Executive Summary

2013 saw significant challenges affecting women and children in the Philippines, with the combined impact of conflict in Mindanao’s Zamboanga peninsula, an earthquake that hit Bohol region in October, and ‘Super Typhoon’ Haiyan which made landfall on 8 November and was one of the most powerful typhoons to hit the country in recorded history. Communities and the country’s resilience as a whole was seriously tested, and while the economy remained one of the fastest growing in South East Asia, vulnerable communities did not fare as well. Growth is not translating into equal benefits for all and poverty levels have failed to drop, while a marked increase in food insecurity has been reported in the disaster-hit Visayas. Close to one-third of under-five children continue to suffer from moderate to severe stunting, and only 69.5 per cent of women of reproductive age had four or more antenatal stunting sessions with trained health workers.

In this context, UNICEF strived to promote and advance women and children’s rights, working closely with the Government and civil society partners. Key achievements have included support to better quality of care, with improvements made in 34 different facilities for better access to and quality of emergency obstetric services. Partnerships in nutrition, including with the largest national supermarket chain, helped expand the scope and coverage of iodine fortification. Combining regular and emergency efforts, UNICEF also reached close to 1.4 million children with Vitamin A supplementation. Policy development in education and early childhood care helped roll out kindergarten catch-up programmes and expand training for teachers and day care workers, for 100 elementary schools and 991 Day Care Centres. UNICEF also worked to strengthen national coordination of child protection actors and improve monitoring of child protection concerns, including through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM). Social welfare approaches through conditional cash transfers were supported and expanded to unconditional cash transfer schemes in emergencies. Following Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, UNICEF Philippines mounted a large-scale response benefiting from global corporate mobilisation under activation of Level 3 Procedures. The response to Haiyan included opening of new field locations in Tacloban, Roxas and Guiuan, with an effort that reached over 925,000 people with access to safe water and 420,000 children with education materials, amongst other achievements. UNICEF also supported mass vaccination efforts through replenishment of the entire Government stocks for measles and polio vaccines in affected areas. Innovating in the response, UNICEF rolled-out beneficiary feedback surveys through e-Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (e-HPM) and use of Rapid Family Tracing and Unification (FTR).

The Office has maintained a continuing commitment to the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) as a Stream One Country with a Mother, Child and Newborn Health MoRES analysis conducted in the first quarter of 2013, and continues to work on innovative partnerships, knowledge management and environmental sustainability efforts, most notably through cross-cutting programmes on disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding. The Office finally has also maintained its commitment to excellence in operational and management functions, including good governance and strategic risk management in the context of changes and increases in staffing, resources, and partnerships with the response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.
Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

The year 2013 saw communities’ resilience tested with several large-scale natural disasters and renewed conflict outbreak in Zamboanga. Towards the end of the year, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda (which made landfall on 8 November) was declared a Level 3 Emergency, as it cut through the Philippines’ central islands affecting more than 14 million people and claiming over 6,000 lives. The impact of these natural disasters has prompted increased Government engagement in disaster risk reduction planning, and focused local and national social service institutions on response to affected communities and building back better.

Despite shocks from large scale disasters, the Philippines’ economy has remained one of the fastest growing in South East Asia, demonstrating a beneficial demographic shift/dividend, a steady growth rate of 6 per cent and an improved credit investment grade. As such, the Philippines investment climate improved and the corruption index (though still ranked high at 105 of 127 countries) fell, indicating a possibility for sustaining the rate of growth. International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections indicate that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth will continue to hover over six per cent in 2014.

The impact of high pace economic growth, however, has not been of equal benefit to all Filipinos. Income disparity is the highest in Asia, presenting serious implications for the well-being and rights realisation of children and women. The National Statistical Coordination Board reported that poverty rates have remained pegged at 26 per cent. Growth remained predominately jobless, indicating serious underlying structural problems in the economy. [1] The increased wealth of some elite families is estimated as equivalent to a staggering 76.5 per cent of the country’s overall increase in GDP.

The Social Weather Stations also reported a marked increase of food insecurity in the Philippines, including notably in the disaster-hit Visayas region. [2] Given the devastation from regular natural disasters, there are fresh challenges to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). While the Philippines’ growth may recoup some of the economic losses attributable to conflicts and disasters in 2013 (approximately one per cent of GDP), the hindrance to progress of human capital development is expected to take years, if not decades, to recover. National MDG monitoring indicated serious challenges in achieving MDGs related to education and maternal and child mortality and unsatisfactory progress on nutrition and overall poverty, even prior to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. The setback to MDGs has been most severe in the Visayas region where social indicators were one of the worst prior to the typhoon.

In terms of health, more than 32 per cent of children under five suffer from moderate to severe stunting due to malnutrition. Only 36 per cent of children aged 0-5 months are exclusively breastfed. Around 22 per cent of households did not have access to safe drinking water, and almost one in four people have no toilet facilities. Only 69.5 per cent of women aged 15-49 years had 4 or more antenatal care sessions with a professional health provider and roughly 60 per cent of Filipinos die without ever having seen a healthcare professional. Results of a nationwide survey in December found that 18.1 per cent of the respondents - equivalent to an estimated 3.90 million families - report having gone hungry at least once in the past three months, basically unchanged from September’s 17.9 per cent (est. 3.85 million households). Efforts continue to improve early childhood development, with only half (50.8 per cent) of children aged 3-5 years attending kindergarten/preparatory school. An Action Plan to address grave violations of children in armed conflict is in place, bolstered by community-based mechanisms,
however, children remain at risk of recruitment and use by armed groups. Children are also vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, including trafficking during natural disasters.

The Philippines is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Deeply affected by climate change, its situation in the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, poor infrastructure, deeply entrenched poverty and complex political and fiscal decentralized structure enormously increases risks posed by disasters. Despite the highly resilient attitude of the communities better preparedness remains a major challenge for national and local institutions. The current Government, embracing lessons learned from repeated natural disaster in 2013, is mounting a large and well-funded public sector response that intends to fully address preparedness and response challenges. The large fiscal space available due to high rate of economic growth can assist if absorptive capacity of Government institutions can be addressed.


Country Programme Analytical Overview

2013 was the second year of the UNICEF Philippines Country Programme for 2012-2016. As in previous years, children across the Philippines remained vulnerable to a host of risks, running from protracted conflict and repeat disasters. Rapid urbanisation has also continued and remains a major determinant hampering full realisation of children’s rights. The year was particularly marked however by the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda which made landfall on 8 November 2013 and affected more than 14 million people, including 4.1 million people displaced, 1.7 million of whom were children. In addition to the Office’s Country Programme Action Plan synchronized with the Government’s budget cycle (Year 2 of Rolling work plans initiated in 2012), UNICEF also supported a large-scale inter-agency strategic response plan further to the impact of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda and worked in support of the Philippines’ Government “Reconstruction and Assistance for Yolanda” (RAY). The year also saw other significant emergencies affecting the pace of implementation of the country programme, with renewed fighting in Mindanao (despite advances in the peace process between the Government and the Moro Front), and an earthquake that hit Bohol region in October 2013.

At the same time, UNICEF Philippines continued to work to highlight determinants of inequity affecting children across the country, together with the National Economic and Development Agency (NEDA). Building on successful advocacy from past years, this enabled the leveraging of expanding fiscal space for the Government to invest in children’s rights – a core objective of the Country Programme 2012-2016. Efforts initiated in 2012 to work at the local level through Local Government Units (LGUs) were carried forward – and also used to channel humanitarian response efforts in the aftermath of Haiyan, through the signing of multiple Memorandums of Understanding with affected LGUs. Continued progress was also made together with sister agencies from the UN System on conflict analysis and peacebuilding in the context of Mindanao, which however saw a deterioration of the situation with conflict in Zamboanga towards the end of the year.
UNICEF’s global work on urban issues and the country’s well-funded conditional cash transfer programme helped spur work on vulnerable communities in informal urban settlements resulting from rapid urbanization. Efforts in monitoring and reporting remained a core focus, with continued implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Children and Armed Conflict, further efforts under the Philippines’ designation as MoRES Stream One Country (e.g. the Mother, Child and Newborn Health MoRES analysis across twenty partner LGUs using 10 MoRES indicators) and implementation of the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring Information System (HPMIS).

