Executive Summary

Despite the Philippines’ continued impressive economic growth throughout 2016, millions of children still lack access to quality health, nutrition and education services, and remain unprotected from exploitation and abuse. The number of poor households, already estimated to have reached 5.1 million in 2015, was still growing. Child poverty remained unacceptably high at 35.5 per cent (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2009).

UNICEF Philippines continued to focus on key populations that remained excluded - children with disabilities, indigenous children and children in conflict-affected and/or disaster-prone areas. It developed a value-based advocacy approach to greater investment in preventative services for poor and vulnerable families. UNICEF’s peace-building work continued to make inroads in 2016 towards completing the UN-Moro Islamic Liberation Front Action Plan to identify and separate child soldiers. UNICEF also supported thousands of children to participate in peace initiatives and to access services.

The Presidential election in 2016 brought significant change. The President won by popular support on a strong mandate of peace and order, anti-criminality and an anti-drugs campaign. To fulfil his election promise, the President embarked on a massive ‘war on drugs’ and criminality immediately upon his assumption to power. He also outlined his major legislative priorities, including constitutional amendments to push for federalism, revival of the death penalty and lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility. His 10-point agenda includes peace and order, strengthening of social protection programmes, reproductive healthcare and land management.

In 2016, the Government provided strong leadership in the humanitarian arena. UNICEF Philippines provided support when requested and advocated and built capacity to conduct comprehensive risk assessments. Within UNICEF’s programming framework, emergency preparedness was fully integrated across all outputs, and processes such as contingency partnership agreements were set up to facilitate smooth transition in development humanitarian programming.

In 2016, UNICEF supported the National Baseline Study on Violence against Children and its complementary systematic literature review, resulting in increased dialogue with a range of multisectoral stakeholders on preventing and responding to violence against children (VAC). The Research Forum on Violence against Children and a regional meeting on parenting both supported interventions for violence prevention and formed the basis for the development of a National Action Plan.

Through the Scale-Up Nutrition (SUN) platform, UNICEF continued to support the First 1,000 Days advocacy campaign and helped draft several bills related to the ‘First 1,000 Days’ which were presented to the Senate and House of Representatives. The bills called for investments in better health and nutrition to help families break the cycle of poverty. UNICEF supported dialogue with a wide range of partners, resulting in further integration of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) within the First 1,000 Days framework.

UNICEF Philippines helped develop the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition. An extensive
cost-benefit nutrition study led by UNICEF revealed the loss of approximately US$3.99 billion on the annual gross domestic product due to malnutrition. Government agencies validated the study, which formed the basis for the National Nutrition Council’s budget allocation to 15 Scalable Nutrition Actions between 2017 and 2022.

In 2016, the Government endorsed two landmark, UNICEF-supported, policies related to universal health coverage. The National Health Insurance entity PhilHealth officially recommended a comprehensive health insurance package for children with disabilities. This package covers services for 5 million children with disabilities nationwide who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments.

Simultaneously, UNICEF Philippines established integrated service delivery networks consisting of four subnational hubs and developed communication plans to address stigma against children with disabilities. UNICEF, the Department of Health and PhilHealth officially endorsed and launched a comprehensive health insurance package for premature and small newborns. UNICEF led the design of this benefit package, which can reach 300,000 premature and small newborns every year.

UNICEF supported the Last Mile Learner situational analysis with the Department of Education in preparation for the strategic visioning for disadvantaged learners and the prioritization of the Alternative Delivery System. With ongoing advocacy and technical support through national coordination platforms, in 2016 the Philippines enacted new policy commitments to WASH in early learning centres and schools.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

The Philippines is one of the world’s most disaster-prone countries. The country is vulnerable to recurrent typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and flooding. In 2016, El Niño aggravated drought in the southern island of Mindanao, thus threatening food security, sustainable agriculture and availability of clean water. Typhoons, including a super typhoon, brought extensive flooding, landslides and catastrophic winds to northern Luzon, destroying livelihoods and forcing school closures. New evidence documented the growth of armed terrorist groups and the growing threat of the recruitment of children into those groups.

By October 2016, 249,303 children had been displaced by conflict and 2,670 by natural disasters in Mindanao, with 152,380 displaced and in need of durable solutions.

UNICEF Philippines responded to four humanitarian situations in 2016. There were 73 reports of grave child rights violations, 82 per cent of which were verified and responded to.

For its 2016 humanitarian strategy, UNICEF Philippines employed four broad approaches: to address ongoing and residual humanitarian needs in Mindanao and Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas; a focus on preparedness and emergency contingency planning, including the pre-positioning of stocks and supplies; a contingency budget line item in programme cooperation agreements which could be activated for immediate assessments and relief operations; working with national and local governments on child-focused hazard mapping, integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR), resilience building and system strengthening into its humanitarian and development programmes; and strengthening internal emergency management and coordination, including revising the terms of reference for the Emergency Management Team, frequent Emergency Management Team meetings and updating the Early Warning, Early Action system. A key partnership with Cebu Pacific Air’s Change for Good secured cargo space and seats for first responders in the event of an emergency.

UNICEF Philippines made significant technical contributions to developing the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the newly enacted Children’s Emergency Relief and
Protection Act with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The law protects the fundamental rights of children to preparedness, relief and response activities before, during and after disasters and emergency situations. UNICEF contributed to an omnibus Health Emergency Management Policy and the finalization of the Nutrition Strategic Plan for Emergencies. The Department of National Defense issued the circular Child Protection During Armed Conflict Situations, addressing how to better protect children in armed conflict from all six grave child rights violations.

In response to Super Typhoon Haiyan, UNICEF distributed water disinfectants and water kits to 12,360 people, including children, hygiene and dignity kits to 5,775 people and materials for latrine repairs to 3,500 people. Approximately 3,000 children benefited from School-in-a-Box kits, elementary student kits and teacher kits.

In Mindanao, 9,219 people were given access to safe water, appropriate/adequate sanitation facilities and proper hygiene practices. In transitory sites in Zamboanga, 8,525 people received hygiene supplies such as sanitary pads and soaps. Through the Department of Health’s (DOH) aqua-tab distribution, 5,000 people in drought-stricken areas received clean water. UNICEF provided technical assistance to regional and provincial health offices in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Zamboanga City on drafting nutrition action plans in the first 1,000 days.

UNICEF Philippines continued to play an important role as a partner in Government-led clusters. More specifically, UNICEF provided direct cluster and information management support to the child protection sub-cluster, education cluster and quad cluster, which incorporates health, nutrition, mental health psychosocial support, and WASH.

While the first workplan was signed in 2016 with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Secretariat, it is still unclear how its implementation will take place. In 2016, the international humanitarian community in the Philippines received only local, direct requests for emergency assistance and not official Government requests.

Progress was made in implementing the UN-Moro Islamic Liberation Front Action Plan with the identification and formal disengagement of children who remain associated with the military structure of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces. In 2016 the ‘Children, Not Soldiers’ campaign reached 4,856 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade and community members, including children. Psychosocial support was extended to 4,075 conflict-affected and displaced children in evacuation centres.

UNICEF gave 13,785 adolescents affected by armed conflict access to life skills through adolescent-friendly spaces in Mindanao and equipped 588 adolescents with the skills to lead dialogues on peace with other adolescents and community members. For National Peace Month, multimedia outputs highlighted children's voices and participation in peacebuilding efforts.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Integrated early childhood development ECD** was a priority for UNICEF Philippines in 2016. Support to the First 1000 Days programme involved a mix of advocacy, technical assistance for guidelines, costing and monitoring and evaluation, drawing on the expertise of all programmes. A Convergence Strategy for the First 1000 Days programme is being developed at sub-national level in areas of conflict, disaster and urban centres. It builds on the results of the early child care and development (ECCD) pilot with Local Government Units that was evaluated in 2016.
To ensure that young children, especially those in hard-to-reach areas, are ready for school and for life, UNICEF supported the Department of Education and municipal/city local government units (LGUs) in strengthening the ECCD-Kinder-Primary-Education Link in one barangay (village) per LGU. This initiative aimed to provide children up to the age of eight years with quality ECCD interventions at home and facilitate their smooth transition to pre-school, kindergarten and elementary school.

Parenting education sessions that integrated ECCD into existing parenting education programmes of the Government improved parental beliefs and attitudes towards ECCD and schooling and boosted parents’ involvement in their children’s holistic growth and development. The mapping of all children in the community by barangay and school stakeholders increased the access of approximately 6,000 3- to 5-year-old children to ECCD and kindergarten services. Late birth registration of children without birth certificates was processed, and interventions for children with disabilities were implemented.

The knowledge and skills of child development workers and teachers on adopting child-centred approaches were enhanced through local training mechanisms. Efforts are underway to further enhance the use of the ECCD checklist to monitor if a child is developing adequately or is at risk of developmental delays, and to plan and implement interventions to address delays and boost growth and development.

Replication of the initiative began in focus areas, in conflict-affected areas and in indigenous communities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Good practices and lessons learned in implementing the link will become inputs in operationalizing UNICEF’s Convergence Strategy for the First 1,000 Days and the Government’s efforts to further strengthen the local governance and management of ECCD and elementary education.

Adolescent participation was an important priority in 2016. UNICEF continued to intensify the delivery of basic social services, safeguard safe spaces and strengthen systems to support meaningful adolescent participation. ABS-CBN TV network’s Bayan Mo, Ipatrol Mo (Guard Your Nation) trained selected young people from rural areas. The trainees became active reporters of issues faced by children of the Ifugao indigenous people (IP). They communicated their concerns via mobile phone technology. Key adolescent populations from HIV high-burden areas were engaged in local data generation, evidence-based planning and a high school completion certificate programme that included sessions on arts and development life skills and peace-building. The programme primarily benefited indigenous young people and out-of-school youth affected by the Zamboanga City siege. Youth advocates’ capacity was strengthened so they could lead the integration of child rights and participation initiatives in the 6th AIDS Medium-Term Plan 2017-2022.

UNICEF also supported the participation of selected youth innovators at the High-Level Meeting on Child Rights in Kuala Lumpur (HLM 3), held 6 to 8 November 2016. To sustain youth empowerment, UNICEF continued to provide technical assistance to the National Youth Commission in developing the Philippine Youth Development Plan 2017-2022.

UNICEF trained adolescents to conduct peace advocacy and dialogue in their communities through the arts and supported wide dissemination of the ‘products’ of their arts for peace on social media and in the press, reaching at least 485,874 people. UNICEF trained 588 adolescents, 311 of whom learned peace dialogue through the arts. A total of 128 were supported to perform in peace concerts, 79 were taught participatory video for peacebuilding, 40 were trained in theatre for peace, and 30 out-of-school youth were supported to enter an alternative learning school for peace and arts. This outreach was largely due to the ideas, creativity and commitment of local partners, including Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Kalimudan Culture and Arts Center and local artists.
Access to adolescent-friendly spaces was provided for 3,101 adolescents to develop their life skills for peace. A sample of 318 adolescents (10 per cent) was asked to provide feedback through Open Data Kit, an open-source set of tools for mobile data collection. Those that expressed high to very high confidence in speaking on four areas of learning (violence, peer pressure, mental health and sexual and reproductive health) increased from 13 per cent before the skills training to 73 per cent after, and those expressing low to very low confidence decreased from 65 per cent to 10 per cent.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARMM</td>
<td>Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao</td>
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<td>BDA</td>
<td>Bangsamoro Development Agency</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>climate change adaptation</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
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<td>CFS</td>
<td>child-friendly schools</td>
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<td>COP</td>
<td>child online protection</td>
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<td>CRF</td>
<td>Common Results Framework</td>
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<td>CP</td>
<td>child protection</td>
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<td>CPH</td>
<td>Census of Population and Housing</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>civil society organization</td>
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<td>CTFMR</td>
<td>Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting</td>
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<td>CWC</td>
<td>Council for the Welfare of Children</td>
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<td>CWD</td>
<td>children with disabilities</td>
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<td>DepED</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
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<td>DOH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
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<td>DRR</td>
<td>disaster risk reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRRM</td>
<td>disaster risk reduction and management</td>
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<td>DSWD</td>
<td>Department of Social Welfare and Development</td>
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<td>EBEIS</td>
<td>Enhanced Basic Education Information System</td>
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<td>ECCD</td>
<td>early childhood care and development</td>
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<td>EWEA</td>
<td>Early Warning, Early Action</td>
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<td>IACACP</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography</td>
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<td>ICMP</td>
<td>Integrated Care Management Protocol</td>
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<td>IHBSS</td>
<td>Integrated HIV Behavioural and Serologic Surveillance</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>IP</td>
<td>indigenous people</td>
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<td>IRR</td>
<td>Implementing Rules and Regulations</td>
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<td>IYCF</td>
<td>infant and young child feeding</td>
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<td>JJWA</td>
<td>Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act</td>
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<td>LGU</td>
<td>local government unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>LML</td>
<td>Last Mile Learner</td>
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<td>MCCT</td>
<td>modified conditional cash transfer</td>
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<td>MHPSS</td>
<td>mental health psychosocial support</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>MILF</td>
<td>Moro Islamic Liberation Front</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Survey</td>
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<td>MRM</td>
<td>Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSM</td>
<td>males who have sex with males</td>
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<td>NNC</td>
<td>National Nutrition Council</td>
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<td>PC</td>
<td>primary component</td>
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In 2016, UNICEF Philippines worked on strengthening the technical capacity of key institutions, programme planners and service providers in designing and implementing programmes and providing quality services. Capacity development efforts also involved boosting networks and support mechanisms to ensure sustainability of local programmes.

In line with the global strategy to protect children online, UNICEF focused its efforts on multisectoral coordination and improving the capacity of key stakeholders to investigate, prosecute and protect children from online risks. UNICEF worked with the Department of Education and Stairway Foundation in drafting CyberSafe modules, which will be cascaded to all public schools. The Supreme Court also endorsed the Competency Enhancement Training module on online child sexual exploitation for Family Court judges and personnel.

A total of 117 police officers also received training on computer-facilitated crimes against children. Awareness raising on the risks and opportunities afforded by the Internet reached more than 11,000 parents and children. Community-based child protection mechanisms were also established with UNICEF support.

As part of the modelling strategy for the phased approach to total sanitation, UNICEF Philippines worked with regional and provincial government partners to improve their capacity to extend technical support to the provinces and municipalities. Six provincial WASH committees received support, resulting in the development of risk-informed WASH plans and the allocation of new or increased budgets for implementation. In addition to mentoring, technical training sessions were conducted to ensure sufficient capacity to roll out key sanitation strategies, including community-led total sanitation (CLTS), communication for development approaches and monitoring and certification of sanitation status. Under a Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund Programme (with the DOH, Department of Interior and Local Government, UN Development Programme and World Health Organization), three regional WASH hubs comprised of academia, civil society organizations and the private sector increased technical knowledge on sanitation programming approaches.
Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

UNICEF Philippines continued to build evidence to draw attention to socially excluded groups, especially indigenous peoples. Several studies on indigenous children are underway. Policy action research on ‘Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Indigenous People in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas’ was completed. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) began discussing possible refinements to the cash transfer based on the results of the research.

UNICEF expanded its analysis of equity issues on public finance management for children. An assessment of national legislation, policy and rules around planning, budgeting, execution, monitoring and accounting revealed bottlenecks in effective public expenditure for children, which resulted in discussions with Government and also led to a call for more technical support for costing multisectoral programmes.

In 2016, UNICEF Philippines further strengthened its legislative policy dialogue through vigorous monitoring of and participation in committee deliberations on bills. UNICEF provided significant technical input into the finalization and approval of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act. The law protects fundamental child rights in preparedness, relief and response activities before, during and after disasters and emergencies. UNICEF supported a national consultative process to ensure greater awareness of the contents of the Act and to ensure that the final IRR would attain standards in humanitarian response and guide comprehensive, realistic preparedness actions across all sectors.

