aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) provided for a public child protection system, which will ensure that children who are victims of violence, neglect and exploitation are identified, supported and connected with the services they need.
- Investments and provision of technical assistance for the education governance reform in Balochistan contributed to greater transparency and accountability. UNICEF Pakistan supported the development of an integrated education data system; the undertaking of
the 2016–2017 education census; the development of new modules on student admissions and a tracking system to reduce withdrawal while ensuring follow-up on the progress of individual children; strengthening of evidence-based decision-making at local level through the establishment of 39 Education Management Information System (EMIS) units; and the development of a real-time school monitoring system that reached 2,330 schools (657 not yet reached).

**Shortfalls and constraints** that affected timely and quality implementation in 2017 included:
- Resource allocations for health and education are inadequate for undertaking the improvements needed in these sectors to significantly improve the situation of children.
- The frequent turnover of key government officials along with varying managerial and coordination capacities and the use of evidence and data for decision making, planning, and monitoring processes.
- Delays and non-approval of permits for international UNICEF staff to access communities and programmes.
- Difficulties and delays in visa approval for international staff and specific experts.
- Results-based management efforts and investments still need to be sustained to further enhance the capacity of the UNICEF Pakistan country team.

**Partnerships** in 2017 included:
- Collaborative partnerships in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector resulted in a 28 per cent increase in the related budget for the fiscal year 2017–18.
- As coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), UNICEF Pakistan expanded its engagement through the establishment of the Punjab Education Development Group led by the provincial government, with the membership of the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the World Bank. The GPE Secretariat approved education sector plan development grant submissions for Punjab and Sindh, setting the stage for sector analysis and plan development in 2018.
- UNICEF Pakistan chaired various committees and groups, such as the United Nations Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group and the Punjab Provincial Programme Team, and co-chaired the United Nations Punjab Steering Committee.

**The management highlight** in 2017 was:
- Coinciding with the development of the new five-year country programme, UNICEF Pakistan completed a comprehensive change management exercise to create a more efficient and effective staffing and programme management structure for the new programme.

**Humanitarian assistance**
During 2017, UNICEF Pakistan focused humanitarian assistance on supporting temporarily displaced populations and returnees in FATA and the populations affected by drought in Sindh province. Support for rehabilitation work in areas affected by the 2015 floods and earthquake also continued. While the required funding in support of humanitarian responses in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (KP), FATA and Sindh had been estimated at US$26 million in 2017, only US$3.6 million, including US$3 million carry-over funds from 2016, resulting in a critical funding gap of 86 per cent. Achievement of Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) targets per sector were: nutrition 43 per cent, health 57 per cent, WASH 43 per cent, child protection 58 percent and education 59 per cent. Despite the funding shortfall, results were achieved by
leveraging other resources from the Government and partners.

During the last quarter of 2017, the United Nations, in partnership with the World Bank and led by FATA authorities, worked on a FATA transition plan, which includes four major areas led by specific United Nations agencies (livelihood and economic growth; governance and justice; resilience; and basic services). UNICEF Pakistan leads the basic services group.

UNICEF Pakistan was the lead agency for the WASH, nutrition and education clusters, as well as for the child protection sub-cluster under the protection cluster in KP/FATA. The latter will be handed over to the Government in 2018.

During 2017, a total of 32,455 families returned to FATA between January and September, while 42,225 families remained temporarily displaced. Given the changing context with temporarily displaced persons returning to their areas of origin, UNICEF Pakistan, working together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), aimed to bridge humanitarian and development assistance in areas of return.

In collaboration with the Government and implementing partners, UNICEF Pakistan achieved the following humanitarian assistance results in KP/FATA (all programmes) and Sindh (nutrition):

**WASH**
In KP/FATA, 148,594 people (51 per cent women) gained access to safe drinking water, and 96,574 people (51 per cent women) gained access to improved sanitation, including 4,480 people (51 per cent women) who were assisted in constructing toilets in their homes. Construction of 10 communal washrooms and 30 public toilets benefited 4,712 people, while 185,461 people received key hygiene messages through social mobilizers. A partnership agreement was signed with the University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar to develop a WASH-in-emergencies course for governmental and other stakeholders working in the WASH sector.

**Health**
In KP/FATA, 326,348 children were vaccinated against measles, 8,428 women were reached with antenatal care and 2,698 women benefited from the services of skilled birth attendants. To address limited access to neonatal service delivery in FATA, two sick newborn units were established in Kurram and Bajaur agencies in existing government health facilities at the basic health unit level, benefiting an estimated 150 sick newborns in addition to filling critical equipment gaps in those facilities.

**Nutrition**
In Sindh and KP/FATA, 838,023 children 6–59 months of age were screened for acute malnutrition, 22,660 were treated in outpatient therapeutic programme sites, 304,985 women who were pregnant or lactating were screened and 72,276 were treated through targeted supplementary feeding programmes. Multi-micronutrient supplements were given to 120,239 children aged 6–59 months and 151,745 pregnant and lactating women.

**Education**
Over 52,000 children (20,800 girls) enrolled in primary schools in FATA areas of return due to social mobilization efforts, the establishment of school management committees and the provision of school tents and education supplies. Fifty-three temporary school shelters were
established. Sixty-four girls' primary schools were upgraded to middle level in FATA to increase access for girls to post-primary education and increase the pool of potential local female teachers.

Child protection
UNICEF Pakistan and its partners devised a modality to deliver child protective and relief services to affected communities through mobile child protection vans to expand access to remote communities both in FATA and KP. With the leadership of the departments of social welfare in FATA and KP, initial pilots through non-governmental organization (NGO) partners reached 15,272 children and 1,251 women with protective services. In addition, child protection awareness-raising activities reached 22,074 children, 5,386 women and 4,444 men.

UNICEF Pakistan maintains humanitarian supplies at six warehouses across Pakistan and has signed a service-level agreement with WFP for warehousing services in KP. UNICEF Pakistan signed 15 long-term arrangements with vendors and 40 contingency partnership agreements with implementing partners, and contingency stocks were pre-positioned for 100,000 people, in accordance with the HAC 2017, to ensure timely response. During 2017, supplies worth US$6.13 million were dispatched from the warehouses for humanitarian response and handed over to partners in support of programme implementation.

Equity in practice
After the mid-term review in 2015, an analysis was undertaken to improve programming convergence and complementarity, the application of equity approaches to programming and the availability of disaggregated data in order to increase gender focus in programming based on evidence of key deprivations. These efforts met with varied success but laid the foundations for a strengthened equity approach in the development of the new country programme.

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan advocated with the Government of Punjab to conduct a series of analyses on the equity of WASH services, aimed at aligning resource allocations with inequities and deprivations. The analyses included a mapping of inequities of WASH services at the tehsil level, secondary analysis of WASH indicators in the 2014 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) to evaluate gaps, commissioned research on adolescent girls’ perceptions and practices on menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and an evaluation of the Punjab WASH budget for 2014–2016 to determine coherence between allocation, expenditure and prioritization.

The analyses showed that the overall allocation to the WASH sector was not sufficient for the investment required to address the needed service improvements and provided evidence that the districts with the worst WASH indicators were those with the lowest budget allocations and expenditures. Based on the analyses, the Government of Punjab developed equity-based resource allocation criteria. The application of the criteria led to a budget increase of 57 per cent (US$2.8 million) in 2016–17 for WASH in Punjab in favour of the deprived districts.

UNICEF Pakistan embedded an equity-focused approach in its implementation and scaling up of the Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation (PATS) and PATS Plus, ensuring that poorest of the poor were reached through direct support to 5 per cent of community members in the targeted areas. To ensure gender was adequately mainstreamed, and the participation of women, men, boys and girls was encouraged to enhance communal management of WASH facilities. In 2017, community and institutional structures, including village sanitation committees and school WASH clubs were constituted, ensuring equal representation of female and male members.
Research in menstrual health management was undertaken and informed the development of strategies to improve girl-friendly facilities at schools and empower girls with knowledge to debunk myths on MHM. Federal and provincial governments approved equity-focused WASH-in-schools (WinS) strategies that provide guidelines on improving access to facilities that take the needs of girls and children with disabilities into consideration.

To promote equity in the health sector, UNICEF Pakistan, in collaboration with the Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme, mapped 6,589 union councils (UCs) (93 per cent of the total) for expanded programme on immunization (EPI) resources. The mapping revealed that approximately 13 per cent of the union councils do not have any health facility or lady health worker and that, of the available health facilities, 10 per cent had no vaccinators, 14 per cent did not have a functional cold chain and 33 per cent had no means of transportation.

Based on the findings and follow-up advocacy, provincial governments have improved management routines and logistic support to immunization and intensified outreach approaches targeting hard-to-reach and other uncovered areas. The profiling of 1,317 urban slums in the cities of Karachi and Hyderabad showed that 55 per cent of slums did not have health facilities, while 23 per cent did not have EPI services. These data highlight the existence of large disparities in the distribution of health and immunization resources. Findings from the profiling will be used in the future to drive and advocate for improved performance, as well as to reduce inequities, including gender-based ones, in all health programmes.

UNICEF Pakistan initiated analytical work on equity in education financing in order to produce actionable evidence to engage political and administrative stakeholders during the budget cycle and influence provincial budget allocations. Preliminary analysis of education allocations in KP show that districts with the worst performance on a range of equity indicators receive the least funding. UNICEF Pakistan advocated with parliamentarians with the aim to influence KP provincial budget allocations to districts based on equity. UNICEF Pakistan will provide technical support during the next round of budget discussions in 2018.

The lessons learned from equity-focused surveys, mapping and research highlighted the importance of evidence-based advocacy to encourage the Government to increase resource allocation in favour of deprived districts. These efforts also underscored the evolving programmatic considerations and adjustments that need to be made in each programme area to target the specific needs of the vulnerable groups (such as the poor, people with disabilities) including gender-related considerations).

**Strategic Plan 2018–2021**

In September 2017, the new UNICEF-Government of Pakistan CP (2018–2022) was approved by the UNICEF Executive Board. UNICEF Pakistan ensured alignment of the new CP with the UNICEF Strategic Plan and accompanying Gender Action Plan; the CP clearly focuses on key elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, anchoring it firmly to child rights.

UNICEF Pakistan will help establish strong policy frameworks and implementation mechanisms in health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH. A social inclusion element will contribute to policies and systems for reducing child poverty, supporting development of equity-focused, child-sensitive social protection policies and budgets and contributing to their assessment. Attention to citizens’ resilience and ability to exercise their voices will be emphasized.

Duty bearers will be trained, assisted, and supported ineffectively reaching disadvantaged
children and families, particularly those in urban areas, through support in improving policies, financing and implementation strategies for services benefiting children’s rights.

Communities, families, mothers and fathers will be supported in adopting positive attitudes and behaviours for improved childcare at home and for more timely and effective use of social services, when required.

Within the above approaches, UNICEF Pakistan will support the development of equity-focused, child-sensitive social protection policies and budgets and contribute to their assessment, both to improve the policy and budget framework and to enhance the effective access of girls and boys to quality services at the community level.

The above strategies will enhance the resilience of systems as well as individual citizens and families. These strategies will increase citizens’ abilities to demand quality services; this will both contribute to human development and strengthen the capacity to prevent, mitigate and respond to natural and human-made disasters.

The following cross-cutting strategies, based on the situation analysis and deprivation analysis, the lessons learned and UNICEF Pakistan’s comparative advantage in Pakistan, will be implemented:

- Adopt improved evidence-based advocacy for legislation and policy and strongly enhanced upstream work in support of system strengthening for child-focused planning, budgeting, multi-sectoral approaches, delivery and monitoring to address disparities;
- Move from a project approach to a programme approach, with less emphasis on pilot and demonstration projects not linked to scale-up opportunities, and leverage resources;
- Deepen continuum and balance between development and humanitarian work in line with ongoing development of national capacities on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response;
- Expand strategic government partnerships, at all levels, to reach more disadvantaged children, including in poor urban areas, and to strengthen government ownership and accountability, thereby complementing quality civil society partnerships;
- Support gender-responsive communication for development (C4D) for positive behavioural change for care of children;
- Foster more innovative partnerships with the private sector; and
- Ensure gender mainstreaming across all UNICEF Pakistan programmes.

The new country programme, and the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework, namely the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF) for Pakistan, adheres to the four new United Nations Development Assistance Framework programming principles: human rights and addressing inequalities and discrimination, including gender equality; sustainability, reducing environmental risks and increasing resilience; accountability, underpinned by strengthened national capacities, robust data and results-based management; and leave no one behind (for UNICEF, ‘leave no child behind’).

The country programme includes the following programme components: 1) neonatal and child survival; 2) nutritional status of girls and boys; 3) children in school and learning; 4) children are protected from violence, neglect and exploitation; and 5) safely managed water and sanitation services. These components are linked to four key goals of the global strategic plan: every child survives and thrives, every child learns, every child is protected from violence and exploitation
and every child lives in a safe and clean environment.

Clear linkages between programme strategy notes and rolling work plans for each programme component in each province will ensure that interventions at the federal and provincial levels contribute to the objectives of the country programme. Mid-year and end-year reviews will ensure that progress towards the achievement of results, and the reduction or elimination of bottlenecks, are monitored and proceeding as planned. These reviews will also provide an opportunity for course corrections to be made if necessary.

In 2018, UNICEF Pakistan will be making a considerable investment in results monitoring and value-for-money monitoring, with financial support from DFID. With more robust monitoring and more adaptive programming strategies, UNICEF Pakistan’s contributions to the UNICEF Strategic Plan and the UNSDF will be better linked and more clearly visible.

**Emerging areas of importance**

**Support movements for children** The Scaling Up Nutrition movement (SUN) has allowed for the development of a multi-sector coordination mechanism, which has placed the nutrition sector in a leadership role to support healthy child development in Pakistan. SUN has fostered an enabling environment where multi-sector plans are translated into actions. UNICEF Pakistan is leading the SUN secretariat in three regions and one province (Azad Jammu and Kashmir, GB, FATA and KP).

The ‘Saaf Sehatmand Pakistan’ (Clean Healthy Pakistan) campaign aimed to create a united voice among WASH sector partners on the need for adoption and sustenance of positive and gender-transformative social norms around WASH behaviours at a societal level. It engaged a variety of stakeholders, including the Government, WASH sector partners and the private sector with a view to leveraging experiences, reflections and resources to scale up the campaign across the country. With the National Rural Support Programme and Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar joining the campaign, an estimated 5 million people in 36 districts of Punjab, Sindh and KP/FATA were reached with key handwashing messages.

**Climate change and children.** During 2017, with UNICEF Pakistan’s technical support, the Ministry of Climate Change (MOCC) advocated for provincial governments to mainstream climate change elements into WASH sector master plans, policies and strategies, resulting in the approval of revised Sindh water and sanitation policies and WASH sector master plans.

**Urbanization and children.** Pakistan’s population will reach an estimated 350 million people by 2030, with more than half living in urban areas. The rapid growth of urban centres without adequate infrastructure and social services for children, the concentration of large numbers of poor and excluded people and resulting environmental degradation were considered in the development of the new country programme. Increasing concentration in urban settings demanded evidence and studies to better understand the approach that is needed.

UNICEF Pakistan initiated urban slums profiling in eight major cities in Pakistan. The profiling was completed in 2017. Sindh province used the evidence to draft a concept paper for the scale-up of urban health and immunization services. The line-listing of EPI resources in 6,589 UCs (93 per cent) has also provided data that will be used for urban service delivery strategies in the eight selected cities.
Refugee and migrant children. UNICEF Pakistan considers Pakistan and Afghanistan as one epidemiological block for polio virus circulation. Hence its strategies clearly define approaches aimed at Afghan and Pakistani populations crossing the borders by 1) setting up transit point vaccinations across the borders; 2) targeting populations living in refugee camps with special teams; and 3) using targeted communication strategies to reach Afghan populations settled outside camps. Collaboration with the Afghanistan polio programme included sharing detailed information on population movements, tribes and sub-tribes across the borders. Mapping of seasonal migrants and nomads provided a clear movement pattern that ensured that these populations were included within the microplans and were targeted for vaccination.

Second decade of life. UNICEF Pakistan’s first adolescent pilot programme is part of a larger, regional effort to identify the most suitable interventions for future scale-up and government ownership. The five-year intervention – ‘Improving Adolescent Lives in South Asia’ – has been implemented in Sindh and Punjab with the help of accelerated learning programmes (ALPs), which compress the five-year primary school curriculum into three years. These programmes provide second-chance education to over-age girls and boys in Sindh and Balochistan, aiming to engage adolescents, communities, service providers and policymakers to reduce child marriage and teenage pregnancies. The intervention seeks to achieve its targets by 1) upholding rights to health, education, protection, freedom of expression and participation and 2) relying on a balanced integration of ‘top-down’ measures (strengthened laws and enforcement, including sanctions related to child marriage) with ‘bottom-up’ initiatives (community dialogue, youth clubs and communication activities).

UNICEF Pakistan launched the ‘Be Bold Be Free’ campaign aimed at promoting positive menstrual hygiene practices for adolescent girls. The campaign engaged three leading female athletes as role models for empowering adolescent girls to be champions of MHM by spreading powerful positive messages.

Integrated early childhood development (ECD). During 2017 UNICEF Pakistan worked internally to foster a common understanding on ECD, facilitate intersectoral work and embed ECD as a cross-cutting priority for the new CP. Externally, UNICEF Pakistan advocated and provided technical assistance to the federal Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform in establishing an ECD policy framework for Pakistan that can support and inform the provincial governments. The Government of Pakistan created a task force chaired by the Minister of Planning, Development and Reform and established a high-level technical working group, which reports to the task force. UNICEF Pakistan is supporting the technical working group in developing a policy framework for ECD.

### Summary notes and acronyms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALP</td>
<td>alternative and accelerated learning programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>communication for development</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>country management team</td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td>country programme</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>country programme document</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRVS</td>
<td>civil registration and vital statistics</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>civil society organization/community services organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>DRR</td>
<td>disaster risk reduction</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>early childhood development</td>
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<td>ECE</td>
<td>early childhood education</td>
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<td>EMIS</td>
<td>Education Management Information System</td>
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EPI expanded programme on immunization
FAO Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FATA Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GB Gilgit-Baltistan
GPE Global Partnership for Education
HAC Humanitarian Action for Children
HACT harmonized approach to cash transfers
HCT humanitarian country team
ILO International Labour Organization
IOM International Organization for Migration
IYCF infant and young child feeding
KAP knowledge, attitudes and practices
KP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MHM menstrual hygiene management
MICS Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MNCH maternal, newborn and child health
MOCC Ministry of Climate Change
MONHSRC Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination
NDMA National Disaster Management Agency
NGO non-governmental organization
NMIS Nutrition Management Information System
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PAK Pakistan Administered Kashmir
PATS Pakistan Approach to Total Sanitation
PBS Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
PHED Public Health Engineering Department
PMER planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting team
RBM results-based management
ROSA Regional Office for South Asia (UNICEF)
SACOSAN South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SBCC social and behavioural change communication
SDG Sustainable Development Goal
SUN Scaling Up Nutrition movement
UC Union Council
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSDF United Nations Sustainable Development Framework
UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID United States Agency for International Development
WASH water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP World Food Programme
WinS WASH in Schools

**Capacity development**

Formative research informed the development of an integrated and gender-responsive WASH and nutrition social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) intervention, which employs
participatory dialogue to strengthen a mothers’ ability to adopt desired behaviours and garner family support for caregiving.

