Executive Summary

In 2014, UNICEF Philippines continued the response and recovery to multiple natural disasters, including Super Typhoon Haiyan, and linked these efforts to longer-term programming to ensure sustainable impacts and greater government and community capacities. In this way, UNICEF sought to address barriers and bottlenecks in service delivery for children, particularly the most vulnerable including the rural poor, conflict affected communities in Mindanao and victims of natural disasters.

The Philippines economy continued to grow at a robust pace in 2014 consolidating its middle income status, but not all groups are benefitting due to severe under-investment in infrastructure and social services. Increased investments in the Government’s Conditional Cash Transfer Programme, has failed to dent the poverty (40 per cent for children). While most Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remain on track for the Philippines, nutrition, education and HIV/AIDS (up by 450 per cent in 2014), will not be achieved. Disparities and inequality among regions continue, particularly in Mindanao, where stunting rates of 40 per cent speak to the unevenness of benefits from economic growth. Lack of local data, complex inter-governmental fiscal relations and administrative structures pose serious challenges to the ability of public sector to address these problems.

UNICEF Philippines has focused on working with government and communities to address these bottlenecks by demonstrating ways to improve local planning and social service delivery. UNICEF assisted the Government to collect better local data with completion of country’s first ever municipal level sample survey, and improving evidence generation and utilization through a new Evaluation Policy. Linkages between disparities and structural causes of child poverty were highlighted to improve social services delivery through equitable fiscal transfers and better targeted cash transfers.

Significant national level advocacy resulted in Government commitments to “A Promised Renewed” and the global Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement. To address the rapidly rising risk of HIV/AIDS among youth, UNICEF focused on removing policy barriers and leveraging Government budgets. A major change for the Country Programme in 2014 was to align with the new UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017 by broadening its work on social protection to social inclusion. However, UNICEF Philippines is yet to adequately address the rights of indigenous people and the disabled.

Vulnerability to environmental hazards and climate change also contributes to structural inequality in the Philippines. In 2014, hundreds of thousands of people were displaced occurred as a result Typhoon and tropical storms and the eruption of Mayon volcano caused disruption of schooling and damage to local livelihoods. It is typically the poorest people living in poor housing in marginal areas that are most affected.

While Government responses continued to improve, slow fiscal transfers to affected areas and weak political coordination between levels of governments continue to blunt efforts to provide
quick relief to the worst affected populations. In its continued response to Super Typhoon Haiyan, UNICEF addressed these public sector bottlenecks across sectors. Over US$100 million in UNICEF programmes were delivered in partnership with a large coalition of international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local governments, communities and other UN agencies.

Strengthening public sector response systems and resilience building remained at the core of UNICEF Haiyan response. Accountability to affected populations was modelled through a new and innovative Humanitarian Performance Monitoring initiative providing quick and real time feedback to adjust interventions. A rapid Family Tracking and Registration system was put in place for use of government social welfare officers to identify and prevent children being lost in the aftermath of the typhoon. UNICEF stepped in to meet the urgent financial needs of 40 of the worst affected municipalities with cash support, demonstrating that national Government can use alternative fiscal processes to provide urgent relief. This was supplemented by cash transfer programmes to 15,800 of the poorest families. Children and youth were empowered to participate in community resilience building and local governments were better informed and prepared as a major pillar of UNICEF continued recovery assistance.

In 2014, UNICEF also worked to support governance and service delivery for children in Mindanao. The signing of a peace agreement between the Government and the Mindanao Islamic Liberation Front in 2013 created a more enabling environment for this work which UNICEF sought to utilise in 2014. While the demands of the emergency responses and funding created constraints, UNICEF continued to meet its obligations to monitor and report violations of child rights by to the Security Council and peace building efforts aimed to democratize the political transition, provide better and secular education to all children in the autonomous areas. A large national event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC@25) raised awareness of this important treaty within the context of child rights violations.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

In 2014, several typhoons, tropical storms and the protected eruption of Mayon volcano resulted in casualties and displacements. The Government led the responses to these disasters, with UNICEF providing support and prepositioned supplies. Significant humanitarian relief and recovery work was carried out in 2014 in relation to disasters that occurred in 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan, conflict in Zamboanga City and the earthquake in Bohol.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, $156 million was funded through the 2014 Humanitarian Appeal for Children was funded. This enabled UNICEF to play an important role in responding to the massive needs created by Super Typhoon Haiyan. More than 1.35 million people were provided with access to safe water, 1.78 million children vaccinated against measles, 625,000 children provided with learning materials, 58,000 children provided with psychosocial support and 15,800 vulnerable households received cash transfers. The overwhelming scale of the response meant that implementing partners’ capacities were sometimes constrained with lower than expected results in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling, Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) access and teachers trained on emergency topics.

Local Government Units (LGUs) have been a cornerstone of the response in the decentralised public service delivery context of the Philippines. Forty of the most affected LGUs were empowered through direct grants with planning assistance and financial oversight from UNICEF. As part of monitoring the response, household surveys were conducted using
electronic tablets allowing results to be collated, analysed and acted upon much more quickly than using paper based data collection. Theatre for Development performances and children’s photographic exhibitions offered psycho-social support and empowered children and young people.

While appeals for Zamboanga, Mindanao and Bohol were underfunded, UNICEF worked closely with the government and partners to meet the needs of affected children. UNICEF continued to work to assist children, who are the innocent victims of violence and instability caused by recurrent conflict in Mindanao. In 2014, there were 10 reported incidents of attacks on schools, affecting over 3,500 school children. Over 13,000 students benefitted from learning kits and supplies. Assistance for minor repairs reached 25 schools and day care centres. Training on Education in Emergencies (EiE) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) increased the capacity of 309 teachers and day care workers. UNICEF provided sensitization on hygienic practices to 21,461 people. Over 37,000 children under 5 years and 4,082 pregnant and lactating women were screened for malnutrition. One hundred and sixty five children suffering Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were admitted for treatment. Over 5,970 mothers and caregivers were counselled on infant and young child feeding practices; and 3,859 pregnant and lactating women were provided with complete doses of Iron-Folate supplements. Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition training was provided to 592 government health workers.

During 2013, heavy fighting in Zamboanga killed at least 140 people and caused the displacement of over 63,000 people. In 2014, around 20,000 remain in evacuation and transition sites. A number of significant achievements were made with UNICEF support:

- Safe water collection, treatment and storage materials were provided for 25,995 people and latrines for 14,500 people;
- 1,800 children were provided with access to psycho-social support at 12 CFSs;
- 24,904 children aged three to 17 years were provided with learning materials and supplies;
- 27 temporary learning spaces (TLS) were set up to conduct psychosocial support and emergency education services provided for at least 10,000 school children;
- 579 children suffering SAM were admitted to therapeutic feeding programmes;
- 60,280 children received Vitamin A supplementation and 62,223 were dewormed;
- 343 pregnant and lactating women were provided with iron and folic acid supplementation;
- 5,587 people were counselled in IYCF including 4,322 pregnant and lactating women.

UNICEF worked with the Government and partners to implement the revised Bohol Earthquake Action Plan. UNICEF’s water, sanitation and hygiene response restored water supplies for 124,829 people and 55,743 accessed latrines. Around 48,670 school children received hygiene kits. Learning materials and school supplies were provided to 5,106 children in day care centres and 37,243 school children. An estimated 4,408 children used TLSs; and 3,793 children have benefitted from 49 psychosocial sessions in eight CFSs and local child protection systems were strengthened in 13 communities. Seventy youth were trained as advocates of child rights and 7,511 community members attended awareness-raising activities on child protection and gender-based violence. Just over 33,000 children under 5 years were screened for malnutrition and around 18,963 pregnant and lactating women were provided with IYCF counselling and support.

**Equity Case Study**

Neonatal (and maternal) deaths reflect the greatest health inequity within the Philippines. Mortality rates vary substantially by geographic area and between different socio-economic classes. Hidden behind progress in addressing the problem in certain geographic areas are
widening disparities that reveal pockets of populations that have simply been excluded. One area where UNICEF is attempting to address this inequity is eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT).

MNT is an indicator of inequity in health service delivery as it is prevalent in the same groups that do not have access to other basic medical services such as skilled birth attendance and facility-based delivery. These groups include women in the poorest quintile, those with the least education and people in hard-to-reach and indigenous groups in mountainous areas where health workers seldom do outreach activities. MNT accounts for a significant proportion of neonatal deaths in communities where birth attendance is mostly done by unskilled birth providers in unclean environments and health-seeking behaviour is poor.

Since 2009, UNICEF has been working with the Department of Health (DoH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) on eliminating MNT by 2015. In 2014, UNICEF supported the following activities: a DoH MNT advocacy meeting that gathered 71 stakeholders both government and private sector to support elimination efforts; an MNT elimination pre-validation planning workshop in preparation for the validation survey in the first quarter of 2015; and hired consultants for the MNT elimination pre-validation activities jointly with the WHO.

After almost two years of preparation that included standard logistics, staff training, micro-planning, focus-group discussions, and community-preparation activities (e.g., educating women on safe cord care practices), three rounds of immunization of women of reproductive age (15-40 years old) were conducted in the nine high-risk provinces in the second half of 2011. Vaccines were administered by vaccination teams in the LGU using a door-to-door strategy and modified approaches/strategies to reach to most at risk women.

With enhanced knowledge and skills, trained health workers and other partners at the LGU level were able to: (1) localise information, education, and communication / social mobilisation materials; (2) confidently deliver context-specific advocacy and social mobilisation activities; and (3) establish partnerships with other stakeholders and mobilise volunteers to support tetanus toxoid (TT) vaccination.

The campaign involved giving every female, 15 to 40 years old, in high-risk areas of the country, three rounds of TT. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) administration to children less than 5 years of age was added to the plan, as targeted communities tended to be relatively vulnerable to polio reintroduction. The third and last round of vaccinations was conducted in the first half of 2012, and in some areas, the campaign is still ongoing.

In order to ensure a rights-based approach, accountability systems were put in place to ensure that the programmes were accessible to the most marginalized and vulnerable of rights-holders and that relevant rights-holders were consulted in all programme phases. Government led multi-sectorial and multi-level consultations, and the approval of the MNT elimination campaign guidelines put more substance into the orientation training series on MNT elimination at the national and subnational levels.

Workshops were organised to develop the skills of regional health promotion officers in developing guide questions and screeners, and in facilitating and documenting the discussions. Furthermore, a series of advocacy activities that leveraged resources and support from local chief executives and other stakeholders were organised, as well as multi-sectorial social mobilisation activities at the provincial, municipal, and barangay levels.
According to the human rights-based approach, populations (rights-holders) have the right to demand from the duty-bearer (in this case government) that it meets its obligations to respect, protect and fulfil people's rights. As such, it is important to make rights-holders aware of their rights and the benefits of interventions, as well as of the mechanisms through which to lodge complaints and seek redress.

The major element contributing to the success of the programme was the participatory, community-based approach that was taken, coupled with full commitment from the duty-bearer’s side. Regional health directors, local chief executives, and provincial/municipal health officers fully supported the high-level advocacy at the regional, provincial, and municipal levels, resulting in LGU-wide launching of MNT elimination activities, the allocation of LGU funds to vaccinators/volunteers, and reproduction of localised information, education and communication (IEC) materials. Furthermore, the close collaboration between partners and the DoH to assess the situation and organise a joint review in order to draft a strategy to fully eliminate tetanus in the country was a positive factor that contributed to making this intervention a success. It was also important to hold all duty-bearers accountable on the basis of their obligations and in all programme phases from the start (both in implementation and monitoring processes). Statistical data to be produced in the coming years will measure the success, or otherwise, of this programme.

In the event of the Philippines not reaching MNT elimination status by 2015, the strategy used during the MNT elimination campaign can be replicated with some modifications. The capacity of health implementers should be enhanced to educate women and communities on MNT, the purpose and safety of vaccination, and to counteract the anti-vaccination efforts of the pro-life community.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

Acronyms

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARMM - Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
BBL - Bangsamoro Basic Law
BDA - Bangsamoro Development Agency
C4D - Communication for Development
CATS - Community Approaches to Total Sanitation
CBO - Community-Based Organisation
CCT – Conditional Cash Transfer
CFS - Child-Friendly Space
CMAM - Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
CMT – Country Management Team
CP – Child Protection
CPiE - Child Protection in Emergencies
CPMIS - Child Protection Information Management Systems
CRC@25 – 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO - Civil Society Organisation
DBM - Department of Budget and Management
DepED - Department of Education
DILG – Department of Interior and Local Government
DoH - Department of Health
DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction
DSWD - Department of Social Welfare and Development
EAPRO – UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
EBaP - Evidence-based approaches to Budgeting and Planning
ECCD - Early Childhood Care and Development
EHCP – Essential Health Care Package
EIE - Education in Emergencies
EPR – Emergency Preparedness and Response
FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation
FTR - Family Tracing and Reunification
GBvIE - Gender Based Violence in Emergencies
HACT – Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HPM – Humanitarian Performance Monitoring
HR – Human Resources
HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICT – Information and Communication Technology
IEC - Information, Education, and Communication
ILO - International Labour Organization
IMEP – Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IOM - International Organization for Migration
ITSSD - Information Technology Solutions and Services Division of UNICEF
IYCF - Infant and Young Child Feeding
LCPC - Local Councils for the Protection of Children
LGU - Local Government Unit
LLMAP - Lady Municipal Mayors Association of the Philippines
M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs - Millennium Development Goals
MILF - Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MNT - Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus
MRM - Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
MRRS – Monitoring, Reporting, Response System
NEDA - National Economic and Development Authority
NGO - Non-Government Organisation
NIE - Nutrition in Emergencies
NNC – National Nutrition Cluster
NOAH - Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards
NYC – National Youth Commission
OOSC - Out-of-school children
OPV - Oral Polio Vaccine
OR – Other Resources
OR-E – Other Resources-Emergency
RCPWG - Regional Child Protection Working Group
(RCPWG) Regional Child Protection Working Groups (RCPWG)
RTE – Real-time Evaluation
SAM - Severe Acute Malnutrition
SRH – Sexual and Reproductive Health
SUN - Scaling Up Nutrition
TA – Travel Authorisation
TLS - Temporary Learning Space
TT - Tetanus Toxoid
Capacity development is a core part of the country programme in the Philippines, and all programme areas continued or initiated this programme strategy during 2014.