**Humanitarian Assistance**

2013 was an incredible period for the UNICEF Philippines Office which was engulfed in a series of successive and simultaneous emergency operations with overlapping responses to meet immediate life-saving priorities. Work started with continuing responses to the lasting impact of Typhoon Bohpa/Pablo which affected areas of Central Mindanao in late 2012. UNICEF has yet to close its emergency operation in Northern/Central Mindanao and continued relief efforts throughout the year, while also experiencing monsoon rains which caused extensive flooding in Metro Manila in July 2013. UNICEF also simultaneously responded to the conflict in Zamboanga City (September 2013) and the Bohol earthquake (October 2013). Then, towards the end of the year, super typhoon “Haiyan/Yolanda” hit and devastated Eastern Visayas, with UNICEF globally activating Level Three Corporate Emergency Procedures.

**Effective Advocacy**

*Fully met benchmarks*

Advocacy centred on sustaining key campaigns, leveraging support and cooperation during emergencies and sharing evidence to promote better outcomes for children. At the national level, UNICEF and partners engaged 46 Chiefs of Staff of Congressmen of the Health and Trade Committees together with the Philippines NGO Coalition for Nutrition (KAIN) and the National Nutrition Council Government to advise against proposed amendments to the National Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes legislation (a strong breastfeeding protective law). Despite considerable influence from infant formula manufacturing companies, strategies to popularise and raise awareness on the importance of the National Code were developed, with UNICEF succeeding in stopping potentially harmful amendments of the Code.

To facilitate young people’s access to HIV services, UNICEF and civil society organization (CSO) partner, the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development proposed amendments to the existing AIDS Law. These amendments included embedding Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV initiatives within the Department of Health. ‘A Promised Renewed’ campaign was also prepared for launch in 2014 to raise the profile of HIV. The quality of maternal and newborn care was strengthened through the adoption of ‘The First Embrace (Unang Yakap)’ campaign in nursing and midwifery schools nationwide. UNICEF partnered with academic associations to reach over 480 nursing colleges and 260 midwifery schools with key messages.

At the local governance level, UNICEF, through the Department of the Interior and Local Governance commissioned a study for the drafting of the Policy Guidelines on the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance. The policy guidelines will help recognize and reward LGUs through a new audit system for measuring local governance performance in
delivering positive results for children. UNICEF advocacy has also strengthened local level institutional capacity, human resourceing and provided an increase in government funding for the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in more than 10 municipalities across Central Mindanao and in areas affected by Typhoon Bopha.

UNICEF supported the Department of Education to develop improved tools and systems for evidence-based and learner-centred school-community education planning. The tools are undergoing nationwide field-testing, and will sharpen analysis of barriers and opportunities for children's participation, retention and learning performance at school.

UNICEF partnered with Galing Pook Foundation to hold a National Workshop on the LGU Best Practices in the Protection, Welfare and Development of Children for 36 LGUs, focusing on best practices to address vulnerabilities of the urban poor and of conflict- and disaster-prone communities. The workshop promoted the sharing of ideas, strategies, and proven development templates, with the longer-term view to adapt and replicate relevant programmes in participating communities. A casebook of award-winning programmes was launched entitled “A Future for Our Children: Galing Pook Best Local Governance Programmes for Children”.

As part of the typhoon emergency response, UNICEF supported community education and advocacy on anti-trafficking in partnership with the Inter Agency Council against Trafficking and Child Alert. In the wake of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, messages on the prevention of separation of children amongst displaced populations were supported, alerting communities to refer to authorities children who were without parents or guardians - noting the risks they faced, including trafficking.

**Capacity Development**

*Fully met benchmarks*

Towards sustained achievement of child rights, UNICEF helped institutions gain new knowledge, fill and identify policy and programming gaps and strengthen technical capacities, particularly in emergency response.

Sectoral coordination mechanisms were strengthened, incorporating the humanitarian Cluster approach, with UNICEF increasingly supporting line ministries in this role. Such approaches were particularly successful in responding to children affected by armed conflict and natural disasters where UNICEF provided technical support to the Department of Social Welfare and Development as co-lead of the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) at both national level and provincial levels. The capacity of Government to ensure Child Protection in Emergencies has been strengthened in the roll out of Child Friendly Space (CFS) through training for stakeholders in Regions XI and XIII, introduction of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines and standardised approaches and activities. UNICEF has also led the planning, implementation, collation and analysis of Child Protection Rapid Assessments adapted from the Global CPWG Assessment Toolkit. Facilitating this process together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development regional offices has ensured a continuum of expertise in regions vulnerable to natural disasters.

Individual training of government and civil society counterparts was facilitated by UNICEF. In HIV, service providers and people living with HIV were trained in guidelines and
protocols for providing treatment, care and support of young people, mothers and adults. Midwives skills were enhanced through a programme in Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, and UNICEF rolled out the “New Generation Leaders Initiative” which builds the capacity of young people to meaningfully participate in the HIV response.

Over 3,000 nutrition professionals strengthened skills and knowledge in the promotion and scaling-up of appropriate breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices for children 0-59 months. Support to mainstreaming nutrition interventions was also provided in the Municipal Annual Nutrition Action Plans with a view to leveraging local municipal funding.

Support for public finance for women and children’s rights was strengthened through capacity building partnerships and workshops with the Council for the Welfare of Children and workshops for members of local finance committees together with Social Watch Philippines. UNICEF, in partnership with the Community of Learners Foundation also supported the Department of Education to enrich its teacher training programme by deepening teachers’ appreciation of child-development principles and learner-centred teaching approaches. Over 800 teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 3, school heads, and supervisors from 100 schools participated in a holistic programme that complements Government’s curriculum-centred training. The programme ensures that every teacher acquires i) full understanding of the child; ii) competence in the curriculum, and; iii) developmentally-appropriate teaching approaches for children at different stages of growth and development. These elements were incorporated into the Government Leadership Training Programme for Schools Superintendents and will become part of the nationwide K-12 Teacher Training Programme. 600 day care workers and 3,487 kindergarten teachers were trained with a newly developed Manual on the Standard Training for Day Care Workers and new National Standards for Training of Kindergarten Teachers.

Communication for Development

Fully met benchmarks

UNICEF’s Communication for Development (C4D) interventions focused on strengthening the capacity of LGUs to plan and implement behaviour change communication, community mobilization, and advocacy activities in support of their local development programmes. UNICEF’s C4D technical assistance and interventions were implemented at various levels, from national to local.

UNICEF established a partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños, College of Development Communication, to assist three LGUs in developing and implementing C4D plans for their nutrition programmes. Plans to provide similar assistance to selected LGUs in Mindanao were also established, focusing on strengthening the capacity of community health teams in empowering communities on maternal and child health.

UNICEF and the Department of Health supported C4D training for municipal health and nutrition officers, as well as some development partners. The training provided participants with an overview of the role of communication in local development and how interventions should be planned. In addition, at the national level, UNICEF supported the development of a video featuring recommendations for complementary feeding.
A theatre group, Tanghalang Pilipino, was engaged to develop a Theatre for Development curriculum on HIV and AIDS and perform among young key affected populations in Pasay City. This intervention was an important avenue to promote awareness and empower communities with knowledge and understanding about HIV and AIDS. Young people were trained in the process of using theatre for development enabling them to develop their own one-act play and perform it in their home communities.

Messages on the importance of early childhood care development (ECCD) were strengthened through UNICEF assistance to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to improve Family Development Sessions (FDS). The sessions were regularly conducted with 4 million beneficiaries of the Government’s cash transfer programme, a critical opportunity to promote and highlight the importance of ECCD with parents and caregivers. In partnership with Synergia Foundation, UNICEF also trained parent-leaders who will facilitate parent education sessions in relevant focus areas. The sessions tackled the value of education, how children learn, and what parents can do to help children develop maximum potential as an individual.