UNICEF Pakistan trained 241 social organizers and IYCF counsellors (69 per cent female) and 1,468 WASH and nutrition community outreach workers (43 per cent female) on interpersonal skills to promote good practices (including by fathers), engage their communities and contribute to sustaining the new behaviours beyond the project period. The campaign reached 1.2 million people in three districts (Ghotki, Khairpur Mathelo and Naushero Feroze).

Journalists were sensitized on the concept of stunting in both Punjab and Sindh to create awareness of stunting issues among the general public. These events resulted in numerous articles and radio shows and created a pool of interested and knowledgeable advocates.

UNICEF Pakistan enhanced the capacity of nutrition cells by providing human and financial resources, intensive coaching on best practices and regional learning opportunities, which resulted in complete community-based management of acute malnutrition services being handed over to the department of health in Sindh and partial handover in Balochistan and KP. Furthermore, gender responsive SBCC strategies were developed in collaboration with provincial government colleagues with continuing support in implementation.

The Every Newborn Action Plan recommended six critical interventions to be scaled up across the country. UNICEF Pakistan trained 209 master trainers, 5,084 healthcare providers, lady health workers and community mobilization workers on the use of chlorhexidine in 44 districts in Punjab, KP/FATA and Balochistan. A further 4,167 community mobilization workers and lady health visitors from 240 health facilities (5,780 healthcare providers) were trained in essential newborn care and in helping babies breathe. As a result, 55,437 newborns benefited from the chlorhexidine intervention which prevented infections.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy
UNICEF Pakistan technically supported the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and provincial bureaus of statistics to launch the nationally coordinated MICS to provide a baseline for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) household indicators. Provincial governments have committed to using MICS for budgetary allocations and prioritization of annual development plans. The first MICS was conducted in GB and will inform the development of GB’s first long-term development strategy.

UNICEF Pakistan teams in Balochistan and Sindh worked on a nutrition causal analysis and undertook numerous quantitative and semi-quantitative nutrition surveys to ascertain the nutrition situation in emergency-prone areas. Inception for the National Nutrition Survey and the National Complementary Feeding Assessment was completed, with the surveys to be conducted in 2018. Both surveys will inform nutrition-specific programming.

UNICEF Pakistan supported the provincial labour and human resources departments and bureaus of statistics in GB, KP, Punjab and Sindh in implementing child labour surveys. The findings will illuminate the prevalence of child labour (among both girls and boys) as well as its causes, circumstances and consequences. The findings will inform the development of robust policy to support the eradication of child labour.

Out-of-school children studies for GB and Pakistan Administered Kashmir (PAK), based on household surveys, were completed and disseminated to key stakeholders. These out-of-school
children studies were well received by respective education departments and used to develop
district action plans to enrol out-of-school children.

UNICEF Pakistan, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research and the Health
Services Academy partnered with researchers and federal and provincial EPI programmes to
support 10 implementation research projects. The partnership assessed health system
bottlenecks in Pakistan’s immunization programme. The research findings will inform
immunization programming in 2018 and beyond. The Sindh health department’s EPI, which
targets nine vaccine-preventable diseases, used this evidence to draft a concept paper for the
scale-up of health and immunization services in the urban slums.

**Partnerships**
Within the framework of SUN, UNICEF Pakistan established secretariats in PAK and GB. In KP,
the multisectoral work has advanced with the development and endorsement of nutrition
markers for financial planning of public sector development, leading to multi-sectoral nutrition
actions for the province. In Balochistan, the budgetary analysis of public sector funds was also
conducted and endorsed, allowing advocacy for increased expenditure for nutrition-specific and
nutrition-sensitive programming.

Based on a global agreement that Telenor Group and UNICEF signed for the advancement of
children’s survival and development, UNICEF Pakistan and Telenor Pakistan have pooled
resources and expertise to advance the rights of the child to birth registration and legal identity
and to strengthen birth registration systems in Pakistan.

UNICEF Pakistan strengthened its participation in the ‘one team, one plan’ approach adopted
by the Pakistan polio programme, under government leadership and ownership. UNICEF
Pakistan ensured that its accountabilities within this partnership were fully met to support the
community-based vaccination programme.

UNICEF Pakistan, UNESCO, and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training
consolidated provincial gap assessment reports into a coherent national report to inform the
formulation of provincial education strategies and education sector plans aligned with the
Education 2030 priorities. UNICEF Pakistan played a central role as coordinating agency for
GPE and in expanding engagement in Pakistan, with the participation of DFID, UNESCO,
UNICEF and the World Bank. Sindh and Punjab funding proposals to GPE for sector analysis
and education sector planning were developed and approved.

Following the advocacy session during Global MHM day, UNICEF Pakistan, in partnership with
the Gaming Revolution for International Development, developed a fun myth-busting mobile
game, ‘MoHiM’, as a platform for adolescent girls to receive education on MHM. Further
opportunities to use game applications in WASH programming will be explored in 2018.

**External communication and public advocacy**
UNICEF Pakistan’s advocacy and communication during 2017 shifted to ensure the direct
involvement and presence of girls, boys and adolescents, especially the deprived and
underserved, in the planning and execution of all key events, such as World Children’s Day and
the launch of *The State of the World’s Children 2017*. By giving children the opportunity to freely
express themselves on issues that restrain their development, UNICEF Pakistan encouraged
decision makers and donors to commit to resolving deprivations and creating an environment
conducive to children’s development.
UNICEF Pakistan continued to raise awareness on programme priorities by producing documentary films, animations and public service announcements. Over 80 million people were reached through mass media campaigns. Human interest stories depicting the direct and positive impact of interventions in hard-to-reach communities across Pakistan were published and generated greater public interest and engagement on issues such as menstrual hygiene management and breastfeeding, which are not generally discussed openly in Pakistan.

Increasing UNICEF Pakistan’s presence on social media ensured that key messages quickly reached a wider range of audiences. Several UNICEF global campaigns such as #EarlyMomentsMatter, #FlipForClimateChange and #kidstakeover were launched in Pakistan with resounding public responses registered through over 650 positive mentions in the national print and electronic media as well as social media.

Because the national media is the best tool for reaching the masses, UNICEF Pakistan continued holding workshops for media personnel to sensitize them on issues such as malnutrition. These efforts resulted in news reports in electronic media and in-depth articles in the print media.

UNICEF Pakistan’s advocacy resulted in the enactment of child protection bills in Balochistan and GB and increased high-level government support for and interest in strengthening the synergy between routine immunization and polio. More tangible results in increased routine immunization coverage in polio tier 1 districts is expected in 2018.

**South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan, in close coordination with the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), provided technical assistance to the Government in establishing a secretariat for the seventh South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN), which is scheduled for February 2018. UNICEF Pakistan also assisted in developing the conceptual framework for SACOSAN through a consultative process with South Asian countries and enabled the Government to convene and participate in inter-country working group meetings and video conferences.

UNICEF Pakistan will continue to work in close collaboration with WHO, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), the World Bank and ROSA leading up to the event. SACOSAN presents a platform for governments, CSOs and sanitation sector partners in South Asia to share information and knowledge. Pakistan has significant contributions to share regarding its implementation approach in a decentralized context as well as at the grassroots level using PATS. SACOSAN will facilitate longer-term collaboration among countries to improve the regional network on sanitation, creating an enabling environment for sharing experiences and best practices in an effort to address national sanitation goals and SDG targets.

As part of the Digital Birth Registration Initiative, UNICEF Pakistan initiated a digital birth registration technical forum to offer a platform for regional knowledge sharing and learning. Comprising technical experts in digital technology from Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan, the platform offers avenues for sharing best practices, lessons learned and standardized approaches for the application of digital technology to strengthen the rights of the child to birth registration and legal identity in the region.

**Identification and promotion of innovation**
U-Report PakAvaz, an interactive platform to engage young people, was used to conduct polls and surveys to gather information on immunization services and share targeted messages in Punjab and some polio tier 1 districts across Pakistan in 2017. The processed data was shared with EPI management through the U-Report dashboard. The results helped EPI to better plan the C4D component, identify capacity gaps and develop capacity-building plans for the staff for improved rounds of vaccination. The modifications resulted in 86 per cent coverage of round 1 measles vaccination.

To promote breastfeeding and discourage bottle-feeding, UNICEF Pakistan, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination (MONHSRC), established a breastfeeding room in the National Parliament building. This initiative has served as a role model for provincial governments, ministries and other organizations to set up designated rooms for nursing mothers.

With UNICEF Pakistan’s technical support, new modules on student admission, withdrawal and learning results for the Balochistan EMIS were developed to track the educational progress of individual children. The EMIS website introduced a feature giving the general public access to school profiles and school monitoring reports in order to improve the Government’s transparency and accountability.

UNICEF Pakistan supported the development of a Nutrition Management Information System linked with the national dashboard of MONHSRC in order to support real-time continuous assessment of national nutritional problems and advocacy for gender-responsive policies, strategies and programming. Piloted in KP/FATA, the Nutrition Management Information System will be rolled out in Balochistan and Sindh in 2018 and will ensure a minimum standard of nutrition services for malnourished children.

Real-time monitoring, through the development of an in-house mobile application and backend database, was introduced to strengthen evidenced-based programmatic field monitoring, including third-party field monitoring. The application was rolled out in Balochistan, KP and Sindh, with roll-out in Punjab expected in 2018.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages
UNICEF Pakistan continued its work on the cross-sectoral stunting programme involving nutrition and WASH. In 2017, efforts progressed on ensuring the sustainability of key elements such as the monitoring and evaluation joint framework, SBCC package and the stunting reduction manual for use by lady health workers in Sindh. Multisectoral communication strategies were developed in Punjab and Sindh (WASH, health, food security); these strategies incorporated nutrition messages to prevent stunting and to strengthen positive practices such as breastfeeding. Information from field experiences was recorded through a lessons-learned exercise and disseminated through regional and global webinars that were open to UNICEF staff and external participants.

A multisectoral communication campaign that included messages on vitamin A supplementation, health, hygiene and routine immunization, was piloted in the 13 highest-risk union councils of Peshawar. The campaign strengthened the relationship between Sehat Muhafiz (vaccinators) and caregivers. It also built positive attitudes towards repeated polio campaigns by involving a variety of audiences, including school children, to increase the acceptance of vaccination as a social norm in communities and families, as well as by developing the Sehat Muhafiz board game and life-size games.
The WASH and education sectors collaborated with WaterAid to provide technical support to the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training as it revised the primary school curriculum from Grades 1–5 to include WASH and environmental safety messages.

**Service delivery**

Within the polio core reservoirs, UNICEF Pakistan implemented an operational strategy that required mainly female (72 per cent) frontline workers to deliver vaccines directly to close to 3 million children monthly, which ensured that no wild polio virus was detected in these areas.

The scaling up of the Reach Every District, Reach Every Community approach to 56 districts in four provinces and three areas helped to increase the national coverage of bacillus Calmette-Guér into 92 per cent, pentavalent3 to 87 per cent and measles 1 to 90 per cent. Despite the high measles coverage nationally, 21,253 suspected cases of measles were reported between January and October 2017 due to substandard coverage in many districts, particularly in Balochistan and FATA. Sindh and KP provinces both conducted mop-up campaigns reaching 1,302,642 children aged 6–59 months (96 per cent) and 410,362 children aged 6–10 years (83 per cent). The first phase of the maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination campaign in Sindh reached 3,062,813 women of childbearing age (87 per cent) in 12 districts with three doses. The second phase reached 210,872 women of childbearing age (79 per cent) in five districts with two doses. UNICEF Pakistan supported Punjab in launching rotavirus vaccination in six districts.

Technical support was provided to the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) to establish a dashboard for monitoring the quality of water, including the prevalence of potential arsenic contamination, as well as the status of water service delivery in Punjab for safe drinking water. Thirty-seven mobile laboratories were refurbished in order to provide hard-to-reach communities with water quality monitoring services.

Evidence from the Nutrition Information System was used to advocate for changes in polices, strategies and re-programming of nutrition interventions.

To improve coverage of vitamin A services, UNICEF Pakistan ensured that relevant were included in the polio database to highlight gaps in coverage. Persistent advocacy with the Government resulted in minerals and vitamins being placed on the essential drug list in Sindh.

**Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

In 2017, as a result of UNICEF Pakistan’s ongoing advocacy efforts and in line with the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act, 2017, was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Commission is defined as a public body with independent status for monitoring the actions of governments and other bodies – particularly with regard to implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; investigating and pursuing violations of children’s rights; advancing the realization of child rights by promoting change in laws, policies and practices; and offering a space for dialogue about children in society and between children and the state. Defending the best interests of the child and championing children’s rights are central aspects of the Commission’s mission.

UNICEF Pakistan anticipates technically supporting the future establishment of this independent human rights institution for the effective delivery of its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992.
UNICEF Pakistan also provided technical support to contribute to broader human rights advocacy and monitoring activities conducted by key international partners – most notably, those delivered by the European Union’s European External Action Service in 2016, pursuant to the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) initiative, covering progress towards the implementation of 27 core international human rights instruments in Pakistan, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF Pakistan also made a significant contribution to strengthening the Punjab gender equality policy, which was launched by the Chief Minister in the third quarter of 2017. The policy, which references the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, has an ambitious vision – “A gender-sensitive Punjab, where women and men enjoy equity and equality in all walks of life.” Of its nine sections, five are particularly relevant for UNICEF: gender and legal rights; education and training; health; gender-based violence; and gender and advocacy.

**Gender equality**

UNICEF Pakistan’s gender work focused on three priorities from the Gender Action Plan 1.0 and a fourth from the Gender Action Plan 2.0. To promote gender-responsive adolescent health, UNICEF Pakistan advocated with the Bioethics Committee to approve reducing to 13 the minimum age of respondents to an important behavioural surveillance study, to enable the visibility of health data on pregnant girls who married at a young age and to make adolescent mothers visible to healthcare providers for the first time.

Seven million women were reached with antenatal care as well as positive health messages. A maternal perinatal death surveillance response was introduced in Sindh, and a knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey of stunting included fathers to increase their role in childcare.

The education budget increase (16 per cent) had a positive impact on enrolment, with 328,480 more girls enrolled in government schools and non-formal education centres. In FATA, 64 girls’ primary schools were upgraded to middle level to increase the pool of potential female teachers. Research on why girls drop out of school led to policy recommendations to improve retention. Research on girls’ MHM practices informed strategies to improve girl-friendly school facilities. The ‘Be Bold, Be Free’ campaign promoted positive MHM practices, along with a myth-busting mobile game and puberty book. Gender-responsive WinS strategies were approved by federal and provincial governments, leading to 83,000 more girls accessing gender-segregated toilets.

Through technical support to the Government in achieving universal birth registration by 2024, UNICEF Pakistan worked to mitigate the issues of child marriage and child labour. In Punjab and Sindh, efforts to reduce child marriage focused on strengthening adolescents’ rights to participation, promoting well-being, lifeskills and dialogue.

Advocacy led to a 28 per cent increase in public-sector WASH budgets, which represents a significant contribution to meeting women and girls’ practical gender needs. Time saved walking for water can be spent on more productive activities or staying in school. New access to safe sanitation facilities for 847,000 women reduced the risk of gender-based violence.

UNICEF contributed to the development of gender-responsive water and sanitation policies and a new gender policy, including reference to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, for Punjab; and a draft policy on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) quality and care.
**Environmental sustainability**

UNICEF Pakistan provided technical assistance to MOCC and the Pakistan Council on Research in Water Resources in undertaking a water quality contamination and scarcity study. The study, published in 2017, resulted in dialogue to address waste water issues in Sindh. Six thousand trees were planted in communities and schools in Ghotki and Nausheroferoz districts to prevent waste-water stagnation, thus enhancing children’s participation in becoming responsible agents for change. The green school initiative has been incorporated in the WinS manual, which is cross-referenced in the WinS strategy. Pakistan’s green school initiative was documented and shared as a best practice with UNICEF Headquarters. WinS interventions will be scaled up in 2018.

UNICEF Pakistan created a fund to support projects for greening its various offices and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, paper usage and production of wastes within UNICEF Pakistan premises in order to minimize the organization’s environmental impact. In 2017, solar power panels were installed and operational in all five UNICEF Pakistan offices and conventional electronics were replaced with more efficient and eco-friendly electronics.

The combined effect of all the solar power generated is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 126 tons and save US$51,000 annually. The conventional lighting system was replaced with more eco-friendly LED lights and conventional airconditioning was replaced with more efficient DC inverter airconditioning in most offices. In addition, the use of plastic bottled water has been replaced by permanent glass bottles that can be reused. This, along with other greening initiatives has resulted in a cost saving of US$15,000 annually. UNICEF Pakistan has encouraged less travel and more virtual meetings. In total, over 150 audio and video conferences took place, an increase of 50 per cent compared to 2016.

**Effective leadership**

UNICEF Pakistan continued to track and review management key performance indicators and follow up on implementing the 2014 audit recommendations as part of the monthly country management team (CMT) meetings. Key achievements for 2017 include: 1) donor reporting was 100 per cent on time; 2) funds utilization was at 98 per cent; and 3) only 5 per cent of direct cash transfers were outstanding for over 9 months. Programme performance was discussed at monthly programme coordination group meetings, which facilitated strategic discussion, identification of multi-sectoral programming opportunities and discussion of issues affecting programme implementation.

An internal audit was conducted in September 2017. The final report included recommendations covering the following areas: situation analysis and priority-setting; risk management; fraud risk management; governance and office structures; zone-office management; resource mobilization; partnership management; multisectoral approaches; programme assurance and monitoring; procurement; data and reporting of results. The auditee response to the draft audit report was prepared and submitted to the UNICEF Office of Internal Audit and Investigation. One of UNICEF Pakistan’s challenges is an inability to monitor projects directly due to lack of permission to access certain areas of the country, resulting in dependency on third-party monitors. Risk assessments and mitigating measures were identified for all offices.

A long-term arrangement was established to determine efficient utilization of programme funds and take corrective measures in the areas of micro-assessment and audit IPs. A long-term arrangement for third-party field monitors was established for better management; this was used
as a complementary monitoring modality in areas where UNICEF Pakistan staff do not have access because of security restrictions.

UNICEF Pakistan has a business continuity plan for all five UNICEF offices; it is integrated into the annual management plan. Under the leadership of UNICEF Pakistan, the first United Nations common Business Continuity Plan was developed for United Nations agencies in Islamabad. It was an inter-agency initiative through the Operations Management Team, in close collaboration with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Financial resources management
At the end of the country programme in 2017, 100 per cent of the planned Other Resources funding (US$335 million) had been raised, of which US$292.7 million had been expended. Similarly, UNICEF Pakistan expended 94 per cent of available Regular Resources funding (US$131 million) and 99 per cent of Other Resources funding (US$ 101.6 million) during the five years of the country programme. In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan’s budget allocation stood at US$175 million, of which US$174.8 million (99 per cent) was utilized by the end of the year.

The bank optimization report and bank reconciliation reports were submitted on time. UNICEF Pakistan met deadlines for monthly and interim closure with local dates set for closing deadlines. UNICEF Pakistan managed its operations, focusing on enhancing business process simplification, increasing the efficiency of in-house business support centres for smooth transition to the Global Shared Services Centre and sustaining quality of life on the premises in a carbon-neutral environment. UNICEF Pakistan also rolled out the push and track system which supports both country and field offices to enhance smooth and timely submission of transaction requests.

Budget utilization performance and the liquidation of cash assistance are standing agenda items in country management team meetings. UNICEF Pakistan has mechanisms in place to ensure that the country management team, or those directly concerned, are alerted to any deviation, exceptions or under-performance in budget control and financial procedures, bank reconciliations, accounting and liquidation of cash assistance.