In health, 561 nursing and midwifery schools and 246 primary healthcare workers were trained on infant and newborn care. Training was conducted on leadership and governance for municipal mayors, and in Haiyan affected areas on vaccine management, neonatal tetanus and diarrhoea surveillance and response. Capacity building on the use of the health information system reached 190 health workers in three cities and 40 Haiyan-affected LGUs.

UNICEF supported and equipped the National Nutrition Council to lead the National Nutrition Cluster in responding to typhoon Haiyan. More than 6,500 peer counsellors and government service providers received relevant technical training and 36 received cluster coordination master training. Support was provided to Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Social welfare and development officers were trained as trainers of the Standard Training for Day Care Workers. Other training through UNICEF was provided for: 844 education personnel on child development principles and learner-centred approaches; 1,077 day care workers; 3,470 education personnel in DRR and EiE training in Haiyan-affected areas. In addition, 22,813 key stakeholders in Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas were trained on child protection, governance structures, roles and responsibilities, trafficking, and child protection referral protocols. This included Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) training, training social workers on case management and documentation, and psycho-social support and capacity building was provided for communities. UN-MILF Action Plan orientations reached approximately 9,000 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces.

With UNICEF support, 143 staff from 44 Typhoon Haiyan-affected LGUs completed training for Multi-Hazard and Child Vulnerability Mapping. Fifty LGUs undertook training on child-centred disaster risk reduction.

WASH capacity development efforts focused at the sub-national level with training on Community Approach to Total Sanitation (CATS), and facilitation guides to further formalise and assist in the scale-up of these ongoing efforts. WASH was successfully integrated into the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) curriculum and standard training for day care workers. WASH in emergencies training was held for 300 officials.
Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In April, a high-level policy event underscored the urgent need to address maternal and child mortality under the Government’s flagship Universal Health Care programme. UNICEF Philippines worked with the Government health insurer on a comprehensive primary healthcare package for children under five years and supported revised Local Investment Planning for Health guidelines, built on evidence-based planning and budgeting implementation.

During the year the Government joined the global SUN movement. Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies and Management of Acute Malnutrition national guidelines were drafted, led by the technical working groups chaired by DoH and the National Nutrition Council with technical support from UNICEF. Advocacy efforts continued to strengthen the implementation of the Milk Code. SMART surveys in emergency areas provided evidence for nutrition programme advocacy.

UNICEF Philippines was at the forefront of supporting the strengthening of the protection of children through a rationalised local planning system. Cash transfers for the poorest families during major emergencies were advocated and the importance of social safety nets in building resilience against disasters was highlighted.

UNICEF sought to increase LGU spending on ECCD through their annual budget processes and supported the Department of Education (DepED) to develop and adopt the Kinder Catch-Up Education Programme and policy guidelines for nationwide implementation. UNICEF advocacy on out-of-school children included a focus on limiting the use of schools as evacuation centres during the frequent emergencies experienced in the Philippines.

UNICEF Philippines supported advocacy by the National Youth Commission and the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development for child and youth representatives in the Government Disaster Risk Reduction and Management mechanisms.


Water, sanitation and hygiene advocacy sought to institutionalise improved governance through strengthened municipal WASH councils/task forces, and the inclusion of WASH in LGU’s annual investment plans. This included agreements to provide financial and implementation support to WASH in day care centres.

Partnerships

UNICEF Philippines used its strategic partnerships to maximise its influence on national approaches and to reach the most vulnerable. Expanded partnerships built evidence for best practice and came together to respond to Super Typhoon Haiyan. Many new partnerships were forged, particularly with local government, local NGOs, academia, and community-based organisations (CBOs) as UNICEF Philippines diversified its options for implementation in line with the recommendations from the real-time evaluation of the Haiyan response.

In health, a partnership between the private sector, LGUs, a local university, and the DoH links local health and civil registry data for evidence-based decision making at the local level.
continued. New partnerships with local and overseas academic institutions supported LGUs to develop evidence-based planning. An interagency grant from UNICEF to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resulted in a significant improvement in waste management and public health risks in early months after typhoon Haiyan.

Nutrition partnerships were established with the political associations for advocacy of essential nutrition actions. Partnerships with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in nutrition security for maternity protection and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Food and Nutrition Security Early Warning Systems were implemented. Ten Partnership agreements were implemented across emergency and regular programmes towards system strengthening and improved nutrition service delivery. A partnership with a national grocery chain promoted salt iodization. The National Nutrition Council continued UNICEF Philippines funded programmes.

A workshop entitled, “Pathways of Change: Enhancing Service Delivery at the Local Level” identified bottlenecks and barriers to service delivery to arrive and explored ways of moving forward partnership and implementation arrangements.

The Tahderiyyah Project of Islam-responsive culturally sensitive ECCD centre based service, which started in 2010, has expanded to address needs of about 23,756 children in 813 sites, approximately 25 per cent of private madrasas in conflict-affected communities. The active engagement of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) was crucial in implementing the programme. Close collaboration with child protection and WASH partners is being pursued to promote protective, safe and healthy school-community environment.

For child protection, the introduction of new cross-cutting initiatives in response to Typhoon Haiyan created new opportunities to work with local NGOs, academia and target LGUs on adolescence, conditional cash transfers and birth registration.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

Throughout the year, programmed activities received extensive coverage and reached a broad audience. Aside from news coverage from 44 press releases, 81 human interest stories were published both in traditional media and online.

Digital audiences (web and social media) of 145,072 were reached in 2014. Regular monthly visitors increased by 20 per cent, while the number of followers was up by 31 per cent. Digital communication outputs were recognised as examples of good practice.

On the one-year anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan, an audience of 453,376 was reached. Events related to the CRC@25 reached 367,360 people. This included a high-level press conference on progress on the UN-MILF Action Plan. Through media partnerships, there were over 80 media pick-ups, amounting to over US$800,000 in media value.

UNICEF Philippines embarked on an evidence-based public advocacy campaign focusing on child survival, child nutrition, children in emergencies, child protection against violence, and early learning for life. These will guide advocacy messaging in 2015 and beyond.

In partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Council for the Welfare of Children, a CRC@25 advocacy event was launched, highlighting child participation. A stock-taking report was produced to chronicle achievements thus far, which also noted remaining challenges which will further guide advocacy work.
Communication content on the Typhoon Haiyan response reached over eight million viewers via the UNICEF Philippines website and social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter). A total of 35 press releases, over 60 feature stories and photo stories, 34 web video stories, and a full range of communication materials and messages were disseminated through UNICEF National Committees. Twenty five visits from media, National Committees and donors were hosted in the affected areas.

The UNICEF Philippines Emergency Communication Plan was validated at the onset of Typhoon Hagupit on 4-9 December 2014. Designated spokespersons were interviewed by more than 25 international media. Communication materials included two global press releases, one joint statement with the WHO on warning against the use of breast milk substitutes in emergencies, four sets of key messages shared with National Committees, seven video packages, three blog posts and two photo stories.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

Officials from the Ethiopian Government and UNICEF staff conducted a study visit to the Philippines to learn about good practices on inter-country adoption. The mission experience was shared with other countries. As a result, Ghana also expressed interest to visit the Philippines to similarly learn about inter-country adoption.

The Philippine Government travelled with UNICEF to Cambodia to participate in the launch of the Violence against Children study and learn from this initiative, as plans were underway to conduct a similar study in the Philippines. UNICEF Philippines staff also travelled to Swaziland to participate in a global learning and sharing in the experience of conducting the violence against children baseline research.

In October, UNICEF hosted a study visit from Mongolia on child-friendly governance, decentralised/participatory planning and leadership, as well as good practices in reaching disadvantaged children in the Philippines. The context of unplanned urbanization and migration was particularly relevant with panel discussions and field visits at the national level and to the cities of Mandaluyong, Davao and Quezon City, which have strong child-friendly local governance and models of good urban planning.

Deputy Regional Director Isiye Ndombi from the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) came to Manila to establish greater collaboration between the Asian Development Bank and UNICEF Philippines in the areas of gender and development, knowledge management and sharing of Communities of Practice.

In 2014, UNICEF documented experiences on working with the WASH School-Based Management modality, and shared this with representatives from across the sub-region at a WASH in schools event held in Laos in 2014. The UNICEF WASH programme also shared emergency supplies with UNICEF Palau in 2014, following a request from the multi-country office for the Pacific.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

The scale of the response to Typhoon Haiyan drove a number of innovations in 2014. These sought to improve the reach, inclusion and impact of UNICEF programming both geographically and over time.
For the first time in the Philippines, cash transfers were given to assist the most vulnerable households in response to an emergency. Ten thousand households received a set of six unconditional cash transfers of US$100 per month to ensure access to food and other essentials. A further 5,800 households in Eastern Samar received cash transfers linked to an existing government conditional cash transfer system. These cash grants cover families’ basic needs in the most affected areas and those generally underserved by the humanitarian response. Innovative thinking linked the UNICEF emergency cash transfers with the government national conditional cash transfer scheme, providing access to local databases and reducing cumbersome set up procedures.

UNICEF worked with the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices of LGUs across the affected areas to build their capacity on risk-informed programming and child-centred disaster risk reduction. These LGUs received training and hardware to enable them to develop hazard maps of their localities and be better prepared from future emergencies.

Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification technology was developed after Haiyan, identifying 132 unaccompanied and separated children. These children have now been reunited with parents and primary caregivers or placed in appropriate alternative care arrangements. Government officials in 31 target municipalities have been trained in the use of this technology.

UNICEF used the ‘forum theatre’ approach to build the knowledge and skills of adolescents and young people on adolescent sexuality, reducing risks in emergency situations and protection issues. Theatre for Development also provided psychosocial support for those affected by Typhoon Haiyan and reached more than 500 young people and community members.

UNICEF Philippines built on principles of participation, accountability and feedback as key pillars for both response plans and monitoring systems. To facilitate this, an innovative online platform provided a space for dialogue with affected populations and provides a summary analysis of feedback including satisfaction information on services provided to continually improve responses.

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

In 2014, programme convergence and integration emerged as a strong theme for UNICEF’s comprehensive health programme (adolescent health linked to maternal and neonatal child health, nutrition and HIV prevention). As a result, a new portfolio of work related to adolescents across sectors was developed. This responded to the needs of adolescents in emergency situations and in regular programmes and spans health, nutrition, WASH, communication for development, education, social policy, child protection, and peace-building. An Adolescent Results Matrix with cross-cutting indicators was developed and implemented through internal UNICEF programming management systems.

Current legal barriers include access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health services for minors. A series of high-level policy dialogues focused on Adolescents, Health and Rights were delivered in partnership with the National Youth Commission, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) with speakers including human rights advocate Hon. Michael Kirby, and youth leaders.

Strengthened partnerships and adolescent leadership programmes connected “downstream” implementation with the national policy agenda. The Creating Connections comprehensive life skills programme for adolescents was supported by UNICEF and implemented across the
Philippines. It enables adolescents to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing, including marriage, pregnancy and sexuality, and conflict resolution. The programme was adapted for Mindanao to ensure cultural acceptability and peace-building components, and disaster-prone LGUs to include DRR, preparedness and resilience.

Cross-sectoral Communication for Development (C4D) work focused on local governments. Training on planning and designing C4D activities were provided to partner municipalities for around 500 participants from selected villages to help selected municipalities strengthen the C4D component of their local programmes for nutrition and ECCD. Mayors and local councils were helped to work together on analysing issues, identifying gaps in communication activities, redesigning/strengthening current activities, identifying new ones when needed, monitoring and evaluation for C4D, and developing low-cost communication materials. As a result, there was an increase in key budget allocations, hiring of day care teachers, and initiatives for food security.

In Mindanao, peace building work was integrated across sectors, focusing on developing local capacities for conflict resolution. LGUs, CBOs, education actors and adolescents were targeted. ECCD and the Tahderiyah project brought together education support for early learning, WASH and child protection.

**Service Delivery**

Due to the scale of destruction from Typhoon Haiyan and the funding made available for the response, UNICEF Philippines cooperated in an unusually high level of direct service delivery in 2014. However, this was strongly linked to system strengthening to ensure sustainability of services. Evidence-based approaches to planning and budgeting (EBaP) were also emphasised.