With the DOH, National Nutrition Council (NNC), NGOs, Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development and Philippine Coalition of Advocates for Nutrition Security, UNICEF involved Senate and Congress representatives in advocacy for Scale-Up Nutrition, including support for a First 1,000 Days draft bill. The Department of Budget and Management allocated US$75 million to the National Nutrition Council to implement the First 1,000 Days initiative in 10 focus provinces. UNICEF helped the Council draft implementing guidelines and a monitoring framework. Results from a UNICEF-led Costing Study on Undernutrition informed government planning and budgeting processes.

Partnerships

In the UNICEF Stakeholder Survey conducted in 2016, the Philippines scored above average on the reputational score and was rated as performing well and working in important areas by a range of different stakeholders. In 2017, UNICEF Philippines will continue to strengthen its collaboration with a wide range of partners.

In 2016, UNICEF expanded its network of partners in online child protection, including Internet service providers, telecommunications companies, cable networks and mobile operators. Partners met with business, government regulators and law enforcement to discuss challenges in preventing online exploitation. GSM Association UK shared their latest tools and practices in promoting children’s rights. The group agreed on steps to intensify efforts to tackle online exploitation, including a planned training tailored specifically for Philippine stakeholders.

To increase global awareness of the phenomenon of grooming children to be the victims of sexual abuse and conduct of other forms of exploitation, especially livestreaming of child sexual abuse, UNICEF supported UK’s ‘The Guardian’ in following a story, which was later awarded recognition as the best story on trafficking.
UNICEF expanded its partnership with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the national health insurer covering more than 90 per cent of the population. UNICEF provided technical assistance in the development and roll-out of new benefit packages that will ensure all Filipino children have access to quality health services, focusing on the most vulnerable. In 2016, two new PhilHealth packages were developed with UNICEF support and approved for national implementation: the Benefit Package for Premature and Small Newborns, potentially reaching 300,000 preterm births every year; and the Benefit Package for Children with Disabilities, potentially reaching 1.4 million children with disabilities and providing coverage for appropriate healthcare and rehabilitation services, including assistive devices. UNICEF also reviewed with PhilHealth three existing packages on Maternal Care, Newborn Care and Outpatient HIV-AIDS Treatment.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**


One, advocacy on violence against children (VAC) took centre stage at the launch of the first National Baseline Study on violence against study in December, in a proposed National Action Plan and at a Research Forum in March.

Two, the First 1,000 Days advocacy continued with a book launch and Heroes for Children Run that communicated the importance of a child’s first 1,000 days. The Change for Good programme with Cebu Pacific airline also focused on the first 1,000 days.

Three, UNICEF’s Mindanao Field Office showcased peacebuilding through music, arts and culture during Peace Month 2016. A ‘Children Not Soldiers’ event and a Peace Concert generated media coverage on children’s role in peacebuilding. The advocacy strengthened partnerships with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Central Committee and Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.

Other key advocacy efforts focused on HIV and youth, children with disabilities and the Department of Health's UNICEF-supported Prematurity Package.

Through legislative and public advocacy, UNICEF and its partners strongly opposed the Government’s moves to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility. After the Miss Universe 2015 titleholder’s announcement of HIV education as a priority, UNICEF hosted two events where she engaged with HIV-affected youth.

UNICEF remained highly visible, with close to 1,000 published pieces in top-tier media, a media impact score of 42 per cent, and significant international media coverage of the Philippines’ focus on sexual exploitation and cyberbullying.

Social media supporters grew by 35 per cent, and fostered lively discussions that served as basis for crafting future messages. Facebook engagement increased by 46.5 per cent in 2016.

UNICEF also created awareness on disaster risk reduction. Features on the first disaster-resilient evacuation centre and El Niño’s effects on children received good responses online.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Philippines continued to promote numerous South-South cooperation efforts in 2016.

The Philippines and Vietnam both addressed online child exploitation. A study visit in 2016
allowed Vietnam to learn about Philippine laws and services for child victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse. Vietnam contracted UNICEF’s partner, Child Protection Network, for capacity building towards a multisectoral response to violence against children and establishment of the first Women and Children Protection Units in hospitals in Vietnam.

Continued sharing and learning of the outcomes of the Systematic Literature Review on Violence against children in the Philippines and the study on drivers of violence in Vietnam contributed to building research partnerships, particularly through the recently established regional research network on violence against children.

Delegations from Ghana and Indonesia visited the Philippines in 2016. The Ghana delegation focused on adoption and children in conflict with the law. Representatives from Indonesia’s Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Ministry of National Planning and Budget, and Youth Network on Violence against Children shared their experiences on ending the violence. The parties exchanged best practices: in methodologies and sampling when conducting a national baseline study on violence against children; service provision in a devolved government; and coordination among government and non-government stakeholders in developing a multisectoral response to end the violence.

UNICEF Philippines hosted an exchange between key national and local government stakeholders of Nepal and the Philippines on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). The Nepalese delegates interacted with Philippine national, provincial and municipal authorities, academics and civil society partners. Key learnings included the importance of strong, comprehensive DRR/CCA legislation and, for implementation, a supportive institutional infrastructure and suitable budget allocation. And further, that Government knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation should be strengthened along with more purposeful coordination between central and local government. DRR/CCA communication must be clear, relevant and adjusted to local nuances.

Identification and Promotion of Innovation

The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) requires a secure and efficient information management system of highly sensitive data, to facilitate periodic reporting requirements and follow up on the monitoring, verification and response to grave violence against children in situations of armed conflict.

The Philippines was selected as a pilot country for the deployment of MRMIMS+, a new module of Primero, which is a modern, flexible and highly configurable browser-based application. In February 2016, the application was configured based on country-specific needs with the support of UNICEF Headquarters (HQ). The migration of almost 300 incidents of grave violations was completed. The new application was tested and improved by the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism team in coordination with UNICEF HQ before its deployment to other UNICEF offices in 2017.

Children with disabilities remain among the most disadvantaged and stigmatized in Philippine society. UNICEF is working to improve their access to appropriate healthcare and rehabilitation services. UNICEF created models for service delivery and networks centred on regional rehabilitation hubs and developed a benefit package for the financial coverage of 5 million children with disabilities. UNICEF also conducted advocacy and communication to increase access to health services.

UNICEF forged partnerships with government agencies (DOH, PhilHealth and National Council for Disability Affairs) to draft enabling policies. Partnerships also were forged with leading medical centres (Philippine General Hospital, Davao Regional Hospital and Southern
Philippines Medical Centre) to serve as models of care for children with disabilities and with NGOs, disability groups and private foundations for the campaign on creating awareness of disability issues. The work drew from the experience of the NGO Physicians for Peace Philippines in providing care and services for children with disabilities in remote areas. These efforts were made possible with support from donors, particularly LEGO distributor LAJ Marketing Philippines.

**Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages**

In line with efforts to support the Government’s First 1,000 Days initiative, in March 2016 a joint theory of change for nutrition and WASH was developed based on consultations with the Government, UN and NGO partners. Key bottlenecks in integrating nutrition and WASH programming and potential ways to address them were identified. UNICEF introduced the Theory of Change to key stakeholders in two municipalities (Bobon and Mapanas) in Northern Samar. The two LGUs gave their full support to the modelling of integrated Nutrition and WASH activities. Capacity building at the community level and among municipal health staff included infant and young child feeding (IYCF), community-based management of acute malnutrition and phased approach to total sanitation.

Multisectoral groups led by the National Nutrition Council drafted the implementing guidelines on First 1,000 Days. The guidelines were approved and rolled-out along with Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs)/work plans in 10 priority provinces, some of which launched the programme with the signing of agreements. UNICEF supported capacity building to implement the new ECCD curriculum and standards, and to address the needs of children with disabilities. Training on mainstreaming holistic ECCD in LGUs was initiated in focus areas along with advocacy targeting mayors nationwide and key ECCD stakeholders in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Following two years of advocacy and technical support through the national WASH in Schools technical working group, a national WASH in Schools policy was approved in February. To support the creation of policy implementation guidelines and tools, UNICEF worked with local and regional Department of Education (DepED) staff from Haiyan-affected areas to review and document their experiences in applying the Three Star Approach for WASH in Schools as part of the typhoon recovery programme. Regional consultations also were conducted to ensure buy-in and relevance of the localized Three Star framework across the country. The pre-school programme in Muslim Mindanao also incorporated WASH.

**Service Delivery**

In line with national priorities to strengthen health service delivery, UNICEF supported municipalities in operationalizing service delivery networks for maternal and newborn care in rural and urban settings in Mindanao. Common elements were seen in those LGUs with more sophisticated networks. Community support was mobilized by organizing Inter-Barangay Health Clusters. Barangay captains then assumed responsibility for the health needs of their constituents. PhilHealth financing was leveraged to increase the number of facility-based deliveries and improve quality. Electronic health information systems were used to make data-driven decisions. Effective mayors modelled bridging health leadership and health governance. This process led to local policies, standardized referral forms and guidelines ready for South-South sharing. In the areas challenged by conflict (ARMM and Isabela City), tetanus supplemental immunization reached more than 80 per cent of women of reproductive age, moving the Philippines closer to eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Twenty-seven LGUs in the ARMM and Zamboanga City that were affected by long-standing conflicts and displacements received UNICEF-supported IYCF counselling services and
essential nutrition supplies for severe acute malnutrition and micronutrient programming. With these supplies, more than 800 children with severe acute malnutrition received life-saving care, more than 25,000 children received Vitamin A, and 17,562 pregnant and lactating women were counselled on optimal infant and young child feeding practices. UNICEF and the World Food Programme guided government nutrition focal persons in analysing the results of Operation Timbang (annual screening to identify malnourished children aged 0-71 months) and nutrition indicators in the Field Health Service Information System. This enabled them to determine gaps and strategies to improve the delivery of nutrition interventions. One important strategy identified was advocacy by LGUs to allocate funds for nutrition actions focusing on the First 1,000 Days as part of their nutrition action plans.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

UNICEF Philippines is one of the UNICEF programme countries included in the 27th session of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council. UNICEF contributed to the process through the UN Country Team report, and UNICEF also submitted a stand-alone report to draw attention to the national human rights situation. The UNICEF report provided follow-up information and analysis on progress made in implementing recommendations in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the Philippines, including comments on its impact and the enjoyment of child rights; regressive actions, if any; and identification of the actions that remain to be taken for full implementation. The report also included developments since the last review and other child rights issues.

The UNICEF report provided information on the administration of justice, in line with recommendations 129.33, 129.34 and 131.29 of the second cycle of Universal Periodic Review. One positive development was the strengthening of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act through the passage of Republic Act No. 10630 in 2013, which increased resources to enable the Government to fully implement the law. On the other hand, a government effort to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility was an alarming development, along with parallel to efforts to pass legislation reinstating the death penalty.

The Commission on Human Rights, which is the National Human Rights Institution of the Philippines, is revitalizing the Child Rights Centre. To support the strengthening of the Centre’s capacity to serve as the Ombudsman for Children and focal point of coordination and facilitation of all Commission functions, programmes and activities relating to child rights, UNICEF provided technical advice on how to use the human rights-based approach to programming in designing programmes. The Centre also requested technical assistance from UNICEF during their strategic planning workshop to ensure that their plans and budgets for 2017-2022 were aligned with the human rights-based approach and results-based management principles.

**Gender Equality**

UNICEF facilitated the integration of the gender lens in policy instruments and development plans. The Systematic Literature Review on Violence against Children found that boys face unique challenges and risks. The National Baseline Survey on Violence against Children revealed that boys are equally or even more at risk than girls across settings and types of violence. Eight out of 10 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) respondents had been subjected to physical or psychological violence, and one-third suffered from sexual violence. Such evidence provided better understanding of the prevalence of all forms of violence, and an analysis of the gender dimensions informed the formulation of the Violence against Children Action Plan.
The Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2017-2022, the research plan on formative research on IYCF, the IRR of the Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act, and the implementing guidelines on ECCD and First 1,000 Days also considered the specific needs of girls and boys.

The consultative and multisectoral work with adolescents focused on data gathering and analysis of bottlenecks in the access of minors to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services. Targeted adolescent activities included the integration of HIV discussion in health classes in Quezon City schools, where, to address uneasiness, teachers and guidance counsellors were trained on how to talk about HIV/AIDS and facilitate referrals. Quezon City also helped mobilize the Gabayan ang Batang Ina (Guide the Teen Mother) project aimed at increasing the participation of women, men and youth to develop targeted gender strategies.

UNICEF mobilized resources to increase investment in health programmes, including the Maternal-Neonatal Tetanus Elimination project, which aimed at 300,000 women of reproductive age in the ARMM and Isabela City, and achieved approximately 90 per cent of the supplemental immunization target. The Joint Programme on Maternal and Neonatal Health also aimed at pregnant women in disadvantaged areas.

UNICEF Philippines focused on the fact that, in general, girls stay in school longer, perform better and get better grades; while boys are slipping behind in educational attainment.

### Environmental Sustainability

The Philippines is one of the countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change: it ranks 13th in the Climate Change Vulnerability Index and is the fourth most disaster-prone country in the world. Climate change is expected to increase the number of disasters affecting the archipelago by increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as typhoons, flooding and droughts. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, rapid urbanization, poorly built infrastructure, high levels of air pollution and the displacement of communities from drought-affected areas and ‘no-build’ zones add to the complexities of addressing the impact of climate change, especially on children.

In 2016 UNICEF Philippines continued to explore how to build upon existing priorities in climate change adaptation and to expand the focus on mitigation and the inclusion of children not only as beneficiaries of programme activities but also as key voices and change agents. This was in line with the Government’s commitment to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, its National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028 and UNICEF’s Executive Directive in March 2016 urging all country offices to incorporate climate change action for children in their programming by 2020.

In the latter half of 2016, UNICEF conducted a thorough review of existing climate change literature and a one-on-one dialogue with Filipino experts and advocates on climate change, and began a partnership with the National Climate Change Commission.

UNICEF celebrated the National Day for Youth in Climate Action in partnership with the National Youth Commission. This campaign was driven through school-based activities nationally, awareness-raising events in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and a big open-air concert in Manila. The social media campaign #nowph (Not on our watch) accompanied the week’s activities, increasing awareness among the general population, largely the youth.

As modelling of the phased approach to total sanitation (PhATS) continued, communities began to successfully move from open defecation free (Grade 1) to having upgraded facilities for sustainable sanitation (Grade 2) and supportive environmental sanitation
services - such as water quality monitoring, septage and solid waste management - across the municipality (Grade 3)

**Effective Leadership**

UNICEF’s Country Programme 2012-2016 was granted a two-year extension to harmonize the country programme cycle with other UN agencies in line with the UN Development Assistance Framework (2012-2018), the extension of the Philippine Development Plan to 2018 and the impact of the 2016 national elections.

The country management team (CMT) met 11 times in 2016 to analyse progress and constraints against annual management plan and regional office benchmarks. The team also decided on issues raised by office committees (e.g. budget allocations), the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) assurance plan and progress in implementing the internal audit action plan.

In 2016, UNICEF continued to update standard operating procedures, including invoice processing, e-recruitment, performance management, management of Programme Cooperation Agreements and travel planning, monitoring and reporting.

A Mid-Year Programme and Management Review was held to review the priorities of the new Government after the elections and the potential impact on development priorities, and to review the progress of cross-cutting result areas and managing partners in the transition from humanitarian response to development. The information was used to update the country programme management plan and risk profile in support of the country programme extension.

A resource mobilization strategy was crafted to address potential funding gaps. Information packets were designed and used in a series of meetings with UNICEF National Committees and key bilateral donors in-country. Fundraising monitoring tables were added to the list of indicators regularly monitored by the country management team.