UNICEF Pakistan fully adopted the easy harmonized approach to cash transfers (ezHACT), a module in the VISION transaction processing system launched by UNICEF globally, to increase compliance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards related to cash assistance to implementing partners. Programme delivery was not interrupted or affected in any way by the introduction of these systems since staff training on both systems was conducted in addition to the review of workflows and the table of authority.

Fundraising and donor relations
The five-year country programme planned for implementation of US$578.4 million (including HAC appeals), of which US$577.5 million (99 per cent) has been raised owing to strategic fundraising initiatives and continued engagement with both public and private sector development partners, including UNICEF National Committees.

Close partnerships with key donors supported programme delivery and raised funds. UNICEF Pakistan’s major donors include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USF, the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, DFID, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Japan, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, the GAVI Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, IKEA, Rotary International and NI. These partners were critical in
raising US$76.7 million in 2017 for funding long-term, multi-sector programme interventions.

UNICEF Pakistan, for the first time, undertook the role of administrative agent and convening agency for a United Nations joint programme, funded by DFID, that provided US$23 million for a five-year programme (2018–2022) focusing on children, youth and women and to be implemented at both national and provincial levels. Agreements between UNICEF, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWomen) and the donor were finalized at the end of the year.

The 52 donor reports due in 2017 were submitted on time. Timely submission of donor reports was assured through a robust internal control mechanism that ensured adherence to timelines while the general guidance and checklist developed by UNICEF Headquarters in New York was used in the review process to ensure high-quality reporting.

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan successfully managed US$175 million in budget allocations and expended US$125.9 million (US$31.6 million in Regular Resources, US$89.4 million in other Resources Regular, and US$4.9 million in Other Resources Emergency funding), with US$49.1 million carrying over to 2018.

Of the expended amount, 55 per cent (US$68.7 million) was utilized for procurement of supplies and services, 23 per cent (US$29 million) for programme implementation through partners, 20 per cent (US$25.8 million) on technical assistance through human capacity and operating expenditures and 2 per cent (US$2.4 million) on travel.

**Evaluation and research**

In 2017 UNICEF Pakistan ensured compliance with United Nations Evaluation Group standards. After completing the first evaluation of humanitarian action, UNICEF Pakistan shared the resulting lessons with all partners. These lessons target all stakeholders and contribute to improving working in humanitarian settings. Furthermore, the preparation of management responses for completed evaluations is now the norm with submission of management responses at 100 per cent, thus ensuring actions and bringing various actors closer in delivery of joint responsibilities.

UNICEF Pakistan’s long-term advocacy with and technical support for the Government resulted in Pakistan’s first evaluation policy, in Punjab. UNICEF Pakistan’s efforts to involve key stakeholders and reach an agreement on the way forward resulted in the establishment of a high-level oversight committee chaired by the provincial finance minister; it clarified mandates and steered the way forward on evaluation policy. The success of this policy work in Punjab led to a request from the Government of Balochistan, for which UNICEF Pakistan is providing technical support in developing an evaluation policy for the province.

UNICEF Pakistan entered into memorandum of understanding with UNDP that entailed coordination and leadership of SDG monitoring and evaluation. Building on its national evaluation capacity development initiative, UNICEF Pakistan drafted a guidance note to steer the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the SDGs and facilitate coherence among United Nations agencies and the Government on the SDGs. Additionally, UNICEF Pakistan supported the UNFPA and UNDP end-of-programme evaluations.

The training under the national evaluation capacity development initiative was used to orient public sector officials on the need, use and role of evaluations. It involved civil servants,
technocrats and parliamentarians and resulted in increased appetite for high-quality evaluations and awareness of the need to re-evaluate policies at the provincial level.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

UNICEF Pakistan continued its previous greening initiatives and initiated additional ones in field offices in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save on operational costs. The installation of solar power panels in all five UNICEF offices, coupled with replacement of conventional lights and electronics with more efficient and eco-friendly versions, greatly lowered UNICEF Pakistan’s carbon footprint. UNICEF Pakistan also abandoned the use of plastic bottled water and paper cups, which were replaced with reusable crockery. UNICEF Pakistan stopped using paper towels and installed energy-efficient blow-dryers. Use of solar energy alone reduced carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 126 tons and saved US$51,000 in 2017. Other greening initiatives result in annual savings of US$15,000. The total cost of investment and replacement was US$576,772.

UNICEF Pakistan, in partnership with sister United Nations agencies, continued to utilize a carpooling system, which reduced the number of local trips made in official vehicles. This increased fuel efficiency and helped effectively manage the limited resources available for intra-city travel.

**Supply management**

UNICEF Pakistan’s supply component covered procurement of essential commodities and services, including construction, to a value of US$81.7 million, representing around 64.89 per cent of total expenditure in 2017.

UNICEF Pakistan provided cross-border support services to UNICEF Afghanistan with facilitation of customs clearance for 174 containers of programme supplies valued at US$8 million.

Supply dashboards improved data gathering as well as time-efficient and cost-effective decision-making. Improvements were noticeable in inventory management. Stocks in warehouses were reduced through distribution to partners following close coordination and addressing storage issues with partners.

In support of enhanced vaccine management and to ensure that quality vaccines reach children in marginalized areas, 21 EPI warehouses were constructed and 32 walk-in cold rooms were procured. However, after the installation of a few cold rooms, the contractor had to leave Pakistan due to visa issues. One EPI warehouse is still under construction in Muzaffarabad and is expected to be completed and handed over in March 2018. In Balochistan, UNICEF Pakistan supported the rehabilitation of eight solar-powered newborn care centres and the construction of one EPI warehouse in Muzaffarabad.

UNICEF Pakistan managed 84 containers from the sea port and processed customs clearance for 31 air freight shipments. UNICEF Pakistan used 195 trucks for in-country distribution of programme supplies. In 2017, out of the total value of US$10 million of programme supplies, US$9.6 million represented direct procurement by UNICEF, while US$0.3 million were in-kind donations from USAID. The value of the total supplies managed in UNICEF Pakistan’s warehouse in 2017 was US$8.9 million. Total value of the inventory in controlled warehouses was US$2.9 million, of which US$0.6 million was pre-positioned emergency contingency supplies.
UNICEF Pakistan extended its procurement services to federal and provincial governments and other third parties using their own funds (‘Trust Funds’), through the provision of vaccines, cold chain equipment and essential nutrition items in support of the EPI, polio prevention and nutrition service delivery. In addition to timely provision of strategic, essential supplies, UNICEF Pakistan continued providing technical support to the Government on the management of its procurement services portfolio and collaborated with partners to provide capacity building and support the strengthening of the national supply chain system, such as through the system design project. A new multi-year project under the National Immunization Support Project was initiated with the Government for strengthening the cold chain infrastructure in Pakistan in collaboration with GAVI Alliance and the World Bank.

### Security for staff and premises

The security situation in Pakistan is fluid in nature, with regional contexts impacting programme delivery to varying degrees. In general, sectarian violence and attacks on the general population and on representatives of the state occur on a regular basis, particularly in the west of the country; violence and attacks have increased in some areas that were traditionally more peaceful. UNICEF Pakistan continued to provide the highest possible level of risk mitigation. UNICEF Pakistan played a vital role in the development and application of United Nations security-related policies and measures in Pakistan, including the security risk assessment, minimum operating safety standards and residential security measures, and incorporation into United Nations Security Management System operations in Pakistan.

The roll-out of new UNICEF Pakistan security standard operating procedures continues, with regular presentations not only on the security situation but also on the roles and responsibilities of staff to ensure security compliance. All UNICEF Pakistan office locations remained 100 per cent minimum operating safety standards compliant; security risk assessments were completed for all locations where UNICEF Pakistan personnel work regularly. Additionally, blast assessments were completed for all offices.

UNICEF Pakistan increased its focus on security coordination between country and field offices, with staff participation in training in safe and secure approaches in field environments exceeding 91 per cent. Additional focus has been to ensure that mandatory staff training is completed by all staff. A security course specifically for female staff was also developed and rolled out. Priorities for 2018 include the development of specific security support to improve programme delivery and an internal review of all physical security infrastructure and investment required to maintain the safety and security of personnel and operations.

### Human resources

UNICEF successfully completed a change management exercise in support of the new CP 2018–2022, which led to a re-alignment of the human resources structure to enable the effective delivery of agreed programme and operational results. The new staff structure, adjusted from 356 to 311 employees, was approved by the programme budget review and is effective 1 January 2018. The exercise was consultative and primarily focused on creating and implementing plans that minimized resistance and maximized engagement, as well as on motivation and retention of internal talent. Career workshops were provided to staff affected by the changes. New staff members have been oriented on human resources systems and procedures. To support the roll-out of global human resources reforms, UNICEF Pakistan conducted seven briefing sessions for all staff.

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan counted 301 staff members in place, 6 per cent less than in 2016. Out of these, 6.6 per cent were on temporary appointments, showing a reduction from 9 per
cent at the end of 2016. The vacancy rate stood at 7.3 per cent. Staff voluntary turnover changed slightly from 4.4 per cent in 2016 to 6.4 per cent in 2017.

The ratio of categories of staff remained stable during the year: international professional officers represented 12 per cent, national officers 50 per cent, and general service staff 38 per cent. The number of female staff across Pakistan was 38 per cent at the end of the year. UNICEF Pakistan ensured that the gender ratio was maintained during change management.

UNICEF Pakistan led the OneUN Human Resources Working Group, implementing various activities in this capacity and as part of the United Nations Business Operating Strategy. The staff association and management carried out a comprehensive review of the results of 2017 Global Staff Survey. Follow-up actions are monitored through the country management team and the joint consultative committee.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

In terms of technical assistance, UNICEF Pakistan ensured that the new LIGHT Office Model was rolled out; it enabled staff to access corporate applications on the cloud, reduced Internet service provider outages and increased productivity. In total, over 150 audio and video conference activities were supported, an increase of 50 per cent compared with 2016.

The business continuity plan and information technology disaster recovery plans were updated and tested in two scenarios where staff managed transactions from home after the implementation of the push and track system.

In terms of programme assistance, the information and communication technology section worked collaboratively to support the delivery of the country programme, supporting various initiatives, including the development of a mobile birth registration application for centres in Lahore and Sindh that have targeted registration of 10 million children, and the establishment of the digital birth registration technical forum, with regional participation from Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal and with possible expansion to other South Asian countries with the support of ROSA.

Programme implementation was supported through efficient in-house solutions that resulted in substantial cost savings. Such efforts included support to the polio eradication programme through implementation of the emergency operation centre dashboard, development of an education monitoring system for Pakistan, support to the child labour survey systems, development of the WASH Management Information System for Sindh, development of the Nutrition Information System for Health, support to the roll out of U-Report, and development of the Partnership Management Information System. The information and communication technology section also supported the development of the immigration document tracking system and the security incident monitoring database.

Social media growth continued during 2017 for UNICEF Pakistan, with an increase in Facebook followers by 1.45 per cent (269,544 users) and Twitter followers by 9.8 per cent (35,223 users). PakAvaz, the platform for an interactive dialogue with young people via U-Report, was also expanded, with the number of U-Reporters increasing from 22,000 in 2016 to over 34,000 in 2017.

**Programme components from RAM**

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS
OUTCOME 1 By 2017, the most disadvantaged children and women are accessing an integrated package of high impact, good quality health and nutrition services.

Analytical statement of progress
The public health sector system faced capacity challenges at various levels; these included human resource limitations and low healthcare financing (less than 1 per cent of gross domestic product), mostly affecting primary health care. The immunization programme received increased funding but that was not the case for the other maternal child health and nutrition programmes. The skewed and vertical healthcare financing undermines integration of health and nutrition services. MONHSRC established the high-level Health and Population Think Tank to advise on policy. The think tank held roundtable discussions about local manufacturing of human vaccines, social health protection, an MNCH quality of care strategic and accountability framework (a key gender concern), and human resources for health in Pakistan. A draft policy brief on quality of care as well as a strategic and accountability framework were proposed and developed with technical support from UNICEF Pakistan.

The overall administrative penta-3 immunization coverage in 2017 was about 87 per cent, up from the estimated 54 per cent in 2012–2013, and particularly so in Punjab province, which achieved 95 per cent administrative coverage. The increased coverage could be a result of the investments made in the procurement and supply of vaccines and in the cold chain system, or of the nationwide implementation of mother and child health weeks.

However, the investments may not have sufficiently addressed equity (including gender) and accountability for the delivery of services. According to localized surveys conducted in April and May 2017 and using the EPI card as the base standard, not a single district in any of the four provincial capitals exceeded a full immunization coverage of 50 per cent, with much lower coverage in the peri-urban areas and slums of Gadap (~20 per cent), Killa Abdalla (<5 per cent) and Khyber (~20 per cent).

In 2017, outbreaks of measles and diphtheria occurred in all provinces and areas, indicating weaknesses in the quality and delivery of immunization services. The overall immunization coverage might be increasing but only among less disadvantaged and easy to access population groups and communities. The provisional evidence from the mapping of 6,589 union councils (out of the possible total 7,060); the bottlenecks analysis for the gaps in immunization services in Balochistan, GB, KP, Sindh; and the findings from the profiling of 1,317 urban slums in Karachi and Hyderabad suggest large disparities in the distribution of health and immunization resources. Future focus will be on the use of data, including granular-level data, to drive and advocate for improved performance and the reduction of inequities, including related to gender, in immunization, neonatal survival, pneumonia and diarrhoea.

There were major achievements in 2017 in moving from strategy to action on reducing Pakistan’s high stunting rates. Provincial departments of health were striving to address Pakistan’s high prevalence of stunting, with available resources and with support from UNICEF Pakistan and partners. In 2017, UNICEF-Pakistan-supported SUN units within planning and development departments in FATA, GB, KP, and PAK played a catalytic role, generating momentum for nutrition-sensitive and -specific programming. Provincial infant feeding boards were established and functional, except in Sindh. Breastfeeding rules across provinces and areas are in various stages of development. These rules will help protect a child’s right to be breastfed and curb increasing marketing practices for infant formulas.
The Ministry initiated the gender-responsive National Nutrition Survey 2017, supported by UNICEF and DFID; coordination, management and oversight mechanisms are in place and selection of a research firm is completed. The National Complementary Feeding Assessment and Cost of Diet Analysis study has been initiated and will be completed in the first quarter of 2018. Evidence from these will support prioritization in the nutrition and health sectors as well as support, policy, advocacy and design for gender-responsive nutrition programmes.

Nutrition issues are rooted in social and cultural practices at household and community levels, including gender biases. To address these, UNICEF-supported IYCF strategies and costed communications plans were finalized. The resulting media package included standardized gender-responsive television commercials, which were aired in November 2017.

UNICEF Pakistan, as nutrition cluster lead, delivered effective coordination of humanitarian planning and response. As secretary of the IYCF Technical Working Group, UNICEF and other stakeholders contributed on IYCF guidelines, while the IYCF-E handbook and IYCF caseload calculator were completed. These are anticipated to improve community management of acute malnutrition practices in emergency settings.

The Government’s Emergency Operations Centre organized joint designing, planning, implementation and monitoring of 10 rounds of polio vaccinations with the Global Polio Partnership including UNICEF Pakistan, reaching on average 38 million children with multiple doses of the vaccine. UNICEF Pakistan supported procurement of 278 million polio vaccine doses.

A community-based vaccination approach covered 99.6 per cent and 4 per cent missed children through 15,616 workers (72 per cent female, 28 per cent male. Independent third-party monitoring before, during and after the campaign contributed to improving performance by identifying and addressing operational gaps. A communication strategy designed to engage and increase demand in the community through a network of local, mostly female, vaccinators continued to show positive results with 95 per cent of caregivers saying their child received drops during the previous vaccination round (KAP 2017).

A total of 2,760 frontline supervisors and 21,642 vaccinators were trained or updated on new programme strategies. Despite the current gains, the polio virus continues to circulate in the environment. Reducing numbers of missed children and mapping and vaccinating children in mobile populations will be the major focus during 2018. Sustaining the gains in the union councils covered by community-based vaccination approaches will retain UNICEF’s attention during 2018 as four nationwide and five subnational campaigns are rolled out.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2017, caregivers of children under 5 years continue to accept and demand polio vaccination and have access to quality vaccines that will contribute to polio eradication.

**Analytical statement of progress**
The key to achieving eradication is implementing high-quality campaigns that miss less than 5 per cent of targeted children. UNICEF Pakistan worked with Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, particularly WHO, through a ‘one team under one roof’ modality, using an emergency operations centre approach with government leadership. UNICEF Pakistan supported the Government to design, plan, supervise and monitor the implementation of five nationwide and five subnational immunization campaigns and 10 case response or special campaigns. On
average 38 million and 20 million targeted children were reached during nationwide and subnational rounds, respectively, with 4 per cent reported as missed.

UNICEF Pakistan’s specific role within the partnership has been the implementation of a community-based vaccination strategy targeting 3.5 million children in 473 critical union councils in 24 districts considered highest risk for poliovirus circulation. With a network of 15,616 community and frontline workers, 72 per cent of whom are women, 99.6 per cent of the target was reached in 2017. Additionally, 1,200 social mobilizers were deployed across 41 districts. During 2017, the strong communications and operations foundation that supports the understanding and attitudes critical to maintaining caregivers’ acceptance of the polio vaccine was sustained; the perception of vaccinators improved (73 per cent vs 68 per cent) and local acceptance of the programme increased (85 per cent vs 67 per cent), resulting in 95 per cent of caregivers saying their child has received drops in the last round (KAP survey 2017).

The focus on the motivation and performance of frontline workers, including greater emphasis on training, timely payment and supportive supervision, has contributed to improved performance. A total of 2,760 frontline supervisors and 21,642 vaccinators were trained and updated with new programme strategies. Within the risk assessment decision support arm of the National Emergency Operations Centre, UNICEF Pakistan contributed to the improvement of campaigns by identifying and addressing operational gaps before, during and after campaigns; through an independent monitoring system that has been deployed in 21 high risk districts, during which 110 field monitors verified 2,292 microplanning and 1,007 training sessions, checked 168,481 children, 27,708 households and 3,543 teams for vaccination compliance allowing for corrective actions to be taken as per programme needs. UNICEF Pakistan procured approximately 278 million doses of polio vaccines and ensured timely availability to support the campaigns. There were no stock outs, delays or cancelations in 2017.

Key challenges remain. Poliovirus is still present in Pakistan; the overall proportion of environmental surveillance samples positive for wild poliovirus is 16 per cent. Two years ago, the presence of these samples would have sparked cases of paralytic polio. In 2017, due to increased population immunity, only a few cases were reported. The programme will continue to identify and close the remaining gaps until zero polio cases are achieved and sustained.

In 2018, the programme strategy will focus on key hotspots while maintaining the quality of polio vaccination campaigns in other parts of the country as outlined in the NEAP 2017/18. UNICEF Pakistan’s approach will be retained as in 2017 with greater emphasis on the implementation of the community-based vaccination programme. Four nationwide and five subnational campaigns will be implemented, for which UNICEF Pakistan will provide support for communication and social mobilization, third-party monitoring, training, supervision and vaccine supply.

**OUTPUT 2 Health:** Public duty bearers at national, provincial and district levels are making evidence-based policy and budget decisions about health and nutrition services that benefit the most disadvantaged children and women.