The EBaP approach was extended to Haiyan-affected areas to build more resilient health systems. Vaccine and medicine procurement totalling US$56.9 million was undertaken for the DoH alongside cold chain restoration in almost 400 health facilities affected by Haiyan. In isolated and disadvantaged LGUs, access to maternal and newborn services was improved through a technical assistance package.

Regular programming to address stunting and Universal Salt Iodization, continued with 751 IYCF peer counsellors trained, 19 lactation stations established, 13 regional salt monitoring task forces established and service delivery supported. UNICEF equipped the service delivery points in the affected LGUs with essential nutrition supplies for and facilitated IYCF counselling at facility and community level reaching over 648,941 children under five and 112,144 pregnant-lactating women and mothers.

The Education in Emergencies response for Haiyan reached 625,039 preschool and school-aged children (3 to 17 years) with learning materials and supplies to schools. Schools also received training and materials to improve the quality of learning available in TLS, schools and day care centres throughout the Haiyan and conflict affected areas of Mindanao, including Zamboanga.

UNICEF Philippines supported the deployment of 94 social workers and assistants to manage the caseloads in target municipalities across Typhoon Haiyan affected areas. Through the National Association of Social Workers, UNICEF Philippines supports ongoing technical, mentoring, and coaching support to these social workers to ensure the delivery of quality, evidence-informed choices, and case management in-line with CPIE Minimum Standards.
UNICEF supported strengthened WASH service delivery for households, communities, and day care centres by working at the subnational level to strengthen demand creation, and the formalisation of WASH service delivery in LGU plans, budgets, and institutional arrangements. In Mindanao, UNICEF Philippines worked to improve WASH service delivery in Tahderriyah centres by working with the BDA.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

UNICEF worked with the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development and the Institute of Autonomy and Governance to introduce law reforms in the area of child protection, peace in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, which will meet international standards.

UNICEF maintained a critical partnership with the Commission on Human Rights, the Regional Human Rights Commission and other partners, towards efforts to monitor grave child rights violations in situations of conflict.

The child-centred DRR approach used by UNICEF Philippines was adopted by at least eight civil society partners who were engaged in development and humanitarian work in communities. The approach is primarily hinged on the entitlement of children to be given special safeguards and care, their right to express their views and be heard on matters affecting them, and the responsibility of state parties for the care and protection of children.

In working to improve access to water and sanitation services, UNICEF supported the human right to water and sanitation. A human rights based approach to programming was mainstreamed by the UNICEF WASH programme in 2014 through programming that used demand creation and C4D approaches to target ‘rights holders’ at the household and community levels, as well as advocacy and technical support to target ‘duty bearers’ at the LGU, regional, and national levels.

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

UNICEF Philippines worked with DepED to advocate for gender-balance in the development of the School Improvement Plans, a three-school-year plan that schools as mandated by law. Guidance explicitly required that “gender balance be considered in organising the School-Community Planning Team.” It also called for a conscious effort to collect and analyse gender-disaggregated data on key educational indicators. UNICEF also worked on reducing the disparity in school participation, achievement, and completion of schooling of boys. According to the Philippine Out-of-School Children Report, Filipino boys' poor academic performance, in particular, was influenced by the “the inability of teachers to make the learning environment interesting and relevant”, particularly to boys.

UNICEF Philippines also worked closely with UNFPA towards prevention of and response to Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE). This included coordination on the field testing of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on GBViE, and for the Gender-Based Violence Information Management Systems mission in November. UNICEF Philippines and UNFPA implemented a joint project on gender-based violence in both Bohol and Zamboanga in 2014. A GBViE specialist was recruited for the Haiyan response providing technical assistance to government and civil society partners. The specialist provided information sessions on gender-based violence with government and NGO partners; supported municipal Gender and Development councils and identified gaps in Local Councils Against Trafficking – Violence
Against Women and Children.

UNICEF also supported the Council for the Welfare of Children to conduct a National Baseline Survey on Violence Against Children, to better understand all forms of violence against children, and provide data that would support an in-depth analysis of the gender-dimensions of violence against boys and girls.

UNICEF Philippines also supported efforts to mainstream gender in community-based child-centred disaster risk reduction trainings. The training materials on DRR being developed by civil society, particularly the National Youth Commission, made clear distinctions on the difference in capacities, needs and vulnerabilities of girls, boys, and women in relation to disaster risks.

The office would benefit from more deliberate efforts and attention on gender inclusion in planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Environmental Sustainability

Typhoon Haiyan made a convincing case for ensuring and enhancing disaster risk reduction. The lessons in its aftermath affirmed the country programme’s emphasis on addressing vulnerability to disaster risks as one of its pillars for development programming. The recovery phase of Typhoon Haiyan also provided the impetus to integrate DRR as a regular component of the UNICEF Strategic Response Plan.

The DRR programme is adopting the Eco-DRR approach which recognises the close inter-link between environmental management, climate change impacts and disaster response. Work commenced on the development of modules for building the capacities of LGUs, communities, youth and children are incorporating eco management tools that emphasise sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems as ways to reduce disaster risk and achieve sustainable and resilient development.

UNICEF supported the Government’s efforts to improve capacity and national systems to promote resilience and strengthen the response to humanitarian situations through multiple approaches. This included the Safe and Friendly Cities for All Programme, integrating the various safety and security frameworks of UNICEF’s Child Friendly City Programme, the UN Women’s Safe Cities for Women and Girls and UN Habitat’s Safer Cities’ initiatives. A Safety and Security Scan tool was developed by the Local Government Academy and pilot tested in the cities of Mandaluyong, Pasay, and Quezon City with a twinning arrangement with Haiyan-affected LGUs of Tacloban, Ormoc, and Guiuan. The objective of the twinning modality was to strengthen partnership and collaboration between LGUs through sharing of ideas and good practices.

UNICEF worked to enhance environmental sustainability through WASH programming that reduced open defecation in rural areas, and encouraged improved solid waste management, which also improves environmental sanitation. UNICEF also supported wastewater treatment facilities in Region VIII, reducing the potentially negative environmental impacts of untreated wastewater being discharged into the environment. Solar water pumps were procured to be installed in schools, reducing the need for future carbon-based energy sources for water pumping in learning institutions.
Effective Leadership

At the height of UNICEF’s response to the Level 3 (L3) emergency Typhoon Haiyan, the Emergency Management Team met daily. The Emergency Management Team continued to meet regularly, until the L3 designation was lifted in June 2014. With the arrival of the new Representative in March, the office organized an all-staff retreat which took stock of the emergency response, finalized the Annual Management Plan (AMP) and undertook team building activities. Due to the L3 emergency, EAPRO extended the deadline for the AMP. The County Management Team (CMT) endorsed the final version of the AMP in May. The CMT met eight times in 2014. It regularly examined and addressed key management issues, reviewed progress against the AMP and analysed progress and constraints encountered against key management indicators and EAPRO benchmarks.

The office conducted a Real-Time Evaluation (RTE) of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in the first quarter of 2014. The RTE aimed to draw conclusions and recommendations for the then ongoing Haiyan response and specifically examined the implementation of L3 emergency procedures and identification of wider lessons learned. Overall, the evaluation found that UNICEF’s response was timely, appropriate and relevant to priority needs in the initial stages of the relief operation. The key findings and recommendations were useful in refining the ongoing response and informing strategic directions for more risk-informed preparedness planning and resilience programming.

UNICEF Philippines also benefited from an advisory engagement carried out by the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations in response to the series of emergencies in the country. The advisory engagement was conducted from 6 January to 14 March. Key advice provided focused on: the finalization of risk and control assessments and the additional steps needed to reduce areas of significant risk; the management of partnerships and the strengthening of supply chain management and information sharing, particularly for the Bohol and Zamboanga emergency responses and; the urgent need to strengthen UNICEF Philippines’s implementation of the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) for implementing partners and the completion of the office’s micro-assessment plan.

A comprehensive HACT assurance plan with 185 implementing partners and an estimated annual throughput of over US$46.0 million was developed. At year end, the office had completed 73 of 106 planned micro assessments (69 per cent) and 10 of the 13 planned scheduled audits, in addition to programmatic visits and other assurance activities to ensure that funds were used for their intended purpose.

UNICEF Philippines was also the subject of an external audit carried out by the UN Board of Auditors. The audit, which was conducted from 10-14 November, examined the operations and financial records for the year ending 31 December 2014. The office is awaiting the issuance of the final management letter outlining the key findings and main recommendations. The office will coordinate its response with the UNICEF Division of Financial and Administrative Management, EAPRO and UNICEF Cambodia, which was also the subject of an external audit.

Financial Resources Management

During the year UNICEF Philippines often met or exceeded the Regular Resources, Other Resources (OR), Other Resources-Emergency (OR-E), and Institutional Budget commitments and utilization benchmarks established by the CMT and EAPRO.

UNICEF Philippines has embraced VISION in an International Public Sector Accounting
Standards (IPSAS)-compliant environment. Financial accounts were accurately recorded and posted using the new financial guidelines and UNICEF’s chart of accounts. The majority of payments were made on time, including the processing and disbursement of the monthly payroll. The reconciliation of accounting records were accurately done and completed in a timely manner.

The office made effective use of its cash forecasting tools and the management of its private sector fundraising accounts and made improvements in meeting its closing bank balance targets and in restoring the percentage of closing balances for subsequent months. UNICEF Philippines prepared and successfully uploaded monthly bank reconciliation statements for its seven local bank accounts within the required timelines.

UNICEF Philippines also successfully established and managed eight petty cash accounts to meet zone office and country office financial needs.

In preparation for the 2014 closure of accounts, the office took full advantage of the monthly and year-end financial closure activities. The ongoing exercise was helpful in ensuring that all financial, asset management and inventory data in VISION was complete and accurate and were used by the CMT to review and assess performance and to inform year-end planning and reporting requirements.

With the influx of OR-E and the increase in the number of implementing partners in response to the L3 emergency, the Programme Cooperation Agreement Review Committee met 25 times and reviewed 74 cases valued at approximately US$59.2 million.

At year end, outstanding DCT was US$24.0 million, of which US$1.8 (7.4 per cent) was outstanding greater than nine months. This will be a priority focus area for the CMT in 2015.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

During the year, 33 donor reports were submitted to donors and nine progress reports submitted. Of the donor reports, 10 were regular programming and 23 were emergency programming. Due to the increased volume of donor reports as a result of Super Typhoon Haiyan and other emergencies, reports writers/specialists were engaged to ensure the quality and timeliness of donor reporting.

All reports for 2014 have been submitted. This compares with 100 per cent (22 reports) submitted on time in 2013. The period 2013-2014 show a significant improvement in on-time reporting from 2010-12, when there was an average of seven reports late each year.

The quality of reports was assured by reports writers/specialists who have coordinated their production, developed and refined templates, provided technical oversight and created an archive of proposals and reports.

UNICEF Philippines was not successful in raising the required Other Resources to the country programme ceiling. The only sector that secured adequate OR was Education. Funding from the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for education were utilized with frequent interaction and reporting to the donor at the country level. The utilization for this sector remains on target.
Evaluation

The current Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was approved by the Country Management Team in May. The preparation of the IMEP was highly consultative and took into particular consideration the relevance and use of activities in creating knowledge for learning, accountability, and improvement of the country programme. The implementation of the IMEP was periodically monitored and updated in coordination with all programme, operations, and support sections/units including the field offices. The IMEP served as one of the major reference documents in the 2014 Country Programme Pre-Audit and Risk Control carried out on demand of UNICEF Philippines.

Led by the Evaluation Office from UNICEF headquarters, UNICEF Philippines conducted the Real-Time Evaluation of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Response to Typhoon Haiyan in the first quarter of 2014. The RTE aimed to draw conclusions and recommendations for the then ongoing Haiyan response and specifically examined the implementation of Level 3 emergency procedures and identification of wider lessons for UNICEF with regard to future large-scale emergency responses. Overall, the evaluation found that UNICEF’s response was timely, appropriate and relevant to priority needs in the initial stages of the relief operation.

The Real Time Evaluation process was consultative, comprehensive, objective, constructive, and forward-looking. The key findings and recommendations were adequate, relevant and useful in refining the ongoing response and informing strategic directions for more risk-informed preparedness planning and resilience programming. The management response was confirmed collectively by the programme management team and CMT, thereby ensuring ownership and accountability of the required actions.

The office is implementing specific actions to address the management response including programmatic changes to the ongoing response and emergency preparedness policies and plans. UNICEF is currently closely coordinating and supporting implementing key national government agencies and selected local government units in strengthening systems for preparedness, assessment, and response planning, and overall disaster risk reduction management.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The creation of a VISION Hub in Manila has proven to significantly enhance the efficiency of UNICEF in the Philippines. The VISION hub has:

- Improved service quality, accuracy and timeliness as team members become experts in transactions/roles;
- Improved IPSAS compliance and reduced financial and procurement integrity risks as fewer and more highly skilled staff are processing transactions in a more stable environment;
- Enabled programme assistants to increase their focus on monitoring programme activities and cash assistance.

UNICEF participates in UN inter-agency procurement activities through the issuance of joint long-term agreements (LTAs). A number of LTAs are currently in place, supporting UNICEF and other UN agencies in securing favourable prices and reducing transaction times for commonly procured goods and services such as warehousing facilities, transport and forwarding services, layout, editing and publication services, and HACT assurance and auditing services.