An end-of-year review was organized with the National Economic and Development Authority and main implementing partners. The review covered key achievements and challenges, lessons learned, and priorities for 2017-2018. The meeting was followed by an internal programme review where UNICEF discussed the enabling environment, new emerging challenges and opportunities, shared achievements, lessons learned and agreed-on priorities for 2017.

**Financial Resources Management**

The total allocation of regular resources, other resources – emergency and institutional budget was US$48.1 million, of which US$44.1 million, or 94 per cent, was utilized. The unused balance was for grants valid beyond 2016 and is included in the 2017-2018 rolling work plans.

By year end, outstanding direct cash transfers (DCT) were US$3.9 million, of which US$152,381 or 4 per cent, was outstanding more than nine months. Key performance indicators were monitored monthly during country management team meetings. Fund use levels were mostly on track. While DCT management remained a challenge, from October UNICEF Philippines was removed from the list of top 10 countries with outstanding DCT.

Cash assistance accounted for US$17 million, or 53 per cent of the total office expenditure. To reduce outstanding DCT, the country management team sustained efforts to explore other effective means of providing it assistance, e.g., technical assistance, direct payment
and reimbursement modalities, and working with more reliable civil society organizations. DCTs accounted for 50 per cent of cash assistance (down from 66 per cent in 2015), and cash assistance transferred using the reimbursement and direct payment modalities increased to 49 per cent (up from 34 per cent in 2015). The latter modalities decreased transaction costs and improved the timeliness of partner reporting.

A was developed for 100 implementing partners with an estimated annual throughput of over US$21 million. The completion rate against the planned assurance activities mostly met key performance indicators target levels:

- 11 of 12 planned micro assessments (91.7 per cent)
- 32 of 49 planned financial spots checks (65 per cent)
- 7 of 7 planned scheduled audits (100 per cent); and
- 105 of 111 planned programmatic visits (95 per cent).

No donor reports were overdue, 97 per cent were submitted on time.

### Fundraising and Donor Relations

In 2016, UNICEF conducted a comprehensive analysis of the funding situation which mapped the existing funding status of the programme results areas, funding gaps, and opportunities and constraints for resource mobilization for the current and next country programme. The funding gaps are summarized below:

#### Funding Gaps 2016-2018 by Programme Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Funded</th>
<th>% Funded</th>
<th>% Un-funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR Ceiling 2012-2016 63,420,779 62,055,853 98%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional OR for 2017-18 26,040,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 89,460,779 62,055,853 69% 31%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The funding analysis was discussed within the office and contributed to the development of the resource mobilization strategy. The strategy enabled UNICEF Philippines to build on its strengths and become more proactive in its identification and solicitation of existing and new institutional donors. It identified untapped potential particularly with private non-governmental organizations and foundations and the multinational corporate sector.

The process also resulted in new mechanisms to improve internal tracking systems that record and follow-up on donor engagements and discussions. Donor-oriented resource mobilization communication materials were developed that align UNICEF’s work with donor lenses. The materials focused on the agreed programmatic priorities for resource mobilization, which included Violence against Children, the First 1,000 Days and Peacebuilding.

UNICEF’s private sector fundraising team continued to mobilize support from private individuals and companies. In July 2016, a partnership between UNICEF and Cebu Pacific, the Philippines’s fastest growing local low-cost airline, was formalized with the launch of ‘Change for Good,’ a customer fundraising programme designed to collect spare change and donations from Cebu Pacific passengers. All proceeds go toward supporting UNICEF’s First 1,000 Days programme.

### Evaluation and Research

Building on the Government National Evaluation Policy, signed in 2015, UNICEF Philippines continued to support the government roll-out of the policy and capacity strengthening through support to the Annual M&E Forum and the design of an M&E capacity development course specifically tailored for government personnel.
The 2016 integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) was a standard agenda item in the country management team meetings chaired by the Representative. The plan was developed based on agreed upon priority research, studies and evaluation activities within government and UNICEF work plans.

There were no new evaluations completed during 2016. Remaining management responses to evaluation recommendations were completed. Monitoring of management response to evaluations was a standard quarterly agenda item in the country management team meetings.

The evaluation of Child-Friendly Spaces in Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas, completed in 2015, contributed to the dissemination of the National Implementation Guidelines for Child Friendly Spaces. In 2016, the guideline also provided input for the development of Government Child Protection Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

The intervention and rehabilitation program in residential and diversion programs for children in conflict with the law evaluation, also completed in 2015, was used to support the implementation of the Philippines Juvenile Justice Act, and in the development of an Integrated Care Management Protocol led by the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

UNICEF Philippines actively participated in inter-agency procurement activities by issuing joint long-term agreements. A total of 92 long-term agreements (LTAs) were in place, supporting UNICEF and other interested UN agencies in securing favourable prices and reducing transaction times for commonly procured goods and services, including tents; hygiene kits; warehousing facilities; transport and forwarding services; layout, editing and publication services; hotel accommodations/conference facilities; and Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers assurance and auditing services.

UNICEF Philippines started the year with seven bank accounts: two disbursement accounts and five private sector fundraising or deposit accounts. Maintaining so many bank accounts and relationships represented significant expenses in terms of bank charges and fees and transaction costs. As part of the Division of Financial and Administrative Management’s global bank rationalization exercise, UNICEF Philippines closed one private sector fundraising account and one local currency disbursement account. The plan to open an account with one of UNICEF’s globally recognized financial institutions was postponed to 2017 due to delays in finalizing the global agreement.

In 2016, UNICEF Philippines reported on its environmental footprint for the second time. The impact from air travel, while lower than emergency response levels, prompted UNICEF to reinforce internal controls for travel planning and approval, especially for international travel. To keep the travel volume at the lowest possible levels, UNICEF continued to actively promote wider use of Skype or teleconferencing for interviews, for meetings and discussions with sub-national partners, and for other internal meetings where face-to-face participation is not required.

The UN Operations Management Team also worked closely with the landlord to obtain Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for the office building.
Supply Management

UNICEF Philippines significantly improved its performance in the supply component of the country programme by improving contracting for institutional services, warehousing and in-country delivery to end users.

Innovative procurement and logistics approaches allowed UNICEF Philippines to conduct timely, efficient and cost-effective procurement, and significantly reduced operating costs for in-country logistics. UNICEF Philippines established 92 local long-term agreements for the procurement of goods and services. UNICEF also implemented a modality of direct delivery to partners to cut transportation costs and reduce controlled warehouse space.

In 2016, the volume of procurement services decreased compared with previous years, following the Government’s decision to shift to the self-procurement of vaccines. But this self-procurement initiative was unsuccessful as it resulted in a shortage of Expanded Programme on Immunization vaccines in the country. UNICEF Philippines advocacy efforts convinced the new Government to reconsider its previous decision and to re-engage UNICEF Procurement Services to ensure an uninterrupted, sustainable supply of affordable quality products, including vaccines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total value of procurement</th>
<th>US$29,085,399.43</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme supplies</td>
<td>1,435,603.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>130,846.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional services</td>
<td>5,607,227.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement services</td>
<td>21,911,721.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNICEF-controlled inventory stocks in the Manila and Cotabato warehouses were reduced to the minimum emergency response preparedness levels. Delivery of supplies to end users improved remarkably. The average time for ‘goods in transit’ within the country does not exceed seven calendar days.

UNICEF Philippines continued to support implementing partners at the national and sub-national levels, with a focus on building partners’ capacity in warehouse and stocks inventory management and in-country logistics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of supplies received</th>
<th>US$590,615.10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value of supplies dispatched</td>
<td>1,131,563.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of in-country controlled stocks inventory</td>
<td>1,446,393.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the absence of a UNICEF Regional Office supply advisor, UNICEF Philippines continued providing supply chain management support to other East Asia and Pacific country offices. UNICEF Philippines acted as the front line of support to the UNICEF Pacific Country Office in its emergency response operations in early 2016, and provided technical expertise to UNICEF Papua New Guinea in the review and performance improvement of its supply chain function.

UNICEF’s supply section continued to play a lead role in the work of the UN Procurement Task Team to develop common procurement strategies and to promote team spirit by initiating procurement officer meetings and sharing long-term agreements and vendor database information with other UN agencies.
Security for Staff and Premises

The security situation in the Philippines was dominated by intermittent periods of armed conflict, insurgency, frequent natural hazards and political violence, with periodic reports or advisories on terrorist activity and crime. In 2016, UNICEF personnel were located in Manila and Cotabato City.

More than 6,250 people were reportedly killed in the ‘war on crime/war on drugs’ since 30 May 2016. Of these, ‘...a total of 2,190 people have been killed in 40,778 police operations conducted across the country, 43,760 suspected drug pushers and users arrested, 1,018,660 have surrendered, and another 4,050 people killed have been classified under Death Under Investigation or DUI and also include incidents of unexplained killings’. Drug-related operations are likely to continue across the country and, although such incidents pose no direct threat to UN personnel, occurrence of civilian casualties highlights the risk of incidental violence.

UNICEF operations remain conducive in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Security levels in Mindanao remained complex and multi-faceted, ranging from moderate to significant. Ongoing conflicts between non-state armed groups and the Armed Forces of the Philippines continued to limit access to communities and the implementation of humanitarian programmes.

UNICEF Philippines and zone office premises were assessed as being compliant with the Minimum Operating Security Standards. Due to fire and earthquake risks, two building evacuation drills were undertaken, including a district-wide earthquake drill organized by the local government in June.

Security and administrative personnel managed and monitored the movement of staff throughout the Philippines. Staff members were required to obtain security clearance prior to any travel and to carry emergency telecommunications equipment while on mission, including mobile phones, satellite phones and VHF radios. UNICEF vehicles were equipped with high-frequency radios and first aid kits. Staff safety and security advisories were regularly shared with all UNICEF personnel.

Human Resources

Hiring managers ensured that their teams had the right profile mix and assessed their competencies to achieve planned results. In response to the internal audit findings and a rapidly changing programme environment, UNICEF Philippines embarked on strengthening core programming skills. In 2016, programme staff of all levels participated in locally adapted programme planning process training modules related to the overall programme planning framework, gender and diversity, risk-informed and results-based management.

In September, six staff members participated in the East Asia and Pacific Regional Rapid Response Mechanism Training, and more than 70 staff members participated in a two-day Enterprise Risk Management training.

ACHIEVE information and guiding materials were regularly shared with all staff. Human resources held two briefing sessions encouraging regular, open performance discussions and providing constructive feedback.

The joint consultative committee met five times, focusing on staff well-being and other issues identified by the Global Staff Survey, including orientation on gender and diversity and team building. These themes were specifically addressed at an all-staff retreat in December. Additional focus areas included general service staff career development and improved
communication skills.

The annual UN Cares briefings such as the anti-stigma campaign did not take place in 2016. A session on gender diversity discussed the overlapping concerns of HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace. UNICEF Philippines organized a dialogue between Miss Universe and youth leaders living with HIV which contributed to increased interest in HIV within the office. A brownbag session on HIV/AIDS for staff and their dependents is scheduled for early 2017. Information materials were posted in strategic areas around the office.

UNICEF Philippines did not authorize the use of regular resources funds to temporarily bridge funding gaps of any OR-funded posts in 2016. However, this option will be considered in 2017, if needed.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The information and communications technology (ICT) unit built and maintained a reliable digital information system for UNICEF Philippines by supporting collaboration and 24x7 availability of systems. The ICT unit also provided technical leadership in disaster recovery and business continuity of office operations, which were critical to the work in the Country Office and the Cotabato Zone Office.

In coordination with the ICT Division–New York and the East Asia and Pacific regional ICT Advisor, the ICT unit delivered front-end and back-end support, including technical consultations for various programme projects.

UNICEF strengthened capacity for the analysis of programme information and promoted knowledge exchange through initiatives using geographic information system mapping, Sharepoint and Excel data analysis.

The communications/private fundraising and partnerships digital team received ICT support in monitoring accounts for the social media channels. The child protection section was supported in implementing a cloud-based Primero system.

Hardware and software specifications were provided to implementing partners based on budget and project requirements.

An orientation was organized for more than 150 end users to maximize the use of cloud-based services (e.g., Office 365, Skype) and increase awareness of ICT security-related incidents.

Skype and the Polycom system were used to facilitate meetings and human resource-related interviews.

Security measures and administration of shared office folder/file system, Outlook email lists and Active Directory accounts were improved.

Support was provided to MyCase invoice processing workflows by ensuring the availability of document scanners, disk space for scanned files and sufficient Internet bandwidth.

Systems availability was maintained at 99.9 per cent using the consolidated network and server monitoring systems with alert notification.

The office business continuity plan was reviewed and functional tests of emergency ICT equipment were conducted.
Support was provided to the UN House task team, including preparation of decision-support and financial analysis of possible commercial UN house options.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Special Purpose

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Philippines put in place a new structure to support the growth of private sector fundraising operations in the country. In the first quarter of 2016, three new posts were added to the team to oversee and manage donor acquisition, donor retention and digital fundraising.

The new team structure achieved positive results in 2016. UNICEF Philippines raised US$5.34 million from private individuals and companies in the Philippines—an income growth of eight per cent over the previous year.

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Philippines aligned fundraising efforts with the three programmatic priorities for resource mobilization, namely: Violence against Children, First 1,000 Days and Peacebuilding. Private sector fundraising materials targeted to individuals and companies were developed around these three broad themes.

In July 2016, a partnership between UNICEF and Cebu Pacific, the Philippines' fastest-growing low-cost airline, was formalized with the launch of Change for Good, a customer fundraising programme designed to collect spare change and donations from Cebu Pacific passengers. All proceeds go towards supporting UNICEF’s First 1,000 Days programme. In addition to raising funds, the partnership gives UNICEF a venue to promote its work to countless potential individual supporters, locally and worldwide.

To ensure the team remained focused on its key performance targets, monthly review meetings were organized to report on year-to-date results on income, number of new donors recruited, number of donors retained and average donation amounts. A monthly Financial Report was submitted to the RSC to track progress against income targets. A full-year review is scheduled in January 2017 to analyse results, review 2017 forecasts and adjust plans using 2016 actual results as basis for recalibration.

OUTPUT 1 Effectively managed Private Sector Fundraising operations

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Output indicators are under Outcome 807/003 (Cross-cutting/Private fundraising and partnerships)

**OUTCOME 2** Advocacy, resource mobilization, partnership, and monitoring & evaluation are addressed through internal management arrangements

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The country management team (CMT) met 11 times in 2016 to analyse progress and constraints against annual management plan and UNICEF Regional Office benchmarks. The CMT also made decisions regarding issues raised by office committees (e.g. budget allocations), the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers assurance plan and progress in implementing the internal audit action plan.

The total allocation of regular resources, other resources – emergency and institutional budget was US$48.1 million, of which US$44.1 million, or 94 per cent, was utilized.

A Mid-Year Programme and Management Review was conducted to take stock of the priorities of the new Government after the elections and the potential impact on development priorities, and to review the progress of cross-cutting result areas and managing partners in the transition from humanitarian response to development. The information was used to update the Country Programme Management Plan and risk profile in support of the Country Programme extension.

A resource mobilization strategy was crafted to address potential funding gaps. Information packets were designed and used in a series of meetings with National Committees and key bilateral donors in-country.

More than 6,250 people were reportedly killed since 30 May 2016 in the new President’s ‘war on crime/war on drugs’ since 30 May 2016. Drug-related operations are likely to continue across the country and, although such incidents pose no direct threat to UN personnel, occurrence of civilian casualties highlights the risk of incidental violence.
OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems: Office results are proficiently managed and systems efficiently applied that ensued maximum efficiency of resources.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Country Management Team met 11 times in 2016 to analyse progress and constraints against Annual Management Plan and Regional Office benchmarks. The CMT also decided on issues raised by office committees (e.g. budget allocations), the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers assurance plan and progress in implementing the internal audit action plan.

UNICEF Philippines continued to update standard operating procedures, including invoice processing, e-recruitment, performance management, management of Programme Cooperation Agreements and travel planning, monitoring and reporting.