Within the context of a broader conflict analysis, a Knowledge Attitudes and Practice (KAP) study was conducted in Mindanao to examine community awareness and attitudes regarding children’s involvement in armed conflict. This study will inform the development of a strategic plan aimed at promoting behaviour change with view to accelerating implementation of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Action Plan.

**Service Delivery**

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF aimed to strengthen service delivery networks in each sector focusing on disadvantaged rural and urban areas. This focus aims to develop functioning models that can inform upstream policy and standards development. Major direct service delivery activities were in health, nutrition and education. Overall, a cohesive approach to addressing identified bottlenecks, barriers and exploring ways of moving forward service delivery and programme implementation was reached through UNICEF’s workshop “Pathways of Change: Enhancing Service Delivery at the Local Level”.

The quality of delivery care and health information systems was improved, bolstered by the establishment of procurement facilities for vaccines. UNICEF also provided technical support and supplies in order to strengthen and scale up of promotional and protective infant and young child feeding (IYCF), prevention and treatment of severe acute malnutrition, and micronutrient supplementation and fortification. This support was provided within the broader context of a review of the salt iodization checklist and food fortification guidelines, also led by UNICEF. At the same time, UNICEF supported improved service delivery in Emergency Obstetric Care centres across 34 different health facilities.

To support the effective implementation of centre-based ECCD programmes, UNICEF provided basic furniture and ECCD kits to 650 day care centres, benefiting 26,000 3-4 children aged 3 to 4 years old. Through a partnership with Community Learners Foundation, UNICEF also provided materials to 100 elementary schools. These materials included assessment tools for Kindergarten including the ECCD assessment kit and ECCD Checklist for administering developmental screening, and classroom materials containing young children’s storybooks, and ECCD learning games kits (assorted Early Literacy,
Mathematics and theme-related games for children aged 5 to 6). Teaching-learning materials were reproduced and adapted by teachers using available local resources and in some areas, through the help of parents. The intervention helped transform classrooms into a more stimulating learning environment.

Service delivery in the context of humanitarian response included large-scale coverage in restoring access to water and sanitation after Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, promoting a Back to Learning campaign for children in the aftermath of Haiyan that included distribution of school materials, and equipping health centres in typhoon-affected areas with vaccines, consumables and equipment to re-establish the cold chain. Similar efforts across all sectors took place in emergency service delivery in the wake of the Bohol earthquake in October, and as the conflict in Mindanao/Zamboanga deteriorated, albeit in a context of shortfalls in funding compared to the response mounted after Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.

**Strategic Partnerships**

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF forged partnerships that are bringing together Government and in some cases, non-state actors, supported by partners and in collaboration with relevant sectors/clusters. These partnerships promote and demonstrate child-centred, holistic, culture-sensitive models that will have strong buy-in especially from government partners who are in the best position to upscale and mainstream reform efforts. UNICEF is partnering with Civil Society Organizations with comparative advantages in expert service delivery and advocacy processes at the local/community level.

As part of Children’s Month, the “Partners in Development: Listening to the Voices of Extreme Poverty” forum was run together with informal settlers’ organisation, All Together Dignity Philippines (ATD), in October. The forum gathered informal settler communities and Government officials together to discuss issues related to children and families living in informal settlements, particularly on education, social protection, housing and relocation. The ATDP partnership was a strategic step to advocate and understand issues of the poor living in rapid urbanization situations, a key vulnerability highlighted in the country programme.

Academia was a major partner for the UNICEF’s health work, including curriculum integration efforts to improve delivery care. Partnerships with local and overseas academic institutions to support three LGUs for Evidence-Based Planning were established. UNICEF also entered into a strategic partnership with a CSO to enrol the local chief executives in its health leadership and governance programme.

UNICEF continued to support the National Nutrition Council’s overall coordination of nutrition activities, including the nutrition cluster approach at national and sub-national levels. New NGO partners were engaged to provide technical support for scaling-up nutrition interventions in target municipalities. Partnerships were also formed with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in nutrition security for maternity protection and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation’s (FAO) Food and Nutrition Security Early System. UNICEF also established partnerships with the national conglomerate chain of Super Market (SM) and KAIN for the promotion and enforcement of sales of adequately iodized salt.
Inter-sectoral collaboration was strengthened through UNICEF Education in Emergencies initiatives, including with Child Protection and WASH partners to ensure a holistic and integrated package was provided for the affected children and education service providers. UNICEF continued assistance in the expansion of the Tahderiyyah Project which started in 2010. It involved active engagement of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (non-state actor) in the planning and development of a culturally-responsive Kindergarten curriculum, training of Tahderiyyah trainers and teachers and the provision of ECCD teaching-learning materials for Muslim young children in conflict-affected areas. This assistance has effectively brought together Government and non-state actors towards a common goal of providing quality education for children.

Knowledge Management

Fully met benchmarks

In collaboration with the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and FISCO Consulting, UNICEF Philippines held a consultation with national Government agencies on “Measuring and Monitoring Child Protection Systems: Proposed Regional Core Indicators for East Asia and Pacific”, using an evidence-based toolkit which proposes the use of a core set of indicators to assess and measure child protection systems in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region. The purpose of this Child Protection Indicator Framework is to provide partners across the EAP region with a practical platform for monitoring national child protection systems in the region. The indicators are designed to support monitoring and assessment of the enabling environment or ‘governance’ of national child protection systems, including legal and regulatory structures, social welfare systems for children and families, and the justice system. In the Philippines, UNICEF’s partner, the Council for the Welfare of Children, welcomed the initiative and committed to focus on a localised adaptation of the toolkit.

With the issuance of Executive Order 138 (2013) in August, the Government established a multi-agency Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS) on grave child rights violations, unifying existing governmental bodies responsible for children affected by armed conflict in the Philippines. The MRRS presented UNICEF with a clear Government counterpart with which to engage on this issue ad interim, in anticipation of a proposed Bill on Children Involved in Armed Conflict. Data on the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict during the year indicated a slight increase in the number of recorded incidents, and a slight decrease on the number of children involved as compared to the previous period. Most of these incidents occurred in Mindanao provinces.

As Co-chair of the Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), UNICEF continued to engage with the MILF on the issue of the recruitment and use of minors in the armed conflict in Mindanao. To complement negotiations with the MILF, progress for children vulnerable to recruitment was made through work on Community Based Child Protection Networks (CBCPNs). UNICEF and the Bangsamoro Development Agency established six CBCPNs in different conflict-affected tribal areas. Stakeholder feedback suggested that communities have taken full ownership of the networks and are readily suggesting ways in which they can be strengthened and taken to scale.

UNICEF implemented the Pinoy Youth Barometer Survey, a quarterly survey aimed at getting information on the viewpoints of the youth regarding the most pertinent issues in the country. This survey was conducted in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Management. At the same time, UNICEF also organised a regional Monitoring and
Evaluation (M&E) Network meeting entitled “Establishing an Effective M&E System for Development Results: Key Considerations from International Experience” (see details under South-to-South Cooperation).

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Fully met benchmarks

As a member of the Sub-Committee on Children with Disability, through the Council for the Welfare of Children, UNICEF supported a study on “The Harmonization of Philippine Policies affecting Children with Disabilities with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. The study was completed in November, and will be shared with key national Government agencies, Congress/Senate, NGOs/CSOs, academia and interested parties. The harmonization of policies affecting children with disability will serve to address gaps and areas of ineffectiveness and inefficiency in implementing laws affecting children with disabilities, the unification of conflicting provisions or mandates of existing policies, and strengthen existing laws.