**Analytical statement of progress**
A UNICEF Pakistan-supported mapping of 6,589 union councils out of 7,060 revealed that about 13 per cent of the councils do not have any health facility; about 10 per cent of facilities did not have a vaccinator; 14 per cent of health facilities had no functional cold chain equipment and 33 per cent of health facilities had no means of transportation. About 13 per cent of the
union councils were not covered by the lady health worker programme, which is critical in reaching women and children.

These gaps were validated by the qualitative analysis of the bottlenecks affecting immunization services in Balochistan, GB, KP and Sindh. Based on the findings and follow-up advocacy, the provincial governments are filling vacant EPI staff positions and improving management routines and logistical support to immunization. They are also intensifying outreach approaches, targeting hard-to-reach areas and other uncovered areas. The profiling of 1,317 urban slums in Karachi and Hyderabad cities showed that 55 per cent of slums did not have health facilities. While 10 per cent of EPI services are provided through fixed sites, 48 per cent through outreach and 19 per cent through lady health workers, a total of 23 per cent of slums did not have EPI services. Private curative healthcare services were available in 43 per cent of the slums. These data were used to draft a concept paper for the scale-up of health and immunization services in the urban slums.

UNICEF Pakistan and partners’ advocacy persuaded the National Bioethics Committee to approve reduction of the minimum age for the Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance study to 13 years, making it possible to collect data on adolescents. This is a big step forward in adolescent coverage in Pakistan, particularly for girls. UNICEF Pakistan also supported HIV studies on mapping of key populations (KP). The evidence from the Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance study as well as from the UNICEF-Pakistan-supported, revised prevention of parent-to-child transmission strategy was also used for AIDS epidemic modelling and the AIDS Control Programme Global Fund for TB, AIDS and Malaria’s newly approved funding request of US$35 million for Pakistan. About 44 per cent (US$15m) of these funds are for treatment, care and support, which includes prevention of parent-to-child transmission and paediatric HIV/AIDS treatment and hence will benefit the most disadvantaged, hidden, affected and infected women and children.

Sindh endorsed its costed Every Newborn Action Plan and newborn survival strategy and made budgetary commitments. The costed Every Newborn Action Plan awaits endorsement in Punjab and KP, while costing of Balochistan’s Every Newborn Action Plan is under development. The Government of Punjab has fully institutionalized the maternal child health weeks as part of its provincial health week. Other provinces are at different levels of institutionalizing the maternal child health weeks. UNICEF Pakistan continued advocating for pneumonia and diarrhoea vaccination using the child survival group meetings in Sindh and Punjab and the national Integrated Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health and Nutrition Technical Working Group. Ongoing studies on policy, supply and procurement policies for pneumonia and diarrhoea are expected to contribute to evidence-based policy and programming for child survival. The work on the development and adoption of an MNCH quality of care policy brief and a strategic and accountability framework for Pakistan will be consolidated in 2018.

OUTPUT 3 Health: Public duty bearers with strengthened capacity are delivering quality integrated health and nutrition services in communities and facilities reached by the most disadvantaged mothers and children.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Pakistan contributed to more effective vaccine management through training 23 EPI staff and 8 effective vaccine management coordinators as well as installation of centralized temperature monitoring devices in 37 cold rooms and of power generators in 13 EPI
warehouses across Pakistan. The scaling up of the Reach Every District, Reach Every Community approach to 55 low-coverage districts in four provinces and three areas helped to reach an additional 91,556 children with three doses of pentavalent vaccines. The coverage increased from 83 per cent in 2015 to 86 per cent in 2017 in these hard-to-reach districts. This contributed to an increase of 1.8 per cent in the national pentavalent coverage of 87 per cent.

Despite the high measles coverage of 90 per cent nationally, 21,253 suspected cases of measles were reported between January and October 2017 with 60 per cent of 8,872 blood samples testing positive for measles. The reason for the outbreaks is substandard coverage in many of the districts, with districts such as Kohistan in KP, Musa Khel in Balochistan and South Waziristan in FATA recording 8 per cent, 18 per cent and 24 per cent coverage with measles vaccine. KP and Sindh provinces both conducted mop-up campaigns reaching 1,302,642 children 6–59 months of age (96 per cent) in Karachi and 410,362 children 6 months to 10 years of age (83 per cent) in KP.

The first phase maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination campaign in Sindh targeted 3,062,813 women of childbearing age in 12 districts, reaching 87 per cent of them with three doses. The second phase targeted 210,872 women of childbearing age in five of the 12 districts with two doses, reaching 79 per cent.

UNICEF Pakistan supported Punjab in launching rotavirus vaccine in six districts. The Provincial Emergency Operation Centres helped to enumerate all children under 2 years of age in 11 polio tier 1 districts. The data was used to reach over 30 per cent of children missing routine immunization antigens in Peshawar (n=167,523) and Khyber Agency (n=38,000). The data analysis for Quetta block and Karachi is ongoing.

UNICEF Pakistan trained 209 master trainers, 5,084 healthcare providers, lady health workers and community mobilization workers on the use of chlorhexidine in 44 Districts of Balochistan, KP/FATA and Punjab. Moreover, 4,167 community mobilization workers and lady health visitors from 240 health facilities were trained in essential newborn care and in helping babies breathe (5,780 healthcare providers). The chlorhexidine distribution prevented 55,437 newborns from becoming infected in 2017.

The implementation of kangaroo mother care in two hospitals in Punjab reached over 224 newborns; scale-up to five more hospitals is ongoing. Thirty-two out of 39 sick newborn care units benefited more than 17,977 newborns between January and August 2017. As part of quality assurance, UNICEF Pakistan, jointly with UNFPA and WHO, helped all four of the provincial governments to institutionalize maternal neonatal death surveillance and reporting. The round 1 Mother and Child Health Week reached 7,279,159 women of child-bearing age with empowering health and education messages; 306,098 pregnant women with tetanus toxoid vaccination; 9,013,801 children 2–5 years of age with deworming; and the immunization of 571,634 under 2 years old due and defaulter children. With a focus on pneumonia and diarrhoea, the national integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses, essential medicine lists and minimum service delivery packages were all reviewed and updated.

**OUTPUT 4** Health: Caregivers and children are practicing an essential set of behaviours ensuring a continuum of health and nutrition care, especially for children and mothers.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Pakistan supported the implementation of a joint work plan with the SDGs parliamentary task force secretariat with a priority on political support, resource mobilization and communication on routine immunization, including synergy with the polio programme. Orientation of the SDGs parliamentary task force and its secretariat has been undertaken and the latest information and data is regularly updated and shared with them. Efforts to use U-Report with a dedicated dashboard for task force members are underway and a presentation was given to the task force members about its utility and benefits in May 2017.

In coordination with provincial EPI teams, provincial communication strategies have been further refined, based on the bottleneck analysis feedback from polio tier 1 districts in KP, Balochistan and Sindh. There is ongoing technical assistance in all provinces and areas to strengthen health education and promotion resource centres expected to operationalize communication and social mobilization structures at federal and provincial levels. C4D consultants for Sindh and Punjab have been recruited, and recruitment is to be completed for KP, Balochistan, GB and PAK before the end of 2017. Advocacy is underway with the Government to promote recruitment or activation of health education personnel at provincial and district levels.

UNICEF Pakistan supported the generation of new evidence on communication and demand for immunization services by using RapidPro and U-Report to gather feedback from communities and frontline workers on immunization services. The pre-test for the U-Report survey for immunization was conducted after incorporation of focus group recommendations. As part of the urban slums intervention, bottleneck analysis was carried out in the urban slums of Karachi and Lahore and short stories of community members and frontline workers were used as additional sources of evidence to inform communication, social mobilization and demand generation for immunization services. Further new evidence to inform programming for immunization services is expected from a joint WHO-Alliance, GAVI Alliance, Health Services Academy, and government implementation research initiative involving 10 research areas. UNICEF Pakistan provided inputs in developing the research agenda and is currently supporting implementation and liaising with research grantees.

UNICEF Pakistan supported the communication needs of round 1 of the mother and child health weeks in all provinces that reached 4,794,506 women of child-bearing age with health and education messages. The existing communication material on routine immunization and the polio programme has been analysed – including bottleneck analysis in some districts in Sindh, KP and Balochistan – for availability, effectiveness and acceptance by communities. The Punjab MNCH continuum of care handbook has been scaled up to 10 districts, while scale-up to all 36 districts has been costed in project initiation agreements by DOH. The couple health workers pilot ongoing in three districts for communication and awareness-raising in areas uncovered by lady health workers is continuing. Portable projectors for community health awareness have been successfully piloted in the district of Rajanpur, selected districts of Sindh and PAK and Punjab's department of health is very keen to scale up its use after the assessment planned by UNICEF Pakistan in the third quarter of 2017.

**OUTPUT 5** Health: Public and civil society duty bearers with strengthened capacity are reducing disaster risks, as well as planning, preparing and effectively responding to disasters, in accordance with UNICEF Core Commitments to Children in Humanitarian Action.

**Analytical statement of progress**
During 2017, UNICEF Pakistan focused on the provision of gender-responsive health services to returning families in FATA by revitalizing and strengthening the Government’s primary
healthcare systems including MNCH and reproductive health services. UNICEF Pakistan’s strategic approach to leverage government resources and strengthen health systems resulted in progress, including 8,428 women (27 per cent of the planned 30,350) receiving antenatal care and 2,698 deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendants. UNICEF Pakistan’s support to the Government and NGO partners resulted in the vaccination of 326,348 children for measles.

UNICEF Pakistan supported mother and child days and community-based MNCH interventions, in partnership with FATA health directorate and civil society, and benefiting a population of 400,000 in KP and FATA. The low-cost, high-impact intervention package included antenatal care; deworming of children aged 2 to 5 years; identification and vaccination of defaulter children (children not vaccinated or missing routine immunizations); multiple micro-nutrient supplementation for children aged 6–59 months; social mobilization, health education and provision of life-saving commodities (clean delivery kits, newborn kits). Through MNCH interventions, 8,428 women were provided with antenatal care, 4,316 pregnant women benefited from clean delivery kits and 4,284 were supplied with newborn kits.

To strengthen the Government’s disaster preparedness and resilience capacity, 40 healthcare providers (21 female) were trained on community-based disaster risk management in FATA and 15 male and female master trainers were trained in GB.

Furthermore, to address limited neonatal service delivery in FATA, two sick newborn units were established in Kurram and Bajaur agencies in the Government’s existing health facilities. Each of these units provide high-quality and timely services to an estimated 150 sick newborns in addition to fulfilling critical equipment gaps in the Government’s existing health facilities.

**OUTPUT 6** By 2017, public duty bearers at national, provincial and district levels are making evidence-based policy and budget decisions about health and nutrition services that benefit the most disadvantaged children and women.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Pakistan provided technical support to the provincial and area governments for the roll-out of multi-sectoral, gender-responsive nutrition strategies. With UNICEF Pakistan support, SUN units in KP, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, GB and FATA were established with clear identification of roles at provincial levels. The support furnished through the multi-sector forums led to the development of action plans and project initiation agreements that are nutrition-specific in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and KP, which are helping to address the key indicators in UNICEF Pakistan’s CP.

Technical support with limited scope was provided to SUN units in all provinces. In Punjab, this resulted in the multi-sectoral nutrition centre. In KP, technical support facilitated the development and endorsement of nutrition markers for financial planning of public sector development. These markers will assist multi-sectoral nutrition actions for the province. Furthermore, the Government of Balochistan, with UNICEF Pakistan support, has completed and endorsed a budgetary analysis of public sector development funds for nutrition-specific and -sensitive sectors. The multi-sectoral nutrition strategy for FATA was finalized and submitted for approval to the Provincial Steering Committee led by Additional Chief Secretary of FATA with support provided by UNICEF Pakistan. Balochistan developed a provincial IYCF strategy – soon to be endorsed by the technical working group.
To build the capacity of public duty bearers, UNICEF Pakistan funded international exposure through a regional workshop on nutrition action held in Nepal. UNICEF Pakistan also funded government staff to participate in inter-provincial learning on public financing.

Preparatory and gender-responsive work on the National Nutrition Survey 2017 is complete, including the creation of regulatory mechanisms for effective management and coordination to ensure credible and fully gender-disaggregated evidence generation. The research firm was selected in 2017. The inception report will be finalized in the first quarter of 2018.

While focusing on the first 1,000 days, UNICEF Pakistan provided both financial and technical support to the provincial and regional governments for the finalization of the costed IYCF communications plans in order to increase government capacity to tailor strategies to budgets and to prioritize the roll-out of activities based on national plans.

Discussions on breast milk substitute code, national ordinances and required modifications to legislation were conducted across Pakistan with the support of a legal expert from UNICEF Headquarters.

In Sindh, UNICEF Pakistan supported the task force secretariat with technical and human resources support to expedite the implementation of an accelerated action plan. UNICEF Pakistan will also provide technical support to organize a meeting of the Infant Feeding Board to develop rules for BF ordinance, 2013.

UNICEF Pakistan finalized and piloted the NMIS in KP/FATA. MONHSRC held a launching ceremony for stakeholders to share the results of the successful piloting of the NMIS in May 2017. A total of 145 master trainers were trained to functionalize the NMIS in KP/FATA, Balochistan and Sindh. UNICEF will support the adoption of the NMIS for project initiation agreements in all provinces. The NMIS will support the real-time continuous assessment of national nutritional problems by gender and advocate for gender-responsive policies, strategies and programming.

**OUTPUT 7** Public duty bearers with strengthened capacity are delivering quality integrated health and nutrition services in communities and facilities reached by the most disadvantaged mothers and children.

**Analytical statement of progress**
For UNICEF Pakistan, scarcity of funds remained a major challenge in the first half of 2017, which affected field-level implementation of nutrition activities in KP and Sindh. Even though the security situation in FATA has improved, it is still a major challenge and not conducive to programme implementation due to a high level of sustained risks and threats as well as difficult terrain, a poor communication network and some socio-cultural norms and customs that restricted mobility for women and girls. Despite all these factors, efforts are underway to overcome the challenges and access the unreached population in need. Implementation through the Government has proved to be successful and has paved the way for public sector investment in nutrition.

UNICEF Pakistan’s technical and in-kind support for nutrition supplies – including procurement services and refining forecasting methodologies for the Government’s health departments in Sindh, Balochistan and KP – led to better supply management and resulted in nutrition interventions obtaining supplies in a timely fashion with no supply gaps or stock outs. This
resulted in enhanced service delivery in two provinces (Sindh and Balochistan) with a total of 259 nutrition sites. However, there were delays in Sindh due to administrative issues. Going forward, UNICEF Pakistan will support Sindh province in annual supply planning and procurement.

UNICEF Pakistan, in collaboration with WFP and WHO, supported the Community Nutrition Programme in five districts in PAK. To improve the quality of service delivery, UNICEF Pakistan’s support included technical assistance for monitoring and supervision of the programme. Additionally, UNICEF Pakistan, with USAID’s Food for Peace contribution, provided nutrition supplies (ready-to-use therapeutic foods) to support treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition in 91 outpatient therapeutic programme sites in nine districts, reaching a total of 6,156 children.

To improve the quality of nutrition service provision, UNICEF supported the Government in training over 7,920 community outreach workers on community-based management of acute malnutrition and IYCF in Sindh, KP and Punjab. Thirty-nine master trainers (32 men, 7 women) were trained on the stunting prevention module in Sindh. Some 172,445 mothers with children between 0–23 months of age and caregivers were counselled on early initiation, exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices.

UNICEF Pakistan in collaboration with NSP and National Program for FP, organized a training of trainers on the nutrition in emergencies module for senior and mid-level managers (61 participants; 69 men, 12 women) from DoH. Furthermore, trainings of trainers on nutrition in emergencies are planned for Balochistan in November 2017. By assisting the Government in providing these trainings, UNICEF Pakistan will help control and prevent malnutrition.

A UNICEF Pakistan consultant developed a standard package on awareness of and sensitization about breastfeeding in the first quarter of 2017. Based on this package, UNICEF Pakistan conducted awareness sessions on breastfeeding, especially focusing on breast milk substitute code, for 1,030 paediatricians and gynaecologists at the federal level and in Sindh to protect, promote and support breastfeeding practices in health facilities.

**OUTPUT 8** Caregivers and children are practicing an essential set of behaviours ensuring a continuum of health and nutrition care, especially for children and mothers

**Analytical statement of progress**
Stunting reduction action plans have been developed for Sindh and Punjab, with all United Nations partners and key NGOs involved and providing technical input. UNICEF Pakistan supported the development of a communication strategy for Punjab and Sindh, with the strategy implemented in Punjab. In Sindh, implementation of the stunting reduction communication strategy is in progress. The communication strategy resulted in a media package with context-specific standardized messages. Once implemented, these plans will result in increased awareness, improved key behaviours and high-impact nutrition actions rolling out at scale, which will improve the nutrition and health status of vulnerable girls, boys and their mothers.

Furthermore, as a result of the communication strategy, to improve awareness among physicians, standardized workshops, presentations and information, education and communication materials to help change behaviours and ensure that medical professionals understand the law on the promotion of breast milk substitutes were developed and rolled out in October and November 2017. Another package on the enforcement of the breast milk substitute
code was developed for legislators and politicians with roll-out planned in 2018. Provincial IYCF communication strategies with costed implementation plans are also in the development phase in KP and Balochistan. Dissemination of a national IYCF communication strategy with an action plan will be conducted in December 2017.

Gender-responsive information, education and communication material on IYCF is available to address social and cultural barriers at the community level, and factsheets on breastfeeding and the breast milk substitute code were developed for policy and decision makers. In addition, efforts are underway to close communication gaps through the national IYCF communication strategy endorsed by MONHSRC, which has been adapted or is in the process of adaptation by provinces.

Standardized messages on nutrition and breastfeeding were developed through consultations with the Government, WFP, FAO and WHO. Based on these standardized messages, four messages around breastfeeding were selected to create television commercials in August 2017. The four commercials were launched as part of a national media campaign in November 2017. Furthermore, media sensitization workshops were conducted in Punjab and Sindh for media personnel to improve their knowledge about and awareness of stunting. UNICEF Pakistan provided support to the Punjab Multi Sectoral Nutrition Center in the development of advocacy messages on nutrition.

Research to generate national-level evidence on how complementary feeding practices are linked with social and cultural practices and beliefs, including on gender inequality, is inadequate. To generate evidence for complementary feeding, a contribution agreement has been signed with DFID for a national complementary feeding assessment. It includes an in-depth analysis of the recent PDHS data in relation to complementary feeding that has been completed with key findings disseminated at the federal level. The formative research on child feeding and cost of diet study are in progress. This research will provide division-level information that will help in designing gender-responsive programming around complementary feeding, both through communicative and non-communicative drivers.

**OUTPUT 9** Public and civil society duty bearers with strengthened capacity are reducing disaster risks, as well as planning, preparing, and effectively responding to disasters, in accordance with UNICEF’s Core Commitments to Children in Humanitarian Action.

**Analytical statement of progress**
As cluster lead, UNICEF Pakistan continues to support and coordinate nutrition response through regular meetings with stakeholders co-chaired by DoHs/MONHSRC. Through a coordinated nutrition response in KP and FATA, 89,090 mothers with children under 6 months of age were counselled for early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, while 64,603 mothers with children between 6–23 months were counselled for appropriate feeding through the IYCF emergency nutrition interventions. Moreover, the emergency nutrition programme implemented in health facilities reached 55,634 pregnant women for antenatal care; iron, folic acid and multiple micronutrient supplementation; and counselling on the appropriate maternal diet.