UNICEF actively participated in inter-agency procurement activities by issuing joint long-term agreements. A total of 92 long-term agreements are in place, supporting UNICEF and other interested UN agencies in securing favourable prices and reducing transaction times for commonly procured goods and services.

A Mid-Year Programme and Management Review was held review the priorities of the new Government after the elections and the potential impact on development priorities, and to review the progress of cross-cutting result areas and managing partners in the transition from humanitarian response to development. The information was used to update the Country Programme Management Plan and risk profile in support of the Country Programme extension.

An End-of-year Review was organized with the National Economic and Development Authority and main implementing partners. The review covered key achievements and challenges, lessons learned, and priorities for 2017-2018.

OUTPUT 2 Financial Resources and Stewardship: Financial resources are acquired for commitments and efficiently managed to support realization of results.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The total allocation of regular resources, other resources, other resources – emergency and institutional budget was US$48.1 million, of which US$44.1 million, or 94 per cent, was utilized. The unused balance was for grants valid beyond 2016 and is included in the 2017-2018 rolling work plans.

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A comprehensive Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers Assurance Plan was developed for 100 implementing partners, with an estimated annual throughput of more than US$21 million. The completion rate against the planned assurance activities mostly met key performance target levels. UNICEF Philippines completed 11 of 12 planned micro assessments (91.7 per cent), 32 of 49 planned financial spots checks (65 per cent), 7 of 7 planned scheduled audits (100 per cent); and 105 of 111 planned programmatic visits (95 per cent).

No donor reports were overdue, and 97 percent were submitted on time.

**OUTPUT 3** Human Capacity: Staff members empowered to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate agreed programme and management results in a secured learning environment.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In response to the internal audit findings and a rapidly changing programme environment, UNICEF Philippines embarked on strengthening core programming skills. Programme staff of all levels participated in locally adapted Programme Planning Process training modules related to the overall programme planning framework, gender and diversity, risk-informed Situation Analysis of Women and Children, and results-based management. The gender balance within the national and international professional category improved slightly in 2016.

The Joint Consultative Committee met five times, focusing on staff well-being and other issues identified by the Global Staff Survey, e.g., orientation on gender and diversity, and team building. These themes were specifically addressed at an all-staff retreat in December. Additional focus areas included General Service staff career development and improved communication skills.

An all staff session on gender diversity discussed the overlapping concerns of HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace. UNICEF Philippines organized a dialogue with Miss Universe and youth leaders living with HIV, which contributed to increased interest on these issues within the office.

The security situation in the Philippines is dominated by intermittent periods of armed conflict, insurgency, frequent natural hazards and political violence, with periodic reports or advisories on terrorist activity and crime. More than 6,250 people were reportedly killed in the new President’s ‘war on crime/war on drugs’ since 30 May 2016. Drug-related operations are likely to continue across the country and, although such incidents pose no direct threat to UN personnel, occurrence of civilian casualties highlights the risk of incidental violence.

UNICEF Philippines and zone office premises were assessed as being compliant with the Minimum Operating Security Standards.

**OUTCOME 3** By the end of the country program, increased access to high-impact preventive services for pregnant women, newborns and children and household behavior change interventions (focused on skilled birth attendance & newborn/child care, nutrition, WASH and HIV) for resource-challenged vulnerable LGUs with high incidence of child mortality (selected regions with 31 per cent underweight) and HIV (selected high incidence LGUS with high-risk youth groups), WASH (selected LGUs with
Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, the Government endorsed two landmark, UNICEF-supported, universal health coverage-related policies. The National Health Insurance entity PhilHealth officially endorsed a comprehensive health insurance package covering services for 5 million children with disabilities nationwide who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments. Simultaneously UNICEF established integrated service delivery networks consisting of four subnational hubs and developed communication plans to address stigma. The components include primary prevention of disabilities in children; improved capacity of frontline health workers; better integrated service delivery networks centred around regional rehabilitation hubs providing comprehensive services, including assistive devices, for children with disabilities; enhanced financial access to rehabilitative services and assistive devices; and improved practices and attitudes towards children with disabilities among communities and service providers.

UNICEF, the Department of Health (DOH) and PhilHealth officially endorsed and launched a comprehensive health insurance package for premature and small newborns. UNICEF led the design of this innovative benefit package, which can reach 300,000 premature and small newborns every year. The package enables families to access the necessary care for babies suffering from preterm and low-birth-weight complications. The package covers a broad range of interventions, from management of preterm labour to addressing severe complications of prematurity and low birth weight. Examples of interventions include antenatal corticosteroids for pregnant women at risk of giving birth to a premature baby; incentives for maternal transfer to the nearest referral facility; Kangaroo Mother Care; and neonatal intensive care and breastfeeding support. By the end of 2016, beneficiaries could take advantage of this package in contracted government and private tertiary health facilities across the Philippines. A request to develop a SAM benefit package was received in 2016.

Fourteen health emergency management-related national policies were endorsed with UNICEF support in 2016. These policies include resilient Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Rehabilitation Plans focusing on maternal and child health, nutrition, HIV and WASH in post-disaster settings.

By using the Scale-Up Nutrition (SUN) platform, UNICEF continued supporting the First 1,000 Days advocacy campaign and developed several 1,000 Days bills, which were presented to the House of Representatives and Senate. The First 1,000 Days initiative aims to invest in better health and nutrition to help families break the cycle of poverty. Convergence was further enhanced by integrating the WASH and Nutrition programmes to support the First 1,000 Days initiative.

UNICEF continued to support the SUN movement through advocacy to strengthen the implementation of the Milk Code and Universal Salt Iodization.

UNICEF helped draft the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition. An extensive cost-benefit nutrition study undertaken by UNICEF and the Government revealed a loss of approximately US$3.99 billion in the annual gross domestic product due to malnutrition. Government agencies validated this study, which formed the basis for the National Nutrition Council’s (NNC) budget allocation to 15 Scalable Nutrition Actions between 2017 and 2022.

UNICEF assisted municipalities in operationalizing service delivery networks (SDNs) for maternal and newborn care in rural and urban settings. The process generated local policies and standardized referral forms and guidelines ready for South-South sharing and for inclusion in national policy through UNICEF’s active participation in the DOH national technical working group on SDN policy development.
HIV remains a major concern, with a 230 per cent increase in cases during the past four years. UNICEF further strengthened HIV links to adolescent health and development, including integrated approaches with sexual reproductive health and safe motherhood at city and national levels.

In 2016, C4D received more attention as an important crosscutting strategy. Capacity building for municipalities and partners was emphasized, along with communication support for an expanded programme on immunization and initiatives on national maternal, newborn, and child health. A formative research for nutrition to inform the development of a communication strategy was initiated.

Government requests for UNICEF to keep facilitating health and nutrition supplies remained high. UNICEF pre-positioned WASH, nutrition and health emergency stocks, and provided technical support to the DOH valued at US$20 million for the expanded programme on immunization, vaccine and medicine procurement services. UNICEF also helped the DOH procure essential severe acute malnutrition (SAM) management commodities such as ready-to-use therapeutic food and therapeutic milk worth US$3.3 million.

In its cluster co-lead role, UNICEF continued to provide technical support to build the capacity of the National WASH Cluster and National Nutrition Cluster, and to support to the Health Cluster.

UNICEF coordinated WASH efforts small-scale emergencies and, in line with the WASH Cluster’s five-year strategic plan, updated the DOH’s training manual for WASH in emergencies and information, education and communication materials. With UNICEF’s technical support, the Government finalized the Nutrition Emergency Preparedness and Response plan through a Governing Board resolution endorsed in November 2016.


UNICEF, along with the DOH, Department of Interior and Local Government, UN Development Programme and World Health Organization, is developing programming approaches that support more integrated WASH planning and implementation at the local level.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of the country program (CP), coverage of births attended by skilled birth attendants (SBA) with postnatal and newborn care is increased in partner municipalities and contributions are made to strengthen national and local health system (including immunization program management and inclusive health policies).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The new administration’s Philippine Health Agenda is very much like the previous administration’s agenda in its goals of achieving better health outcomes, financial risk protection, and improving the public health system’s responsiveness to the poorest Filipinos. Universal health coverage and SDNs are still the major strategies to achieve equitable healthcare across life stages and target the triple burden of disease. The goals are aligned with the country’s aspirations articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals and Ambisyon 2040.

Sector challenges remain, including gaps in health human resource coverage, demand generation, achieving maximum efficiencies in the health budget increments from the ‘sin
tax’ at the national level, and strategic health prioritization and budgeting at the local level. To this end, UNICEF technical assistance sought to strengthen the national standard setting and regulatory functions by contributing its downstream experiences to crafting responsive policies. Upstream work focused on national policies to enhance financial protection for children with disabilities and children with complications of prematurity, the latter being the top killer of Filipino children under 5 years. Both are landmark policies for conditions previously unaddressed.

In ARMM and Isabela City, tetanus supplemental immunization activities were conducted, reaching more than 80 per cent of women of reproductive age, moving the Philippines closer to achieving Maternal Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) status.

The Joint Programme on Maternal and Neonatal Health ended in 2016. It harvested LGU experiences to localize SDN through process documentation. Those experiences will be transmitted to the DOH and PhilHealth policymakers. Lessons learned in strengthening local SDNs include: leadership and governance training; installation of electronic health information systems and data use for governance; barangay (village) mobilization; capturing the process to connect the dots comprising the SDN; and setting up an accountability system through guidelines and tools for maternal and child health. As a result, all eight focus LGUs have organized SDNs, with varying degrees of maturity.

The Web-based Vaccination Supplies and Stock Management, one of two target innovations to improve the immunization supply chain, was introduced. Support for policy development towards quality and equitable care continued through the ongoing review of the PhilHealth maternal and newborn care benefit packages.

Two of five LGU models were established for implementing the Reaching Every Purok strategy to strengthen routine immunization. Twelve of 18 target LGUs increased their health budget. Progress was made on equity work in urban, and policy dialogue and long-term capacity building plans on vaccine procurement. Skilled birth attendant coverage increased by a modest 5.4 per cent and did not reach the targeted 15 per cent growth in coverage.

This shows the difficulties and complexity of reinforcing health systems and capturing the contribution of system-strengthening work. UNICEF will continue providing technical assistance to finish upstream and downstream targets in the Country Programme extension.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of the country program, households, schools and ECCD centres will have universal use of sustainable and resilient basic sanitation, and safe water with improved hygiene behaviour in selected barangays within 20 vulnerable LGUs.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Through PhATS, 33 communities (population 56,537) that were directly supported by UNICEF achieved zero open defecation (Grade 1) in 2016 and are moving towards sustainable sanitation (Grade 2) wherein improved sanitation facilities are available in all households and all government institutions. Following local government elections in mid-2016, UNICEF conducted orientations and additional advocacy efforts to bring new local chief executives on board with the WASH agenda. In most cases, re-elected and newly elected officials were keen to build on the programme’s successes to date. In the provinces of Capiz, Eastern Samar, Masbate and North Cotabato, and to a limited extent Leyte and Sultan Kudarat, local government partners are sustaining PhATS implementation with limited technical and financial support from UNICEF and NGO partners.
To enhance and sustain government-led PhATS implementation, and as part of the transition strategy in Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas, UNICEF supported Regional and Provincial Health Offices with additional capacity building on WASH planning, applying community-led total sanitation and communication for development tools, and monitoring and knowledge management initiatives. UNICEF support also strengthened the technical and business management skills of 16 selected sanitation entrepreneurs to provide sanitation products and services. This approach is beginning to see results at scale: the Region VIII Health Office recently provided cash grants as rewards to 10 municipal governments in Eastern Samar and Leyte for achieving zero open defecation status across the whole municipality.

In selected municipalities, UNICEF built on the experiences of implementing PhATS to date to develop a more holistic, integrated WASH approach (under the Joint Sustainable Development Goals-Fund WASH Programme) and to pilot joint WASH-Nutrition programming.

Although WASH in learning centres is integrated into PhATS, specific additional work was undertaken in 2016 to advocate and provide technical support for planning and budgeting for WASH in schools and day care centres in selected municipalities. Three LGUs in Leyte entered into a tripartite agreement (PhilHealth-LGU-Department of Education) to demonstrate how the capitation funds could be leveraged for sustainable financing for WASH in schools. Twenty-four of 25 LGUs with budgets for WASH in ECCD were able to disburse the funds. The Northern Samar provincial government launched a programme to scale up WASH in ECCD to all 24 municipalities.

In partnership with Community Health Solutions and Innovations and the Department of Education, UNICEF began developing a menstrual hygiene management communication-for-development package for schools. The pilot WASH in ECCD communication-for-development package developed in Masbate in 2015 was further refined, with testing ongoing in Northern Samar and Puerto Princesa.

UNICEF continued pre-positioning contingency stocks and making long-term agreements for critical supplies and services. WASH emergency clauses were included in all partnership arrangements, facilitating more timely assessments after Typhoon Lando and localized displacements in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. In response to small-scale emergencies, UNICEF provided 48,500 people with access to emergency water supplies and hygiene materials and supported 3,500 people in repairing damaged toilets.

**OUTPUT 3** By the end of 2016, Government of the Philippines on both decentralized and centralized level is capable to scale up programmes for improved access to and utilization of essential nutrition services to prevent and treat maternal and child under-nutrition across first 1000 days of life with inclusive and exclusive focus on evidence based planning, nutrition preparedness and building resilience.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The DOH and NNC initiated high-level advocacy efforts by launching the Global Nutrition Report and SUN Movement with the Philippine Coalition of Advocates for Nutrition Security, UN agencies and other multisectoral agencies.
The DOH, NNC and UNICEF commissioned a costing study on undernutrition. Results were used for advocacy and specific inputs into the costing of 15 Scalable Nutrition Actions in national policies. The SUN movement and civil society groups were advocacy channels for bills on the First 1,000 Days and maternity leave. Another study was conducted to scale up rice fortification.

Advocacy efforts continued strengthening Milk Code implementation. A breastfeeding toolkit was developed and distributed to selected regions, targeting government agencies and the business and labour sectors.

Through UNICEF and Kalusugan ng Mag-ina (Mother-and-Child Health), standard SAM training modules were developed and used in DOH-led trainings in 17 provinces, which strengthened the capacity of 150 medical staff and nutritionists to serve as trainers. UNICEF’s procurement services also helped the DOH procure US$3.3 million worth of essential SAM management commodities, which would provide life-saving treatment to approximately 50,000 children with SAM (16 per cent of national caseload). This was the first time the DOH procured therapeutic commodities.

With RedR UK and the Global Nutrition Cluster, UNICEF supported the NNC’s adaptation of Nutrition Cluster information management modules. Through Nutrition Information Management training, 38 regional staff from the NNC and DOH, and Nutrition Cluster partners’ information managers acquired data-collecting and analysis skills.

Service delivery points in 27 LGUs in the ARMM and Zamboanga City affected by long-standing conflicts and displacements accepted essential nutrition supplies for SAM and micronutrient programming and for infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling services from UNICEF. More than 800 SAM children were admitted to the SAM management programme, and 617 were discharged as cured. More than 25,000 children received Vitamin A, and 17,562 pregnant and lactating women received optimal IYCF counselling.

UNICEF and the World Food Programme guided government nutrition focal persons in analysing the results of Operation Timbang (annual screening to identify malnourished children 0-71 months by measuring weight and height) and nutrition indicators in the Field Health Service Information System. The analysis enabled the focal persons to determine the gaps and strategies in delivering nutrition interventions. One strategy identified was advocacy to LGUs to allocate funds for the first 1,000 days as part of their nutrition action plans.