UNICEF’s support to expand the Department of Education’s teacher training programme was prompted by the need to deepen teachers’ appreciation of child-development principles and learner-centred teaching approaches. This will help ensure that teachers are not only competent in what to teach but also aware and sensitive to the children’s development needs and their role in helping children achieve their full potential as learners. In partnership with the Community of Learners Foundation, UNICEF also introduced a training programme in the conflict-affected and in Haiyan-affected areas with the aim of promoting developmentally-appropriate, culturally relevant and sensitive content, teaching strategies, processes and routines that lead to more meaningful teacher-child and child to child relationships, with strong emphasis on child development and a special focus on emotional and social development. Equity in access to quality education was promoted amidst the current declining participation rate, low completion rates and modest improvement in achievement level with boys and those in the lower income quintile lagging behind in these performance indicators.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Bangsamoro Development Agency, has established six Community Based Child Protection Networks (CBCPNs) in different conflict affected Bangsamoro communities in an effort to better protect children’s rights in the context of hostilities. As previously noted the CBCPNs strengthen the capacity of communities at the sub-barangay level to prevent and respond to all forms of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect, through a participatory approach that aims to raise awareness, improve access to basic child protection services, develop referral pathways, and enhance the efficacy of case management protocols. The networks are designed to link with pre-existing government structures such as the Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children. Efforts are also underway to map the social welfare architecture of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, so that communities can also protect child rights and mitigate the dynamics of children’s recruitment and use, and contribute to implementation of the UN-MILF Action Plan.
Gender Equality

Fully met benchmarks

As an active member of the Official Development Assistance-Gender and Development (ODA-GAD) Network, UNICEF participates in a forum of gender and development programme officers in relevant development assistance agencies (multi-lateral, bilateral and international NGOs).

The ODA-GAD Network advocated and issued an official statement on gender equality and women’s empowerment during the annual Philippines Development Forum (PDF). The PDF is the primary mechanism of the Government for facilitating substantive policy dialogue among stakeholders and developing consensus and commitment to support the country’s development agenda. The ODA-GAD Network advocated with the PDF to promote women’s representation and involvement in decision-making on problems and solutions related to human settlements and urbanization, to ensure that women are represented and involved in decision-making and consulted on problems and solutions related to climate change and disaster risk reduction, and to ensure that solutions consider gender-differentiated needs and constraints of women, men, girls and boys.

Furthermore, the ODA-GAD advocated for the strengthening of women’s access to timely justice, through formal and informal justice systems (and victim-centric support mechanisms), to prevent and address violence against women and children, particularly those with disabilities, trafficking in persons, and gender-based discrimination and violence against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans-genders.

At the sub-national level, UNICEF supported the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to launch and publish the “Implementing Rules and Regulations of the 'Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act No. 280 - An Act Providing for the Gender and Development Code of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and for other purposes”, also known as ARMM GAD Code.

Throughout the year, UNICEF also continued to advocate for the use of the “Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines for Project Development, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit” which was developed by National Economic Development Authority, Philippine Commission on Women and the ODA-GAD Network. UNICEF raised awareness of the guidance available through sharing the gender-focused toolkit with 36 focus local government unit Municipal/City Planning and Development Officers and Municipal/City Budget Officers.

Environmental Sustainability

Fully met benchmarks

Building resilience, climate change adaptation and building back better are the overriding themes of UNICEF’s Strategic Response Plans for Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda as well as the recovery and reconstruction plans of the Government and the humanitarian community. The country programme approach that puts Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as an overarching framework for programme implementation has been pursued in the Haiyan/Yolanda emergency operations.
Before the Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda emergency, the Country Programme was already designed to address children’s vulnerabilities in the context of natural hazards, along with armed conflict and urban poverty. The Country Programme includes a specific Disaster Risk Reduction component, which seeks to create models for building capacities of communities and local governments with children at the core, was already in place.

UNICEF, through the Safe and Friendly Cities for All Programme, also spearheaded the development of a Safety and Security Framework integrating UNICEF’s Child Friendly City Programme, UN Women’s Safe Cities for Women and Girls, UN Habitat’s Safer Cities and three LGUs’ own perception of safety and security within their jurisdictions.

UNICEF partnered with the Department of Education to enhance the DRR component of school-community education planning and provided school children with information on climate change adaptation and environmental risks associated with poor resource and waste management practices resulting in environmental degradation and floods. With UNICEF support, the Department of Education intensified efforts to mainstream DRR into education through the issuance of memo orders, development of learning resource modules, in-service training of teachers, and the integration of DRR into academic instruction.

UNICEF has also initiated the adoption of a risk-informed perspective in its regular development programmes. UNICEF’s WASH programming, for example, was integrated within a DRR/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) framework in 16 vulnerable communities across 4 municipalities. Similarly, in education, DRR practices were strengthened at the school level with the active engagement of children and community members on DRR activities in 14 schools and communities. The aim is to ultimately build a healthy, safe and protective school-community system.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

The Philippines continued to provide an important example for other countries in the region to learn from experiences and good practice. During the year, UNICEF hosted study visits from Myanmar and the Pacific Islands (Fiji, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands). The delegation from the Government of Myanmar came to learn more about the Philippines social welfare system, while the delegations from the Pacific Islands came to learn more about Birth Registration processes. A delegation from the Ethiopian Government had planned a visit in December to exchange lessons on good practices in inter-country adoption, however, this visit was cancelled due to the emergency response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. In October, UNICEF also sponsored the participation of the Assistant Secretary Javier R. Jimenez of the Department of Social Welfare and Development to the “2nd High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific”, in New Delhi, India. Mr Jimenez presented and served as Chair of Session 3, “Urban Settings as an Opportunity for Realizing All Child Rights”.

The National Economic Development Authority, in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results and UNICEF organized a 3rd Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Network Forum entitled “Establishing an Effective M&E System for Development Results: Key Considerations from International Experience” in November. The event brought together key M&E practitioners from South and South East Asia, to focus on results-based monitoring and evaluation for demonstrating national development results through the sharing of lessons and experiences among countries in
implementing results-based M&E systems, establishing effective linkage between monitoring and evaluation work, and national evaluation systems. Participants discussed ways to create an enabling environment for M&E as well as the role of parliament and CSOs as key actors. Forum topics included key elements of a results-based monitoring framework, public sector management and M&E, evaluation approaches for public policy decision-making, impact evaluation as a policy making tool and the roles of parliament and CSOs in creating a national enabling environment for M&E.
Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results
Philippines - 3420

PC 1 - Millennium Development Goals achieved with equity

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PCR 3420/A0/05/801 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 <50 per cent skilled birth attendants (SBA) coverage and >31 per cent underweight) and HIV (3 high incidence LGUS with high risk youth groups), WASH (LGUs with <45 per cent sanitation coverage).

**Progress:**
Despite continued progress in child mortality, overall robust economic growth, and an increase in overall health budget from PHP 51B to PHP 84B for 2014, there remains significant under investment in the Health sector which remains at 5 per cent of GDP. The priorities of the Department of Health in terms of budget allocation include investment in enrolment of the poor in the national health insurance programme and improving infrastructure such as hospitals. Prioritization of response to natural disasters especially Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda and the department-wide reorganization in the last quarter of 2013 slowed down regular programme activities.

Challenges in translating increased fiscal space into better health outcomes at the local level also remain. Under-nutrition, high maternal and new-born death rates and dramatically increasing HIV rates remain serious issues. Sanitation is a problem with open defecation increasing for the poorest quintile. Limited capacity for equitable data analysis, planning and budgeting for evidence-based Health, Nutrition, HIV, and WASH interventions has been identified as another major bottleneck. Within the scope of its current Country Programme, UNICEF is strengthening LGUs’ capacity in these areas by supporting equity-focused data generation and analysis, planning and budgeting at subnational level with the view of bringing local best practice upstream to influence policymakers.

Another major bottleneck identified is the lack of communication strategies to generate demand for services at LGU level. UNICEF provided C4D-focused support with emphasis on improving the support system for communication from the national level to the LGU. Further efforts in advocacy included briefing of legislators’ chiefs of staff to safeguard the Milk Code against amendments in the 16th Congress, partnership with the largest supermarket chain in the country to implement the salt iodisation law, and harnessing WASH partners to improve political support and LGU accountability mechanisms for WASH interventions. UNICEF also continued efforts to inform HIV policy and quality standards as well as standardisation of quality of Emergency Obstetric and New born Care. The Government of the Philippines remains committed to launch “A Promise Renewed” initiative. As a next step UNICEF will work together with partners build on this initiative in a convergent manner.