UNICEF Pakistan, with the support of provincial nutrition cells and district health departments, is conducting trainings in disaster-prone districts on nutrition in emergencies, community-based management of acute malnutrition and IYCF for promotion of optimal nutrition practices. Fifty-one government healthcare providers, including lady health visitors, lady health workers and doctors completed the training from Sindh and KP/FATA. UNICEF Pakistan and partners
supported nutrition response at 257 functional nutrition sites housed in government health facilities in KP/FATA, where 392,197 girls and 379,355 boys under 5 years of age were screened for malnutrition through on-site and outreach activities and referred to appropriate therapeutic programmes. This approach not only addressed immediate needs but also strengthened the Government’s system and capacity for sustainable service delivery.

In Sindh and KP/FATA, UNICEF Pakistan, along with partners Concern Worldwide, PEACE, CERD and relevant government departments of health, with funding support from Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), were able to provide treatment to 22,366 children with severe acute malnutrition (9,462 boys and 12,904 girls) under the age of 5 in outpatient therapeutic programmes. The cure rate was more than 89 per cent (above Sphere standards). Micronutrient sachets were provided to 113,041 children under the age of 5 (63,637 boys and 49,404 girls). Additionally, deworming tablets and treatment were given to 50,253 children (26,264 girls and 23,989 boys) in Sindh and KP/FATA.

With the improvement of law and order, displaced families continue to return to their homes. This has necessitated the establishment of essential nutrition services in KP/FATA. However, the capacity of the Government and partners remained weak for timely at-scale response to newly emerging emergencies. UNICEF Pakistan provided technical and financial assistance to the Government and DoH to organize nutrition in emergency trainings. Government resources for emergency nutrition response are negligible. The funding gap is currently impacting life-saving nutrition interventions in affected areas. UNICEF Pakistan is making efforts to ensure the continuity of emergency interventions (treatment of severe acute malnutrition) by building on the funding available with the partners from the United Nations, WFP and PHPF. Breaks in the supply pipeline, especially for the supplementary feeding programme and the absence of dedicated staff for stabilization centres has compromised the quality of care provided.

Under the NNWG, the IYCF-in-emergencies guidelines developed in 2016 are in the design phase, with dissemination planned for December 2017. Furthermore, an IYCF technical working group was formulated to develop a short IYCF-in-emergencies handbook for fieldworkers and an IYCF caseload calculator for nutrition managers – finalization of the handbook and calculator is planned for January 2018.

**OUTCOME 2** By 2017, most vulnerable and marginalized children and women are using safe drinking water, improved sanitation coverage and hygiene practices.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF continued to mobilize MOCC to provide technical guidance to provincial governments to implement and monitor targets for SDG 6.1 and 6.2 aimed at improving WASH services by conducting joint sector reviews using the WASH bottleneck analysis tool and SDG costing tools.

Despite this, advocacy using facts and figures from budget analyses by UNICEF Pakistan in collaboration with WASH sector partners resulted in a WASH sector budget increase of 28 per cent for the fiscal year 2017–18. This represents a positive step forward for girls and women, as accessing safe drinking water and safe sanitation are inherently gendered goals. To better align its priorities with government development plans, UNICEF Pakistan held consultations with federal and provincial governments as well as WASH sector stakeholdersto inform the upcoming five-year Country Programme Document (CPD 2018–2022.)
UNICEF Pakistan’s technical and financial support to federal and provincial governments resulted in the approval of seven WinS strategies (federal, GB Punjab, Sindh, KP, FATA, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir).

In line with UNICEF Pakistan’s new strategic approach to shift from direct service delivery to leveraging government resources to improve WASH services, UNICEF Pakistan provided technical support to the KP government to host a pre-budget consultation that resulted in the Government allocating funds for a programme to eliminate open defecation in three districts.

Despite MHM being incorporated into the approved WinS strategies, governments’ reluctance to adopt it as part of their mandate both at federal and provincial levels and promote menstrual hygiene at scale has slowed down the process. Thus far, only KP and Balochistan governments are actively engaged in MHM technical working groups convened by UNICEF Pakistan. To address this, UNICEF Pakistan engaged the Real Medicine Foundation in collaboration with Columbia University and the University of Alberta to conduct research to better understand adolescent girls’ perceptions and attitudes towards menstrual hygiene practices in Sindh during the reporting year. Findings from the research are informing evidence-based advocacy for UNICEF Pakistan’s implementation of girl-friendly WASH initiatives.

During 2017, over 1.4 million people gained access to safe sanitation facilities through UNICEF Pakistan’s direct funding and technical support. UNICEF Pakistan, through 18 CSO partners, supported the Government in implementing SBCC in WASH interventions, resulting in 4,072 villages being declared open defecation free and benefitting 2 million people living in open defecation free communities in the four provinces.

UNICEF Pakistan ensured that 661,657 people (184,801 men, 192,344 women, 139,411 boys and 145,101 girls) gained access to safe water during the reporting period. Despite these gains, access to safe water for all remains a challenge, especially in rural areas where water supply schemes are dysfunctional as communities lack the means to maintain them.

UNICEF Pakistan continued to support WASH interventions for conflict-affected people from FATA as well as people in areas still suffering from the effects of the 2015 floods and earthquake. During the reporting period, almost 150,000 conflict-affected internally displaced persons (38,590 men, 40,164 women, 35,617 girls and 34,223 boys) were provided with access to safe drinking water in areas of return and host communities. In addition, 96,574 people (25,080 men, 26,103 women, 23,149 girls and 22,242 boys) were provided with improved sanitation, while 185,461 people (48,164 men, 50,103 women, 44,455 girls and 42,739 boys) received key hygiene messages through community mobilization efforts, including participatory dialogue sessions focusing on handwashing with soap, safe methods for handling water and eliminating open defecation by promoting latrine use.

During the reporting year, UNICEF Pakistan made positive strides to engage with the private sector through ‘SaafSehatmand Pakistan’, a nationwide SBCC campaign by UNICEF Pakistan and its partners (WaterAid, Plan International and MOCC). A campaign governance committee was proposed to map a way forward and was established with oversight from UNICEF Pakistan and WaterAid.

UNICEF Pakistan’s cross-sectoral programming resulted in increased convergence for higher impact in 2017. Through the multi-sectoral WASH-nutrition programme in three districts in Sindh, UNICEF Pakistan continued to contribute to the Sindh Government’s efforts to reduce stunting through targeted nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions focusing on the
1,000 days critical window. As a result, an integrated WASH and nutrition action plan has improved coordination among partners, and enabled UNICEF Pakistan and government line departments to more effectively monitor progress.

An integrated stunting reduction SBCC approach was also developed in 2017 and has improved engagement between participant groups and community outreach workers, including government lady health workers, through coherence in messaging about desired behaviours and increased interpersonal counselling. The programme experienced some coordination challenges among different implementing partners as each partner has its own sectoral-specific implementation experience. Challenges were also faced in bringing coherence, integration and convergence to both WASH and nutrition activities. To mitigate this, UNICEF Pakistan’s WASH and nutrition teams identified common touchstones and developed an integrated action plan and training packages to foster coherence. Joint monitoring as well as constant capacity-building and advocacy with decision makers on the integrated approach assisted in increasing convergence.

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan’s WASH team collaborated with the gender and innovations teams to launch the gender innovation challenge focusing on MHM. The fund seeks to increase the number of female U-Reporters through targeted MHM activities, including launching the first online MHM helpline in Pakistan in December 2017. WASH also collaborated with the education team to ensure adolescent girls in alternative learning programmes also received information and awareness on MHM in Sindh province.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2017, duty bearers for water, sanitation and hygiene fully adopt pro-poor policies, strategies and planning instruments that enable equitable, sustainable and coordinated delivery of safe drinking water, improved sanitation services and hygiene practices.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan continued to focus on upstream advocacy for pro-poor WASH policies, which resulted in an increase in public sector budgetary allocations by 28 per cent in the fiscal year 2017–18 at a national level for water. Provincial level budgets for water also increased significantly: Punjab by 8.7 per cent, Balochistan by 7.5 per cent, KP by 6 per cent and FATA by 8.5 per cent. The WASH sector remains inadequately resourced owing to the Government’s prioritization of other sectors such as education and health. Following UNICEF Pakistan’s continued advocacy with MOCC, the national drinking water and sanitation policies were revised to include human rights, gender equality and equity, and SDG perspectives, and were widely disseminated to WASH sector stakeholders in 2017. Despite successful revision of policies and strategies there is still a lack of motivation among stakeholders about implementation arrangements for national water and sanitation policies.

A letter of agreement was signed between UNICEF Pakistan and the National Parliamentary Secretariat on SDGs to conduct a legislative gap analysis for recognition of water and sanitation as a fundamental human right. High-level advocacy meetings were conducted with members of the parliamentary standing committee and the chairman of the National Human Rights Commission for approving a legislative bill to pursue concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

UNICEF Pakistan supported the revision of the Punjab Government’s standard operating procedures for water supply schemes. The Government conducted a WASH budget analysis to assess allocations and spending trends at provincial and district levels for the past three years.
Findings were disseminated to stakeholders at provincial and district levels with a view to informing the development of the WASH Annual Development Programme 2017–18.

Sindh drinking water and sanitation policies were revised to incorporate equity, gender and SDG perspectives. Sindh WASH SBCC and WinS strategies were also approved. To better address the needs of girls who suffer from a lack of adequate WASH facilities in schools, especially to manage their menstruation, a study was commissioned in Sindh province to better understand adolescent girls’ perceptions and problems. Findings have been incorporated in the development of an SBCC strategy for MHM which seeks to create and sustain societal norms around positive practices on MHM.

The Balochistan drinking water policy and strategy was approved, and its WASH sector plan was endorsed by the Secretary of Planning and Development and submitted to the Cabinet for further approval.

The KP sanitation policy was revised to align with the SDGs and to incorporate institutional changes in the Government, such as the establishment of Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar. UNICEF Pakistan supported the KP Government in its pre-budget consultations, which resulted in the inclusion of an open defecation free programme in three districts to be identified by the Government. UNICEF conducted a KAP survey and a behavioural determinants analysis to better understand the drivers of stunting practices in Sindh province. Findings from the research informed the development and implementation of an integrated WASH and nutrition social and behavioural change intervention.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2017, institutional duty bearers have strengthened capacity to deliver sustainable safe drinking water, improved sanitation services and hygiene practices with a focus on the most disadvantaged children.

**Analytical statement of progress**
To strengthen the capacity of MOCC and sector partners, UNICEF Pakistan, with the World Bank, supported MOCC in organizing the 3rd Pakistan Conference on Sanitation (PACOSAN-III) in February 2017. This convened national and provincial WASH stakeholders to identify eight thematic areas for solving WASH issues through deliberations in the next SACOSAN, which will be hosted by Pakistan in April 2018.

Punjab:
Through UNICEF Pakistan’s support, WASH sessions were integrated into the Management and Professional Development Department training plan and 40 mid-level government officials were orientated on safely managed water supply and sanitation. With UNICEF Pakistan’s technical support, PATS modules were developed and adopted by the Punjab Local Government Academy and a concept note was developed for the integration of PATS in the Water and Sanitation Agency Academy training plan. The human resource development plan is in the process of aligning government capacities with the WASH sector development plan.

A vehicle-mounted mobile water quality laboratory and 36 motorbike-mounted mobile water quality laboratories were established and were functioning and being monitored. In addition, the first Water ATM was installed in the district of Okara and is being used by the community. PHED staff (46 men and 4 women) from the government community development unit attended a training on gender and knowledge management facilitated by UNICEF Pakistan. The training will help community development unit staff understand basic concepts for documenting good
practices and gender mainstreaming in their work.

Sindh:
A module for building the capacities of community-based organizations on the implementation of PATS and the operation and maintenance of water supply schemes was developed. A capacity needs assessments of WASH governance structures and clarification of the roles of LGD and PHED was completed with technical and financial support from UNICEF Pakistan as part of the policy reform process. UNICEF Pakistan trained 120 government officials at provincial and district levels on the PATS Plus approach and operation and maintenance. CRPs registered under RapidPro to establish regular and transparent feedback mechanisms under the PATS Plus component of the United Nations Maternal and Child Stunting Reduction Programme.

Under PATS Plus, a community investment grant was introduced to assist the poorest and most marginalized families to construct toilets at their household level. This grant has been utilized in 2,288 villages in target districts (including Ghotki, Khairpur and Naushero Feroz) under the United Nations Maternal and Child Stunting Reduction Programme.

Balochistan:
In Balochistan, 59 WASH management committees were formed, and members were trained on the operation and maintenance of the water supply schemes, as well as on household water treatment methods. Pump operators were also trained to enable WASH management committees to ensure long-term sustainability.

KP/FATA:
UNICEF Pakistan supported PHED in converting public water supply systems into solar-powered pumping, increasing service delivery by more than 70 per cent and cost efficiency by more than 50 per cent. Fifty PHED staff were trained on operations and maintenance of solar-powered public water supply systems. In partnership with the University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar and the urban water utility, UNICEF Pakistan implemented a water quality surveillance system for Peshawar, including in UCs at high risk of polio.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017, families living in the most disadvantaged communities understand and practice safe behaviour regarding safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene practices.

**Analytical statement of progress**
Consistent with shifts made last year to adapt PATS Plus by re-focusing efforts on achieving the SDGs through addressing sustainability, water safety and security, WASH in community institutions and DRR, in 2017 UNICEF Pakistan focused its implementation on these modalities with the following results.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Pakistan supported the Government and 18 CSO partners in implementing WASH SBCC interventions. This campaign helped sensitize people about the importance of safe sanitation and hygiene and helped over 2 million people (including 583,820 women and 440,426 girls), living in 4,072 open defecation free villages, gain access to improved sanitation. Through PATS and PATS Plus participatory, community-led approaches, participant groups (men, women, school-age children, community and religious leaders) contributed to community mobilization efforts that resulted in 2.5 million people (including 728,494 women and 549,565 girls) receiving vital WASH-related information.
With a renewed focus on improving institutional WASH, 1,356 schools enrolled in UNICEF Pakistan’s three-star approach, gained access to quality water supply, sanitation and hygiene services. The approach is designed to improve the effectiveness of hygiene behaviour change programmes by ensuring that healthy habits are taught, practiced and integrated into daily school routines. In recognition of the role children play as agents of change, 1,356 school WASH clubs were formed or revamped, benefiting 162,822 students (83,039 girls) during the reporting period.

UNICEF Pakistan, through its partners School of Leadership, WaterAid and MOCC, launched a nationwide campaign to increase awareness of MHM that included: a nationwide MHM innovation challenge to promote youths’ innovative ideas and tools to improve MHM; launch of the ‘Be Bold Be Free’ campaign that engaged leading female sports athletes as role models and champions of change in MHM; leveraging technology such as UNICEF Pakistan’s U-Report, real-time SMS platforms and mobile apps to increase reach on MHM messaging among adolescent girls; using culturally sensitive communications products to reach diverse participant groups, including mothers and teachers, who are the primary source of information for girls; reaching out to fathers and boys to cultivate empathy and support for girls and to religious and community leaders to communicate appropriate messaging.

In 2017, a comprehensive WASH and nutrition SBCC initiative focusing on the 1,000 days window was implemented. Bottleneck analyses including formative research were conducted to understand key determinants and causes – including both drivers and risks – that govern the willingness of women, men, girls and boys to practice desired behaviours.

OUTPUT 4 By 2017, duty bearers at national, provincial and district levels for water and sanitation have strengthened capacity and act to assess, mitigate and sanitation effects of and respond to man-made and natural disasters.

Analytical statement of progress
A key milestone for UNICEF Pakistan in 2017 was the partnership with the University of Engineering and Technology in Peshawar to develop the WASH-in-emergencies course, which was the first course of its kind in the higher education sector in Pakistan. The course will contribute to strengthening of governmental and other partners’ capacities to implement WASH interventions during emergencies.

UNICEF Pakistan continued to support WASH interventions for conflict-affected people from FATA as well as people still affected by the floods and earthquake of 2015. Among conflict-affected internally displaced persons living in host communities and returnees in areas of return, 51,064 people were reached with access to safe drinking water, 17,435 people with improved sanitation and 76,460 people with key hygiene messages through interpersonal communication sessions focusing on handwashing with soap, safe handling of water and the hazards of open defecation and latrine usage.

UNICEF Pakistan adopted PATS in flood- and earthquake-affected areas with a target group of around 60,000 people. At the household level, 260 toilets were constructed for the most vulnerable families, benefiting 1,820 people (560 women, 540 men and 720 children). In line with the cultural context of the Kalash community in Chitral, where women bathe and wash their clothes outside of their homes, 10 communal washrooms for women were constructed with hot water arrangements through solar geysers, benefiting 3,412 women and children. Among people affected by the 2015 earthquake and floods, 18,658 people (including approximately
7,460 children, 5,700 women and 5,498 men) in Chitral and Shangla received safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of 17 water supply schemes by implementing partners and government counterparts.

In order to mainstream DRR in WASH and enhance the capacity of communities for dealing with repeated emergencies, UNICEF Pakistan supported communities in developing community-based risk management plans. In 2017, 1,918 community risk maps were developed in Sindh.

As lead of the WASH humanitarian cluster, UNICEF Pakistan worked closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other United Nations agencies (OCHA, WHO, WFP, FAO and UNDP) to further define resilient programming and undertake recovery efforts. In addition, UNICEF Pakistan commissioned a study for the development of a strategy and action plan for the transition of humanitarian coordination into nationally-led WASH coordination. The final report of the study was submitted to UNICEF Pakistan and government counterparts. This report consists of a four-year action plan to mainstream a nationally-led coordination mechanism for emergencies.

WASH Cluster conducted an in-depth WASH assessment in five agencies of FATA (Orakzai, NWA, SWA, Khyber and Kurram) and three districts of KP (Bannu, Hangu and Kohat). About 3,072 households were interviewed about key indicators on water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, water- and vector-borne morbidity and hygiene. The analysis of the assessment was also launched on a live web-based tool in collaboration with IRC for easy access by partners. The report is in process of endorsement by the political administration of the targeted FATA agencies and the FATA Disaster Management Authority.

OUTCOME 3 By 2017, Pakistan’s most disadvantaged children, especially girls and minority groups, are participating in structured early learning and completing ten years of quality education.

Analytical statement of progress

While enrolment and retention rates are improving, progress has been slow and large inequities persist. Over the last six years, the adjusted net enrolment rate has increased by 4 per cent, from 68 to 72 per cent, and the number of out-of-school children at primary level has decreased by 1.7 million.

However, Pakistan still faces major challenges in ensuring free and compulsory quality education for all children. An estimated 22.6 million children, aged 5–16 (12 million of them girls), still remain out-of-school, representing 44 per cent of the total population in this age group. Pakistan still has the world’s second-highest number of out-of-school children at primary level, with 5 million children ages 5–9 (60.5 per cent of whom are girls) not attending school. After primary-school age, the numbers double, with 11.2 million adolescents (52 per cent girls) between the ages of 10–14 not receiving formal education. Disparities by gender, socio-economic status and geography are significant; in rural Sindh, 65 per cent of the poorest children have never attended school, and in Balochistan, 75 per cent of girls are out of school.

Educational quality remains a key challenge in Pakistan underpinned by a range of institutional and non-institutional factors. Ineffective teaching and poor school facilities are among the commonly recognized factors hindering student retention and learning. Insufficient and inadequate knowledge of content, pedagogical skills and teaching methodologies further hamper the quality of teaching and learning.
Education budgets increased by 16 per cent, though education allocations are at 2.8 per cent of total gross domestic product, well short of the 4 per cent target. At the systems level, inadequate financing, limited enforcement of policy commitments and challenges in equitable implementation impede reaching the most disadvantaged.