Strengthening LGUs’ capacity to provide quality WASH and nutrition services became a priority in 2016. A workshop for key stakeholders from government and non-government partners was conducted to develop a Theory of Change on joint WASH-Nutrition programming. Two municipal LGUs—Bobon and Mapanas in Northern Samar—were selected to pilot this programming because of high levels of stunting and open defecation. Eighty-two rural health unit and LGU staff and community health and nutrition workers from Bobon and Mapanas now have improved capacities on IYCF, SAM management, growth monitoring and promotion, and first 1,000 days. A Nutrition–WASH pilot intervention was initiated.

**OUTPUT 4** By the end of the country program, increased access to quality life skills education and adolescent friendly health services, including HIV prevention in priority LGUs.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
New HIV infections increased in the Philippines in the last decade, meaning the country is on the verge of an expanding HIV epidemic in the coming years. From 2011 to 2015, newly diagnosed HIV cases climbed 230 per cent among adolescents ages 15-19. As the economy continues to grow, donor support for AIDS seems to be decreasing. Limited financial commitment is likely to further widen disparities due to the low coverage of HIV prevention programmes; limited access to Integrated HIV Behavioural and Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) and analysis; resistance in sharing data with the local government; limited monitoring of HIV among pregnant women in high-burden areas; and policies barring the access of minors to HIV testing and sexual and reproductive health services (Review of AIDS Medium-Term Plan 2011-2016).

UNICEF supported the DOH in enhancing the framework of accelerating HIV response to key adolescent populations. Based on an evidence-based strategy, the partnership gained broader buy-in from LGUs and helped them generate evidence and improve data use. As a result, commitment to implementation and funding of endorsed programmes to boost the health and well-being of adolescents notably increased. As part of the ‘All In’ initiative, UNICEF helped the government analyse IHBSS 2015 data and develop a situational analysis on adolescents with HIV.

Policy advocacy initiatives in five high-burden areas (the cities of Quezon, Iloilo, Zamboanga, Cebu, and Davao) led to the endorsement of the amended local AIDS ordinance in Quezon City and the signing of agreements in Zamboanga and Iloilo. The agreements offer minors at risk of HIV and pregnancy access to life-saving information and quality services despite a restrictive legal environment.

Empowering adolescents to take the necessary steps to become healthy, productive individuals requires a caring, adolescent-sensitive, learning environment. Thus, UNICEF assisted the DOH and the Department of Education in developing the necessary tools and curricula on life skills education for teachers and peer educators, and in building the capacity of frontline health and social welfare service providers and guidance counsellors. The Quezon City Local Health Board approved the use of HIV reference materials for Grade 8 students in 47 high schools in the next school year.

In 2016, UNICEF focused on better service coverage, intensified outreach services, community mobilization and reoriented service provision for target key adolescent populations in UNICEF-supported sites (mainly five HIV high-burden cities). In Iloilo and Zamboanga cities, the number of adolescents accessing services in implementing partners’ facilities increased significantly, from 3 clients (on average) to 83 clients per month (40 adolescents accessing HIV testing, 22 pregnant teenagers getting antenatal care services, 18 adolescents receiving medical treatment and 3 adolescents accepting family planning counselling and commodities).

UNICEF became a prime catalyst and leader of adolescent health and development programmes at the national level, consistently supporting government agencies and advocating higher expenditures and fund allocation where they are most needed. UNICEF leveraged government budget and support the crafting for the new administration of priority development plans 2017-2022, such as the Philippine Youth Development Plan and 6th AIDS Medium-Term Plan.

OUTPUT 5 Affected families in priority evacuation centres, relocation sites and communities including affected children in priority schools, day care centres, and temporary learning sites have access to safe and secure basic sanitation and safe water facilities with improved hygiene behaviour; and contributes to reducing risk and strengthening resilience.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Throughout the first half of 2016, UNICEF supported completion of work under the WASH Haiyan recovery programme. Work focused on finishing the direct implementation of the Haiyan PhATS programme by partner civil society organizations and integrating relevant accountabilities into the work plans of municipal, provincial and regional governments.

As a result, an additional 186 communities were certified as ‘zero open defecation’ (ZOD). Community awards for reaching ZOD status (Grade 1 sanitation under PhATS) were used to improve community drinking water sources (benefiting more than 98,000 people) and to help communities to upgrade their sanitation facilities (benefiting 57,846 people). By June 2016, 288 communities across the Haiyan-affected areas had been certified as achieving sustainable sanitation status (Grade 2 under PhATS) wherein improved sanitation facilities are available in all households and all government institutions.

Work was also completed on installing the remaining 25 solar pump water systems and supporting WASH infrastructure in schools and day care centres, thus giving an additional 1,210 children access to drinking water and clean toilets in their learning environment, and allowing them to brush their teeth and wash hands with soap daily.

Pending the Department of Health’s new WASH information management system to be tested (see IR801-008), UNICEF continued to support implementation of the ZOD data collection and monitoring system in Regions VI and VIII, using an Open Data Kit tool developed in 2015.

The end-line survey for the PhATS programme in Haiyan-affected areas was carried out in February-March 2016. Overall the assessment found greater awareness of and importance given to improved practices relating to WASH in the areas surveyed, as demonstrated by the increased ownership of improved, non-shared, sanitation facilities, the higher number of times people reportedly wash their hands with soap daily, and the net increase in the proportion of schools with structures in place to improve WASH practices.

However, the findings also highlighted several persistent challenges across Haiyan-affected areas. The lack of trust in improved water sources, combined with the lack of household knowledge on how to adequately treat drinking water, was identified as a concern and should be addressed through strengthened and publicly accountable water quality monitoring and reporting mechanisms, along with intensified behaviour change communications on safe household water treatment and storage methods.

The insights relating to the ongoing practice of open defecation, even in households that have access to a toilet and in communities that have declared ZOD status, also point to areas where future programming should be strengthened to ensure that all members of a household consistently use a toilet (or practice safe disposal), no matter their age, or whether they are at home, at school, at work or in a public place.

As part of the transition strategy, UNICEF supported ongoing capacity building and technical support at the regional and provincial levels to institutionalise PhATS within the Department of Health and to strengthen School Based Management for WASH in Schools within the Department of Education.

OUTPUT 6 By the end of the country program, National Government Agencies prioritize equitable access to basic sanitation, drinking water and hygiene in households and learning institutions within their sectoral policies, legal instruments and budget allocations.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Components of the WASH policy advocacy work plan advanced well in 2016. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council signed Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, Series 2016, which outlines the roles and commitments of national government agencies and their local counterparts in ensuring that children in early learning centres have access to WASH facilities. This facilitated advocacy efforts for local WASH in ECCD.

The Department of Education passed the new national WASH in Schools (WinS) Policy (DepEd Order No. 10, s. 2016) in February 2016. This enabled the national WinS technical working group to craft a localized version of the Three-Star Approach to WinS and a complementary online monitoring system. This was informed by UNICEF-supported experiences in Regions VI and VIII and German Corporation for International Cooperation-supported experiences in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and further refined for national application through regional consultations.

With support from UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, the Department of Health (DOH) hosted a national Sanitation Learning Exchange, which gathered government representatives, civil society organizations and the private sector to learn from emerging innovations in sanitation programming. The case studies demonstrated strong support from municipal and provincial officials implementing the Phased Approach to Total Sanitation (PhATS), resulting in agreement from the DOH to begin developing national PhATS policy guidelines.

Under the Sustainable Development Goal-Fund Joint Programme on Promoting Water and Sanitation Access, UNICEF is working with the DOH, DILG, UN Development Programme and WHO to develop more integrated WASH (iWASH) approaches. UNICEF integrated PhATS into the iWASH tools and guidance, and strengthened sanitation and hygiene capacity in three target Regional WASH Hubs.

The Open Data Kit pilot created to monitor progress against the National Sustainable Sanitation Plan’s open defecation targets continued, and lessons are being fed into national discussions. The DOH started developing its own monitoring system, which needs to be piloted. In a linked initiative, UNICEF supported a review of the National Search for Barangays with Best Sanitation Practices to identify how to link this to the monitoring system and better incentivize local government units to implement the National Sustainable Sanitation Plan.

As WASH Sub-cluster co-lead, UNICEF supported activities under the five-year strategic plan, including updating the DOH’s information, education and communication materials and training manual for WASH in Emergencies, and crafting information management and capacity mapping tools. The Global WASH Cluster, through Action Against Hunger France, provided funds to support these activities, which will be completed by the first quarter of 2017. UNICEF also extended technical support to the DOH for coordination of small-scale WASH responses and WASH contingency planning processes. However, an operational framework on how the WASH Cluster operates as part of Health Quad Cluster is still to be developed.

OUTCOME 4 By end of CP, increased access to ECCD and elementary education by 20 per cent in 36 most vulnerable LGUs with special focus on gender parity and policy adaptation for national legislation and improved budget allocations.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
As of October 2016, 1,517,610 children had enrolled as 11th graders for the first time in the country’s history. The new administration’s strong support for K-12 education lent strong stability to ongoing reform.

The new Department of Education (DepED) leadership presented two major flagship sector priorities. The first is improving public financial management. For example, the DepED was expediting 2015 budget spending while pushing for the 2016 budget utilization. The new DepED secretary appointed two undersecretaries for finance and procurement to address the inefficiency. The second priority was the alternative learning system for out-of-school children and youth (estimated 3.8 million, ages 5-24), especially the youth left out of the new senior high school system. The DepED successfully negotiated a 2017 budget of US$ 1.7 billion, approximately 50 per cent more than the 2016 budget, to ensure full implementation of K-12 and the new alternative learning system.

The country’s overall education sector indicators, on the other hand, showed alarming trends. In School Year 2015-2016, the primary gross enrolment ratio was 106.31 per cent, and net enrolment ratio was 91.05 per cent (90.20 per cent for boys, 91.96 per cent for girls) recording six consecutive years of decline in net enrolment ratio, from 95.92 per cent in 2010. Kindergarten enrolment was also stagnant at 74.1 per cent (72.4 per cent for boys, 75.9 per cent for girls). Both the completion rate of 84.02 per cent (80.97 per cent for boys, 87.43 per cent for girls) and school-leaving rate of 2.69 per cent (3.30 per cent for boys, 2.01 per cent for girls) improved nationally.

However, the geographical disparity is still significant. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the most disadvantaged region, showed little improvement, with net enrolment ratio of 69.64 per cent, kindergarten enrolment rate of 49.8 per cent, completion rate of 56.88 per cent and school-leaving rate of 17.17 per cent. The data also continue to reveal the disadvantaged situation of boys.

Inequity has been the long-standing challenge of the Philippines. Children in disadvantaged conditions are still deprived of education and other basic social services. Children from ARMM are significantly lagging in both access to and quality of basic education. Some 2.4 million indigenous children are in school, but the total population of indigenous learners could range around 4-5 million. While data collection methodologies need further analysis, only 0.52 per cent of the children enrolled in elementary education in 2013 reported having disability. More than 30 per cent of public schools, the majority of them in remote areas, operate multi-grade teaching, and more than 3,100 schools are incomplete schools.

The 2016 World Bank Public Expenditure Tracking Survey suggests that system inefficiency further exacerbates the existing inequity. It found that the current school grants disbursement system and stringent financial and procurement rules give more advantage to already better-off schools in accessing more funds. While the DepED’s aggressive classroom and teacher procurement drastically improved overall national supply indicators, the analysis noted some distribution inefficiency, resulting in more schools reporting excess classrooms and teachers, while the gaps of other schools, possibly disadvantaged ones, remained unmet.

The new administration’s priorities are relevant to the sector’s context. The K-12 reform focused on establishing high school-level education service, but the focus needs to shift to the disadvantaged and marginalized. With inequity and a high number of out-of-school children, the country needs a long-term, well-targeted and costed strategic plan to tackle the issue of disadvantaged children and youth. Improving public financial management should also aim at enhancing financial and procurement efficiency to reach those most in need.
In 2016 UNICEF continued to support the Government in identifying new priority areas with a clearer view towards equity.

UNICEF led the discussion and highlighted the needs of disadvantaged children at the national Education Summit organized by the Government to inform the next Philippine Development Plan. The ECCD knowledge and awareness of 36 focus local government units (LGUs) was enhanced, resulting in an average 5 per cent increase in LGU budget for ECCD over 2012. The day care centre-elementary school modelling LINK activities, harnessing the local entities’ collaboration around young children, identified more than 5,900 unserved children who were given alternative daycare.

The equity data utilization project Data Must Speak developed with the DepED a teacher hardship index to achieve a more equitable hardship payment scheme for teachers nationwide.

The Philippines joined the regional learning assessment initiative Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics. A partnership among the DepED, UNICEF and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) carried out research on a multigrade programme to assist multigrade teachers in classrooms.

A training package on education in emergencies-disaster risk reduction for all DepED personnel is being finalised with full contribution from the Education Cluster. UNICEF’s Education programme underwent a comprehensive evaluation to inform the next programme design.

Tahderriyahs, the Muslim kindergartens supported by UNICEF, Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Bangsamoro Development Agency, were recognized as legitimate daycare providers that can access conditional cash transfer. Teacher support materials for four indigenous people’s languages were created to bolster indigenous people’s education in Mindanao.

UNICEF and DepED led the School Improvement Process (SIP) training design and Training of Trainers for all ARMM schools, with funds from the Basic Education Assistance for Muslim Mindanao-ARMM.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of CP, the proportion of 3-5 year old children with quality ECCD experience, is increased, in 36 vulnerable LGUs, focusing on disadvantaged children, with gender parity

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
At the national level, UNICEF’s support was geared towards inclusive, quality and holistic ECCD programmes and services, including training-orientation of ECCD focal persons in all regions, provinces and selected municipalities on the National Early Learning Curriculum and Standards and Guidelines for Centre-Based Childhood Programme and for children ages 0 to 4 years. The National Competency Standards for ECCD workers were developed as basis for human resource development and management in the sector.

The system created in 2013 to address the needs of children 3 to 4 years old with disabilities was expanded to cover children ages 0-5 through a more collaborative process led by the ECCD Council Technical Working Group. The system focuses on building the capabilities of child development workers and parents in the prevention, early identification, intervention and referral of developmental delays.
To support the preparation and initial implementation of the National ECCD Communication Plan, UNICEF drafted an initial set of materials for use by child development workers in parenting education sessions.

The DepED’s 2016 Omnibus Policy on Kindergarten reaffirms the adoption of developmentally appropriate approaches in curriculum implementation, use of the ECCD checklist as the main tool for both formative and summative assessment, and contextualization of kindergarten to address the specific circumstances of diverse learners (e.g., the kindergarten curriculum guide under development for Muslim children). In relation to the latter policy, the Tahderiyyah Programme is now included as an educational facility for preschool children in the conditional cash transfer programme.

A national training programme on mainstreaming ECCD in LGUs, linked to the Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit of the Department of Interior and Local Government, was developed to strengthen the ECCD management capacity of LGUs.

At the sub-national/local level, under the ECCD-Kinder-Primary Education Link initiative, mapping of all children in the convergence barangays (villages) was intensified, resulting in more than 5,000 3- to 5-year-old children in remote areas served through alternative delivery modalities such as Supervised Neighbourhood Play Groups and Kinder Catch-Up Education Programme. The Link initiative was replicated in focus areas and selected Teduray communities in Maguindanao. The Tahderiyyah Programme, which also supports transition from kinder to Grade 1, is benefiting 8,518 Muslim children ages 3-5.

The continuous advocacy to and training of LGUs in mainstreaming ECCD and managing communication for development initiatives in focus areas raised awareness and appreciation among key LGU stakeholders on ECCD. It also improved their capabilities in integrating ECCD into LGU plans, budgets and policies. Of the 36 focus areas, 30 (83 per cent) increased their ECCD budgets between 2013 and 2016, and 28 (78 per cent) demonstrated an average annual budget growth of at least 5 per cent (2016 LGU ECCD Budget Study).