IR 3420/A0/05/801/001 Maternal and Neonatal Health tended by skilled birth attendants with postnatal care among postpartum increased by 15 per cent in 20 vulnerable Local Government Units.

**Progress:**
There were no major directional changes in the sector, however prioritisation of response to natural disasters especially Typhoon Haiyan/ Yolanda and the department-wide reorganization in the last quarter of 2013 slowed down regular programme activities.

A Mother, Child and Newborn Health MoRES analysis across tw20 partner LGUs using 10 MoRES indicators was undertaken in the first quarter of 2013. Some key findings include breaks in the continuum of care as evidenced by rising numbers of Philhealth beneficiaries and postpartum care but without increases in antenatal care and SBA. Adoption of maternal and child health policies and an increasing number of local health boards did not translate into improved maternal and child health services. Stock outs remain and coverage of Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) has decreased. These findings point to bottlenecks in demand side, quality of care, and poor functionality of local governance for health.

To address these bottlenecks, UNICEF supported quality of care improvement in 10 LGUs through capacity building for Essential Intra-partum and Newborn Care of midwives in primary health facilities. Partnerships with academia for incorporation in pre-service curricula of midwives and nurses is ongoing, as well as the development of reference materials such as the Harmonized Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care module for midwives. Systems support included installation of an electronic health information system with
provision for data generation using mobile technology and linkage to the local civil registry system to improve health worker efficiency, enhance the functionality of the referral network system and generate timely and reliable data and, consequently, capacity for evidence-based decision making. Logistics and supply management for national procurement of EPI vaccines was continuously supported by UNICEF, as well as the prepositioning of supplies for disaster-prone areas. UNICEF will continue its technical support to the Philippines as it prepares for the validation process of its Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus status.

The investment case (locally referred to as the Evidence Based Planning process) in three priority cities with urban poor populations contributed to the refinement of city annual operational plans for health. Efforts to bring these experiences upstream are strongly supported by the national level Department of Health. UNICEF technical support is planned for the development of an under-5 benefits package for national health insurance programme, as requested by Government. A strategic partnership with a local civil society organization to capacitate mayors in CP municipalities and cities for health leadership and governance was signed in 2013. The Department of Health’s commitment to launch “A Promise Renewed” for family health was continued by the newly appointed Undersecretary of Health.

IR 3420/A0/05/081/002 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.

Progress:
UNICEF led the development of a joint strategy for Scaling Up Rural Sanitation with the World Bank and the Department of Health. The strategy uses several approaches to address open defecation including Community Approaches to Total Sanitation, Sanitation Marketing, financing and incentive mechanisms that target vulnerable households through the Government’s social protection programmes. The strategy was modelled in several places through partners. UNICEF focussed on the four municipalities in Masbate given it has the worst sanitation coverage amongst UNICEF municipalities. Funding continued to be a constraint. Without bilateral support the rural sanitation component functioned through private sector funding.

WASH in ECCD has been modelled in 40 day care centres and up-scaling will commence in 2014. WASH in Muslim Day Care Centres has also commenced, with assessments completed and modelling underway in 10 day care centres. Due to funding constraints of WASH in Schools component, a change of strategy from scale-up has led to a shift in favour of ensuring quality at the target LGUs, leveraging, building evidence and documenting good practices. Efforts will continue to raise programme funds.

During a review of the Pathway of Change, partners reaffirmed the validity of the sector strategic direction. Political will continues to be a barrier and mechanisms need to be strengthened to increase LGU accountability. National level incentive programmes need to be aligned to support local initiatives. Programmes continued to focus on participatory activities that increase awareness of communities and creating opportunities for them to demand improved sanitation services and WASH in Schools. A communication firm was engaged to develop the C4D component of the WASH programme. The firm started a communication audit of WASH materials and plans. The audit along with the Demand and Supply chain research conducted in partnership with the Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank will be the basis of sanitation and hygiene tools to be included in the WatSan toolkit and the hub training. In support of the Salintubig programme, WatSan hubs will be developed in the Bicol Region and ARMM. This would cover UNICEF priority municipalities identified in the equity analysis. Partnership with NGO partners and universities were explored for implementation of the hubs. These hubs are to help with knowledge management and scaling up of the Salintubig programme as well as Scaling Up Rural Sanitation.

The WASH section responded in Typhoon Bohpa affected areas of Mindanao in terms of programme and WASH Cluster Coordination. Through the recovery phase, a Disaster Risk Reduction approach was taken to strengthen the capacity of local government units and communities to improve delivery of WASH services, especially in response to future disasters. Large disasters both man-made (Zamboanga) and natural (earthquake in Bohol and Typhoon Yolanda) caused unprecedented damage in the latter half of the year with UNICEF WASH section mounting large emergency responses. The temporary suspension of regular country programme activities in light of the scale of the disaster temporary development activities.
IR 3420/A0/05/801/003 By 2014, increased access among pregnant and lactating women and children under the age of 5 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.

Progress:
There was no major situational change in the sector. Recent reviews continued to highlight challenges of weak nutrition policies, limited nutrition capacity and service delivery as the main bottlenecks in urban and geographical regions prone to natural disasters and conflict. In addressing these bottlenecks, an economic benefit study informed revision of implementing rules and regulations for rice, flour, edible oil, sugar fortification and universal salt iodization. This is intended to remove bottlenecks hindering inclusion of folic acid and vitamin A in flour and rice, expand licensing and strengthen enforcement to ensure production of adequately iodized salt. IYCF training materials were harmonized to standardize key messages across the country. Advocacy for adoption of a draft Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition guideline was conducted. Advocacy with chiefs of staff of congressmen (members of Health and Trade Committees) in the Philippines House of Congress was conducted to ensure their support against potentially harmful amendments of the National Code for Breast milk Substitutes.

Community mobilization and IYCF peer support counselling were scaled up to reduce stunting and wasting in children 0-23 months. A Human Milk Bank was established to support breast milk needs of premature infants and clinically challenged breastfeeding mothers in Zamboanga. NGO Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) and Memorandums of Agreement (MoAs) with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) enhanced technical partnership for emergency response and community-based acute malnutrition management in Mindanao; enhancement of lactation in the workplace in three regions; up-scaling food security Early Warning Systems in five municipalities. Further partnerships were developed with a supermarket chain to ensure and enforce sales of adequately iodized salt in its stores across the country.

Micronutrient deficiency reduction in children 6-23 months, pregnant and postpartum women were addressed through advocacy and promotion of iron fortified rice sales, done jointly with the National Food Authority. Parallel efforts included maternal iron folic acid supplementation, distribution of micronutrient powders, bi-annual vitamin A supplementation and diarrhoea treatment with oral rehydration solution and zinc. Bottlenecks analysis to enhance nutrition programme results and process tracking and monitoring were strengthened in 12 municipalities. Strengthened advocacy and technical mentoring resulted in preparation of comprehensive local nutrition plans of action and resource leveraging from national and local partners. As next steps, UNICEF will continue to work on creating a stronger enabling policy environment, on capacity strengthening and up-scaling service delivery.

IR 3420/A0/05/801/004 By 2014, ensure humanitarian support and development coordination for conflict-affected LGUs.

Progress:
UNICEF sustained its support to Government and civil society partners in advocating for policies which would strengthen the country’s response to HIV, both at the national and local levels. At the national level, UNICEF went into a partnership with the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development in advocating for amendments to the existing AIDS Law, which would enable young people to access HIV services, and which would institutionalize the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the programmes of the Department of Health. At the local level, UNICEF supported its civil society partners in working with Barangay (Village) officials on the development of Barangay HIV work plans and ordinances in the cities of Davao and Zamboanga. Site-specific evidence-based advocacy materials were also developed using data from the National Epidemiology Centre of the Department of Health.