Supporting national and provincial ministries to reduce the number of out-of-school children and addressing bottlenecks that affect their participation in learning opportunities remained a key priority. UNICEF Pakistan’s direct support reached over 26,000 children and adolescents (46 per cent girls) in ALPs in urban slums and poor rural areas, accompanied by progress in the development or approval of provincial non-formal education policies. In Sindh, about half of the ALP students were mainstreamed into formal schools.

UNICEF Pakistan also supported departments of education in enrolment campaigns in all provinces and FATA, enrolling more than 772,000 children (41 per cent girls) in the early grades. An estimated 10–15 per cent would not have enrolled without the interventions. In FATA, this was the first enrolment campaign; it successfully mobilized government, political and community leaders and communities to increase enrolment in a recovery context.

Scaling-up of early childhood education (ECE) progressed, especially in Punjab; the Government completed scale-up to 5,000 ECE classes in 2017, of which 1,000 were partially supported by UNICEF Pakistan, adding to the 300 classes supported by UNICEF Phase 1 which established the ECE model. In FATA, education recovery interventions benefited 772 schools with an enrolment of over 53,000 children (40 per cent girls) in returnee areas, mostly through a joint European Union-funded UNDP-UNICEF programme, Support to Returnees and their Communities, that aims to enhance stability.

Significant progress was also made in system reform. In Balochistan in particular, improvements in EMIS and real-time school monitoring demonstrated the catalytic role UNICEF Pakistan can play in improving accountability and evidence-based decision making. Three hundred non-functional schools were re-opened and administrative action was taken against absent teachers.

Resources need to be aligned with clear targets for improved access and learning. UNICEF Pakistan continued supporting the Government in strengthening data, examinations, and assessment systems to improve the quality of large-scale assessments at primary and lower secondary level and to influence decision-making on equity issues. The analysis of assessment results will be used for policy dialogue, monitoring of standards, and to inform teacher training that will, in turn, raise student achievement and ensure more targeted support to schools with poor results. Analytical work on equity in education financing also commenced, accompanied by advocacy with political stakeholders in KP during the budget process.

Finally, federal and provincial governments leveraged partnerships with development partners through policy dialogue and sector-wide coordination, with UNICEF Pakistan coordinating LEGs in Balochistan and Sindh as coordinating agency for the GPE with the Government. In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan played a central role in the formation of a new Punjab education development group. Working closely with education departments, LEG members, and the World Bank and DFID as grant agents, submissions for ESPDG grants for Sindh and Punjab were prepared and approved by the GPE Secretariat, preparing the ground for sector analysis and sector planning in 2018. This presented an opportunity for UNICEF Pakistan to engage in policy advocacy for greater equity in plans and budgets, with particular attention to out-of-school children and early learning.
OUTPUT 1 Research, policies, plans and alternative pathways create an enabling environment for early learning and ten years of education for the most disadvantaged children

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Pakistan continued to reinforce upstream work for greater coherence and alignment of resources as coordinating agency for GPE in Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab. UNICEF Pakistan facilitated evidence-based policy dialogues and interactions among local education groups, district education groups and steering committees, and also coordinated with the GPE Secretariat. Working closely with education departments, LEG members, and the World Bank and DFID as grant agents, submissions for ESPDG grants for Sindh and Punjab were prepared and approved by the GPE Secretariat, preparing the ground for sector analysis and sector planning in 2018.

Generating evidence and using it for improved planning and management remained a priority. Dissemination workshops on the out-of-school children studies for GB and PAK were conducted with government staff, which, in GB, led to government action plans at the district level. A desk review study on out-of-school children is near completion, updating UNICEF Pakistan’s out-of-school children study (2013) based on new data. A series of papers on equity in education financing were drafted and are to be combined with advocacy at political levels. The KP education department, supported by several partners including UNICEF Pakistan, conducted a household level out-of-school survey to inform planning for an equity strategy.

UNICEF Pakistan continued to influence and support the formulation of education policies, standards and strategies. In Balochistan, a non-formal education policy was finalized and launched after approval by the Chief Minister. The Balochistan Education Policy was completed for endorsement by Parliament, and the establishment of the Balochistan Examination and Assessment Commission was approved. In KP, a technical working group, which the Government and UNICEF Pakistan co-chair, was established to develop a policy and plans on ALPs and non-formal education. In Punjab, policy advocacy resulted in government commitment to mainstreaming ECE and developing ECE policy.

UNICEF Pakistan’s technical support for a performance management system in Balochistan focused on improving and using EMIS and real-time school monitoring data as well as on completing new complaint management and human resource management information systems to streamline education, governance and management. The 2016–2017 EMIS census is near completion; use of its data has led to the reopening of 300 non-functional schools, administrative action against absent teachers and greater transparency and accountability overall. In Punjab, policy advocacy resulted in government commitment to mainstreaming ECE and developing an ECE policy. In FATA, UNICEF Pakistan’s technical support upgraded EMIS to an online web portal with individual student enrolment monitoring.

At the federal level, UNICEF Pakistan provided statistical software packages to the National Education Assessment System for the analysis of the 2016–17 National Assessment Test, and an assessment expert was hired to conduct multivariate analysis. ROSA provided technical support, including a workshop for national and provincial assessment staff on data analysis and visualization. Preliminary results of the National Assessment Test were presented to the federal Ministry.
OUTPUT 2 Public duty bearers for education at provincial and district levels, with strengthened capacity, are delivering child-friendly schooling to the most disadvantaged children.

Analytical statement of progress
As part of the government expansion of alternative learning programmes (ALPs) in Sindh and Balochistan, over 26,000 children and adolescents (46 per cent girls) participated in 559 ALP centres with direct UNICEF Pakistan support in community-provided spaces, madrassas, private and government schools. The programmes reached disadvantaged children in urban slums (Karachi), cotton-growing areas of Sindh (IKEA), and disadvantaged rural districts in Balochistan. In Sindh, over 7,500 ALP students (51 per cent girls), or approximately half of all ALP students, were mainstreamed into formal schools. Capacity-building programmes improved the skills of 325 non-formal education or ALP teachers (186 female) and 265 para-teachers (129 female) on child-friendly school approaches, play-based learning and interactive teaching methodologies. In both provinces, ALP data has been integrated into the non-formal management information system developed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Mainstreaming the best practices of the social cohesion resilience programme focused on the integration of sports for development in government schools in KP; 50 master trainers were trained on an approved module to train 500 physical education teachers, with government scale-up to all KP schools planned. The successful social cohesion resilience madrasa-public school initiative in KP continued with 180 teachers (74 female) from government schools and madrassas trained and implementing social-cohesion-related activities, bringing students from both school types together. In FATA, 2,656 Taleemi Islahi Jirga (school management committee) members (40 per cent female), 524 teachers (209 female) and 25 trainers (10 female) were trained on psychosocial support and structured sports activities.

Through government service delivery, UNICEF Pakistan’s direct support benefited an estimated 38,000 children attending ECE classes in Balochistan and Punjab. Mainstreaming and scaling-up of ECE progressed, especially in Punjab. Phase I of the whole-district ECE initiative was completed in one district for 300 schools. The Department of Education completed the scale-up of the ECE model to an additional 5,000 schools in 2017, of which 1,000 received direct support from UNICEF Pakistan. Children enrolled in the 300 ECE centres in Phase I also benefited from UNICEF Pakistan’s earlier direct support to the learning environment, supplies and training. The enrolment of children in Punjab in ECE and Grade 1 shows a promising increase of 10 per cent compared with the past few years. In Balochistan, 70 ECE classrooms were established in government schools through teacher training support by the ECE Excellence Center. In KP, 80 primary schools (including 39 girls’ schools) received ECE kits to introduce play-based learning.

The capacity of teacher training institutes to improve educational quality was developed. In Balochistan, a new continuous professional development programme plan was developed with the Provincial Institute of Teachers’ Education as part of wider system reform. A teacher competency study to inform the continuous professional development programme is in progress. In Punjab, through the department of staff development, ECE trainings benefited 398 headteachers; and trainings on effective content delivery and student assessment for Grades 2–5 in English, mathematics and science were undertaken for 19,670 teachers (60 per cent female) from low-performing schools. In Sindh, capacity-building programmes improved the skills of 767 government teachers (195 female) in interactive teaching methodologies.
**OUTPUT 3** Parents and other duty bearers understand the importance of early learning opportunities and continued education, and support their children, especially girls, to enrol, attend and succeed in their education.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, four of the six C4D benchmarks were prioritized under Output 3: development of strategic frameworks, evidence generation, capacity building and system strengthening. An analysis and summary of a draft KAP was completed, with actionable insights for the national C4D strategic framework for the upcoming UNICEF Pakistan Country Programme. Synthesis and documentation of good practices, results, and lesson learned from the Every Child in School Initiative, which ended mid-2016, is in process.

In terms of capacity building and system strengthening, UNICEF Pakistan supported provincial education departments in Punjab, Sindh, KP and FATA to develop communication strategies. In Sindh, UNICEF Pakistan, as coordinating agency for the GPE, supported the education department in developing a strategy for effective communication through electronic media with stakeholders and communities – including a complaint management system. In Punjab, an orientation workshop on behaviour and social change communication with district education managers prepared the ground for future development of a strategy to enhance behaviour and social change communication. In addition, capacities to implement the Punjab enrolment and retention plan were strengthened through divisional-level workshops with education district staff, principals and teachers, along with software to collect data on out-of-school children provided to the Education Department.

UNICEF Pakistan supported departments of education in enrolment campaigns in all four provinces and FATA, with a focus on girls’ enrolment. In 2017, an estimated 740,000 children (40 per cent girls) enrolled in government schools in the early grades in 50 focus districts and FATA. An estimated 10–15 per cent of them may not have enrolled without the interventions. In FATA, this was the first enrolment campaign, successfully mobilizing government, community leaders and members, in a context of return and recovery. Provisional numbers show that 126,000 children (35 per cent girls) newly enrolled through the campaign, against a target of 200,000.

Although enrolment drives and social mobilization efforts are successful in enrolling more children, retention remains a challenge. As part of government programmes to provide learning opportunities to over-age and disadvantaged children, nearly 26,000 children and adolescents (46 per cent girls) were enrolled in 559 ALP classes in urban slums (Karachi) and disadvantaged rural areas (Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab) with direct UNICEF Pakistan support. Approximately 51,000 children and youth (48 per cent girls) in government schools and ALP centres participated in co-curricular activities that improved educational quality and social cohesion competencies.

Community-led activities increased the engagement of local education councils and parent-teacher school management committees for effective school functioning and student enrolment. Members of 2,016 committees were trained on roles and responsibilities. As part of the European Union-supported basic education programme in Balochistan, 567 PTSMCs in low-performing schools were trained and engaged in developing and implementing school development plans, which include improving the school environment and restoring missing facilities, including WASH facilities.
**OUTPUT 4** By 2017, children's right to education is achieved through improved disaster risk management, emergency preparedness and response mechanisms in education.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Pakistan's educational support to returnee children in FATA under the Pakistan Humanitarian Strategic Plan 2017 reached over 53,000 children (40 per cent girls), most through a joint European Union-funded project with UNDP for returnees in Kurram, Khyber, North Waziristan and Orakzai agencies. This result was achieved through community mobilization, establishment and orientation for Taleemi Islahi Jirgas (school management committees), provision of education supplies and teacher training. In addition, 19 temporary school structures (pre-fabricated), including latrines and accessibility features for children with disabilities, are under construction; three have been completed (of 53 planned). Fifty-two girls' middle schools for 356 girl students were established through the provision of resources for 65 female teachers; this has enhanced girls’ access to secondary education and will help create a pool of educated women to address the shortage of local female teachers. Field monitoring by the FATA education directorate improved with UNICEF Pakistan’s support.

UNICEF Pakistan, together with the FATA and KP education departments, provided coordination support to the education cluster. The cluster secured US$2.96 million against a US$4.69 million budget (37 per cent funding gap). During 2017, cluster partners focused on sustainable recovery and resumption of education services in FATA. Girls’ enrolment in FATA increased from 32 to 40 per cent as a result of expansion of education support to different FATA agencies and frontier regions. However, obtaining project approvals (No-Objection Certificates) remained a challenge for NGO cluster partners, hampering implementation. The education cluster, recognized by OCHA as the most pro-active cluster, took measures to phase out by the end of 2017. However, a decision by the government and the HCT for cluster deactivation has not yet been taken. The education cluster will continue under the leadership of the FATA education directorate with UNICEF Pakistan support in 2018 and has developed a three-year strategy.

Under the USAID-funded Safer and Resilient Schools Programme, UNICEF Pakistan supported 231 schools in 12 districts (KP, Sindh and Balochistan) to develop and implement community-based DRR mechanisms, including school safety plans, directly benefiting over 46,000 children (45 per cent girls); as a model for scale-up aligned with the newly launched National School Safety Framework by the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). The already established DRR forum met and shared experiences and resources on preparedness, mitigation, school safety and DRR across the country. In KP, the Elementary and Secondary Education Department developed emergency standard operating procedures to guide education officials and communities during emergencies. The Government incorporated key features of UNICEF Pakistan’s child-centred DRR into these emergency standard operating procedures from lessons learned in the Safer and Resilient Schools Programme.

Provincial-level, multi-hazard emergency preparedness and response plans and long-term agreements with vendors for emergency education supplies were in place, as well as contingency stock for a caseload of 50,000 people, including supplies for 15,000 school-age children to ensure continuity of education during an emergency.

**OUTCOME 4** By 2017, children's rights to protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect are being addressed through system reform and strengthening of child protection systems at national and provincial levels.
Analytical statement of progress

UNICEF support and collaboration resulted in progress being achieved in four key areas:

- Child protection systems have been strengthened at federal, provincial and area levels in support of equitable access to basic protection services for vulnerable children, as aligned with applicable international minimum standards and responsive to specific gender-related protection concerns.
- Bottlenecks hindering universal access to the birth registration service for children have been addressed effectively through technical support for enhanced institutional capacity, including through the use of innovative technology.
- Public awareness relating to child protection concerns has increased and children, their families and communities have improved their capacities to adopt positive behaviours for improved protection outcomes for vulnerable children.
- The divide between humanitarian action and development programming has also been bridged to ensure adequate embedding of disaster preparedness and mitigation measures within child protection in emergency service delivery structures.

In 2017, work focused on supporting technical implementation of the recently enacted legislative framework for the establishment of an effective child protection case management and referral system in Balochistan. Further, with UNICEF Pakistan’s advocacy and technical assistance, a Child Protection Bill was enacted this year in the Islamabad Capital Territory and in GB, in order to ensure that children requiring protective services in response to instances of violence, neglect and exploitation are managed in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. However, political will to affect such changes is limited in some provinces.

Institutional and human resource capacity for public child protection service delivery is weak and UNICEF Pakistan continued to provide technical assistance for strengthened delivery of the child protection mandate in the country, including for children exposed to natural and human-induced risks and emergencies. In response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in KP and FATA, UNICEF Pakistan partnered with the FATA Government’s Social Welfare Department to deliver an innovative pilot child protection outreach model supporting affected children’s access to protective and relief services. Further, to support strengthening of the general protective environment for children in KP, particularly from the perspective of the mental health and psychosocial support needs of children, their families and communities, UNICEF Pakistan continued technical supervision of the development of a comprehensive strategic framework and action plan for enhanced mental health and psychosocial support service provision in the province.

A significant area of engagement was on increasing the number of children, both boys and girls (and especially newborns), whose births are registered. Ensuring the universal realization of the right of the child to birth registration mitigates against child labour, child marriage and the treatment of children as adults by the justice system. Birth registration also enhances the tracking of separated, unaccompanied and missing children in times of disaster.

UNICEF Pakistan technically supported the Government of Pakistan at federal and provincial levels in its stated goal of achieving universal birth registration by 2024. To this end, technical assistance was provided to the federal Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms to support the development of a national civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) strategy. A digital mobile birth registration project, piloted in 2015 under a public-private partnership model, was scaled-up in Punjab and Sindh, the country’s two most populous provinces. Additionally, a
In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan continued to provide support for the reform of substantive laws relating to the protection of children in Pakistan, including within the federal sphere. Technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights in an ongoing exercise to reform the Juvenile Justice System Ordinance, 2000. In collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF Pakistan continued to provide technical assistance to the governments of GB, KP, Punjab and Sindh to conduct child labour surveys, which will yield comprehensive data for the first time in 20 years. It is anticipated that a child labour survey will also be initiated in Balochistan in 2018.

UNICEF Pakistan also provided technical assistance to the governments of Punjab and Sindh for strengthening the respective rights of adolescents to freedom of expression and participation as part of initiatives aimed at reducing child marriage. Interventions promoted positive outcomes for adolescents’ psychosocial well-being and lifeskills, supported increased dialogue and enhanced capacity among selected stakeholders on adolescent-friendly service provision. These interventions are likely to empower adolescents and strengthen the protective environment within their communities in order to contribute to a decrease in child marriage rates by 2020. The project benefits from a rigorous impact evaluation, comprising a randomized control trial approach, with the baseline report now finalized. Additionally, technical support was provided under the CRVS mandate to strengthen marriage registration to mitigate against child marriage.

Despite overall advances in 2017, progress across all result areas remains constrained. Reasons include the low priority given to the child protection mandate by the Government, the high degree of staff transfers among government departments, a partial legislative framework and limited human technical and financial resources.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2017, strengthened enabling policy legislative and budgetary environment at national and provincial level for the protection of children and women in accordance with international norms and standards related to child protection.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan continued to focus on strengthening the policy, legislative and budgetary environments, primarily through the provision of technical support for evidence generation to inform future government programming and policies and to develop or enact primary and subsidiary legislation. With the enactment of child protection bills in Balochistan in 2016 and the Islamabad Capital Territory in 2017, efforts are now focused on the provision of tailored technical assistance for effective implementation of the said laws initially in Balochistan, including the design of a comprehensive child protection case management and referral mechanism for the province.

In addition, further to UNICEF’s ongoing advocacy efforts, child protection system reform activities are also underway in KP, including the provision of technical assistance for appropriate legislative reform, as endorsed by the KP Minister of Social Welfare and the KP Child Protection and Welfare Commission. In FATA, technical assistance is being provided with a view to extending the CP ICT Act 2017, and in Punjab child protection policy dialogue is underway in partnership with high-level government officials.

UNICEF Pakistan is providing technical support to the federal Government to develop a national
CRVS strategy to support the achievement of universal birth registration in Pakistan by 2024. A comprehensive birth registration strategy has been developed by the Government of Sindh and is pending endorsement.

UNICEF Pakistan, in collaboration with government partners, continued work on the child labour surveys in Punjab and Sindh, with inception interventions delivered in GB and KP in 2017. Additional technical support is also being provided to the National Commission for Human Rights to develop a model law in support of the eradication of the economic exploitation of children in Pakistan. UNICEF Pakistan funded a national consultation with the participation of government partners and civil society in October 2017.

With UNICEF Pakistan’s technical support, the report of the findings of the FATA child protection mapping and assessment exercise was recently endorsed by the Government of FATA. UNICEF Pakistan also participated in a South Asia regional evaluation of possible lessons learned in provincial child protection mapping and assessment exercises in Pakistan during the life of the current CP.