To build networks of ECCD advocates and supporters, advocacy to LGUs was pursued through the Leagues of City and Municipality Mayors nationwide. In the ARMM, concerned regional government agencies participated in the ECCD Summit, which produced preliminary inputs to the region’s medium-term plan for children 0 to 8 years old in Bangsamoro.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of Country Programme, the proportion of 6-11 year old children participating in quality elementary education is increased by 5% in 36 vulnerable Local Government Units, focusing on disadvantaged children, with gender parity.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Philippines officially joined the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics, which will enhance the DepED’s capacity to benchmark with participating countries and inform its continuing K-to-12 reform on improving the quality of basic education.

The Last Mile Learner (LML) situational analysis jointly undertaken with the DepED’s Office of Planning provided inputs to the ongoing preparation of a strategic plan for disadvantaged learners, including the expansion of the Alternative Delivery System. The analysis revealed that the main reasons for skipping school are family and community conditions. Thus, more attention was given to strengthening school links with families and communities.
Improving school governance is considered critical to improving learning outcomes. The continued School Improvement Plan roll-out focused on the ARMM. With the support of the national DepED, UNICEF and Basic Education Assistance for Muslim Mindanao-ARMM, DepED ARMM now has 229 school based management mentors ready to help school planning teams. The preparation of instructional materials for equity-based school-community planning began. This will help the DepED institutionalize continuing school-based trainings on SIP implementation and monitoring. The toolkits for documenting experiences on District Synthesis were used to gather evidence of its effects for local advocacy and resource mobilization.

In partnership with the global Data Must Speak Project, UNICEF started formulating an equity-based teacher hardship index. Consultations with teachers, supervisors and finance officers revealed a broader range of factors, other than school distance and remoteness, which need to be considered in providing teacher hardship incentives. The project also supported further use of Enhanced Basic Education Information System (EBEIS) data for equity-based programming and advocacy using the School Report Cards and District Synthesis.

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In collaboration with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Basic Education Sector Transformation Programme, UNICEF enhanced the implementation of the multigrade programme catering to children in poor and remote communities. Curriculum guides and daily lesson plans aligned with the new curriculum and teach-learn packages meeting the diverse needs of learners, including children with learning disabilities, are now ready for pilot testing in multigrade schools. UNICEF also partnered with SEAMEO-Innotech to improve learning outcomes in multigrade schools through a review of the multigrade programme and capacity building for multigrade monitoring and supervision. A tripartite agreement among the DepED, SEAMEO-Innotech and UNICEF is underway.

The documentation of indigenous peoples’ knowledge, skills and practices paved the way for the development of learning materials culturally sensitive to three tribes of indigenous peoples: B’laan, T’boli and Tagakaolo. The contextualized learning materials, written in their mother tongues, are ready for pilot testing and are expected to improve teaching and learning outcomes for indigenous children, who have been long disadvantaged due to language barriers.

The development of an education in emergencies-disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) training package for the DepED informed the preparation of a DRRM capacity-building work plan. In the DepED ARMM, the orientation of DRRM coordinators yielded greater understanding of the complexity of mitigating disaster effects in conflict-affected environments. The DepED ARMM drafted a policy paper clarifying the roles, accountabilities and protocols for DRRM preparedness and response.

OUTCOME 5 By end of CP, improved and inclusive access to well-coordinated national and local child protection services in 10 LGU’s; supported by a functional public sector institutional framework focused on protective elements of ECD, and promoting equity and social inclusion, in coordination with Social Protection and a broader Social Protection strategy.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Proposals for legislation to reduce the minimum age of criminal responsibility, as part of the current law and order agenda, pose threats to justice for children. The ongoing campaign to tackle drug-related crimes has left children exposed to and caught in the violence, without a clear protocol to guide national/local government response to support children, including
those who have 'surrendered' or were accused of involvement in the drug trade.

Support for coordinated multisectoral efforts to end VAC was an overall programme priority for UNICEF Philippines in 2016. Efforts included a push to address online exploitation and the lack of online protection as a particular growing threat to children. UNICEF and the University of the Philippines National Institute of Health developed a research protocol for a planned National Study on Child Online Protection, designed to inform programme and policy. The ethical review board approved the protocol, allowing contracting for the study to proceed.

New partnerships were formed to meet the challenges of addressing online exploitation. Telecommunications sector representatives and Internet service providers were invited to share concerns and proposals to limit threats that children face online. UNICEF met with Internet service providers and global experts and agreed to design a training in early 2017 tailored to meet the need to protect the rights for safety and protection of children and young people in the Philippines.

In 2016, data from the 2015 violence against children survey was further analysed and recommendations were developed for a National Plan of Action. UNICEF supported an extensive peer review process involving Philippine experts/academics and international partners with experience in similar surveys in the region and globally. The review was complemented with UNICEF technical expertise to further refine the report and recommendations in time for the December 2016 launch.

UNICEF also supported regional consultative processes in developing the National Plan of Action on Violence against Children to ensure the engagement of girls and boys and communities.

Government commitment to end violence against children was realized through the Global VAC Partnership’s recommendation of the Philippines as a Pathfinder Country. A scoping mission was undertaken in April to ensure high-level commitment and advocacy, and to encourage the Philippines to be a model country in implementing the Sustainable Development Goal targets on ending violence against children.

UNICEF supported a joint UNICEF-government delegation to attend a regional VAC meeting in Beijing and share the Philippine VAC experience. China was interested to learn about the unique approach taken in designing and implementing the VAC survey, adapting research questions and methods to local culture, and veering away from standard global tools/models.

Recognizing the importance of learning and sharing in VAC research, and focusing on lessons learned in Asia, the Philippines contracted an expert researcher, who had been involved in VAC surveys in both Cambodia and Lao PDR, to compile a report comparing the three Southeast Asian countries’ survey processes and outcomes. The East Asia and Pacific Regional Office supported the regional review.

Considering the VAC study findings that violence in the home is the most pervasive threat to children, attention has been drawn to positive discipline and Parenting Support Interventions. The Philippines, with its long experience in parenting support interventions, including Family Development Sessions within conditional cash transfer, was invited to host a major regional event on Parenting Support for country delegations from East Asia and the Pacific and other regions. The meeting brought together experts and facilitated the introduction of innovative and effective methods of parenting support being adapted to the Philippine context.
Strengthening parenting support was also linked with efforts to build the capacity of social welfare services and ensure greater involvement of social workers in violence prevention. Training for social workers was highlighted in several regions and emerging areas of priority such as online abuse and good parenting were introduced.

UNICEF Philippines hosted delegations from other countries who wanted to learn about laws, legislation and child protection policy to strengthen initiatives in their countries. Visitors from Vietnam, Ghana and Indonesia were hosted in 2016.

UNICEF raised concerns about proposed changes to existing legislation (RA 9344), including plans to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility. UNICEF advocated for the retention of age 15 and provided evidence on the protection threats children would face if imprisoned.

With support from UNICEF, progress in protecting children in emergencies was reached with the signing of Republic Act 10821 (the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act of 2016), and the development of the National Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for girls and boys in emergencies.

Monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations showed increasing numbers of verification, including reports of violations in indigenous communities in Mindanao.

The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting met systematically and discussed progress in implementing the Moro Islamic Liberation Front Action Plan. All benchmarks are expected to be met in the first quarter of 2017.

Armed engagements and military operations continued to affect children. An increase in operations of violent radical groups posed serious concerns, including child recruitment.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of Country Programme, strengthened national and local level institutional capacity to legislate, measure, monitor and advocate and plan for equitable access to child protection services that prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following completion of the Violence against Children (VAC) Survey in 2015, and recommendations from the 2016 Systematic Literature Review on VAC, UNICEF is supporting formulation of the National Plan of Action on Violence against Children (NPA-VAC) for 2017-2022. The NPA-VAC is a multisectoral road map, led by the Council for the Welfare of Children, designed towards a progressive reduction of violence against children. It focuses on addressing the cause of violence, building the capacity of both girls and boys to protect themselves, improving the legislative environment, enhancing integrated services for prevention and response, and ensuring access to social services. Monitoring interventions to prevent and respond to VAC, documenting good practices, reflection on lessons learned, and evaluating progress in implementation are included in the plan. It is anticipated that the VAC Response Plan will be adopted by Government in early 2017. The VAC results were launched and presented to the public on December 6, 2016.

The results of the National Board of Statistics violence against children study were shared in the regional Technical Forum on National Surveys on Violence against Children in Beijing, China in April 2016. UNICEF also supported the Philippine government in presenting the study results at UNICEF’s High-Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region in Malaysia in November 2016. The VAC study also was presented in Bangkok in October 2016 in a regional learning and research partnership in Asia composed
of academics and child protection experts.

In 2016, UNICEF supported Government and key stakeholders to strengthen child online protection initiatives, guided by the global We Protect framework, including the anticipated adoption of the National Response Plan to Prevent and Address Child Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by end 2016. Findings from the UNICEF-commissioned systematic literature review and capacity gap analysis of child online protection stakeholders guided these processes, with leadership from the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP). The Response Plan builds on the gains made in 2015, including capacity-building, knowledge management, advocacy, and enhancing partnership, specifically with industry. UNICEF will support the Philippine Kids Online Survey and the National Study on Child Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation targeted for completion in 2017. Research protocols were ethically cleared for these two studies in 2016. Support was provided for research proponents to attend meetings organized by UNICEF Office of Research and by the London School of Economics, thereby ensuring Philippine inclusion in global dialogues.

When the 17th Congress submitted a bill to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility, UNICEF advocated with key partners for retention of the current minimum age and called for the full implementation of the current law. UNICEF supported efforts of the executive and judicial branches of government and non-governmental partners to increase capacity in case management and proper implementation of the law, including wider practice and acceptance of community-based mechanisms and restorative justice.

**OUTPUT 2** By end of the country programme, improved support to integrated social welfare and child protection services as part of the social protection framework.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Child Protection (CP) systems were strengthened in 2016 through support for the Social Welfare sector, recognizing the critical link with Social Protection (SP), and the importance of encouraging a more child sensitive social protection agenda. Efforts to better link SP and CP were made through a UNICEF study that analysed SP-CP in the Philippines and identified strengths/gaps, and areas of convergence. Social Welfare was identified as the key area of convergence, and within social welfare, Parenting Support interventions were recognized as an entry point for work on prevention of violence against children (VAC), an identified programme priority.

UNICEF work to enhance child protection messages in the Family Development Sessions (FDS) currently implemented in the country’s conditional cash transfer programme (4Ps) began in 2016. Messages on positive discipline and the importance of birth registration were proposed for integration within the existing FDS.

UNICEF advocated for equity in Birth Registration through a presentation at the 13th National Convention on Statistics, ‘Sustainable Development: Making Statistics Count’, highlighting disparities in registration, where more vulnerable girls and boys are not counted.

UNICEF was also invited to host a regional workshop on Parenting Support Intervention for Violence Prevention in East Asia and the Pacific initiated by UNICEF’s East Asia Pacific Regional Office. The meeting was attended by more than 70 participants from East Asia and the Pacific and highlighted the need to learn and share experience and evidence to better promote proven and effective Parenting Support interventions, as well as to encourage greater innovations through research, in partnership with government and other stakeholders.

UNICEF worked with a local partner agency to adapt the South African model Sinovuyo,
Caring Families Programme for Young Children to the Philippine context, with an aim to improve the skills of mothers and fathers with children 2-9 years old. The first phase of this programme, including adapting tools and resources to the local context was completed in 2016, including training for local partners.

UNICEF Philippines also supported the finalization of the National Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support through a series of consultations with key stakeholders, including children. PSS is a pillar of Child Protection work, particularly in emergency and conflict situations. The National Guidelines are a critical tool to ensure a more standardized approach to psychosocial support implementation. The final national guidelines were endorsed by the government for final approval and circulation.

UNICEF’s capacity building for local partners included support for: social workers in the Resiliency Program (partnership with DSWD and the Centre for Family Ministries) to improve handling of CICL cases; Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children to improve prevention, response, referral and coordination of efforts; and social workers engaged in implementation of the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (working with Homeless Street Families).

As a result of the VAC study data, analyses and recommendations, the need for a greater focus on parenting support interventions as a strategy for violence prevention emerged in 2016.

**OUTPUT 3** By the end of the country programme, resilient national and local level institutional capacity on Child Protection in Humanitarian Response is in place, to respond to natural and human-induced emergencies.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Philippine Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), with technical secretariat at UNICEF, improved geographic coverage of monitoring and verification activities and increased awareness among humanitarian organizations and parties to the conflict, resulting in more reports submitted by task force partners and alleged violations reported by parties to the conflict. In 2016, verification and response was completed for 82 per cent of reported cases. A total of 9,085 partners and stakeholders were educated on child rights, and 4,075 conflict-affected and displaced children received psychosocial support.

There were limited large-scale armed engagements in 2016, but sporadic low-intensity clashes continued to affect children, predominantly in Mindanao. An increased number of grave violations were documented in indigenous communities, where the majority of verified cases of attacks on schools took place. Joint UN field verification missions were organised by UNICEF. The proposed Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG) mission to the Philippines was postponed at the Government’s request. The Government noted the need for the new administration to focus on the peace process in immediate term.

Parallel efforts to pursue dialogues with parties to the conflict resulted in the review and updating of the proposed Strategic Plan for the Armed Forces of the Philippines; issuance of Department of National Defence Circular Number 1 on “Child Protection during Armed Conflict Situations”; and revival of CTFMR meetings with the National Democratic Front. UNICEF organized a country task force retreat in March where a work plan was developed and endorsed by heads of agencies.

Significant progress was made during 2016 in the development and promotion of common

Following the enactment of Republic Act 10821 in May 2016, UNICEF supported the Philippine government in conducting nationwide consultations for the development of accompanying implementing rules and regulations (IRR). These consultations aimed to orient frontline service providers on the salient features of the legislation; gather regional inputs to define the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders to effectively implement the provisions of the law; and ensure that the IRR considers the context of both natural and armed conflict emergencies. With the enactment of this legislation and its accompanying IRR, functional child protection systems offering preventive and response services in emergency affected areas, through the Child Protection cluster at the national level, and activation and strengthening of regional CPWGs was mandated and institutionalized. To date, 11 of the 17 regions have issued resolutions on the RCWPG as one of the Technical Working Groups (TWG) of the RSCWC.

**OUTCOME 6** By end of CP, equity driven national and local systems, inclusive social sector policies/plans (e.g. cash transfers, etc.) and increased budgets to address disadvantaged children, guided by strengthened knowledge management and advocacy.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The economy most likely grew by 6.9 per cent in 2016 even as Typhoon ‘Nina’ hit the country toward the end of the year. Economic expansion in the first half of the year was boosted by election-related expenditures, sustained robust household spending and public and private investments. During the July-to-September period, the agriculture sector grew 2.9 per cent year-on-year, reversing five straight quarters of decline. The services and industry sectors, meanwhile, registered growths of 6.9 per cent and 8.6 per cent, respectively. From January to September, total net FDI inflows reached US$5.875 billion, up 25.3 per cent from US$4.69 billion in the same nine-month period in 2015. The continued FDI inflows reflect investors’ confidence in the country’s economy because of sustained growth prospects and strong macroeconomic fundamentals. Cash remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers rose, reaching US$ 2.3 million in September 2016, sustaining increases in personal consumption expenditures.

Despite economic growth, poverty incidence among Filipinos in 2015 was estimated at 21.6 per cent. The number of poor households was estimated to have reached 5.1 million in 2015. Approximately 4.4 million households are active conditional cash transfer beneficiaries. Of these, 1.3 million households are considered ‘transitioning households’, households that were classified to have improved well-being. These households will continue receiving grants until 2017, will no longer be subjected to conditionalities and will be given sustainable livelihood assistance to complete the transition from near-poor to non-poor.