In the area of capacity development, UNICEF supported its partners to build the capacities of young people in responding to HIV, including the replication of the New Generation Leaders Initiative. Young key affected populations were also trained on policy advocacy, and had an opportunity to present a statement at a Committee Hearing of the House of Representatives. Midwives in one site were trained on PMTCT, and key messages on PMTCT were incorporated in the health conference of service providers with pregnant women.

New partners such as the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines - Episcopal Commission on Health Care expanded the reach of HIV services to Catholic schools in key sites through the orientation of guidance counsellors and principals on basic HIV education, as well as referral of clients and programme monitoring and evaluation. Another new partnership with the theatre group Tanghalang Pilipino explored innovative approaches in HIV education. Using Theatre for Development approaches, a training curriculum and a one-act play on HIV were developed, and young people from 3 communities in Pasay City were trained on the use of community theatre for HIV education.
PCR 3420/A0/05/802 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.

**Progress:**
The steady progress of the economy has enabled the Government to provide increased resources for education. In 2013, the budget of the Department of Education (DepEd), reported to be the ‘top gainer,’ with an increase by PhP53.4 billion (2.5 times higher than the increase in 2012) to reach PhP 292.2 billion. Moreover, the proposed 2014 budget is expected to increase by 15 per cent to PhP339.6 billion for the provision of quality preschool and basic education. This is a positive development considering that the education sector is underinvested with only 2.17 per cent of GDP devoted to education (2012). By way of comparison, other Southeast Asian neighbours averaged 4.1 per cent from 2002 through to 2007. Efforts to implement the new legislations to support ECCD (i.e., Kindergarten Education Act and 2013 Early Years Act) are underway, including the nationwide implementation of universal Kindergarten and training of day care workers.

The participation rate in kindergarten increased from 74.2 per cent in 2011-2012 to 77.4 per cent in 2012-2013 while elementary participation rate declined from 97.32 per cent to 95.24 per cent. But more encouragingly, the completion rate improved from 70.96 per cent to 73.67 per cent. Across these performance indicators, boys consistently lagged behind girls although the disparity has been narrowing down since the base year of 2010-11.

For 2013, UNICEF supported the development/refinement of ECCD/Kindergarten and Basic Education policies and programme frameworks towards more child-centred and inclusive education. These have guided the development and implementation of kindergarten plans targeting unreached children and training programmes for day care workers and teachers for Kindergarten and Elementary. UNICEF also supported the expansion of the DepEd teacher training programme to ensure teachers, with focus on those handling Kindergarten and Grades 1-3, are trained on child development principles and able to create child-friendly, protective, healthy environment. In the midst of a country-wide rise in dropout rates, especially in early grades, and surveys revealing lack of interest in school as one of top primary reasons why children are not attending school, more holistic teacher development is crucial and must go beyond competency in teaching the academic curriculum. Further, the emerging Basic Education Strategic Framework of DepEd is being enhanced to ensure an equity focus and bottom-up perspective by: i) enhancing the school-community planning process and tools and ii) strengthening the link with local government planning to ensure an integrated local action and accountability.

The spate of major disasters hitting the country in 2013 -- Zamboanga siege, Bohol earthquake, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, plus the protracted complex emergencies in Central Mindanao have caused significant setbacks. However, these disasters also offer compelling reasons to mainstream child-centred, holistic and inclusive ECCD and Basic Education interventions. UNICEF is working to fast-track the adoption of relevant interventions for teacher training and school-community education planning in these disaster-affected areas.

IR 3420/A0/05/802/001 By 2014, the proportion of 3-5 year old children with quality ECCD/KG experience, increased by 15 per cent from 2011 level, in 20 vulnerable LGUs, with gender parity.

**Progress:**
The Department of Education forged ahead with the K-12 Programme (universalizing Kindergarten and increasing formal Basic Education from 10 to 12 years) to enhance access and quality of Basic Education. This has been confronted with challenges as elementary participation followed an erratic downward trend in school year 2012-2013 following a period of steady improvement. Disparities persist in education outcomes across geographic areas, gender and socio-economic groups. Children, especially boys, and those from the bottom income quintile are disproportionately disadvantaged.

Lack of interest in school among primary out-of-school children has been attributed to teachers’ inability to create a stimulating environment. There are also demand-based economic and socio-cultural barriers to children’s education (poverty, child labour, parents’ and teachers’ perception of the school readiness of children, parents’ lack of appreciation of ECCD/education, low parent education) and supply-side factors that need to be addressed. The 2012 Multiple Indicator Survey also revealed that insufficient family income and lack of interest are the top reasons why children are not attending schools. Toward enhancing basic education access, quality, and governance, UNICEF provided support to the following in 2013, in collaboration with DepEd and CSO partners:
• Capacity development of 803 teachers, school heads and supervisors in focus areas particularly on child development principles and learner-centred approaches at the Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 levels, recognizing that drop out incidence is highest in these foundation years. DepED partners initiated integration of these elements as part of country-wide K-12 teacher training.

• Provision of English, Filipino and Mathematics kits for Grades 1-3 in 100 elementary schools in focus areas. These teaching-learning materials were reproduced and adapted by teachers using available local resources and in some areas, through the help of parents. The above-mentioned training of teachers and use of these materials helped transform the classrooms into a more stimulating learning environment where children are enjoying learning, they are more attentive and learn faster.

• Enhancing the bottom-up perspective in DepEd’s Basic Education Strategic Planning Framework which is heavily top-down. UNICEF specifically provided assistance in supporting school-community planning and its link with local government unit (LGU) planning to strengthen the equity-focus and local accountability through: a) refinement and nationwide field-testing of the School Improvement Planning (SIP) Guide; and b) modelling and roll-out of the process and tool for formulating District Synthesis in all schools districts of Region XII.

• Strengthening school and community management of education programmes in the context of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

IR 3420/A0/05/802/002 By 2014, the proportion of 6-11 year old children participating in and completing quality elementary education is increased by 5 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively, in 20 vulnerable Local Government Units, with gender parity.

Progress:
The Department of Education forged ahead with the K-12 Programme to enhance access and quality of Basic Education. This is confronted with challenges as elementary participation rate increases are undermined by declining completion rates and moderate improvements in achievement levels. Disparities persist in education outcomes across geographic areas, gender and socio-economic groups. Children especially boys and those from the bottom income quintile are disproportionately disadvantaged.

The out-of-school children Philippine Country Report attributed the lack of interest in school amongst those not in school to the teachers’ inability to create a stimulating environment. It also identified demand-based economic and socio-cultural barriers to children’s education (poverty, child labour, parents’ and teachers’ perception of the school readiness of children, parents’ lack of appreciation of ECCD/education, low parent’s education) and supply-side factors that need to be addressed. The 2012 Multiple Indicator Survey substantiated this, indicating that insufficient family income and lack of interest are the top reasons why children are not attending schools. In 13 of 18 focus areas surveyed, 40 per cent to 83 per cent of respondents cited family income as insufficient to send children to school. Also, the focus areas with the lowest proportion of children 12-24 years old completing elementary education are also among those registering the highest proportion of respondents who think children’s education is not their priority and that it is more important for girls to be in school than boys.

To enhance basic education access, quality, and governance, UNICEF supported the following major actions, in collaboration with DepED and CSO partners:

• Enrichment of DepED’s teacher training in focus areas by enhancing child development principles and learner-centred approaches for teachers of Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 recognizing that drop out incidence is highest in these foundation years. DepED partners initiated integration of these elements as part of country-wide K-12 teacher training.

• Completion of the Evaluation Study on Alternative Delivery Modes which seeks to make schools more inclusive. This supported the evidence-based advocacy for the expansion of these modes, and is providing inputs to the ongoing crafting of DepED’s policy and programme framework on alternative modalities of education delivery.

• Provision of technical assistance to enrich DepED’s Basic Education Strategic Planning Framework which is heavily top-down in approach. UNICEF helped enhance the bottom-up perspective by enriching the school-community planning and its link with LGU planning to strengthen the equity-focus and local accountability.