By year end, UNICEF Philippines had completed 114 staff recruitments within an average of 42
days and carried out more than 180 special service agreement recruitments. Additionally, UNICEF Philippines was able to process more than 100 on boarding cases and more than 130 contract extensions. This was possible through the effective use of organisational standard operating procedures for Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, and streamlined processes that were put in place in response to wider lessons learned. The office also benefited from an advisory engagement carried out by the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations in response to UNICEF Philippines' self-auditing measures.

The office undertook a risk control assessment of the travel workflow process. In order to reduce bottlenecks and to ensure the timely issuance and certification of official travel, the office has adopted a more realistic one month travel planning window and issued monthly blanket Travel Authorisations (TAs) for frequent travellers. Additionally, UNICEF Philippines adopted manual TAs charged to Funds Commitments for low value local travel in/around the Tacloban work area. The use of blanket VISION and manual TAs has significantly reduced the actual number of trips raised in VISION and has contributed to reduced transaction times for travel authorizations and travel claims.

Supply Management

The Philippines Country Office supply chain expenditure (goods and services) in 2014 totalled US$30,686,713, representing 31.4 per cent of the total country office expenditure. The huge UNICEF response to typhoon Haiyan explains the volume of supplies processed during 2014 requiring increased human resources and specialised capacity in Manila and Tacloban field office. Of the US$30 million of supplies managed in 2014, US$25 million were delivered to partners/counterparts leaving a year-end inventory valued at approximately US$5.0 million.

In 2014, the value of UNICEF Procurement Services for the Government of the Philippines increased dramatically to US$57.9 million, up from US$8.0 million in 2013. More than half of the value of Procurement Services was for the purchase PCV13 vaccines as a result of the Government’s decision to have anti-pneumonia vaccination integrated into the Expanded Immunization Programme for children. As part of the Haiyan response, cold chain equipment was procured and distributed to health centres throughout the country to further strengthen the Government’s vaccine storage capacities.

As part of strategic sourcing, a comprehensive market survey was conducted to identify new potential suppliers of goods and services. A total of 233 providers were prequalified increasing the supplier database and DRR preparedness across the entire country with a focus on regions most vulnerable to risks and hazards. Thirty seven LTAs were raised or extended during 2014, supporting the timely local procurement of essential commodities and services and reducing transaction costs.

As a new initiative in 2014, UNICEF Philippines provided Supply and Logistics support to the UNICEF offices in Papua New Guinea and Pacific (Fiji) through the procurement and delivery of emergency supplies, thus strengthening regional emergency coordination, support and response.

Security for Staff and Premises

In 2014, UNICEF personnel were present in the Manila Country Office, the Cotabato City Zone Office and the Emergency Zone Offices located in Tacloban, Zambouanga City, Roxas, and Bohol. The emergency response activities in Bohol and Roxas were suspended in April and December, respectively, and the emergency zone offices were closed. All UNICEF country
office and zone office premises have been assessed as being MOSS compliant. Due to fire and earthquake risks, building evacuation drills are undertaken at least two times per year.

The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has divided the country into two main security areas: Luzon and Visayas, and Mindanao. The security levels in Luzon and Visayas range from low to substantial and from moderate to high in Mindanao where the Cotabato and Zamboanga offices are located.

During the response to Haiyan and the other emergencies, the security situation in each of the respective regions remained conducive for all UN operations with a minimal number of localized security-related incidents. The movement of staff throughout the Philippines was managed and monitored by security and administrative personnel. UNICEF Philippines staff are required to obtain a security clearance prior to any travel. UNICEF staff are also required to carry emergency telecommunications equipment while on mission, including mobile phones, satellite phones, and VHF radios. UN vehicles are equipped with HF radios and first aid kits. UNICEF staff have been trained in first aid and how to use emergency telecommunications equipment.

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Security Management Team contributing to annual security risk assessments and reviews and endorses any changes to the UN Security Plan. UNICEF Philippines also has a designated Security Focal Point who liaises with UNDSS. Staff safety and security advisories were shared with all UNICEF personnel on a consistent basis. Emergency communications with UNICEF personnel were supplemented by an SMS blast capacity and VHF radios for critical staff. The office also updated its warden and deputy warden assignments. Warden training is planned for 2015.

Due to the higher security levels in Mindanao, special funds were allocated to procure staff safety and security equipment for the Cotabato City Zone Office. Additionally, UN Safe & Secure Approaches in Field Environments training was provided to four Mindanao based staff.

An outstanding issue that needs to be resolved in 2015 is the continued use of an armed private security company located in the UNICEF Cotabato City Zone Office.

**Human Resources**

**Ensuring strategic workforce planning that reflects programme and office needs**
The UNICEF Philippines Human Resource team pursued a strategic approach to HR management, responding to the office’s operational and programmatic needs, with a particular focus on the L3 Haiyan emergency, which resulted in a workforce increase from 86 to 184. An extensive HR planning process was undertaken, involving budget planning, staffing, organisation design, change management, assessing the staffing needs of the office, as well as taking into consideration a long-term exit strategy for the emergency.

**Supporting and enhancing efforts to recruit, select and retain the best talent**
The Haiyan emergency escalated recruitment with the establishment of 100 posts. In 2014, the HR team completed the recruitment of 117 positions (31 international professional/86 local/91 temporary appointments). Ninety per cent of all recruitments were completed within the key performance indicator target of 90 days, with an average recruitment time of 47 days. Until March, to fast-track the emergency recruitments the office used UNICEF’s emergency recruitment policy.
Gender balance and geographic diversity at all levels was considered throughout the recruitment process. UNICEF Philippines has a gender balance of 54 per cent female staff and 46 per cent male staff, and a geographic diversity of 45 per cent of staff from programme countries and 55 per cent from donor countries. In addition, the HR unit oversaw and streamlined recruitment processes for 186 individual consultants and contractors.

The HR unit, in collaboration with UNICEF Emergency Operations unit in Geneva and the Department of Human Resources emergency team, managed 163 surge deployments related to the Level 3 emergency response through mission assignments (56 per cent), Immediate Response Team/emergency response deployments (10 per cent), Stand-by Partner Arrangements (28 per cent), Humanitarian Support Personnel (2 per cent) and through the support of UNICEF National Committees (5 per cent).

**Ensuring a skilled workforce with the capacity to meet challenges**

UNICEF Philippines two year HR Learning and Development Strategy was developed in participation with all staff under the lead of the HR Learning Team and in alignment with the key priorities outlined in the Country Programme Management Plan, below:

- **Team Effectiveness:** an Annual Staff Retreat with all staff was held in April focusing on team building. Sections/office organised section/sub-office specific teambuilding and retreats.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** 156 staff participated in training lead by 11 internal staff trained as trainers.
- **Knowledge Management:** 84 staff participated in a two day induction programme. The office initiated brownbag sessions on Knowledge Management.
- **Risk Management and Controls:** Programme staff of all levels were trained in HACT. Led by the UNICEF Ethics Advisor, 183 staff and consultants attended UNICEF’s corporate Ethics and Integrity Awareness Training.

**Creating a Healthy, Safe, and Quality Work Environment**

The UNICEF HR team worked in collaboration with the Staff Association to promote workplace wellness and work/life balance through the establishment of “Office Clubs” and encouraging the use flexible work arrangements.

To ensure staff wellbeing in the emergency duty stations, an eight week rest and recovery cycle was maintained in Roxas, Tacloban and Cotabato, as per the International Civil Service Commission instruction.

Two additional staff from the field offices attended the Peer Support Volunteer training in Bangkok.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

The UNICEF Information and Communication Technology (ICT) unit has strengthened and maintained the digital nervous system of UNICEF Philippines by providing innovative ways of collaboration and 24/7 availability of systems. The ICT Unit provided technical leadership on disaster recovery and business continuity of office operations, which were critical to the work of staff in the field.

Working in coordination with the UNICEF Information Technology Solutions and Services Division (ITSSSD) and the EAPRO ICT office, a number of key achievements were made by the office ICT team during the year, which included:
• Implementation of the Business Continuity Plan, and establishment of a new off-site location in support of the Emergency Management Team during Typhoon Ruby;
• Completion of email migration to Microsoft Outlook and Office 365 involving 190+ end-users;
• Establishment of a secondary backup file system, providing backup of raw files and faster file recovery;
• Utilization of video/audio conference equipment and Internet-based Lync/Skype/WebEx to facilitate coordination, minimize travel costs, and make equipment-sharing among UN agencies possible;
• Orientation of staff on new ICT systems and emergency equipment;
• Guiding inter-agency local ICT working group and Operations Management Team on disaster recovery and Business Continuity Plan;
• Provision of consultation on appropriate hardware/software for Geographic Information System related projects for local government partners;
• Provision of specifications on appropriate computer standards for UNICEF Philippines’ implementing partners based on budget and project requirements;
• Completion of upgrade of Internet links at the office and warehouse for faster access to and exchange of corporate information;
• Conduction of tests and managed inventory of old ICT equipment for disposal;
• Provision of emergency ICT/Telecoms support to UNICEF Philippines offices in Zamboanga, Bohol, Cotabato, and Tacloban with support from ITSSD-NYHQ;
• Maintenance of ICT supply plan and infrastructure in Tacloban, Guiuan and Roxas; VSAT/BGAN satellite links and Iridium satellite phones and connectivity of field offices with main country office.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Advocacy, resource mobilization, partnership, and monitoring and evaluation are addressed through internal management arrangements.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, UNICEF Philippines continued the response and recovery to multiple natural disasters, including Super Typhoon Haiyan, and linked these efforts to longer-term programming to ensure sustainable impacts and greater government and community capacities. In this way, UNICEF sought to address barriers and bottlenecks in service delivery for children, particularly the most vulnerable including the rural poor, conflict affected communities in Mindanao and victims of natural disasters.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems: Office results are proficiently managed and systems efficiently applied that ensued maximum efficiency of resources.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Due to the Level 3 emergency response, EAPRO extended the deadline for the office’s AMP submission. The final CMT-endorsed version of the AMP was completed in May. The CMT met eight times in 2014. It regularly examined and addressed key management issues, reviewed progress against the AMP and analysed progress and constraints encountered against key management indicators and EAPRO benchmarks. The office conducted a Real-Time Evaluation of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in the first quarter of 2014. The RTE aimed to draw conclusions and recommendations for the then ongoing Haiyan
response and specifically examined the implementation of Level 3 emergency procedures and identification of wider lessons learned.

The office also benefited from an advisory engagement carried out by the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations in response to the series of emergencies in the country from 6 January to 14 March. Key advice provided focused on the finalization of risk and control assessments and the additional steps needed to reduce areas of significant risk, the management of partnerships and the strengthening of supply chain management and information sharing particularly for the Bohol and Zamboanga emergency responses, and the urgent need to strengthen the office’s implementation of the harmonized approach to cash transfers for implementing partners and the completion of the office’s micro-assessment plan.

A comprehensive HACT Assurance Plan with 185 implementing partners with an estimated annual throughput of over US$ 46.0 million was developed. At year end, the office had completed 73 of 106 planned micro assessments (69 per cent) and 10 of the 13 planned scheduled audits, in addition to programmatic visits and other assurance activities to insure that funds were used for their intended purpose. UNICEF Philippines was also the subject of an external audit carried out by the UN Board of Auditors. The audit, which was conducted from 10-14 November, examined the operations and financial records for the year ending 31 December 2014. The management letter will be issued in January 2015.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During the year UNICEF Philippines often met or exceeded the Regular Resources, Other Resources, Other Resources-Emergency and Institutional Budget commitments and utilization benchmarks established by the CMT and EAPRO.

UNICEF Philippines has embraced VISION in an IPSAS-compliant environment. Financial accounts were accurately recorded and posted using the new financial guidelines and UNICEF’s chart of accounts. The majority of payments were made on time, including the processing and disbursement of the monthly payroll. The reconciliation of accounting records were accurately done and completed in a timely manner.

The office made effective use of its cash forecasting tools and the management of its private sector fundraising accounts and made improvements in meeting its closing bank balance targets and in restoring the percentage of closing balances for subsequent months. UNICEF Philippines prepared and successfully uploaded monthly bank reconciliation statements for its seven local bank accounts within the required timelines.

UNICEF Philippines also successfully established and managed eight petty cash accounts to meet zone office and country office financial needs.

In preparation for the 2014 closure of accounts, the office took full advantage of the monthly and year-end financial closure activities. The ongoing exercise was helpful in ensuring that all financial, asset management and inventory data in VISION was complete and accurate and were used by the CMT to review and assess performance and to inform year-end planning and reporting requirements.

With the influx of OR-E and the increase in the number of implementing partners in response to
the L3 emergency, the Programme Cooperation Agreement Review Committee met 25 times and reviewed 74 cases valued at approximately US$59.2 million.

At year end, outstanding DCT was US$24.0 million, of which US$1.8 (7.4 per cent) was outstanding greater than nine months. This will be a priority focus area for the CMT in 2015.

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:
The office continued its efforts to ensure strategic workforce planning that reflects programme and office needs while supporting and enhancing efforts to recruit, select and retain the best talent with attention to gender balance and geographic diversity. In response to the L3 Haiyan emergency, 97 per cent of all surge recruitments were completed by 31 March. A total of 117 recruitments were carried out in 2014. Ninety per cent of all recruitments were completed within 90 days with an average recruitment time of 47 days. As of 31 December 2014, the office gender ratio is 54 per cent female/46 per cent male, with 55 per cent from donor countries and 45 per cent from programme countries.