The remaining 3.1 million households, who are still classified as poor, will continue receiving education and health grants based on compliance with programme conditions. They will also receive 13 kilos of rice per month, in monetary equivalent, as instructed by the President. The 700,000 new poor households will not be enrolled in the conditional cash transfer programme and will receive a different type of poverty alleviation assistance that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other agencies are crafting. The DSWD’s priority is to improve and strengthen the capabilities and facilities of DSWD-run centres and institutions responsible for addressing the immediate needs of the poor and the
special sectors of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, women, children and youth.

The new administration’s ‘war on drugs’, a platform that advocates flushing out of criminals involved in illegal drugs, prompted extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and drug users, resulting in casualties, including children.

As reported by Tebtebba to the UN Committee in Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, issues of Indigenous Peoples remained unresolved. Corporate mining and conflicting laws governing natural resources continue to be a major problem. This is exacerbated by militarization limiting IPs freedom to work in their lands and children dropping out of school. There have been reported cases of indigenous human rights defenders being harassed or killed and health problems, decreased agricultural production and fish catch due to environmental degradation. While IPs support the Mindanao Peace Process, they are often caught in the crossfire between the government armed forces and the Muslim rebels groups. To address this, an advisory council was formed with representations from IP groups to accommodate key issues by these “national minorities” in the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front and the implementation of Bangsamoro agreements with the Moro fronts.

To ensure lasting peace, Federalism has been proposed to hasten economic development and address the conflict between government and the Moro and Communist groups. It is argued that Federalism will enhance greater local power, autonomy and access to resources without constraints from ‘imperial Manila’ which would facilitate efficient service delivery. Some experts, however, maintained that the current Local Government Code, if amended, can address the issue of autonomy and efficient public service delivery.

The 2017 General Appropriations Act amounting to USD67B was signed into law before the close of 2016. As usual, the Department of Education gets the highest allocation out of all Executive departments with USD 10.9 B, an increase of 32.1 percent from 2016. Moreover, the Department of Social Welfare and Development received USD 2.6 B, a significant portion of which is for the conditional cash transfer program and monthly rice subsidy for impoverished households. The Department of Health is given a sizeable allocation of USD 1.9 B to provide the marginalized sector with new and modernized health facilities and expanded health services while the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation was provided with USD 1.1 B to fund the universal healthcare program that will address the Filipino people’s need for quality health service. The supplemental feeding program for day care children and coverage of the social pension for the indigent senior citizens were also increased. In empowering Local Government Units, aside from the USD9.8 B Internal Revenue Allotment, local governments are provided with additional transfers such as the Local Government Support Fund to assist in the country’s efforts against illegal drugs, construct new jail facilities, and increase the allowance for prisoners.

One Senator however has claimed that there are some traces of Priority Development Assistance Fund, or more commonly known as the pork barrel, in the budget. Pork barrel is a system of giving Legislators the “power to wield, in varying gradations, non-oversight post enactment authority in vital areas of budget execution, thus violating the principle of separation of powers.” This practice has been ruled by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional in 2013.

**OUTPUT 1** By end of CP, strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for inclusive social policies and social protection measures

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In mid-2016, UNICEF began a programme to support Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the effective implementation of its social protection programs, supported by the Australian Government (DFAT). A programmatic package of technical assistance was designed with DSWD focusing on its modified cash transfer programs for socially excluded groups, such as the Indigenous Peoples in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (MCCT for IP in GIDA) and Homeless Street Families, including other equity dimensions on gender, child protection and disabilities. A major component of this programmatic technical assistance was a policy action research which aimed to provide the necessary evidence to inform DSWD’s decisions on what and where to improve the design of its programs for IPs. The first component of a demand and supply-side assessment of the MCCT for IP in GIDA was the demand side assessment, showing the situation of IP program beneficiaries and the constraints they face in complying with the program conditions. The assessment results will feed into DSWD’s program planning discussions in January 2017.

UNICEF completed research on Equity in Public Finance Management with a consultancy (Oxford Policy Management) that assessed how the Philippines national government integrates equity dimensions for girls and boys through its systems and processes. A similar analysis involving sub-national PFM systems will commence in early 2017 to provide a holistic understanding of the equity dimensions for the whole PFM cycle at various levels of national and sub-national PFM.

Capacity building on public finance for children for selected NGOs and the LGU SRE expenditure analysis with the Bureau of Local Government Finance were postponed until 2017. For the PFM capacity building, UNICEF and the implementing partner, CRC Asia, decided to wait for the results of the Equity in PFM systems at the national and sub-national levels to inform the design and delivery of the training course so it is more grounded on actual cases. Similarly, the SRE expenditure analysis was put on hold, pending the results of the Equity in PFM.

UNICEF’s strong partnership with the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) generated sufficient momentum for PSA to update the 2009 child poverty statistics and commence the child equity profiles. Through UNICEF’s technical assistance, PSA developed the infographics on the equity profile on stunting, the first of four profiles to be produced, and finalized the metadata and the framework for the national database on child poverty.

The change in DSWD leadership because of the mid-2016 elections temporarily constrained the implementation of the remaining activities under the DFAT programmatic technical assistance.

OUTPUT 2 Typhoon Haiyan-Cash Transfers

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Closed

OUTPUT 3 By end of CP, increased local capacity to provide access to inclusive systems that protect children and adolescents from poverty and social exclusion, with focus on Indigenous Peoples, Homeless Street Families and Children with Disabilities in 10 Local Government Units.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
With the decentralized government structure in the Philippines, local government units (LGU)
play a significant role in providing access to basic social services for girls and boys. UNICEF worked with the Department of Interior and Local Government to review and consolidate policy issuances on the establishment and operationalization of Local Councils for the Protection of Children, which is responsible for coordinating programs for children at the LGU level. The process resulted in the drafting of a Memorandum Circular that articulates the mandate, process of establishment, membership, functions, budgeting and financing, relationship with other government structures, and monitoring of functionality.

The Department started implementing the mandatory Child-friendly Local Governance Audit in 2013 as a reward and recognition incentive for LGUs who deliver good outcomes for girls and boys. LGUs with good performance qualify for the Presidential Award for Child Friendly Local Governance. However, in 2016, UNICEF and DILG used the information to identify the low performing LGUs and use it to develop a package of interventions to improve outcomes for girls and boys. The minimal investment to analyse the 2014 and 2015 data has led to the design of an objective and transparent process of LGU selection and targeting for development assistance.

In partnership with the Department and the Galing Pook Foundation, UNICEF hosted the 2016 Governance Fair on the theme ‘Good Governance for Our Children’. At least 60 local chief executives, 60 officials of the Department and close to 200 local officials and civil society organization representatives attended the event, where good and promising programs in 15 local government units were presented by local government officials, further increasing the chances of buy-in from other LGUs.

The lack of data on indigenous children was brought to the attention of the Philippine government by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the 2005 and 2009 Concluding Observations on the Philippine implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF continued to work with the Philippines government and non-government organizations in generating evidence on the situation of indigenous children. The study on the Situation Analysis of Children of Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines with the Institute for Autonomy and Governance was completed and findings were presented and discussed with a broad set of stakeholders, shedding light on the deprivations experienced by indigenous children in Mainland ARMM. The research on ‘Pagsasalinlahi: Asserting and Safeguarding Indigenous Peoples’ Rights for the Next Generation’, in partnership with Tebtebba, is underway. The objective of Pagsasalinlahi is to mainstream the rights of Indigenous children in an updated Indigenous peoples’ agenda and a national Indigenous peoples’ situation.

These two studies ensure the meaningful and ethical participation of indigenous children during data collection and a more integrated approach for addressing the plight of indigenous children.

**OUTPUT 4** By the end of the Country Programme government and UNICEF will have enhanced capacities for collection, access and utilization of disaggregated information at national and sub-national levels to monitor and evaluate policies, plans and results.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The 2016 presidential election led to changes of key personal within UNICEF government partners. There was also some consolidation of roles and scope following the restructuring and merging of government statistical departments. This affected UNICEF’s planned approach for 2016 and required some adjustments around priorities. UNICEF results include the development of an initial monitoring and evaluation capacity development course for a cohort of 50 government participants that will support the roll out of the National Evaluation
Policy. This is linked to the ongoing UNICEF support to the Government’s annual monitoring and evaluation forum that was designed as a platform for sharing lessons from the roll out of the National Evaluation Policy.

With government partners, UNICEF also completed a household survey in the 36 Country Programme priority municipalities as a key input for municipal governments and an ongoing evaluation of the UNICEF Education programme. UNICEF strengthened its approach to results-based management by training key staff and will use this as a platform for both 2017 work planning and the development of the new Country Programme to start in January 2019.

OUTCOME 7 By end of CP, an improved and inclusive peace conditions and social service delivery achieved through conflict analysis, integration of child rights violations information and peace initiatives (UNICEF Action Plans with conflict parties on child soldiers) in national and local plans especially for conflict affected LGUs.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, new opportunities for peace in the Southern Philippines opened up, but there were also significant threats in the region. The Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, signed in 2014, laid out the architecture for an autonomous Bangsamoro region. However, as a result of a mismanaged police operation in early 2015 and political competition in the run-up to the May 2016 elections, the Congress did not approve the enabling legislation before the end of the previous administration’s term. The new President, who came into power in June, put the resolution of Mindanao’s conflict at the top of his agenda. While he says he favours autonomy for the Bangsamoro, he has not committed to follow the same route as the previous administration. His initiatives to make the peace process more inclusive and his plans for national federalism are already creating delays and might alienate key groups in the South if no significant progress is seen next year. There appears to be growth on the ground of militant factions aligning themselves with the Islamic State. This trend, combined with the political delays, has heightened the risk of young people associating with extremist groups.

While there were no instances of large-scale conflict in 2016, Mindanao was affected by ongoing low-intensity fighting, including armed clashes between feuding families, law enforcement operations against armed factions such as the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Abu Sayyaf Group, and attacks by paramilitary groups against indigenous people. As a result, 249,303 people were displaced by conflict in Mindanao between January and October 2016.

Working with a network of partners, UNICEF continued to monitor, verify and refer cases of grave child rights violations under the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM). Efforts to strengthen the MRM led to an increase in alleged violations reported compared with 2015. A total of 9,805 stakeholders, including community members, were educated on child rights and child protection, and 4,075 conflict-affected children were given psychosocial support.

Significant progress was made in the UN-MILF Action Plan. With UNICEF support, in the last quarter of 2016, the MILF started identifying and formally disengaging children who remained associated with its military structure. This is the final benchmark in the UN-MILF Action Plan, and if progress remains on track, the MILF will very likely be delisted in 2017 from the UN Secretary General’s Annual Report on Children in Armed Conflict. MRM partners struggled to determine cases where children are associated with armed groups, but remain within their communities. As a result, these partners have been unable to identify or verify cases of children recruited by the MILF, in the context where the MILF estimates approximately 2,000 children remain informally associated. For 2017, UNICEF will adapt its
approaches in verifying that disengaged children do not re-associate with the MILF post-Action Plan.

As agreed in the 2016 work planning process, no funding was allocated under the Peacebuilding Outcome for 2016 to support conflict-affected LGUs in carrying out child-responsive and conflict-sensitive planning and budgeting. In the context of diminishing resources and an increased risk of children and young people’s association with armed elements, UNICEF prioritized support to the MRM, the UN-MILF Action Plan and initiatives to engage adolescents in peacebuilding and violence prevention. UNICEF also focused its assistance on equitable service delivery of early education to children in conflict-affected areas, delivered through a partnership with the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), which entailed support to strengthen coordination between the BDA and LGUs, including regional, provincial and municipal LGUs. Work to build the capacity of conflict-prone LGUs was supported under disaster risk reduction.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, UNICEF support provided to strengthen mechanisms for promoting the rights and participation of children in peacebuilding and situations of armed conflict.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, there were new opportunities for peace in the Southern Philippines, along with new threats. The new administration put the resolution of Mindanao’s conflict at the top of its agenda, creating an unprecedented opportunity for long-lasting peace. One particular danger is that young people, faced with few opportunities and disillusioned by the failure of successive peace processes, will seek alternatives, engaging in violent crime or joining one of the extremist militant groups that appear to have higher presence in the Southern Philippines.

Significant progress was made in 2016 with the UN-MILF Action Plan. With UNICEF support, the MILF identified boys and girls who remained associated with its military structure. Formal disengagement activities—the final benchmark in the Action Plan—took place. Due in large part to UNICEF’s investment in strengthening its partnership with the MILF since 2014, targets were exceeded for outreach to MILF commanders, parents and children, with the MILF mobilizing its own resources to ensure compliance with Action Plan benchmarks.

UNICEF reached at least 485,874 people through peace advocacy and dialogue, far exceeding the target of 20,000. This was achieved by a dual approach of training adolescents to conduct peace advocacy and dialogue in their communities through arts, and supporting wide dissemination of the ‘products’ of their arts for peace.

A total of 588 adolescents were trained, consisting of 311 trained on peace dialogue through arts, 128 supported to perform in peace concerts, 79 trained on participatory video for peacebuilding, 40 trained on theatre for peace and 30 out-of-school youth supported to enter an alternative learning school for peace and arts. These adolescents organized peace-through-arts activities, reaching an estimated 5,183 people in their communities. The products were posted on UNICEF Philippines social media sites, where they were seen by at least 480,103 followers, and in print and online media (reach not determined). This success was due in large part to the ideas, creativity and commitment of local partners, including Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Kalimudan Culture and Arts Centre and local artists.

Access to adolescent-friendly spaces was provided to 3,101 adolescents to develop their life skills for peace. A sample of 318 adolescents (10 per cent) was asked to provide feedback through Open Data Kit, an open-source set of tools for mobile data collection. Those expressing high to very high confidence in speaking on four areas of learning (violence, peer
pressure, mental health and sexual and reproductive health) increased from 13 per cent before the skills training to 73 per cent after, while those expressing low to very low confidence decreased from 65 per cent to 10 per cent. This is in line with the target of 70 per cent being able to cite key learnings.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, capacity of transitional actors (state/non-state) to design and deliver key services for children in conflict-affected areas is strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Due to challenges and delays in formalizing the peace process, the Government and MILF were keener to ensure key services delivery in conflict-affected areas as a means of maintaining confidence.

While progress was made to disengage children associated with the MILF, with 170 children disengaged, the majority will be disengaged next year. Therefore, UNICEF focused on designing a strategy and programme for supporting these children through an evidence-based participatory process. As of November 2016, an assessment of the drivers of association was produced, with mapping of services underway. Workshops will be held with the MILF, Government and other stakeholders in early 2017 to finalize a strategy.

UNICEF continued to support the BDA in delivering early childhood care and development in conflict-affected communities across Mindanao through 335 Islamic early learning centres, known as Tahderiyyah. A total of 8,518 children were enrolled in School Year 2015-2016; 60 per cent were 3-5 years old and 40 per cent 6 years old and above. Forty per cent of this cohort, or 3,388 children who were 6 years old in June, transitioned to Grade 1. An additional 6,470 children (3,194 boys and 3,276 girls) were enrolled in the Tahderiyyah in School Year 2016-17; 63 per cent were 3-5 years old and 37 per cent 6 years old. Children of school age from this school year will transition to Grade 1 in 2017.

The Tahderiyyah was approved in 2016 as an alternative delivery model for early childhood care and development under the Government’s social cash transfer programme. A range of materials and guidelines were finalized, including a revised curriculum, a skills training and coaching manual, and a parenting effectiveness service manual contextualized for Muslims. The monitoring and evaluation system was upgraded, including the introduction of an e-based management information system.

UNICEF enriched the collaboration between the BDA and LGUs in 2016. Ongoing challenges include financial and technical capacity, requiring mentoring, monitoring and hands-on technical support from UNICEF; non-recognition of the Tahderiyyah by some schools, creating a bottleneck for students transitioning to Grade 1; and the inability of many communities to contribute sufficient resources to support Tahderiyyah operations, including teacher stipends. No adjustments are planned for next year. UNICEF will focus on achievement of results, as set out in the Basic Education Assistance for Muslim Mindanao-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao results framework approved by Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In early 2016, a decision was made to integrate monitoring of and response to emergencies back under Sector Outcomes.