Progress is evident in the enactment of child protection bills in Balochistan and Islamabad, ongoing achievements under all three child labour surveys and the scale-up of birth registration in FATA, Punjab and Sindh. However, barriers remain: an absence of consistent and reliable data collection; coordination and collaboration challenges between child protection agencies (both formal and informal mechanisms); low prioritization and commitment from the public sector; and inadequate funding. To address these challenges, UNICEF Pakistan’s main priority is to support provincial and area governments to strengthen effective child protection systems, so that cases are received, managed, monitored and referred in a coordinated and responsive manner.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2017, institutional capacity to implement child protection legislation, policies and standards to protect children and women from abuse, exploitation and violence is strengthened.

**Analytical statement of progress**
Government service delivery capacity for child protection remains weak, fragmented and inadequate, with no comprehensive and coordinated referral and case management systems established in accordance with Convention on the Rights of the Child recommendations. This is exacerbated by substantial gaps in federal and provincial legislative frameworks and lack of technical and financial resources. Hence, UNICEF Pakistan has focused on developing standards, guidelines and training curricula to support the development of more effective provision of protective services for children.

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan collaborated with government partners (including departments of social welfare, health, education and local government, as well as the judiciary) to support technically enhanced service delivery within the areas of alternative care in Punjab, mental health and psychosocial support and juvenile justice in KP and birth registration in FATA, Punjab and Sindh.

With UNICEF Pakistan’s technical access to justice support, the KP Judicial Academy delivered training sessions to criminal justice actors on juvenile justice and bail provisions, supporting the full implementation of special protections for children in conflict with the law. A tailored curriculum developed under this intervention was finalized. It is anticipated that same will be embedded as a formal component of the KP Judicial Academy’s training curriculum.
The capacities of the KP, Punjab and Sindh departments of labour and human resources and bureaus of statistics were enhanced to conduct child labour surveys using the SIMPOC methodology. At the federal level, UNICEF Pakistan continued to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms to strengthen institutional CRVS capacity for birth and marriage registration.

In Punjab and Sindh, a public-private partnership with Telenor Pakistan led to technical capacity strengthening for the scale-up of a digital birth registration pilot, in support of a renewed effort to achieve universal birth registration for children. The pilot achieved an 85 per cent increase in the newborn birth registration rate in 2015. With the groundwork laid in 2016, scale-up to an additional nine districts began in 2017 (four districts in Punjab and five districts in Sindh). Technical assistance was also provided to the local government department in FATA to strengthen its efforts to achieve universal birth registration in the territory.

UNICEF Pakistan also supported institutional capacity strengthening for the Government of GB for more effective delivery of its child protection mandate, particularly with regard to the upcoming child labour survey and the development of the Child Protection Response Bill (enacted in 2017). UNICEF Pakistan’s support for strengthening the right of adolescents to participation and freedom of expression continued in Punjab and Sindh, primarily through the delivery of technical support to the departments of youth affairs in both provinces.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2017, duty bearers and rights holders have the knowledge and capacity to participate in, promote and adopt changes in social and cultural practices that protect vulnerable children and women.

**Analytical statement of progress**
Many of Pakistan’s key child protection issues are deeply rooted in social and cultural practices, including significant gender biases. Hence, a protective environment for children is, to a large degree, also dependent on social and cultural acceptability of behaviours that condone or promote social actions that are detrimental to children’s well-being and protective environment. Thus, C4D and behaviour change strategies are required for sustainable change.

In partnership with the IKEA Foundation, UNICEF Pakistan continued to support the implementation of a comprehensive and gender-responsive C4D programmatic strategy to contribute to the strengthened realization of the right of the adolescent child to freedom of expression and participation in Punjab and Sindh. In this regard, work focused on contextualizing and implementing a toolkit to promote adolescent psychosocial well-being and lifeskills. This toolkit was initially developed by UNICEF Headquarters, but has been further revised to ensure its alignment with the Pakistani context.

In Punjab 1,418 adolescents (709 girls) and in Sindh 1,029 adolescents (513 girls) were trained on four life-skills modules (identity and self-esteem; empathy and respect; communication and expression; dealing with stress and managing emotions). Through peer-to-peer education, 25,378 adolescents were engaged to act as role models in their own communities and to contribute to local-level development in Punjab and Sindh; 13,301 adolescents (32 per cent girls) established 510 social action projects in this regard. Direct sensitization of 8,559 key community influencers on adolescent rights was also concluded, while 41,899 received knowledge on issues related to adolescents’ rights through peer-to-peer engagement.
addition, 8,303 individuals, including adolescents, were mobilized through inter-generational dialogues and awareness-raising sessions in four districts in Punjab and Sindh.

As part of the Child Rights in Cotton Farming Areas project, 60,745 community members, including children in five target districts in Punjab and Sindh, have increased their knowledge and skills on key child rights issues – primarily through various C4D activities delivered at the community level, including modular sessions, peer-to-peer education and street theatre, as well as community-led educational activities in multifunctional community centres.

With only a third of children under 5 years of age having been registered at birth in Pakistan, communication initiatives to promote universal birth registration by 2024, primarily in FATA, Punjab and Sindh, are currently being delivered through the application of tailored communication strategies, tools and materials specifically developed in support of each intervention.

However, as communication programming for the enhanced realization of the right of the child to protection is a relatively new concept in Pakistan, especially when delivered through a human rights-based approach, capacity at all levels is low. In the second half of 2017 (to be taken forward also in the next CP), UNICEF Pakistan focused its efforts on technically equipping relevant government departments to implement social mobilization and behaviour change interventions independently and in a sustainable manner.

OUTPUT 4 By 2017, public child protection systems are better able to prepare for, prevent and respond to child protection risks and violations in emergencies, in accordance with UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action

Analytical statement of progress
In the context of a protracted humanitarian crisis in KP and FATA, the child protection in emergencies programmatic approach has shifted its implementation modality from predominant reliance on implementing partners (NGOs and CSOs) towards providing technical support to assist relevant government partners in implementing their respective mandates directly. This shift in focus on strengthening government systems’ service delivery capacity is in line with the recommendations of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit and its consequent Grand Bargain. The shift was also justified in light of the ongoing security concerns in the country, whereby access for UNICEF Pakistan staff and national implementing partners was significantly reduced in areas of KP and FATA, with a marked reduction in the issuance of ‘no objection certificates’ by the Government.

Taking into consideration major bottlenecks, including funding constraints due to donor fatigue, human resource constraints, as well as gender-biased, social and cultural norms which negatively impact girls’ mobility to access services, child protection-in-emergencies service delivery was modified through the design and implementation of an innovative mobile outreach child protection service which serves to replace the former Protective Learning and Community Emergency Services modality. It was agreed with relevant government partners that that model best serves communities in an immediate post-emergency situation, as opposed to the current protracted humanitarian situation in the north-west of the country.

A total of 19,616 children (9,497 girls and 10,119 boys), 4,827 women and 3,435 men benefited from the newly-designed mobile child protection interventions delivered in 2017, including support for the enhanced personal safety of children and awareness-raising for their families.
and communities on mine risks and the importance of birth registration. Recreational and relief services were also provided. The intervention primarily aims to equip children and their families with appropriate knowledge and skills to counter possible threats at various stages of their young lives. At the community-level, awareness-raising interventions were delivered on appropriate safety measures for children. Children and their families or care-givers were equipped with positive, practical and effective ways to stay safe in challenging personal safety situations.

UNICEF Pakistan also provided ongoing technical assistance directly to the governments of KP and FATA to strengthen policies and embed emergency responses within a child protective service delivery framework and to integrate child protection in emergencies into provincial strategic plans of social welfare departments and provincial disaster management authorities. These efforts are fundamental to moving forward the child protection-in-emergencies agenda.

The child protection sub-cluster in KP/FATA was being supported by a full-time coordinator, but a transition of cluster coordination leadership from the United Nations to relevant governmental authorities was initiated. In this regard, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the cluster lead, formally agreed with the FATA Disaster Management Authority to transform the protection cluster into working groups, as led by the Disaster Management Authority in FATA. The transition process was concluded in late 2017.

OUTCOME 5 High quality research and evaluation provides evidence to influence policies, budgets, programmes and programme adjustments, in favour of the most disadvantaged children and women in Pakistan.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Pakistan undertook sectoral child deprivation analysis to support and inform a new style of situation analysis, sharpening the focus on programming priorities anchored firmly in the child rights framework, ensuring alignment with UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2018–2021 as well as the new UNSDF or One Programme III for Pakistan. Proposed interventions linked to specific child deprivation themes fed into programme strategy notes on priority results for the CP. The programme strategy notes were finalized and presented during a joint ROSA and UNICEF Headquarters review with the Regional Director in March 2017 in Islamabad. Following the incorporation of feedback, the programme strategy notes along with the draft CPD were submitted as part of the CP package for approval of the Executive Board in May 2017. The CPD was approved by the Executive Board at the September 2017 session.

In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan continued to ensure compliance with United Nations Evaluation Group standards that resulted in an additional high-quality evaluation for the evaluation of humanitarian action for nutrition in Tharparkar district in Sindh. Preparation and submission of management responses achieved 100 per cent on-time submissions. The evaluation of humanitarian action in nutrition provided foundations to work on a cross-sectoral monitoring and evaluation framework for nutrition in Sindh.

Learning from the Punjab Evaluation Policy resulted in changing the focus of UNICEF Pakistan’s national evaluation capacity development approach; UNICEF Pakistan is thus using a three-pronged strategy that integrates capacity building, country-led joint evaluation and evaluation policy development in a seamless initiative in Balochistan. This is expected to have long lasting effects on evaluation system strengthening in the province. Work with the SDG
parliamentary task force served as a complementary approach, supporting parliamentarians’ oversight role for quality assurance in the legislature.

UNICEF Pakistan continued to play a significant role under the United Nations’ ‘Delivering as One’ initiative, holding technical and leadership roles in key forums, including as chair of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (One United Nations Programme II) and co-chair of the One UN Programme II Provincial Programme Team for Punjab. These roles offered opportunities to bring equity and children’s rights to the forefront of the development agenda, improve coordination and build government ownership. As chair of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group, UNICEF Pakistan led discussions on crafting the outcome statements for One UN Programme III which were agreed by the heads of agencies in late 2016 and in 2017, and in the development of the results framework, embedding SDG indicators, which was subsequently approved by the United Nations Country Team.

The revamping of the MICS programme in 2016 increased government ownership as well as accessibility and data usage. Demand for technical assistance from provincial governments grew in 2017 as confidence in the integrity of the results of MICS increased. Provincial governments now place a high value on the results of MICS with commitments to use the results for decision-making on budgetary allocations and prioritization of annual development plans. The first ever MICS in GB was finalized and the final report was launched in November 2017, followed by a commitment from the Government to use MICS as the basis for developing their first long-term development plan.

With the launch of the SDGs, the Government needs to establish credible baselines. Since MICS is considered the most credible source of data for household indicators at the district level, PBS requested UNICEF Pakistan’s support in conducting a nationally-coordinated MICS in 2017–2018. This will not be a new survey but rather an aggregation of the datasets produced by respective provincial surveys undertaken over a nine-month period in 2017–2018. Real-time monitoring for MICS, initiated in 2016 as a pilot, has become a standard tool for all MICS surveys. In 2017, a smartphone app for MICS results was developed in-house and launched with the GB MICS. This app is now a standard product for each MICS, increasing the accessibility and usability of the data.

Capacity development initiatives for MICS6 also included sponsoring government officials to participate in the MICS6 Survey Design Workshop (Beirut), data processing workshop (Tunisia) and water quality and salt testing workshop (Lahore). UNICEF Pakistan also held data-mining workshops (in Karachi & Lahore) for BoS and planning and development department staff to build capacity for analysing large data sets. Technical support for capacity development of the provincial bureaus of statistics for the development of equity profiles was also provided. To date, 10 equity profiles have been developed in Sindh and Punjab. The equity profiles are now a standard product of the MICS programme and will increase the use of MICS data for policy advocacy.

UNICEF Pakistan continued to roll out the regional results-based management (RBM) strategy with the third RBM face-to-face workshop being held in August 2017. Over 100 staff have now been trained on RBM. UNICEF Pakistan, in collaboration with ROSA, also piloted the first workshop on RBM for partners. Lessons learned will inform the finalization of the new training package to be rolled out in 2018. There is a high demand for RBM training among UNICEF Pakistan’s partners, particularly government counterparts. UNICEF Pakistan intends to conduct at least two partner workshops in 2018.
PMER undertook contribution management and donor-reporting activities throughout the year in conjunction with programme sections and operations units, thus helping to effectively manage the US$175 million allotted to UNICEF Pakistan for 2017. The section also supported fundraising by facilitating the development and approval of 22 contributions worth US$76.7 million from six public sector and four private sector donors and successfully carried out donor reporting activities, achieving 100 per cent on-time submission for the 55 required reports.

OUTPUT 1 By 2017, UNICEF programmes and institutional duty bearers have stronger capacity for equity focused policy, research and evaluation related to children and women

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, UNICEF Pakistan continued to ensure compliance with United Nations Evaluation Group standards and earned another high-quality evaluation rating from the Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System for the evaluation of humanitarian action. Two summative evaluations were initiated, including one for an IKEA Foundation-funded programme using an integrated approach while ensuring full stakeholder involvement. Discussions resulted in lesson sharing, which will benefit programme development in 2018, even before the evaluation report is finalized. Additionally, a country-led joint evaluation of a government programme in Balochistan was also initiated; this was a challenging and unique experience for UNICEF Pakistan and it is expected to bring new insights to UNICEF Pakistan’s evaluation function.

More than the evaluation reports and management responses themselves, the entire process of evaluation – including preparation of management responses, discussions generated and sharing of responsibility among various partners and programmes – have proven useful and sometimes triggered unanticipated, far-reaching results. For example, the evaluation of humanitarian action resulted in discussions on a number of issues highlighted by the evaluation, including the multisectoral nutrition strategy. The same work provided a foundation and generated discussion with Sindh’s Planning and Development Division for a provincial evaluation policy and building a monitoring and evaluation framework on nutrition. Although the evaluation of humanitarian action did not directly recommend such work, it did build a niche within the Planning and Development Division and provided goodwill to start working on other strategic issues.

The year 2017 was one of lessons on developing provincial evaluation policies. As the first-ever evaluation policy in Pakistan, Punjab’s evaluation policy work helped UNICEF Pakistan-PMER learn to deal with intricate and intense internal relationships within government departments. The need for careful and long-term advocacy at each step and the need for patience and understanding of the Government’s pace was also part of the learning. Keeping a wide range of stakeholders engaged was a difficult and time-consuming process, but it helped in reaching consensus on key contours of the upcoming evaluation policy.

This work served as an example of how long-term advocacy is required to progress towards achievement of results. The spill over effect of work in Punjab has already helped to initiate work in Balochistan, which has the most undeveloped governance structures and systems among the four provinces. Learning from Punjab, the strategy for Balochistan’s evaluation policy was modified and included a three-pronged combination of initiatives, integrating capacity building, joint evaluation and policy-advocacy aspects.

The year 2017 also proved to be a launch pad for moving towards key outcomes for the next CP. Building on its National Evaluation Capacity Development initiative, UNICEF Pakistan
drafted a guidance note to steer the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for SDGs. The work helped in facilitating coherence among United Nations agencies and the Government on the SDGs. Under the National Evaluation Capacity Development initiative, work with the SDG parliamentary task force has also been a complementary approach supporting parliamentarians’ oversight role for quality assurance in the legislature.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2017, capacity and systems of government and other partners strengthened to collect, analyse, manage and disseminate reliable data (disaggregated by sex, age and area) for evidence based planning, resource allocation and results-based monitoring.

**Analytical statement of progress**
After the launch of the MICS6, UNICEF Pakistan received requests from PBS and provincial bureaus of statistics in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, KP and PAK to provide technical support in the execution of the next round of MICS. Following sustained advocacy, provincial governments agreed to contribute substantial funds towards implementation of a nationally coordinated MICS that would result in a national dataset to be used to establish baselines for the SDGs.

With UNICEF Pakistan’s support, PBS convened three joint meetings in 2017 with representatives from all provincial bureaus and planning and development divisions to discuss implementation modalities. UNICEF Pakistan provided technical support and coordinated with PBS and provincial bureaus, undertaking three consultative workshops on the survey plan, budget, list of standard indicators and a set of questionnaires to be used in each provincial MICS. A MICS steering committee was notified, with support from UNICEF Pakistan, and approved the questionnaires and indicators.

The nationally coordinated MICS, for which fieldwork is taking place from December 2017 to May 2018, uses the latest sampling frame derived from the Census 2017 and data collection will be done through the computer-assisted personal interviewing technique for the first time in Pakistan. The provincial samples for the national survey were drawn simultaneously, which will enable aggregation of results at the national level. The sample was vetted and endorsed by the MICS global team. Punjab took the lead in implementation and started fieldwork in December 2017. Sindh was also planning to start pre-testing by the end of the year and complete the work in January 2018. Balochistan and KP did considerable groundwork in 2017 and will finalize the survey tools by the end of January 2018.

The fieldwork for MICS in GB was completed in February 2017, the key findings report was launched in May and the final report was officially disseminated by the GB Government on 20 November 2017. The GB Government will use the MICS to prepare its long-term development plan. For the first time in Pakistan, an android-based application was developed by UNICEF Pakistan to facilitate easy access to and utilization of MICS results. This application will now be integrated as part of the MICS in Pakistan. In KP, data collection and data processing for the MICS5 were also completed in 2017 and the key findings report will be disseminated by January 2018.

UNICEF Pakistan supported the development of equity profiles for Sindh and Punjab (10 draft equity profiles each) in line with themes agreed with ROSA. The profiles were finalized and will be available as of January 2018, providing a comparison by theme for policymakers for equity-based planning. To further strengthen government capacity, two workshops were organized on data mining, presentation, utilization for planning and reporting and comparative analysis for equity-based planning and execution.
UNICEF Pakistan also worked with PBS to support harmonization of surveys and revamping of PSLM to enable alignment with the SDGs by participating in sub-committees. After detailed deliberations, PBS agreed on the frequency of data generation during the next five years in order to avoid overlap between the MICS and the PSLM.

**OUTPUT 3** Throughout 2013–2017, UNICEF and OPII programme management and coordination teams receive technical support in research, analysis, evaluation, planning, quality assurance, risk mitigation, monitoring and reporting.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Pakistan is promoting United Nations coherence through leadership in key coordination mechanisms, including as chair of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Group, in Punjab as co-chair of the provincial steering committee and as chair of the Punjab Provincial Programme Team. The RCO was supported in the development of One UN Programme III (2018–2022), including the finalization of the results framework and setting measurable targets aligned with SDG indicators. UNICEF Pakistan leads the development of the SDG monitoring and evaluation framework, thus creating a foundation for accountability.

PMER provided technical support and coordinated the process of development and finalization of the new CP (2018–2022). In consultation with federal and provincial government counterparts, strategy notes were developed for each outcome area and reviewed internally and by ROSA and UNICEF Headquarters. The draft CPD, informed by the situation analysis and child deprivation profiles prepared in 2016, was finalized and shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Economic Affairs Division, followed by meetings conducted with senior management. Sections met bilaterally with government counterparts to present strategy notes and receive endorsement. The UNICEF Executive Board approved the CPD presented by the Government of Pakistan in the second regular session held in September 2017.

UNICEF Pakistan completed the 2017 annual review and reporting in line with RBM principles and global guidance. Technical support was provided to programme staff for completing the Country Office Annual Report 2016 on time, including the results assessment module, as per global guidance. Content and design was finalized for the 2016 external annual report along with a corresponding factsheet. UNICEF Pakistan reported annual results to the Economic Affairs Division and the Pakistan One United Nations portal to enhance accountability to the Government and under the United Nations ‘Delivering as One’ initiative.