In April, a two year HR Learning and Development Strategy was developed in participation with all staff under the lead of the HR Learning Team and in alignment with the key priorities outlined in the Country Programme Management Plan:
- Team Effectiveness: an Annual Staff Retreat with all staff was held in April focusing on team building. Sections/office organised section/sub-office specific teambuilding and retreats.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR): 156 staff participated in the EPR training lead by 11 internal staff trained as trainers.
- Knowledge Management: 84 staff participated in a two day induction programme. In addition, the office initiated brownbag sessions on Knowledge Management.
- Risk Management and Controls: Programme staff of all levels were trained in HACT.

Additionally, 183 staff and consultants attended UNICEF’s corporate Ethics and Integrity Awareness Training, led by the UNICEF Ethics Advisor.

OUTPUT 4 Human resouces

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Management of human capacity in the office is routinely done with organizational guidelines, policies and procedures.

OUTCOME 2 By 2015, increased access to high impact preventive services for pregnant women and household behaviour change interventions (focused on skilled birth attendance, nutrition, WASH and HIV) for resource challenged vulnerable LGUs with high incidence of child mortality (7 regions with 31 per cent underweight) and HIV (3 high incidence LGUs with high risk youth groups), and WASH.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, UNICEF’s focus in Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition, HIV and WASH shifted from direct support to Local Government Units to national scale-up of interventions through the translation of experience from subnational implementation to national policy level. Of note was UNICEF’s leadership in:
(i) Conceptualising, developing and implementing a comprehensive a Primary Health Care and New-born Package for the National Health Insurance entity Philhealth, anticipated to reach 80 million Filipinos in the coming years;

(ii) Successfully integrating WASH into the national ECCD curriculum and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) standard training for day care workers;

(iii) Coordinating a series of high-level policy dialogues on HIV, adolescents and access to services with world-renowned human rights advocate Hon. Michael Kirby with the development of a corresponding advocacy strategy for legal reform to ensure adolescent access, and;

(iv) Launching the first South-East Asian “A Promise Renewed Initiative” – a Government, UNICEF and USAID partnership which initiated the national ‘roadshow’ campaign to ensure all Filipinos have access to health and nutrition interventions and build citizen demand for quality services.

UNICEF also contributed to other global movements, including the Scaling up Nutrition/SUN movement which the Government of Philippines had signed up for in March 2014 with participation of high level government delegation for SUN’s annual gathering. This meeting provided learning and exchange with other countries and direction on how to scale-up nutrition in 2015 and beyond. Advocacy efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Milk Code including policy initiatives like Maternity Protection (paid lactation breaks and maternity leave of six months) and for Universal Salt Iodisation were successfully continued in 2014.

Programme convergence and integration emerged as a strong theme for UNICEF’s comprehensive health programme. Adolescent health and development (linked to HIV, pregnancy prevention and nutrition) emerged as a significant and new portfolio of work across sectors in the Office. The cross-cutting adolescent health and development portfolio is coordinated by the health and nutrition section, with programme converge in child protection, social policy, Disaster Risk Reduction and Communication for Development. Given the economic growth in the Philippines and increased fiscal space, there is increasing demand from Government for UNICEF to provide technical assistance in evidence-based planning and budgeting in health and nutrition and for health system strengthening at subnational and national level. Responding to specific Government requests, UNICEF supported LGUs in evidence based planning with the focus on maternal and child health, Nutrition and HIV.

In addition to interventions in regular programmes, support to the Government of the Philippines during the Typhoon Haiyan L3 emergency response substantially reshaped UNICEF’s portfolio for this particular outcome in 2014. While the typhoon response focussed on implementation in typhoon affected areas and cluster coordination in WASH and Nutrition, several emergency programme components influenced policy development and national and sub-national agendas. Examples included the resilient evidence-based planning and budgeting undertaken in all 40 Haiyan affected LGUs; installation of resilient cold chain and development of cold chain guidelines; influencing the development of national guidelines on CMAM and IYCF. Adolescents were identified as a gap in the emergency response, initiating a comprehensive and cross-cutting portfolio on adolescent health and development.

Considering the continued high maternal mortality and new-born mortality rates and very high adolescent fertility rates in the Philippines, UNICEF and the Department of Health recognised that leadership at the sub-national level is key to successful mortality reduction. Thus, in 2014 UNICEF supported enrolment of mayors in a country-wide Municipal Health Leadership and Governance Programme, organised in partnership with Zuellig Family Foundation and the DoH. This one-year, practical training ensures that mayors and their health teams understand the
importance of leading evidence-based health planning and budgeting and its direct impact on
mortality reduction.

Government requests for UNICEF to continue facilitation of health and nutrition supplies
remained high in the Philippines. UNICEF Philippines continued vaccine and medicine
procurement for DoH totalling US$56.9 million and pre-positioned WASH emergency stocks for
a total of 12,000 families (60,000 people) for two months.

Underpinning strong results in this area is a cross-cutting C4D strategy. Communication
messages for measles mass immunisation, back-to-learning, counselling cards for micronutrient
powder and breastfeeding in emergencies, as well as communication messages for WASH
services were developed and disseminated. C4D played a major role during the typhoon
response and aimed also during the recovery/rehabilitation phase at women and children to
improve healthcare, feeding and WASH practices as well as increase uptake of health services.

OUTPUT 1 Maternal and Neonatal Health tended by skilled birth attendants (SBAs) with
postnatal care among postpartum by 15 per cent in 20 vulnerable Local Government Units.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2014, UNICEF focused on upstream health system support for maternal and child health.
UNICEF supported PhilHealth to develop and roll-out the comprehensive primary health care
package. A national level advocacy was the launch “A Promise Renewed for Kalusugan
Pangkalahatan (Universal Health Care)” in April 2014. Following the launch, a country-wide
road show commenced and will continue to be rolled out in 2015.

Given the decentralized structure in the country, downstream work involved strengthening
health systems as well as government funding for health following the country’s economic
growth. UNICEF supported 43 LGUs and cities in rEbaP for health to leverage funds while
influencing planning and budgeting processes. Mayors, planning and budget officers and
municipal health officers’ capacities were built for prioritising health issues and evidence-based
decision making through the Health Leadership and Governance Programme in 48 LGUs.
Support for the development of a prematurity benefit package was started.

In selected LGU’s, support was given towards modelling the operationalization of the Service
Delivery Network for maternal and new-born care. The efforts include capacity-building for
electronic health information system using the real time community health information tracking
system, quality improvement initiatives for Essential Intra-partum and New-born Care in primary
facilities, and linking these efforts to local health governance and national level advocacy for
policy changes.

Institutionalization of quality care improvement was done through engagement of academic
associations of midwifery and nursing schools and through the use of ICT tools such as
Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses and Computer-based Adaptation and Training
Tool.

Until the country becomes self-reliant in procurement, UNICEF supported vaccine and medicine
procurement for DoH (amount of US$ 56.9 million). In Haiyan-affected areas, UNICEF
supported the restoration of the vaccine cold chain and immunization programs. The cold chain
was restored in 400 health facilities through provision of equipment. Installation for 17 cold
rooms is in progress. More than 78,000 children were reached with measles vaccination and
82,121 children with oral polio vaccination.
UNICEF further supported the restoration of primary health care services through augmentation of supplies and services, re-establishment of maternal and neonatal health services, health information and referral systems through partner NGOs.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2014, 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 Local Government Units.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2014 68 barangays were triggered using community approaches to total sanitation and 17 were certified open defecation free. A communication for development toolkit to support advocacy and post-triggering activities was developed in 2014, and pre-tested in Masbate. Progress was also made in supporting improved WASH governance in Masbate (Region V) and central Mindanao (Region XII and ARMM), with WASH plans developed and integrated into the annual investment plans of seven municipalities.

WASH in schools (WinS) work focused on continued advocacy for LGU financial support to the Essential Health Care Package (EHCP), and funding for the package implementation in two provinces in Regions V and VI. The evidence base for hygiene behaviour change in WinS was strengthened in 2014 through completion of a research project on hand washing practices, with the development of tools to enhance EHCP implementation in primary schools.

WASH in Day Care Centres work was expanded to 13 LGUs in Regions V, VIII and IX in 2014, with memorandums of agreement for implementation and financial support signed by 13 city and municipal governments. WASH was integrated in the Early Childhood Care and Development curriculum and Department of Social Welfare and Development standard training for day care workers.

WASH in Tahderriyah was also scaled-up in 2014, with an expansion to 656 Tahderriyah centres. A partnership was developed with the Bangsamoro Development Agency, and an inventory of WASH in Tahderriyah centres was completed in three of the seven Bangsamoro regions.

UNICEF emergency preparedness was strengthened through the prepositioning of emergency stocks, the inclusion of WASH emergency clauses in all Programme Cooperation Agreements, the renewal of emergency long term agreements, and the development of a roster of experienced emergency staff.

Emergency WASH support was provided to internally displaced persons in Zamboanga City, and those affected by typhoon Ruby/Hagupit in 2014.

The WASH Cluster rolled out the ‘Managing WASH in Emergencies Training’ to 300 government and civil society organisation (CSO) staff in 2014. An emergency lessons learnt workshop was conducted covering experiences from the Bohol, Zamboanga, and Super Typhoon Haiyan responses, and technical support was provided to the WASH Cluster’s Strategic Advisory Group, chaired by the Department of Health.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2014, increased access among pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of five years to nutrition interventions that prevent under-nutrition and
micronutrient deficiencies, treat acute malnutrition and sustain positive nutrition behaviour in 20 vulnerable Local Government Units.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Effective advocacy using the global and national evidence drove the nutrition programming upstream, contributing to Philippines signing to the global Scaling Up Nutrition movement, the National Nutrition Council leading the National Nutrition Cluster (NNC) and the Lady Municipal Mayors Association of the Philippines (LMMAP) becoming new advocates at the LGU level for prioritised nutrition action during the first 1000 days window of opportunity.

Under the ongoing EU-funded Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security in Asia (MYCNSIA) project, 751 trained peer IYCF counsellors and 19 newly established lactation stations contributed towards improved Infant and Young Child Feeding service delivery in Region 5, Naga and Zamboanga city. The ongoing Food Security and Early Warning System, which was piloted in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization in the five LGUs of Camarines Sur was handed over to the LGUs as a sign of their readiness to sustain the piloted system.

The formation of Regional Universal Salt Iodisation Task Forces in 13 Regions together with 35 trained National Food and Drug Regulatory Officers strengthened monitoring of salt distribution and supply in the regions. UNICEF equipped 17 regional government offices with iodine checkers to strengthen salt testing. Technical support was also provided for revamping the Food and Drug Administration website for monitoring of the Milk Code, which is still work in progress for completion in 2015.

Strategic Nutrition partnerships beyond NNC included partnerships with LMMAP and the Philippine Legislator’s Committee on Population and Development for essential nutrition actions advocacy across the first 1,000 days. Under the MYCNSIA Project, strategic partnerships were established with International Labour Organization to implement National Security and Maternity Protection project which resulted in Development of Nutrition Security and Maternity Protection Toolkit and Organization of Peer Educators in the formal workplaces. A partnership with Helen Keller International was initiated to implement enhancing local nutrition interventions for maternal and young child nutrition focusing in selected LGUs of Region V and Region VI. This project will be completed in 2015. Partnership was also finalised with SM, a supermarket chain for ensuring the sale of only adequately-iodized salt in all their supermarkets nationwide.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2014, ensure humanitarian support and development coordination for conflict-affected LGUs.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In response, the HIV-AIDS programme expanded to capture adolescent health and development, linking across UNICEF programme sections, and an Adolescent Results Matrix with cross cutting indicators was developed.

Rights advocates noted that Philippine Laws pertaining to adolescents are inconsistent. The adoption of the Reproductive Health Law is advancing the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) rights for women, but the restrictive articles within the Law and the current AIDS Bill significantly diminish adolescent rights to access commodities and services without the consent of a parent/guardian. A series of high-level policy dialogues focused on Adolescents, Health and Rights (current legal barriers, including access of minors), were delivered with the National Youth Council, UNFPA and UNAIDS with speakers including world-renowned human rights
advocate the Hon. Michael Kirby. Advocacy for legal reform will continue to ensure adolescent access.

Adolescents remain invisible and hidden, with very low representation in HIV testing and counselling, family planning and related services. As such, UNICEF supported evidence-based planning in cities with high prevalence and low investments. This resulted in increased budget allocation, prioritisation of evidence-based interventions and support for the development of local ordinance on budget allocation and the integration of adolescent SRH, maternal, newborn and child health, and HIV. Key prevention strategies modelled included: comprehensive life skills education; peer education outreach among young men who have sex with men and transgender, and; assisted referrals for minors and supporting community-based HIV testing and counselling. Through Government-civil society partnerships, the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission curriculum for health workers was consolidated with plans for integration within the MNCH. UNICEF supported coordination within Department of Health for harmonised service delivery across SRH/HIV. Health care practitioners’ competency was strengthened through localization of the Adolescent Job Aid and the design/development of an e-learning platform for skills-based competencies specifically related to SRH, consent/confidentiality, referral for minors.