OUTPUT 3 By 2016, integration of peacebuilding in UNICEF programmes are more effective and efficient.
Analytical Statement of Progress:

Efforts to scale up operations management by directly integrating it into programme management produced quality and accountable delivery of programmes in Mindanao, and an increase in other aspects of programme management, including security risk management, supply monitoring, cost efficiency and effectiveness, and ICT security.

A programme assistant was recruited to support quality guidance and analysis of cash transfers. As of 17 November 2016, no Mindanao partners, except for the Bangsamoro Development Agency, were on direct cash transfer aging reports of more than nine months. The operations team provided technical assistance in financial utilization to the partners to ensure appropriate spending levels based on the guidelines for civil society organizations. An orientation on the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) was organized for 13 partners in Mindanao. Budget formulating strategies were shared with these partners for the crafting of new Programme Cooperation Agreement budgets or for improving spending patterns based on realignment or re-programming in response to various risks (mostly security-related) and the changing fragile context in Mindanao.

Supply monitoring with government and civil society partners in Mindanao was robust, with remarkable improvements in the supply monitoring of health organizations. The Bangsamoro Development Agency agreed in October to establish a better mechanism to monitor supply distribution using accountability forms and documentation.

Security risk analysis, including ICT risk mapping, became more complex. Security risks and other layers of risks became a major mandatory input in crafting Programme Cooperation Agreement documents for new partnerships as part of the enterprise risk management approach to programming. On the staff welfare side, security briefings and the ‘welcome security’ notes inserted in the administrative notes for events and meetings were improved. The security assistant met staff and programme management security requirements by liaising with the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities, Moro Islamic Liberation Front and other actors on project implementation in communities.

An Operations Partnership Management Dashboard was developed to provide programme staff information on partnership management. The dashboard is a collection of the 2016 work plan, updates on programmatic visits, assessments, audits, spot checks, cash transfer status, supply plans and HR workforce planning tool. While the Dashboard was commended, it needs further updating, appreciation and use by all in the Mindanao Team. Budget management needed quality improvement to ensure correct reporting to senior management on funding balances and spending patterns. This should be strongly linked to monitoring of work plan implementation.

The Quality Management System was introduced to selected partners in 2016. Although United Youth of the Philippines was no longer a partner in 2016, they benefitted from UNICEF’s support to their revision of operations processes and policies. Kalimudan, Muslim Youth Religious Organization and Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress received technical assistance on budget management and quality assurance in programme implementation. As a result, Kalimudan scaled up implementation. Health Organization for Mindanao received the most focused intervention on all aspects of operations management because of the negative results of 2015 quality assurance activities; the 2016 internal control audit showed impressive progress.
OUTCOME 8 By end of CP improved capacity of public sector institutions at the national and local level to prepare for and mitigate risks from emergencies/hazards in line with UNICEF Core Commitments for Children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A change in Government and the establishment of new partnerships in 2016 strongly influenced the achievement of targets. The new Administration identified the disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) agenda as a priority, and included Ensuring Community and Nation Resiliency through CCA and DRR, Mitigation and Adaptation in its emerging agenda. The Government also demonstrated its increasing capacity and leadership in responding to humanitarian needs.

Overall, workplan targets are on track, with some notable ‘wins’. The finalization of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 10821, or the Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act, was a key achievement. Across all sectors, UNICEF provided significant technical inputs into the IRR and supported an extensive consultative process with the intention that people would become more aware of and sensitive to the Republic Act, and the IRR would secure standards in a humanitarian response and guide comprehensive, realistic preparedness across all sectors.

Building on the lessons learned and initial projects of 2013-2015, UNICEF Philippines embarked on designing and developing new project cooperation agreements (PCAs) with local civil society organizations (CSOs) and local municipal government bodies to pilot and model child-centred DRR convergent programmes. Five project sites, varying in hazard vulnerabilities, geography and capacities, were identified. The project is expected to have 24,695 direct beneficiaries in the 11 target barangays and 213,566 indirect beneficiaries in the five municipalities covered.

An evaluation to be commissioned in 2018 will document the lessons learned, identify good practices and further inform how the national Government, through decentralized structures, will promote and support better, child-centred, DRR programmes. A key partnership initiated in 2016 with the Department of Interior and Local Government set the stage for better collaboration and coordination, maximizing UNICEF’s investment in longer-term, Government-led scale-up in the child-centred DRR programming of local governments.

UNICEF also partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the local government of Guiuan, Eastern Samar to construct the country’s first disaster-resilient evacuation centre. The evacuation centre is part of an effort to improve community-based resources, to secure shelter for community members during extreme weather events and to ensure accommodation for the most vulnerable people post-disaster, until a more appropriate and durable solution is provided. It also serves as a space for the community to gather and for youth activities during normal weather periods. A second evacuation centre is being built in Borongan, Eastern Samar, with costs shared by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, through IOM. The evacuation centres offer a model for replication throughout the country both in design and community buy-in.

UNICEF support for evidence and knowledge generation in 2106 presented opportune moments to document the Philippine experience, with the aim of better informing local, regional and global interventions and guidance frameworks. A study was conducted on the interface between decentralization and DRR, and the role of local government in effective DRR implementation. A separate paper assessed the changing nature of UNICEF emergency preparedness and response activities in selected countries of East Asia and the Pacific. A South-to-South exchange visit by senior Nepalese government delegates to the Philippines provided a venue for learning and exchange, with Nepalese delegates committed to drawing on the lessons learned in the Philippines in drafting their own country action plans
and legislation.

UNICEF also provided secretariat and coordination support to the Country Office’s Emergency Management Team and coordination among the team focal points to update the Early Warning, Early Action (EWEA) platform.

UNICEF became increasingly engaged in climate change action and developed a strategic paper to guide potential support to the Government in 2017 and beyond.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of the country programme, national and local capacity for risk-informed and child-centred development and DRR programming is strengthened in 5 priority LGUs.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
A change in administration, new partnerships and the Government’s call to action on climate change shaped the achievement of targets in 2016.

UNICEF Philippines is on track to support an enabling environment to better protect children inclusively in emergencies. UNICEF provided significant technical support and resources to consultative exercises to ensure a thorough and informed IRR of the Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act. A structural reorganization of the lead government partner for emergencies impeded the further approval of other key guidelines, including for international humanitarian assistance, and a review of existing laws on DRR.

Two-year, convergent, child-centred DRR projects were initiated and are on track in five target municipalities: Milagros, Paracale, Mapanas, Carles, and Itogon. These community-based initiatives will inform the ‘how to’ of convergent, child-centred, DRR programming in the Philippines. A new partnership forged with the Department of Interior and Local Government promises to scale up and integrate the lessons learned and best practices into the Government’s operational guidelines.

A disaster-resilient evacuation centre ‘model’ was completed in Guiuan in 2016 and a second was begun in Borongan, Eastern Samar, through a joint UNICEF-IOM partnership. The evacuation centres are a community resource to secure shelter for community members during extreme weather events, ensure accommodation for the most vulnerable people in post-disaster situations and serve as a space for the community to gather and the youth to hold activities during normal weather periods.

In 2016, UNICEF Philippines supported evidence generation and knowledge management to better inform DRR programming and its role in humanitarian action. A multi-country study commissioned by UNICEF Headquarters identified the Philippines as a case study country. The study examined the interface between decentralization and DRR, and the role of local government in effective DRR implementation. The recommendations of this study will inform how UNICEF can more systematically and effectively support DRR within a decentralized local government framework.

UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office commissioned a paper to assess the changing nature of UNICEF emergency preparedness and response activities in selected countries of East Asia and the Pacific. The Philippines was included in this review. The recommendations of this paper will inform a more fit-for-purpose humanitarian strategy in the region.
UNICEF hosted a South-to-South exchange visit with Nepalese government delegates on DRR and CCA mainstreaming at national and local government levels. The visit supported the replication of relevant lessons, models and practices in Nepal.

Climate Change Action for Children in the Philippines gained momentum, driven by the Government’s announcement to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A strategy is being developed and is on track to identify UNICEF’s unique and comparative role in this agenda in the Philippines. Preliminary assessments suggest UNICEF has a key role in evidence generation, knowledge and skills strengthening within strategic institutions, and reinforcing public and institutional advocacy. A key launch pad of UNICEF’s engagement was its support of the National Day for Youth in Climate Change.

OUTCOME 9 Country programmes are efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The election and the first 100 days of the new administration partially affected UNICEF Philippines’ ability to engage with senior government officials. During the period before the elections, some Ministries were hesitant to take on new commitments. After the elections, many partners were busy developing their sectoral priorities in response to the overall direction set by the new President. The National Economic and Development Authority that coordinates the UNICEF Country Programme was occupied with finalizing next Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and incorporating the priorities of the new administration by the end of December 2016. UNICEF took the opportunity to join the consultation forums for the PDP and discuss how to ensure alignment with some of the new priorities to achieve results for children. UNICEF focused on contributing to discussions on human capital and support to peace-building in Mindanao.

UNICEF Philippines invested additional time in advocacy planning, with a particular focus on strengthening capacity in political economy analysis to ensure programmes were able to respond to the political and economic processes, relationships and systems indicated by the new Government.

Given the much stronger leadership from Government in the humanitarian arena in 2016, UNICEF, like many other development partners, analysed its shifting role to provide selective support when requested and advocate and build capacity to conduct comprehensive risk assessments. Within UNICEF’s programming framework, emergency preparedness was fully integrated across all outputs, and processes such as contingency partnership agreements were put in place to facilitate smooth transition in development humanitarian programming.

Continued strong economic growth also influenced programming in 2016. Growth remained largely driven by consumption, buoyed by the services sector and large remittance inflows from overseas Filipino workers. Recent governance and transparency reforms also contributed to generating an enabling environment that is stable and conducive for business. To build on opportunities provided by the growing fiscal space, UNICEF prioritized analysis of the public financial management, return on investment studies and costing of critical interventions for children. These position UNICEF to leverage the increasing government resources available at national and sub-national levels, and to engage more substantially with the private sector. The new administration’s focus on addressing poverty sets renewed opportunity for more equity-focused advocacy.
The UNICEF Executive Board approved the extension of the Seventh Country Programme for Children to 2018 through the UN Economic and Social Council in their Annual Session held in June 2016. The extension allows for the alignment of the Country Programme with the Government of the Philippines Development Plan. For the bridging programme (2017-2018), UNICEF Philippines focused on strengthening results-based management in planning, implementation and reporting, and developing a research framework for convergence programming with local government units in the First 1,000 Days campaign and early childhood care and development.

OUTPUT 1 UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Philippines’ capacity to achieve evidence-based results was strengthened.

OUTPUT 2 UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The election of a new Government presented opportunities and challenges in 2016. As the leadership emerged with a strong mandate to protect citizens from drugs and criminality, UNICEF repositioned its external relations, communication, advocacy and engagement strategies.

The policies and actions affecting children’s safety and well-being heightened the complexity and sensitivity of UNICEF’s advocacy. UNICEF’s strong and long history of partnering with the Government, communities, NGOs and community-based organizations provided leverage to navigate the political landscape, identify new allies and approaches, and find new entry points to deliver on its mandate.

On the legislative front, federalism, tax reforms, reinstating the death penalty and lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility dominated government agenda, with full backing of a supermajority coalition in Congress. UNICEF’s advocacy priorities for 2016-2018—new legislative measures on corporal punishment, positive discipline, first 1,000 days in a child’s life and peacebuilding—are unlikely to make headway.

In the context of the war on criminality and drugs, the potential impact of lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility on children’s safety and well-being necessitated legislative and public advocacy by UNICEF and its partners. Both social and mass media were used to disseminate evidence and messages with a #Children not Criminals tagline.

UNICEF built on years of partnership on VAC and made inroads with the new administration to place VAC on the national agenda.

In March, UNICEF facilitated a high-level Research Forum that kick-started VAC advocacy, using evidence from the first National Baseline Study on VAC. Sexual exploitation and cyberbullying in the Philippines were a major focus of the Global Child Online Protection Advocacy, rolled out in June and covered widely by international media.
The National Baseline Survey on VAC presentation in December was a launching pad for longer-term VAC advocacy. The campaign brand, developed by UNICEF as Advocacy Subcommittee chair in the National Steering Committee, faced constraints that limited the scope of advocacy opportunities and demonstrated the uncertainty in positioning VAC in the present context. UNICEF will re-strategize to sustain VAC advocacy using language that resonates with government priorities.

UNICEF enjoyed good relationships with national line agencies and middle managers in the executive branch, providing an entry point to reinforce programmes while advocating at the Cabinet level.

Advocacy efforts will continue to need to adapt to the political climate. UNICEF will consider evolving realities and adjust advocacy strategies accordingly.

OUTPUT 3 Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In response to a rapidly changing programme environment in the country, including improved emergency and development programme transitions, UNICEF Philippines focused on strengthening core programming skills.

UNICEF conducted training modules from the Programme Policies and Procedures training. Programme staff participated in an orientation to UNICEF’s programme framework, gender and diversity training, risk-informed Situation Analysis of Women and Children and a five-day training on results-based management (causality, theory of change, results framework, setting indicators and targets, managing work plans, monitoring, evaluation and reporting). This training was a major investment in building capacity in UNICEF’s core processes. The training was conducted in the last quarter of the year, which enabled colleagues to immediately apply their skills in the development of the 2017 Situation Analysis and 2017-2018 work plans with partners.

Programme learning sessions related to the enabling policy, legislative and budgetary environment were organized to strengthen understanding of the programming context. Topics included federalism, public sector financial management, local governance, social protection, addressing violence against children and First 1,000 Days. Sessions featured speakers from the Government, universities, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNICEF New York Headquarters and the UNICEF Regional Office.

Ten programme management meetings were held during 2016 to discuss key performance management indicators and exchange information from strategic meetings, studies and research. They were attended by programme outcome and output managers, and several programme assistants. In eight storytelling sessions, colleagues shared their photos and observations of equity during field visits.

UNICEF developed a resource mobilization strategy to address potential funding gaps in the last few years of the Country Programme. The work included an analysis of the funding situation and potential gaps, and research into potential fundraising opportunities and partnerships. A set of slides and six cross-cutting fact sheets were developed for colleagues to use in mobilizing funds.
Throughout the year, UNICEF Philippines continued to update programme standard operating procedures and tools, including Management of Programme Cooperation Agreements, a risk analysis tool, monitoring and travel planning and reporting process, and a visual map of work-plan activities to analyse alignment with the Government’s new priority areas and poverty data.

A Mid-Year Review was conducted with all programme and selected operations colleagues to take stock of the priorities of the new administration after the elections and the potential impact on development priorities; and to review the progress of cross-cutting result areas and partnerships in the transition between humanitarian response and development. A follow-up action plan was drafted to ensure that the recommendations were implemented.

An End-of-Year Review, organized with the National Economic and Development Authority and main implementing partners, discussed the key achievements and challenges for each result area, lessons learned and priorities for 2017-2018. The Review was an opportunity to discuss the core areas in the draft Philippine Development Plan. This Review was followed by an internal programme review where colleagues discussed the enabling environment, shared achievements and lessons learned, and agreed on the priorities for 2017.

### Evaluation and research

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<td>'Philippines Nutrition Cluster: Lessons learnt from the response to Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda)'</td>
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<td>'Utilisation of Health Services and the Poor: Deconstructing wealth-based differences in facility-based delivery in the Philippines'</td>
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### Other publications

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<td>‘Early Childhood Care and Development: Early learning – Providing a right start to learning and to life for all children’</td>
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<td>Child Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Fact Sheet</td>
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### Lessons learned

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### Programme documents

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