PCR 3420/A0/05/803 By 2016, improved national and local level public sector institutional gender-sensitive framework in place enabling improved access to well-coordinated child protection services for the most vulnerable in at least 5 disadvantaged LGUs.
**Progress:** No major significant change in the overall context under this PCR, with details reported under below IRs. A driver of change was however the impact of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda late in the year, with details also reported below and for future updates.

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**IR 3420/A0/05/803/001**

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.

**Progress:**

In early 2013, UNICEF presented the key findings of the “Situation Analysis of National and Local level Child Protection Information Systems” to national and local government partners. The review identifies opportunities and challenges within the current system, including gaps and recommendations to ensure more effective collection and use of CP data. The key findings indicated that:

- Most national Government agencies working on child protection have their own system of monitoring the services which they provide to children;
- Indicators vary across agencies, which also makes it impossible to generate comparable data and to analyse trends;
- There is no integrated child protection monitoring information system in the Philippines which has the capacity to assist service providers to deliver coordinated and timely services for children;
- There is no clear mechanism for managing the data, analysing the information and transforming it to knowledge products for child protection;
- Various inter-agency bodies on child protection exist and have monitoring functions. However, their approach tends to be siloed and can lead to overlooking the reality that most child protection problems are closely linked and inter-related. There is also no venue or mandate for data sharing among the line-agencies and the inter-agency bodies.

As a follow-up, UNICEF worked with a consultant to develop a set of child protection systems indicators which was planned to be pilot-tested in selected LGUs for data collection during the last quarter of 2013. Unfortunately, because of the three successive emergencies which affected the Philippines, this initiative was postponed.

UNICEF Philippines, in partnership with the UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and FISCO Consulting however held a consultation with national Government agencies on **Measuring and Monitoring Child Protection Systems: Proposed Regional Core Indicators for East Asia and Pacific**, an evidence-based toolkit which proposes the use of a core set of indicators to assess and measure child protection systems in the EAP region. The purpose of this Child Protection Indicator Framework is to provide partners across the EAP region with a practical platform for monitoring national child protection systems in the region. The indicators will support monitoring and assessment of the enabling environment or ‘governance’ of national child protection systems: the relevant legal and regulatory structure, the social welfare system for children and families, and the justice system as it relates to child protection. The Council for the Welfare of Children welcomed the initiative to compare and review the proposed regional indicators with the national indicators reflected in the 2nd National Plan of Action for Children of the Philippines, which can lead to the localization and adaptation of the toolkit to meet the needs of the Philippine Government in monitoring and measuring child protection systems governance.

UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control supported the Council for the Welfare of Children in finalizing the design for a national survey on Violence Against Children (VAC) linking national efforts on VAC within a broader global agenda and international standards on VAC research.

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**IR 3420/A0/05/803/002**

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 5 LGUs (i.e. highly urbanized, disaster prone and conflict-affected).

**Progress:**

The Social Welfare sector provides support for a range of critical child protection services, however it faces challenges of limited finance and human resource capacity. In order to strengthen social welfare services within local government, UNICEF is planning a partnership with a consortium of local NGOs to formulate a strategic programme to activate the Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children in 5 LGUs as a model for other areas and to advocate for an increase of local investment by LGUs for children’s programme. A PCA with the Mindanao Child Protection Network lead by Child Friendly Schools Initiatives (CFSI) was approved. It aims to provide technical assistance to the 5 target LGUs and demonstrate a model of practice at the local level through more functional Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children.
Other opportunities to support social welfare include CCTs designed to alleviate poverty through providing cash assistance to families. Modified CCTs provide another critical opportunity to enhance child protection through targeting the most vulnerable; including those affected by disasters, and not included in other CCT programmes. MCCTs however lack a current baseline data to determine the situation of hard to access families and communities, (including those who are living and working on the streets), and to track progress/results for these targeted beneficiaries. The need to have updated information on the number of children and their families living and working on the streets is essential in order to accurately define their needs and concerns; thus UNICEF plans to support DSWD's request to gather information for a stronger evidence base on the situation of street children in 2013-2014. UNICEF is also committed to support the translation of the Family Development Sessions manual from Filipino to English version for use by MCCT field workers nationwide (2014).

As a way forward, the national CPWG led by the social welfare sector is formulating a more proactive coordination mechanism in partnership with the CP network. UNICEF also supported the conduct of Rapid FTR training for local social workers and Women Child Protection Desk-PNP officers using the mobile technology, an innovation for identification and registration of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) that also enhances the capacities of social workers on case management and after care interventions to UASCs and their families. To date, a total of 109 UASC were documented by DSWD.

### PC 2 - Social policy and risk mitigation

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<tr>
<th>PCR 3420/A0/05/804</th>
<th>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).</th>
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<td><strong>Progress:</strong></td>
<td>Despite the Philippines' robust economic growth, the country's social protection spending is below 3 per cent of GDP. Compared to other Asian countries, the Philippines has the lowest total investment share to GDP from 2010-2012. The Aquino administration is cognizant of the need to redistribute the gains of the economic boom to the most vulnerable and has expanded the coverage of social protection (safety nets, labour, insurance, social welfare) to 3.8 million poorest households. By 2016, the administration would like to target all the 5.2 million households identified as poorest by a National Household Targeting Survey. The Government also introduced a modified cash transfer programme with psychosocial support other interventions which caters to 95,000 homeless and other families in need of special protection.</td>
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<td>The 2013 impact evaluation of the conditional cash transfer programme showed that overall, the programme was meeting its objective of helping to keep poor children in school, by increasing enrolment among younger children (3-11 years old) and increasing attendance among children 6-17 years old. The programme helped improve the long term nutritional status of younger children (6-36 months). The study also recommended that to improve educational outcomes for older children, the age of coverage (until 14 years) and the duration of coverage (5 years at present) be expanded together with scaling up of supply side interventions in health and education. As part of the National Steering Committee of the programme, UNICEF has been supporting these recommendations. In particular, UNICEF has advocated and provided technical assistance to 36 local government units to enhance service delivery and address inequities in their areas.</td>
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<th>IR 3420/A0/05/804/001</th>
<th>Social Protection and Budgeting-responsive social protection framework, including a budget increase of 5 per cent is adopted by the NEDA-Social Development Committee.</th>
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<td><strong>Progress:</strong></td>
<td>As a follow-up activity to strengthen UNICEF’s support to social protection, with focus on the Modified CCT and its evaluation activities, UNICEF designed an MCCT Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This framework provides a tool for assessing the services offered by the MCCT, and whether such services meet the objectives of the programme. Technical support was also provided to DSWD's FDS through sharing of best practices on specific children-related topics. Work on social budgeting continued during the year. Data from the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF), allocated and actual local revenues and expenditures were analysed for the 36 focus LGUs. An analysis of sector allocations for the health, education, child protection, and social protection sectors was also made for the 36 LGUs. The findings of these research analyses were shared with local and concerned national partners, and next steps are being planned to implement these findings (such as monitoring BUB projects in the 36 LGUs through CODE-NGO).</td>
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In strengthening the social protection framework of the Philippines Government, UNICEF supported the mapping of social protection initiatives at the local level. Scheduled to be released by early 2014, such analyses will provide substantial inputs to the social protection interventions of the Government, and on how local and national Government initiatives on social protection converge together. A draft social protection handbook has been drafted by the Government, which is intended to be rolled out at the LGU level. UNICEF looks forward to pilot-testing the handbook in its focus LGUs in 2014.

In the area of social budgeting, analyses of local revenues and expenditures for the 36 priority LGUs revealed fragile public finance systems, as some LGUs do not meet the minimum 20 per cent allocation needed for local development fund expenditures, with some LGUs also exceeding maximum per cent allocations for personnel spending. Partnerships with a civil society organization, CODE-NGO, and a Government institution, the Bureau of Local Government Finance, to improve monitoring planning and budgeting processes and strengthening public finance systems was initiated for implementation in 2014.