Partnerships with NewGen Youth Knowledge, Attitude and Practices leadership training was expanded to include the “next generation” for young leaders to advocate for the specific needs of young males have sex with males, sex workers and injecting drug users.

OUTPUT 5 To reduce risk of excess morbidity and mortality from childhood illnesses and reduce the risk of outbreaks of vaccine preventable and water and vector-borne diseases; and contributes to reducing risk and strengthening resilience.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In the early part of typhoon Haiyan, UNICEF supported the mass immunization campaign against measles and polio, along with Vitamin A supplementation and malnutrition screening. A total of 82,100 children under 5 years were vaccinated. In the recovery phase, a national mass immunization campaign was carried out by the Department of Health and UNICEF heavily supported the preparations and conduct of this campaign in the Haiyan-affected areas. A total of 1,784,401 and 2,033,040 children under 5 years of age were vaccinated against measles and polio, respectively. Support to strengthen routine immunization continued through provision of cold chain equipment, health records and capacity-building. A total of 17,792 children aged under one year were fully immunized in the targeted municipalities.

The cold chain was re-established in 190 affected Local Government Units through the provision of resilient cold chain equipment, vaccine management training, monitoring and supervision, and information, education and communication (IEC) materials.

UNICEF prepositioned diarrheal disease kits, with supplies to treat up to 8,400 diarrhoea cases. UNICEF worked with the Government and other partners to develop the field guidelines for response and treatment in case of an acute watery diarrhoea outbreak. Training on acute watery diarrhoea, dengue, and measles preparedness for health workers was also conducted.

UNICEF helped re-establish primary health care with a focus on maternal and neonatal health and adolescent health in the target municipalities and service delivery networks. This was done through partnerships with implementing NGOs and government agencies. It was carried out by addressing gaps both at the supply and demand side, such as infrastructure
rehabilitation, provision of essential health commodities and equipment both at the hospital and RHU levels, reconstruction of lost records and rehabilitation of the field health information system, human resource augmentation, capacity-building of health workers at the grassroots and administrative levels, and health promotion activities.

Drawing on the “Resilience Evidence-Based Planning and Budgeting” initiative, UNICEF has been supporting local units of the Department of Health to strengthen emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity with focus on three priorities: help rebuild or repair damaged facilities with risk reduction in mind; develop capacity for primary health and community health workers, and; establish a mechanism for quick surge in local health capacity in future emergencies.

OUTPUT 6 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:
In response to Super Typhoon Haiyan UNICEF has, since late 2013, supported the provision of safe water to 1,351,926 people in Regions VI, VII, and VIII through the supply and distribution of family water kits; establishment of temporary water supply arrangements; rehabilitation of piped water supply networks; and provision of a replacement desalination plant to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Centre in Tacloban.

UNICEF also supported improved access to sanitation for 310,017 people through the provision of toilet slabs and emergency sanitation arrangements. From early 2014, UNICEF worked with the Department of Health and Cluster partners to facilitate a shift from the provision of emergency latrines, to household latrines and sanitation behaviour change, resulting in the development of the Philippine Approach to Total Sanitation (PhATS), a phased approach to CATS which includes WASH governance, and WASH in learning centres.

One hundred and six barangays, with a population of 63,774 people, were certified as open defecation free in 2014 and UNICEF supported the development of Government and CSO capacity to implement PhATS through trainings and the on-going development of training materials.

An estimated 504,209 children were provided with school hygiene kits and messages on good hygiene practices since late 2013. WASH facilities in 1,200 targeted schools and day care centres were rehabilitated and constructed with support channelled through the DepEd, LGUs, and CSOs. A monitoring mechanism using an Open Data Kit tool was developed to assist with the monitoring of WASH in schools work, and technical support provided to DepEd Divisions and CSO partners to enhance the monitoring and quality control of WinS work.

In 2014 UNICEF provided support to DoH WASH sub-Cluster coordination and information management functions at the sub-national level through the deployment of technical specialists in Regions VI, VII, and VIII.

No major WASH related outbreaks have occurred in areas affected by typhoon Haiyan in 2014.

In 2015, UNICEF plans to continue to support the implementation and scale-up of PhATS in Regions VI, VII, and VIII. Twelve Project Cooperation Agreements have been signed with an estimated 1,000,000 beneficiaries. Additional funding has been programmed to support DepEd
and the Provincial DoH. Priorities in 2015 will include strengthening approaches to knowledge management, sanitation marketing, cross-sectoral cooperation and guidance on how LGUs can progress to PhATS grades 2 and 3 as they climb the sanitation ladder.

OUTPUT 7 All pregnant and lactating women and children under five have access to nutrition interventions that prevent under nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, treat acute malnutrition and sustain positive nutrition behaviour; and contributes to reducing risk and strengthening resilience.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Effective advocacy on the need for national guidelines on management of acute malnutrition (Philippines Integrates Management of Acute Malnutrition - PIMAM) and IYCF in emergencies led to the National Nutrition Cluster and DOH spearheading the development of the PIMAM technical and operational guidelines as well as IYCF-emergency strategy paper and operational guidelines. These national policy instruments once endorsed will provide a major leap towards strengthening the nutrition environment at national level. This was supported by sub-national PIMAM policy gains in Region 7, 8, 9 and Davao.

Technical support provided by UNICEF to the NNC during the Haiyan Response resulted in improved capacity of NNC to lead National and Regional (6, 7 and 8) Nutrition Clusters. UNICEF continues to provide the co-lead support to the Government’s National Nutrition cluster. National NNC staff and regional nutrition focal points were trained in cluster coordination (36 persons trained) and as Nutrition in Emergency (63 trained) Master Trainers. Preparedness plans for the cluster including resource mapping, finalization of the minimum response service package for nutrition and sample nutrition reporting and monitoring were developed.

UNICEF’s emergency nutrition response across the Haiyan affected regions strengthened the knowledge and skills of service providers and other stakeholders on: 3,425 on IYCF-Emergency; 1,590 on PIMAM protocols, and 5,620 on Nutrition in Emergencies. Over 648,941 children (6-59 months) were screened for acute malnutrition. About 1180 children with SAM (6-59 months) received lifesaving care through therapeutic rehabilitative care (facility and /or community-based); about 112,144 pregnant and lactating women(and mothers of children 6-23 months received counselling on optimal IYCF; about 143,191 children (6-59 months) received micronutrient powders, and; 23,966 pregnant or lactating women received iron-folic acid supplements.

Strengthened strategic partnerships and coordination with Government, legislative bodies, academia, UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs enhanced nutrition programming strength, contributed to effective advocacy at the highest level, and to improved service delivery at the community level. Using evidence, such as the SMART survey results, UNICEF was able to effectively identify priority nutrition needs and leveraging resources. The unique experience of responding to Haiyan with the background of two parallel nutrition in emergency scenarios (Zamboanga Siege and Bohol Earthquake) is being documented for lessons learnt.

OUTCOME 3 By 2015, increased access to ECCD and elementary education by 20 per cent in 15 most vulnerable LGUs areas with special focus on gender parity and policy adaptation for national legislation and improved budget allocations.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Overall, the implementation of the UNICEF education programme was intense due to the ongoing Level 3 emergency response for Typhoon Haiyan, in particular supporting the
resumption of educational activities for over 600,000 children in the affected areas and the intensive catch-up of the regular programme implementation. During the year, UNICEF education programme also supported the response for other emergencies, including Typhoon Glenda in July, Typhoon Ruby in December and the protracted eruption of Mayon volcano in the last quarter of 2014.

Guided by UNICEF’s Core Commitments for Children and the Strategic Response Plan for Typhoon Haiyan, together with partners UNICEF supported some 624,783 children with learning and recreational materials and school supplies, assisted over 3,800 learning spaces/classrooms (tents, tarpaulins, makeshift classrooms and classroom repairs), and trained 3,470 teachers on DRR. The latest UNICEF humanitarian performance monitoring survey (September 2014) found that 89 per cent of children had returned to school (data on households/children migrated to other areas is not available) and 94 per cent of household beneficiaries were satisfied with the learning and recreational materials received.

The two regular programmes (ECCD and Basic Education) continued to focus on two strategic interventions: 1) national level policy and standard development, and 2) modelling of interventions for hard-to-reach, disadvantaged, and vulnerable children.

The major basic education support to the Department of Education included the completion of the review of School Improvement Plan Guidelines. The revised guidelines embrace child-centred and child-friendly approaches as its core planning principles and encourage schools to conduct evidence-based planning through more comprehensive data collection and analysis of children and communities’ situations and needs. A group of education partners was formed to review and confirm the situation of out-of-school children (OOSC) in the country using as reference the OOSC study. The DepED is currently conceptualising a roadmap for developing OOSC strategies, which UNICEF is supporting as part of a working group.

For ECCD, while the Universal Kinder Law passed in 2012 made a significant breakthrough in boosting the access to kindergarten for five year old children nationwide, there are still a significant number of children without access. The reasons include remoteness, non-availability of services, non-qualified personnel, and socio-economic and cultural reasons. The awareness among parents of the importance of ECCD is low. UNICEF continued to play a key role in advocating for and supporting access to quality ECCD services for all children, with strong focus on hard-to-reach, disadvantaged and vulnerable children.

Despite increased expenditures, the overall per capita investment in education remains low at around three to four per cent of Gross Domestic Product. Under-investment remains a key challenge. The DepED is into the third year of the major education system reform, the K-12 programme, which technically adds two years (senior high school education) to the original 10 years of basic education system in the country, harmonising with the international standards. This involves not only a massive infrastructure and manpower increase, but also entails a comprehensive curriculum review for all grades and the assessment system reform. The scale of the undertaking has taken most of the DepED’s senior management and personnel’s time, energy, and resources. In addition, under the current administration, DepED is going through a significant organisational rationalisation that is to be fully implemented in 2015. Uncertainty in organisational/divisional outlook/layouts and personnel changes/reshuffling within DepED significantly slowed down implementation of different programmes and internal administrative/financial processes which has also affected implementation of UNICEF’s programme with DepED.
For the ECCD programme, one of the traditional challenges is the clarification of roles and responsibilities and coordination of multiple players in the sub-sector. Responsibilities for financing, running and maintaining ECCD services are devolved to local government level, and wider and more creative advocacies and approaches are required for the expansion of ECCD.

A review and analysis of the progress and challenges have suggested strategic directions for 2015 programming: 1) introduction of regular programme approaches in Haiyan-affected areas (harmonising with regular ECCD and Basic Education programme approaches); 2) further focusing on hard-to-reach, disadvantaged and vulnerable children; 3) strengthening evidence and research based advocacy for the basic education programme to highlight equity issues (e.g., out-of-school children, disadvantaged) and; 4) further strengthening LGU level capacity building and advocacy for increased investment in ECCD, education and for reaching out the hard-to-reach children.

OUTPUT 1 By 2014, the proportion of three to five year old children with quality ECCD/kindergarten experience increased by 15 per cent from 2011 level, in 20 vulnerable LGUs, with gender parity

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Overall, the ECCD sector continues to face challenges in terms of low access, poor quality, and weak governance. Access to ECCD, particularly by three to four year-old children remains low at about 58 per cent (2012, DSWD) while about 23 per cent of five year-old children are not attending kindergarten. Of the 1.8 million children enrolled in day care centres only slightly over a quarter are served by accredited workers (2010, State of the Art Review of Day Care Services (SOTAR), ECCD Council).

The 2012 Multiple Indicators Survey in 18 UNICEF focus areas showed that majority of respondents (76 per cent) think that three to five year-old children are too young to attend pre-school.

The key accomplishments in 2014 follow.

- Review of National Kindergarten Programme Implementation which will (re)define policies and strategies to implement the Universal Kindergarten Law in 2015-2016;
- With successful advocacy, the DepED has adopted the Guidelines on the Implementation of Kindergarten Catch-Up Education Programme for 5 year-old that missed out on opportunities for early learning. UNICEF supported orientation-training of kindergarten coordinators and provision of prototype teaching-learning materials in all school divisions nationwide. Implementation of Supervised Neighbourhood Play is on-going in 40 sites catering to about 981 3-4 year old children in areas without day care centres. The Islam-responsive and culturally sensitive early learning for Muslim children (Tahderiyyah) was expanded to cover 3-5 year-old children in 813 schools and communities in Mindanao.
- Through the trained trainers from the regional level and focus areas, some 1,077 (40 per cent) of Day Care Workers in focus areas underwent specialised Standard Training. Efforts to establish/strengthen local mechanisms for continuous training of ECCD workers are underway.
- Advocacy and leveraging of resources with focus LGUs and initial training of key LGU stakeholders on evidence-based ECCD Planning and Programming were pursued. As a result, seven LGUs reported further increase in their ECCD budgets in the 2015 Annual Investment Plan (for approval by the Sangguniang Bayan) ranging from 4 per cent to 38 per cent.
ECCD Modules were integrated into the Family Development Sessions of the Government’s Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program. The ECCD modules aim to enhance awareness on the importance of ECCD among the CCT target parents. With the trained trainers, 11 focus areas have started to roll-out the modules covering approximately 23,846 parents.

To facilitate the smooth transition of young children from ECCD to primary school, UNICEF has initiated the modelling of a local-level coordination mechanism linking ECCD and Primary Education.