All 55 donor reports were submitted on time and in line with RBM and global guidance and checklists, thanks to enhanced monitoring and tracking of reports through the Virtual Integrated System of Information in addition to clear workflow and information management at all levels, thereby enhancing accountability and transparency. Resource mobilization and contribution management was supported throughout the year. Allocation and monitoring of financial resources was successfully managed to ensure timely utilization of US$169 million. Resource mobilization was enhanced through the provision of support for development and submission of proposals worth US$139 million for multi-year interventions, which resulted in approvals of proposals worth US$76.6 million.

The strengthened programmatic field monitoring continued in ensuring compliance with HACT. Field offices rolled out the programmatic field monitoring directive issued previously to
standardize field monitoring. Focal persons at country and field offices monitored programme implementation, following a clear workflow and feedback mechanisms to enable course correction, compliance and quality.

To further enhance programme monitoring, existing third-party field monitoring systems were revised based on the results of the assessment carried out in 2016. Third-party field monitoring is now operational in three provinces and is instrumental in identifying weaknesses in programme implementation for timely course correction through the introduction of real-time online reporting. RBM training for staff and implementing partners was held as UNICEF Pakistan continued strengthening RBM mechanisms through continuous review of guidance, country-level processes, tools and templates.

**OUTPUT 4** Throughout 2013–2017, UNICEF programmes and their counterparts and partners benefit from reliable, valid and complete information on needs, responses and gaps as per the Core Commitments for Children for disaster risk management, emergency preparedness and response performance.

**Analytical statement of progress**

Humanitarian support continued for displaced and returning families in KP and FATA, and the drought-affected people in Sindh. However, humanitarian response was critically underfunded, impacting required scale-up and results. Despite a funding gap of 86 per cent, UNICEF Pakistan was able to achieve results using the previous year’s funds and leveraging governmental and other partners.

Humanitarian performance monitoring and reporting mechanisms were in place with clear workflow mechanisms for coverage, quality and timely course correction. In KP and FATA, through third-party field monitoring, the innovative online mobile monitoring linked to a geographical information system that generated real-time monitoring. This strengthened accountability and transparency internally, to HCT and the Government as well as to the affected population. The data informed management decision-making and course correction, reporting (donor reporting, HAC, and the Consolidated Emergency Report), advocacy and resource mobilization efforts, at the UNICEF Pakistan and inter-agency levels.

The system was rolled out to all provinces in 2017 and will be operational as the new CP starts. A midyear situation report was submitted, and an end-year report will be submitted to the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes in December 2017. Pakistan was included in the UNICEF 2018 regional HAC appeal for South Asia, allowing UNICEF Pakistan to raise other resources emergency funds for its humanitarian action.

The FATA vulnerability needs assessment was conducted through an inter-agency platform to provide baseline data for the planning and implementation of reforms needed to support recovery, rehabilitation and sustainable growth. UNICEF Pakistan led the assessment for basic service delivery and worked in close coordination with other clusters and United Nations agencies in this regard.

UNICEF Pakistan updated the national multi-hazard cross-sectoral emergency preparedness and response plans for 2017. Based on potential scenarios, 40 contingency partnership agreements were signed with implementing partners and stock was pre-positioned for 100,000 people. Long term agreements for goods (26) and services (7) were prepared and surge and rapid response team lists were updated. Information for the Early Warning Early Action portal
was updated in 2017. A thorough risk analysis for review by ROSA and UNICEF Headquarters was conducted and uploaded on the platform.

UNICEF Pakistan coordinated cross-sectoral inputs for the portal. UNICEF Pakistan has scored 99 per cent for five consecutive years on Early Warning Early Action preparedness and readiness. Multisectoral initial rapid assessment tools and methodologies were updated with NDMA. UNICEF-Pakistan supported NDMA in developing and piloting a school safety planning framework and media consultations to improve support for disaster response. UNICEF Pakistan led three sectors or clusters (WASH, nutrition, education) and a sub-cluster (child protection) in coordination with NDMA.

The guidelines on multisectoral initial rapid assessment were finalized by all stakeholders in 2017. These serve to strengthen Pakistan’s disaster management system by providing a tool for scientific, accurate and timely assessment of losses caused by disasters. OCHA and NDMA organized a training of trainers followed by a workshop for the assessment working group on Pakistan’s multisectoral initial rapid assessment tools in October 2017, which included NDMA, United Nations agencies and NGOs. A series of training courses for 12 of the most vulnerable districts in Pakistan will be arranged by OCHA with NDMA for NGOs and government staff in 2018.

OUTCOME 6 Cross-sectoral activities in support of UNICEF Pakistan Country Programme

Analytical statement of progress

In 2017, the operations section provided strategic operational, risk-informed and -mitigated support to UNICEF Pakistan and the United Nations Operations Management Team, including guidance and leadership in managing the office and ensuring that strategic management and programme interventions are supported and tracked and results monitored.

UNICEF Pakistan performed a desk review of the 2016 risk control self-assessments in August 2017. Push and track to support country and field office and programme sections to enhance the smooth and timely submission of their non-PO requests was successfully launched. In order to fully comply with this change in working modalities and procedures and ensure that programme delivery was not interrupted or affected, trainings on push and track were provided to all field office staff along with revision of workflows for the local business transaction centre and finance unit. UNICEF Pakistan was appointed to chair the Operations Management Team working group on business continuity planning. As a result, for the first time in its history, the United Nations system in Pakistan now has a common Business Continuity Plan that is updated and tested yearly.

UNICEF Pakistan retained leadership of the One United Nations Human Resources Working Group, achieving cost savings through the joint recruitment web portal and talent management system, which saw an increase in job posting and applications. To ensure human capacity was available in 2017 the Operations Section provided strategic operational, risk informed and mitigated support to UNICEF Pakistan and the United Nations Operations Management Team, including guidance and leadership in managing the office and ensuring that strategic management and programme interventions are supported and tracked and results monitored.

UNICEF Pakistan completed a desk review of the 2016 risk control self-assessments during November 2017. The level of risk decreased for several risks due to mitigating actions taking effect, but no risks were altogether eliminated. Two new risks (medium) were added to the
office’s risk profile. [T1] Push and track to support country and field office and programme sections to enhance the smooth and timely submission of their non-PO requests was successfully launched. In order to fully comply with this change in working modalities and procedures and ensure that programme delivery was not interrupted or affected, trainings on push and track were provided to all field office staff along with revision of workflows for the local business transaction centre and finance unit. UNICEF Pakistan was appointed to chair the Operations Management Team working group on business continuity planning. As a result, for the first time in its history, the United Nations system in Pakistan now has a common Business Continuity Plan that is updated and tested yearly.

UNICEF-Pakistan retained leadership of the One United Nations Human Resources Working Group, achieving cost savings through the joint recruitment web portal and talent management system which saw an increase in job posting and applications. To ensure human capacity was available for emergencies, UNICEF Pakistan maintained updated job descriptions of emergency positions and rosters for key functional areas and staff who previously worked in emergencies.

Essential strategic items were procured off-shore as well as locally and delivered in a timely manner in support of CP implementation. UNICEF Pakistan procurement services procured vaccines and cold chain equipment as key commodities on behalf of the Government and other partners using the national budget and donor funds for routine immunization activities and in support of polio eradication. UNICEF Pakistan obtained a sales tax exemption certificate for goods and services for Punjab province and continued to engage provincial and federal authorities to obtain the same for Sindh.

UNICEF Pakistan’s advocacy and communication section worked with programme sections to bring children’s rights, in particular those related to UNICEF Pakistan’s priority areas, into the public domain, and to engage in public advocacy with key targeted audiences such as donors and partners. The section put particular emphasis on expanding two-way SMS communication and youth engagement. Social media was increasingly used to put important issues, such as menstrual hygiene and violence against girls, on the public agenda.

OUTPUT 1 External relations and communications unit

Analytical statement of progress
During 2017, the advocacy and communication section continued to implement its national communication strategy in support of programmatic initiatives at the country level as well as to support various global and regional campaigns. Visibility for key events and initiatives and for all major donors was ensured through print, electronic and social media.

Ten human interest stories were produced to highlight UNICEF Pakistan’s interventions benefiting women and children in Pakistan. Eight documentary and animated films were produced to highlight Danish and European Union support for UNICEF Pakistan, the #EarlyMomentsMatter campaign, prevention of stunting, World Breastfeeding Week and the local version of the first-ever virtual reality video highlighting the success of U-Report in Pakistan. Opportunities were created for the UNICEF Representative to disseminate key messages through the media.

Thus, UNICEF Pakistan received over 650 positive mentions in the national media and social media growth continued, with a 1.45 per cent increase in followers on Facebook and a 9.8 per cent increase in followers on Twitter. To generate support for UNICEF Pakistan’s national MHM
campaign, three eminent Pakistani sportswomen were signed on as MHM champions. They actively advocated the ‘Be Bold, Be Free’ motto by talking about MHM at public events and media shows.

The advocacy and communication section continued to disseminate messages around exclusive breastfeeding for newborn children to prevent malnutrition and stunting. The organizational initiative to establish the first-ever breastfeeding room in the National Parliament building was projected across the country, which initiated discussions about establishing similar spaces in the provincial parliaments.

As part of ongoing efforts to raise awareness around the issue of malnutrition that contributes to 44 per cent of Pakistani children being stunted, the advocacy and communication section organized two media training workshops on stunting in two of the four provinces. To support the global #kidstakeover campaign around World Children’s Day, the advocacy and communication section organized two events with and by children, staged five media interactions with state and private television and radio channels and published an op-ed in a leading English-language daily. To provide impetus for an interactive dialogue with young people through U-Report, PakAvaz, an existing partnership with the School of Leadership was scaled up and the number of U-Reporters increased to 32,636.

Based on the successful outcome of the school art contest organized in collaboration with the Canadian High Commission during the last two years, the third contest was successfully organized this year in Balochistan. This activity provides a rare opportunity to children from public schools to express themselves through the medium of art on themes around the SDGs. Using the artwork from this contest, a joint Canadian High Commission and UNICEF calendar and wall planner for 2018 will be produced.

The advocacy and communication team provided technical support on various donor missions, including the European Union Ambassador’s visit to launch the Balochistan Basic Education Programme and the Norwegian National Committee mission to Sindh. The advocacy and communication section designed and published the UNICEF Pakistan Annual Report 2016 and a summary brochure, which was distributed among government counterparts, donors and other partners.

OUTPUT 2 Operations, information technology, supply, logistics and administration.

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Pakistan improved its contributions management, budget control and financial procedures with strict monitoring of expenditures, grant expiry and donor conditions. Robust cash forecasting processes were maintained to ensure adequate liquidity for programme implementation. UNICEF Pakistan implemented the push and track system to enhance smooth and timely submission of requests to BTC and also to enable tracking of the status of submitted requests from the Country Office as well as field offices. Various greening and carbon footprint reduction efforts were undertaken in response to sustainability and quality of life concerns as well as for cost reduction. UNICEF Pakistan rolled out the PSBS inventory management system for Islamabad and is planning to implement it for the other four field offices in the beginning of 2018.

UNICEF Pakistan performed a desk review of the 2016 risk control self-assessments in August 2017 and the results were uploaded in InSight, table of authority updates and monitors the table
of authority and office committees on a two-monthly basis and table of authority violations are usually OIC related and mitigated. To support efficiency in financial disbursement and programme monitoring, the UNICEF Pakistan assurance unit ensured that regular monitoring of HACT assurance activities (conducting micro-assessments, spot-checks, audits and periodic monitoring of programme activities) took place on an ongoing basis. The status was consolidated in a monthly HACT assurance activities worksheet and summary key performance indicators were reported to the monthly CMT meeting.

The supply section provided support to programme and operations sections through the procurement of goods, services and construction work as well as procurement services for a value US$75.8 million, representing 47 per cent of UNICEF Pakistan's total expenditure in 2017. In support of the national supply chain system strengthening, 22 EPI storage facilities were constructed and equipment for 32 cold chain units was procured and installed in various health facilities.

The information and communication technology section maintained network and server uptime in the 98+ per cent range. All Information Technology Solutions Services Division global information technology projects were completed on time and ongoing projects were on track. Business continuity and information technology disaster recovery plans were updated for the Country Office and all field offices. New local long-term agreements for information and communication technology procurement were established.

UNICEF Pakistan supported Information and Communication Technology for Development activities for programme implementation including PakAvaz, the mobile birth registration system, a WASH management information system for the Punjab Government, a WASH management information system and GIS for the Sindh Government and an education management information system for Balochistan province.

UNICEF Pakistan continued to play a leading role in developing United Nations security policies in Pakistan including minimum operating safety standards, residential security measures and cost-shared budgets. Coverage of staff trained through safe and secure approaches in field environments courses improved to 93 per cent despite bottlenecks in course availability. Security risk assessments were conducted at all offices and simulation exercises undertaken at polio emergency operations centres to improve coordination.

**OUTPUT 3** Effective and efficient management of human resource capacity.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Pakistan successfully completed a change management exercise which culminated in a new four-year CP, with a new staff structure approved by the programme budget review and effective on 1 January 2018. This will see the staff strength in UNICEF Pakistan adjusted from 356 to 311, with the elimination of 96 posts and the establishment of 50 new positions. The exercise of restructuring went through a consultative process with the full participation of all staff. Career workshops were provided to staff affected by the change. UNICEF Pakistan focused on internal talent to improve retention and motivation of staff.

As part of capacity building and information sharing, the office conducted seven briefing sessions (one for each field office and three in Islamabad) for all staff on the human resources reform. UNICEF Pakistan ensured that all provisions of the reform are implemented in the office. Regular online orientation sessions were conducted for new staff for better cost effectiveness.
and flexibility. Internal communication and information sharing was strengthened through various presentations on human resources systems and procedures, health insurance, pensions and other related issues.

UNICEF Pakistan made an effort to strengthen the managerial skills of its supervisors and managers by sponsoring four managers to participate in the UNICEF Management Master Class programme. UNICEF Pakistan continued to maintain a culture of regular, honest PER conversations with and performance feedback for staff.

In its current structure, UNICEF Pakistan counts 301 staff members, which is 6 per cent less than in December 2016. Out of these, 6.6 per cent were on temporary appointments, showing a reduction from the 9 per cent at the end of 2016. The vacancy rate was 7.3 per cent. Given the transition between two CPs, voluntary staff turnover rose slightly from 4.4 per cent in 2016 to 6.4 per cent in 2017.

Forty-eight staff members were appointed or re-appointed since January 2017; at the end of the year, 76 positions, including those for the new structure, were under active recruitment or on-boarding. The ratio of categories of staff remained stable during the year: international professional officers accounted for 12 per cent, national officers 50 per cent and general service staff 38 per cent.

Gender balance remains a challenge for all United Nations agencies, including UNICEF. The ratio of women employed by UNICEF Pakistan remained at 34.2 per cent during the reporting period. Human resources maintained a pro-active approach to attracting and retaining qualified female staff. UNICEF Pakistan’s positioning versus the global average for D and E duty stations has to be noted: 38.8 per cent for UNICEF Pakistan in D duty stations versus 35 per cent globally, and 23.9 per cent in E duty stations versus 27 per cent globally.

UNICEF Pakistan continued to lead the One United Nations Human Resources Working Group, implementing various activities in this framework and as part of the United Nations Business Operations Strategy, including management of a common online posting board, creation of a shared roster of individual consultants, the development of a common approach to degree certification, addressing gender balance and pursuing a cross-agency stretch assignment programme.

The staff association and management carried out a comprehensive review of the results of 2017 Global Staff Survey to address areas of staff concern. Necessary office action plans were put in place and monitored through CMT and the Joint Consultative Committee.

### Document centre

#### Evaluations and research

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<td>Integrated KAP Survey Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (Tharparkar Sindh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant &amp; Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Survey (Pre- KAP), Knowledge, Attitude &amp; Practices</td>
<td>2017/010</td>
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</table>
### Nutrition Causal Analysis (NCA) Study
- **Title:** Gilgit-Baltistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-17: Key Findings
- **Year:** 2017/008
- **Type:** Research

### Temperature Monitoring Study in Pakistan
- **Title:** Temperature Monitoring Study in Pakistan
- **Year:** 2017/006
- **Type:** Study

### Supply / Logistics Management System Assessment and Study on budgetary gap analysis of Diarrhoea and Pneumonia commodities at provincial/region level
- **Title:** Supply / Logistics Management System Assessment and Study on budgetary gap analysis of Diarrhoea and Pneumonia commodities at provincial/region level
- **Year:** 2017/005
- **Type:** Study

### Gilgit-Baltistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-17: Final Report
- **Title:** Gilgit-Baltistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-17: Final Report
- **Year:** 2017/004
- **Type:** Survey

### A Poll Supporting Polio Vaccination: Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in Research-Accessible High-Risk Districts of Pakistan in 2017
- **Title:** A Poll Supporting Polio Vaccination: Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in Research-Accessible High-Risk Districts of Pakistan in 2017
- **Year:** 2017/003
- **Type:** Study

### Report of Child Protection System Mapping and Assessment
- **Title:** Report of Child Protection System Mapping and Assessment
- **Year:** 2017/002
- **Type:** Study

### Adolescent Girls Information Needs Regarding Menstrual Hygiene Management: The Sindh Experience.
- **Title:** Adolescent Girls Information Needs Regarding Menstrual Hygiene Management: The Sindh Experience.
- **Year:** 2017/001
- **Type:** Research

### Other publications

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<td>MICS Gilgit Baltistan leaflet</td>
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<td>Gilgit Baltistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2016-2017 Final Report</td>
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<td>Trainee Handbook Local Education Council</td>
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<td>Trainers Manual Local Education Council</td>
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<td>Impact Assessment Report of the Policy for Procurement Through Local Education Councils in Balochistan</td>
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<td>Hamsafar Booklet 1 Hamsafar Booklet 2</td>
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<td>Manual: SMC’s orientation on SIP</td>
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<td>Pamphlets and Banners: “Every Child in School” campaign &amp; Article 25 (A)</td>
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<td>Broachers and Banner: “International Child Labour Day”</td>
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<td>Out of School Children in Gilgit Baltistan (Factsheet)</td>
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<td>MNCAH Quality of Care – Strategic and Accountability Framework (Wheel chart)</td>
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<td>Pakistan Health Brief</td>
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<td>Field Guide on The Three Star Approach for WASH in School for Pakistan</td>
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<td>Pakistan WASH in School manual</td>
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<td>WASH in School Training Material</td>
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<td>WASH in schools strategic plan- All provinces and National</td>
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360 VR video (Urdu version) on U-Reporters in Pakistan
Short video film featuring a gold medal winner adolescent girl from Pakistan
UNICEF and Canadian High Commission Collaborative School Art Contest Table calendar and Wall Planner 2017
Documentary film featuring Government of Denmark’s contribution to UNICEF PCO programme implementation
UNICEF Pakistan Annual Report 2016 along with a Summary Brochure (Designing and Printing)

Lessons learned

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<td>Lesson Learned</td>
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<td>Gilgit-Baltistan MICS 2016-17 Android Mobile Application</td>
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Programme documents

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<tr>
<td>Reference Documents</td>
<td>Situation Analysis of Children in Pakistan 2017</td>
<td>UNICEF SitAn (Final Draft).docx</td>
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<td>Reference Documents</td>
<td>Overview Strategy Note 2018-2022</td>
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