OUTPUT 2 By 2014, the proportion of six to eleven year old children participating in and completing quality elementary education is increased by five per cent and seven and a half per cent, respectively, in 20 vulnerable Local Government Units, with gender parity.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The past three school years saw modest improvements in elementary education with the completion rate increasing from 71.0 per cent in 2011-2012 to 73.7 per cent in 2012-13. The cohort survival rate increased from 73.5 per cent to 75.3 per cent. However, the participation rate, measured through net enrolments, declined from 97.3 per cent to 95.2 per cent. Girls performed better than boys in terms of these indicators. Geographically, there is wide disparity in access to elementary education, with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) being the most underperforming region. Significant reforms have also been implemented, notably the universalization of kindergarten which began in 2011-2012 and the K-12 programme beginning 2012-2013.

The 2012 Multiple Indicator Survey showed that most children in primary school in the surveyed focus areas were attending school. School attendance rate ranged from 80.4 per cent for six-year-old children to 98.4 per cent for nine year-old children. The high proportion of 6-11 year-old children attending school, however, was undermined by the low proportion of children who were able to complete elementary education. Only 65 per cent of male and 76 per cent of female, 12 to 24 years old, completed elementary education.

In 2014, UNICEF provided technical assistance for the refinement of Department of Education’s School Improvement Planning tool, harmonizing it with other school-based management tools and processes. It also supported the formulation of a policy and programme framework for addressing out-of-school children.

UNICEF also supported the strengthening of local capacities at municipal level in delivery and governance of quality basic education services with an equity-focus and improved local accountability. The interventions supported included:

- Capacity building of around 844 K-to-Grade 3 teachers, school heads, and supervisors on child development principles and learner-centric approaches in support of the K-12 curriculum implementation;
- Training of Local School Boards to enhance their understanding of their mandate and role in pushing for the basic education agenda;
- Initial roll-out of the SIP and school district synthesis in UNICEF assisted local areas in the ARMM (26 model elementary schools trained and preparations begun for the training of 228 schools in January to April 2015);
- Roll-out of an innovative M&E tool in Region 12;
- Strengthening school and community management of education programmes with strengthening disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation contents.
OUTPUT 3  Affected pre-school and school aged children have access to safe and secure quality education and psychosocial support; and contributes to reducing risk and strengthening resilience.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Typhoon Haiyan displaced over 1.7 million children and left more than 3,200 schools and day care centres damaged or destroyed. Other schools became evacuation centres for the displaced. UNICEF adhered to the CCC which spans the continuum from preparedness to response to recovery and the Minimum Standards of the International Network for Education in Emergencies. UNICEF’s Strategic Response Plan which targeted 500,000 preschool and school aged children (three-17) was also aligned to the Governments four-phase plan.

Access to quality education
Since Haiyan, 624,783 pre-school and school-aged children (three to 17 years) benefited from the distribution of learning and recreational materials and supplies to schools, including:
- Teachers received 7,894 teachers’ kits, 24,227 chairs and tables, 165,850 learning materials, 1,225 bookcases with library sets, and 1,602 blackboards;
- 213,200 children accessed education in 2,132 Temporary Learning Spaces;
- 1,706 makeshift solutions and repairs for classrooms and day care centres completed; and
- A UNICEF humanitarian performance monitoring survey in September 2014 found that 88.9 per cent of children had returned to school and 94 per cent of household beneficiaries were satisfied with the learning and recreational materials received.

Back to Learning
- Over 129,000 children reached with education promotion activities;
- Over 28,000 community members mobilized to support children returning to school and oriented on DRR;
- Radio spots and programming in local languages allowed a wider audience; and
- Posts on Facebook and Twitter pages reached an online audience of 281,047.

Capacity development of education providers
- 3,470 education personnel trained on Education in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction, including providing psychosocial support, improving school safety, and child centered risk-assessments.
- Partnerships with parent and communities to accelerate children’s return to school and adopt disaster risk reduction practices, including life-skills programmes that promote good health, sanitation and hygiene practices.

In Region VIII affected municipalities, there was an increase in enrolment from 256,335 elementary pupils registered from March 2014 to 392,967 as of August 2014. The number of high school students increased from 91,168 to 161,071.

Education cluster coordination
UNICEF and Save the Children co-led the education cluster with the DepEd, in support of a four-phased plan. The Cluster provided training for DepEd and DSWD officials on cluster co-ordination, EiE, and DRR, as the cluster transitioned into seven division-based working groups in Region VI and VIII. The creation of parallel large scale humanitarian cluster coordination structures caused some confusion with the Government which requires careful consideration in future.
OUTCOME 4 Child Protection

Analytical Statement of Progress:
There is growing recognition in the Child Protection (CP) sector in the country of the need to strengthen social welfare systems through better data at national and local level and the importance of work with adolescents.

Until Typhoon Haiyan hit, UNICEF’s child protection work focused on older children, (i.e. within good parenting, and life skills for adolescents). The impact of typhoon Haiyan brought a large number of adolescents to Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), which had to be adapted to meet their needs. This created an opportunity for building greater technical capacity/skills in the public sector to work with adolescents with its effects spilling over into development programming.

Social Protection is an emerging priority, with strong linkages to CP, particularly through Good Parenting interventions within Conditional Cash Transfer programme of the Government. This is focused on violence prevention and offers opportunities to improve intersectoral coordination with increased effectiveness.

In 2014 the UNICEF child protection programme made good progress in Child Protection Information Management Systems (CPMIS), with the completion of the “Situation Analysis of National and Local level CP Information Systems”; improving data collection at local government level and support for a revised CPIMS database for Local Social Welfare Department Office for electronic case management. This was enhanced by CP systems mapping and documentation through identifying synergies between development and emergency. The Philippines was included in a multi country study documenting CP Systems in Emergencies, highlighting its achievements in strengthening these systems within emergency response.

Work on Community Based Child Protection Networks (CBCPNs), as part of the special projects aimed at Muslim children in Mindanao, has progressed well with 25 of them now fully operational.

Violence prevention and response was supported through the strengthening of key child protection referral and coordination mechanisms at national, regional and local levels including in forty worst affected LGUs in typhoon hit areas. The National Child Protection Working Group (NCPWG) has established Regional CPWG’s to better coordinate region specific CP initiatives and reconvene in the event of an emergency as a sub-cluster. This structure has the potential to address constraints that delays emergency response and to resolve the disconnect between national and local child protection systems due to decentralization.

The Roll-out of Community of Practice Child-Friendly Local Governance in forty typhoon affected municipalities also led to systems strengthening. Key stakeholders, including police officers, social workers, and barangay officials, were equipped with information on child protection governance structures, trafficking, and child protection referral protocols.

As a part of emergency response, birth registration got a new impetus and is now being addressed through replacement of civil registration documentation. A key accomplishment was that close to 80,000 birth certificates were issued for the poorest families in Samar and Leyte provinces which were worst affected by Typhoon Haiyan.
By 2014, a comprehensive and integrated Child Protection Information Management System is established by the Government to promote convergence of efforts to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation and violence.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Acting on the recommendations in the “Situation Analysis of National and Local level Child Protection Information Systems”, UNICEF focused its efforts on improving data collection on child protection cases at the local government unit (LGU) level. A partnership with Child Protection Network led to the development of CPMIS in the 55 hospital-based Women and Children Protection Units in 35 cities and provinces in the Philippines.

With additional funds from Typhoon Haiyan response, UNICEF is supporting the pilot-testing of a revised and updated CPMIS database which will be hosted and used by Local Social Welfare and Development Offices in the 40 convergence municipalities and cities affected by Typhoon Haiyan. By supporting electronic data collection and maintenance, the records are easier to preserve, maintain and share with the relevant service providers.

With support from UNICEF, the Philippine Government continued to aggressively pursue the conduct of the National Baseline Survey on Violence against Children with the aim of establishing national prevalence estimates on violence against children.

Efforts on CP systems strengthening were further pursued through partnership with the National Association for Social Work Education Inc., for the capacity building and mentoring of LGU social welfare professionals in handling case management for children affected by emergencies. UNICEF also supported the augmentation of social welfare workforce to DSWD Regional Offices. Typhoon Haiyan LGUs have also been oriented on Child-Friendly Local Governance strategies and will be assisted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in adapting these methodologies.

By 2014, improved access to coordinated, comprehensive and effective social welfare services and justice for children, both boys and girls, and their families in at least five LGUs (i.e. highly urbanized, disaster prone and conflict-affected).

Analytical Statement of Progress:


The Anti-trafficking in Persons Act was amended and strengthened through the passage of Republic Act No.10364. UNICEF support to prevent trafficking included training/capacity building of local authorities, particularly within the context of emergency response. The collection of accurate data on trafficking remains a challenge.

The amended Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 with Republic Act No.10630 strengthens measures for protecting children at risk and children in conflict with the law. An evaluation of child in conflict with the law centres supported by DSWD is ongoing with technical assistance from UNICEF. UNICEF is also supporting the Juvenile Justice Welfare Council work with local government units to institutionalize a local comprehensive juvenile intervention programme.
In 2014, limited numbers and capacity of social workers were recognized as a challenge in meeting the protection needs of children, particularly in emergency response. UNICEF supported social welfare services in LGUs, increasing the functionality of Local Council for Protection of Children’s and similar structures are municipal and Barangay levels through advocacy for increased budgets, and demonstrating model of practice to prevent and respond to child protection concerns. Indicators currently used to determine “functionality” of LCPCs are however questioned, thus presenting a constraint in terms of improving their effectiveness and results for the protection of children.

Conditional Cash Transfers and Modified CCTs have targeted the most vulnerable families, including those living and working on the streets. Attendance at Family Development Sessions is now required, thus promoting Good parenting and violence prevention. The Philippines is included as a case study in a UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre report on Good Parenting practice. Measuring the results/impact of the Family Development Sessions remains a challenge, noting that evidence is needed to recommend further expansion of the programme.

OUTPUT 3 Mandated systems, mechanisms and processes for protection of girls, boys and women are organised/re-organised and further strengthened in priority cities, municipalities and barangays; and contributes to reducing risk and strengthening resilience.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Child Protection part of the response is on track to meet its commitments in Typhoon Haiyan affected regions. Key results have been achieved through partnerships with Government, target Local Government Units, international NGOs, national NGOs, youth, faith based organizations and academia.

Child protection referral and coordination mechanisms at the national, regional and in 40 target LGUs have been strengthened. With UNICEF’s support the National Child Protection Working Group has established Regional Child Protection Working Groups (RCPWG) to better coordinate region specific child protection initiatives and to reconvene in the event of an emergency as a child-protection sub-cluster. The establishment of the RCPWGs is concurrent to the implementation of the Community of Practice of Child-Friendly Local Governance targets in typhoon affected municipalities. To support these initiatives, 6,079 key child protection stakeholders and community members were equipped with information on child protection, child protection governance structures, trafficking and child protection referral protocols.

Psychosocial support to children and their caregivers through community-based, inclusive activities was been provided. Around 43,907 children have benefitted from structured play and learning activities promoting psychosocial recovery in child friendly spaces. Caregivers and key child protection stakeholders have been equipped with the skills and knowledge to manage CFS, facilitate activities, and promote safe, violence-free communities. To complement, the Government of the Philippines has, with UNICEF support, developed National Minimum Standards and Guidelines for the implementation of CFS in the Philippines.

Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) technology was trialled in the immediate aftermath of the emergency identifying 132 unaccompanied and separated children. Government officials in 31 target municipalities have been sensitized to Rapid FTR and the use of its accompanying tools.

UNICEF has embarked on an ambitious initiative to replace civil registration documentation,
including birth certificates for 80,000 members of the poorest families in Samar and Leyte. The project will assist families to access essential services, register previously unregistered children and promote birth registration.

UNICEF supported the deployment of 29 accredited social workers and 20 social work assistants to municipalities affected by the typhoon assisting in the delivery of quality, efficient case management.

**OUTCOME 5** By 2016, strengthened knowledge function, data and policy analysis to formulate equity driven national social sector policies; social protection plans (e.g. Conditional Cash Transfers-CCTs) and increased budgets to achieve the MDGs (e.g. gender budget)

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Government continued to support the 4.4 million poor households under the conditional cash transfer programme with an allocation of P62.6 billion (US$1.4 billion) in 2014. The programme was expanded to cover 15-18 year old children attending high school, consistent with the K-12 Programme of Department of Education. The decision to expand coverage was a result of the findings in the Child Poverty Study commissioned by UNICEF. Other policy papers generated from the Child Poverty Study includes “Can Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Make Children Stay in School?”, “How Access Basic Human Needs Eludes Poor Children”, “Spatial Distribution of the Poor” and “When the Non-poor Child Become Transient Poor.”

UNICEF supported the printing and roll-out of Department of Social Welfare and Development's social protection handbook “A Guide for Philippine Localities: Mitigating Risks, Planning Responses, Delivering Effectively.” There are specific guidebooks for Local Chief Executives and Implementers and a Vulnerability Adoption Manual. These handbooks aim to mainstream social protection within the Local Government Unit's planning, budgeting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive interventions for the underprivileged. The handbook was designed to include, within the development context, various measures to cushion shocks that LGU constituents may face. It features useful tools for providing a social protection lens in the development of programs and projects that would empower and protect the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals from all types of risk. The handbook was rolled out to the 40 UNICEF priority Haiyan affected LGUs.

Two billion pesos (US$45 million) was allocated by the Department of Budget and Management to support the modified CCT program, which benefited 7,007 homeless street families nationwide, as well as 8,956 itinerant indigenous families in urban areas. The DSWD did not have the funds to conduct identification, assessment, registration and tracking of eligible beneficiaries to the programme. UNICEF provided funds for these activities with the end goal of establishing a national database for homeless street families, including indigenous peoples.

Other government Knowledge Management functions that UNICEF supported included the computerization of the Child Friendly Local Governance Audit, a rating system that measures local governance performance in the delivery of results for children. LGUs rated positively automatically qualify for Presidential Awards on Child Friendly Cities and Municipalities. UNICEF also extended assistance to the Development Academy of the Philippines for the institutionalization of Communities of Practice on Child Friendly Local Governance to influence and equip local chief executives in implementing child-friendly programmes. Using a peer-to-peer learning methodology, the expected outcome of this initiative is for LGU’s to increase investment in children. UNICEF is continually partnering with the University of the Philippines Open University in the development of a Massive Open Online Course on children’s rights,
which aims to equip more individuals and institutions in understanding child rights programming and advocacy.

OUTPUT 1 Social Protection and Budgeting - responsive social protection framework, including a budget increase of 5 per cent is adopted by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Social Development Committee.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process by partnering with the Bureau of Local Government Finance to analyse allocated and actual local expenditures on health, education, child protection and social protection of the 36 UNICEF focus LGUs. Results showed that some LGUs do not meet the minimum 20 per cent allocation for social services mandated by the Local Government Code.

UNICEF then partnered with CODE-NGO, an umbrella organization of CSOs and NGOs, to build the capacity of community members in the implementation of the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting. Introduced in March 2012, the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting process combines elements of people participation in governance, localization, poverty reduction and the effective use of government budget. It is an empowering mechanism where national government agencies, LGUs and ordinary citizens through the CSOs work together to ultimately reduce poverty in their locality. In 2014, a pilot was conducted in two provinces, one city and four municipalities. Results are expected in first quarter of 2015.

UNICEF was at the forefront in supporting the strengthening of Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) through collaborative engagements with members of the LCPC Consortium. The Consortium provides a platform for Government agencies and CSOs to establish replication strategy for mainstreaming child rights through a Rationalised Local Planning System.

In partnership with the DILG and the Quezon City government, three batches of Barangay Development Planning Workshops involving 20 barangays were conducted to ensure that the Barangay Development Plans address inequities. This process was well documented and will be replicated in other barangays in the country.

The Rationalised Local Planning System was likewise anchored on mainstreaming safety and security concerns into the planning and budgeting processes of the LGUs. The anticipated outcome is a reduction in child poverty through the strong commitment to invest in and allocate a substantial LGU budget for children. At the same time, a Safety and Security Scanning tool is being developed with the Local Government Academy which will be used by LGUs for allocating resources that would enhance safety and resilience.

OUTPUT 2 Typhoon Haiyan-Cash Transfers

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A total of 15,801 households benefited from cash transfers in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. This including 10,000 households that received unconditional cash transfers and, another 5,801 households through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme (4Ps) programme. The total value of the transfers was US$ 9,480,600. The low incomes of recipient households, even before Haiyan, meant that around 50 percent of cash transfers were spent on food. Some improvements in nutritional status among children was observed with the increase in the mid-upper arm circumference measurement. Households also used the funds for shelter, children's
education, and health costs with a small number of households investing in small scale livelihoods and asset creation.

There was also a significant impact on local market recovery, which had been given little attention before since the focus was on the beneficiaries. There were still some improvements that need to be done in implementation modalities both by NGOs and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on targeting and quick response after the emergency. As the cash transfer programming was proven to be an effective tool in response to Haiyan, UNICEF Philippines in collaboration with DSWD is working towards institutionalisation of Cash Transfers within the Government-led social protection framework as a mechanism to address vulnerabilities in both development and humanitarian contexts.

Under the Child-responsive Planning and Development Package, LGUs implemented a Community Based Monitoring System, procured office equipment, and conducted capacity-building activities in social protection, social budgeting and LGU coordination.

OUTCOME 6 By 2014, ensure humanitarian support and development coordination for conflict-affected LGUs.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
There was significant progress and change in the context in 2014. The signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro by the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in March was the culmination of peace talks that began in 1997. It sets out a multi-step process for the creation of a new autonomous entity, the Bangsamoro, which would replace the current Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). In addition, in late 2014, a first draft of the Bangsamoro Development Plan was finalised, which serves as the roadmap for the recovery and rehabilitation of Bangsamoro communities from 2015 through 2022, under the leadership of the Bangsamoro Development Agency.

The situation would continue to evolve in 2015, when a plebiscite is held to ratify the Bangsmoro Basic Law (BBL), leading to the current ARMM Government being dissolved and replaced by a transitional body, the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority, who would be tasked to put in place the new government and bureaucracy, as well as ensure continuous delivery of public functions and services.

Related to the transition process, there was also a visible increase in Moro Islamic Liberation Front’s engagement and commitment to the UN-MILF Action Plan for addressing the recruitment and use of children, with a new five-person panel being appointed.

As a result of the transition process, conflict between the Philippine Government and the MILF continued to decline over 2014. However, other forms of violence and conflict continue, including: fighting involving Private Armed Groups and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters clan feuding, concentrated in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur; and violence caused by criminal activity and shadow economies, i.e. drugs, weapons and kidnapping. Looking forward there is a high risk of spikes and outbreaks of violence as the transition moves forward.

To ensure children’s rights are safeguarded during the transition process to the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority, UNICEF engaged at the highest level of ARMM Government with the help of civil society organizations and Office of Presidential Assistant on Peace Process to influence the on-going dialogue that will shape both the democratic transition and the BBL that will govern the new entity. With advocacy efforts UNICEF was able to secure statements within
the BBL Law that ensures rights of children will be given foremost consideration. UNICEF will continue to engage in both the development and political transition process in 2015 to ensure that provisions for service delivery are articulated in a child responsive manner with universal coverage and equity concerns.

OUTPUT 1 By 2014, children’s rights are promoted and integrated in the peace process, and systems that prevent and respond to grave violation of child rights in situations of armed conflict are functioning.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) is a joint effort of the UN system in the country which is managed by the Country Task Force Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR).

Negotiations between the UN and listed Non-State Armed Groups have supported the development and implementation of MRM Action Plans. Specifically for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, progress was made in the implementation of the UN-MILF Action Plan. The challenge is the effective monitoring of its implementation, preferably by all CTFMR members.

Despite slow progress of peace negotiations with the New People’s Army with the Government there are some emerging signs of hope. The issuance by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines of a Declaration and Programme of Action for the Rights, Protection and Welfare of Children remains an entry point. Overwhelming security concerns, prevent any specific actions to engage with the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Bangsmoro Islamic Freedom Fighters.

The Armed Forces of Philippines are in the process of finalizing a Strategic Plan with a view to raise accountability in its action towards children. The Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS) was also created by a presidential directive. However, both MRRS and Strategic Plan call for an intense schedule of resource-heavy trainings and orientations which continue to demand technical support for these systems-building activities from UNICEF. The MRRS is an inter-agency mechanism, and continues to present challenges in its operationalization, including ensuring local presence and response. The Strategic Plan has yet to be finalized and signed on by the leadership of the Armed Forces of Philippines and the Department of National Defence.

Partnerships with NGOs to assist in Monitoring Reporting Mechanism verification process are critical and at present pose a constraint due to limited funds for Project Cooperation Agreements and the limited number of partners for the highly specialized MRM work. The selection of neutral, independent and well-reputed NGOs acceptable to all parties who can provide coverage in all conflict areas including Luzon and Visayas also poses a challenge.

An overarching challenge includes establishment and maintenance of community level structures that prevent and respond to child protection concerns in conflict areas. A critical intervention is to pursue behaviour change at this level which constrained by lack of resources.

OUTPUT 2 By 2014, ensure humanitarian support and development coordination for conflict-affected LGUs.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Philippines focused on providing technical assistance to local government units (LGU) and developing pilots for service delivery in conflict-affected areas.
Technical assistance to LGUs

Child-centred peace and conflict analysis was completed for seven municipalities in ARMM, to provide evidence base for programming. Partnerships with three Mindanao-based NGOs and CSOs continued from 2012 to support the mainstreaming of child-friendly and conflict-sensitive principles into LGU planning and policy, with the following interventions:

- Technical support to LGU officials to engage in dialogue on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), with language on child rights incorporated in BBL. In late 2014, this programme was extended to increase the focus on advocacy to ensure the BBL promotes children’s rights, peace and leads to clear, transparent and inclusive regional and local governance, including support to local dialogue between policy makers, civil society, and community;
- LGU officials in four Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao municipalities were supported to develop child-friendly and conflict-sensitive local governance;
- A grassroots-driven model for bottom-up, child-centred, and conflict-sensitive planning was established in 14 communities in seven conflict-affected municipalities in ARMM, with the following key results: peace-building public spaces set up in two barangays funded by LGUs; bottom-up planning workshops held in all areas, with 14 LGU roadmaps for good governance developed; and leveraging of resources from government and international partners to support local projects, including income-generating activities for women, school feeding, and improvement of education facilities.

Developing pilots for service delivery:

On the basis of the conflict analysis and wider programming, several pilots were established with “seed” funding, to provide models for scaling-up, improving, and extending services to the most conflict-affected areas, including:

- A new partnership with Mindanao-based NGO, Health Organization of Mindanao to scale up nutrition programming in conflict-affected areas, including the Sulu archipelago;
- Introduction of smartphone technology to capture education data from Tahderiyyah, which was weak in particular in remote and conflict-affected areas; and
- A new partnership with the Institute on Autonomy and Governance to train adolescents on life skills and conflict-management, including the underserved indigenous people communities.

OUTCOME 7 By 2016 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:

Typhoon Haiyan forcefully brought home the message of disaster risk reduction: know your risks and take action to prevent and mitigate their impact. This was the lesson incorporated in the recovery and rehabilitation plans of Government for Haiyan.

President Benigno Aquino, III created the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery to oversee and coordinate the massive recovery and reconstruction efforts for areas affected by Haiyan.

The principle of “Building Back Better and Safer” was used as a guiding framework in the development and implementation of recovery and rehabilitation plans and programmes. The framework focused on long-term, sustainable efforts to increase resilience against disasters by reducing existing vulnerabilities and strengthening capacities in the face of future hazards.
The Comprehensive Recovery and Rehabilitation Plans which was the articulation of this framework from the consolidated plans of relevant national agencies and local government units amount to about PhP 170.9 billion (US$4 billion). The Philippine Government had allocated PhP137 billion (US$3.2 billion) funds from the 2014 national budget to support the plan.

For the 2015 national budget, the Aquino Administration allotted PhP13 billion (US$303 million) for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management fund, PhP6.5 billion (US$151.8 million) for Quick Response Funds of eight departments and agencies, PhP1 billion for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Fund and PhP500 million (US$11.7 million) for the People’s Support Fund to finance local climate change adaptation projects.

Initiatives under the Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards) of Department of Science and Technology (DOST) had been completed while others were continuing. Project NOAH is the response to the call of President Aquino III for a more accurate, integrated, and responsive disaster prevention and mitigation system, especially in high-risk areas, throughout the Philippines using state-of-the-art technology.

The Project harnessed technologies and management services for disaster risk reduction activities offered by the DOST through the Philippines Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, , Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, and the DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), in partnership with the University of the Philippines’ National Institute of Geological Sciences and College of Engineering.

Projects under NOAH included the following:
- Real-time online monitoring of weather and floods;
- Distribution of Hydro-meteorological devices in hard-hit areas in the Philippines (Hydromet); Disaster Risk Exposure Assessment for Mitigation–Light Detection and Ranging (DREAM-LIDAR) Project;
- Enhancing Geo hazards Mapping through Light Detection and Ranging;
- Coastal Hazards and Storm Surge Assessment and Mitigation;
- Flood Information Network (FloodNET) Project;
- Local Development of Doppler Radar Systems;
- Landslide Sensors Development Project;
- Weather Hazard Information Project.

OUTPUT 1 By 2014, initiated mainstreaming of child-centred disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in development plans for 15 vulnerable LGUs and 10 National Government Agencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
By October 2014, at least 21 local government units had started integrating child-centred disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in their disaster risk reduction and management and development plans. Eleven of these were in the Haiyan-affected areas covered by emergency operations while 10 were in the regular country programme priority areas. Amongst national government agencies, 10 were known to have at least a component of child-centred disaster risk management in their plans and programmes. All 10 have partnerships with UNICEF on emergency and/or DRR.

The incorporation of DRR as a regular programme intervention in the Strategic Response Plan
for Haiyan provided the opportunity to support child-centred DRR initiatives to more local government units. This complemented the community-based modelling projects that were started in 22 barangays in 8 municipalities and two cities in the regular country programme development areas. The development of a mapping tool that would help local governments in more risk-informed and child centred development planning was also initiated during the year.

Engagement with critical partners was forged to step up the advocacy and improve programming for child-centred DRR. The National Youth Commission (NYC) is spearheading the campaign for child and youth participation in DRR institutional mechanisms. The Albay Provincial Government, which is an acclaimed model for DRR governance, helped LGUs and organisations such as the NYC improve their DRR plans and programmes.

### Other Publication

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