IR 3420/A0/05/804/002 Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda-Cash Transfers

Progress:
UNICEF is implementing a new programme in typhoon affected communities in the Philippines, which involves the distribution of emergency unconditional cash transfers to vulnerable households. This programme is providing 10,000 vulnerable households with US$100 in cash per month over a six month period. The cash grant is expected to cover a family’s most basic and immediate needs and will be distributed to households in Tacloban City, La Paz, Dagami, Pastrana Buruen and Julita. These municipalities were chosen based on their vulnerability as being in some of the most affected areas, as well as being among the areas that were generally underserved in terms of humanitarian response. The 10,000 households targeted by this programme will be selected through UNICEF’s vulnerability criteria, which include households consisting of; pregnant women, lactating mothers, female headed households, households hosting separated children and households with children under 5 at risk of malnutrition.

UNICEF’s partner Action Contre la Faim (ACF) will lead the implementation of the programme, while a third party consultancy firm is being commissioned to monitor the programme. At the end of the six month programme, the households targeted for this programme, will be assessed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to determine if they are eligible to be enrolled in the Government’s CCT social protection programme, called Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme.

PCR 3420/A0/05/805 By 2016, improved and inclusive peace conditions and social service delivery achieved through conflict analysis, integration of child rights violations information and peace initiatives (UNICEF Action Plans with conflict parties on child soldiers) in national and local plans especially for conflict affected Local Government Units.

Progress:
UNICEF continued to face challenges given the unique focus of addressing root drivers of conflict in Mindanao and target LGUs. The year also saw a deterioration of the situation in Zamboanga, with a siege of the city and several thousands of people displaced starting in September. Despite this, UNICEF made headway with the signing of an addendum to the MILF Action Plan (which had not been signed since the Action Plan expired in 2012) and the completion of a Child-Centred Conflict Analysis (CCCA), which signified the start of engaging the target LGUs (7) in conflict-sensitizing their Comprehensive Development Plans.

Three key issues that have and will continue to pose risks to the achievement of the planned result remain:

- Violent conflict and deterioration of the situation, including in Zamboanga, with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) common place in Mindanao. Initially these have not caused casualties and have mostly been meant to cause fear, however recently they have seemingly targeted the population specifically.

- A related surge late in the year, between the Government forces and the breakaway rebel group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which prevented movement and the ability to reach target LGUs, with continued travel restrictions in place.

The pace with which the renewed action plan will be implemented is an ongoing concern with the lack of capacity of the MILF to deal with various conflict fronts, the peace process, and the need to improve their acceptance politically.
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.

**Progress:**
Peacebuilding and conflict mitigation programming has included the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, implementation of the Action Plan with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and development of a Child Protection strategy with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in accordance with the peace and security agenda of the UN Security Council. UNICEF aims to maintain synergies between these UN-mandated activities and the broader equity-driven components of CPC-7.

Despite a generally positive trajectory in the conflict landscape in the Philippines in 2013, grave violations against children continued, especially in the context of the Zamboanga Crisis in September. Throughout the year, UNICEF led the MRM in continuing to draw on the field presence of CTFMR Technical Working Groups in Manila and Mindanao. UNICEF led regular coordination with the Government on grave child rights violations. The AFP issued ‘Guidelines on Military Use of Schools and Hospitals’ in July, while the passage of Executive Order 138 in August formally established the Government’s inter-departmental Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS). Amendment of Republic Act 7610 particularly Article X on the treatment of children in armed conflict remains pending review by bicameral committee.

UNICEF also leads work on the MILF Action Plan on the recruitment and use of children in Mindanao; working with the MILF on activities towards a set of minimum benchmarks for MILF to be considered for de-listing by the Security Council. Recognizing the Action Plan as one tool to protecting Children Affected by Conflict in Mindanao, programme convergence on CPC-7 has been achieved through the establishment of 24 Community Based Child Protection Networks (CBCPNs) in core conflict-affected MILF barangays also targeted for roll out of Tahderiyyah. The CBCPNs contributed to two specific benchmarks in the Action Plan’s ‘operational plan’: 1) Communications, advocacy and awareness-raising for MILF commanders and communities, and 2) Establishing reporting and referral pathways/responsibilities within the command structure of the MILF.

The rationale for establishing CBCPNs is to adapt a scalable model that addresses the primarily community-driven dynamics of children’s involvement in armed conflict; including socio-religious influences and the social milieu of Bangsamoro children. CBCPNs are a pillar of child protection systems – addressing both social welfare provision at the local level, as well as the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of communities. In addition to establishing child protection mechanisms within the MILF/Islamic structures, the CBCPNs also look to generate greater functionality of BCPC/LCPCs through a demand-driven approach.

The KAP Study exploring parental and community dynamics influencing children’s involvement in hostilities within the framework of the broader Conflict Analysis (see below and above), experienced delays in 2013 due to frequent skirmishes in the research areas. However, collation of data is underway with presentation of results due in February 2014, while UNICEF together with sister agencies from the UN System finalised a conflict analysis and peacebuilding in the context of Mindanao designed, among others, to inform programme priorities and interventions.

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

**Progress:**
The Child Centred Conflict Analysis (CCCA) was completed on the 7 target LGUs and a PCA is pending to be signed with an NGO to help analyse planning processes of the target LGUs. Next steps will be to finalize the PCA and then engage the LGUs with the findings of the CCCA. All 7 mayors were re-elected in 2013.

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.

**Progress:**
There was no respite on large-scale disasters in the Philippines in 2013. The first half of the year was focused on recovering from Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) that devastated Eastern Mindanao in December 2012 and the latter half was on surviving varied and bigger disasters in different parts of the country. The culmination was Haiyan/Yolanda which ravaged the central part of the country known as the Visayas. The cost of the damage to
this disaster alone, including economic losses, was estimated at nearly $13 billion (PhP571.1 billion) or about 5 per cent of the country’s economic output. This is not counting the destruction brought by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Bohol province in the same region in October and the armed conflict that razed several barangays (villages) in Zamboanga city in Mindanao in September. The estimated cost of the damage to the former was $68 million (PhP 3 billion) and the latter at $150 million (PhP6.6 billion).

Despite these serious shocks, the Government remained in full control. Notwithstanding the devastation absorbed by local governments and public sector institutions, the government at all levels emerged from this difficult experience with added knowledge and skills in managing humanitarian crisis and a stronger resolve to disaster risk management. This, to a certain degree, was brought about by working with the UN and the humanitarian community.

The Government also demonstrated its renewed commitment to disaster preparedness and early recovery by raising the budget of the Calamity Fund to $295 million (PhP13 billion), up 73 per cent from the previous year, re-naming it “National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund” to cover prevention and mitigation activities. The Department of Budget and Management also allotted PhP500 million in the “People’s Survival Fund” to support projects of the Climate Change Commission on making local governments more resilient to climate change and better prepared for calamities. In recognition of the criticality of building resilience to disaster risks, the Government has adopted “Building Back Better” as its rallying point for the rehabilitation plans of disaster affected areas, including the Reconstruction Assistance for Yolanda (RAY) for a total US$8.2 billion.

IR 3420/A0/05/806/001 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

**Progress:**

Key personnel from additional 10 municipal and 4 provincial LGUs from among the priority areas of CPC 7 underwent training on generating maps using the Global Information System. The training was organised by UNICEF with partial funding coming from the LGUs themselves and was undertaken by the Government National Mapping and Resource Information Authority. UNICEF undertook social preparation in areas that will serve as models in the integration of DRR and education, starting with four communities and four schools in Camarines Norte.

Two landmark policies relating to DRR were issued during the period. A first was the signature into law of the creation of the “People’s Survival Fund” to support the adaptation activities of local government units and communities. The Fund was given an initial amount of PhP 1 billion (US$25 million) for 2013 from the General Appropriations to be managed by a Board under the Climate Change Commission. The other was the Joint Memorandum Circular issued by National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Interior and Local Government on allocation and utilisation of local disaster risk reduction and management fund which sets 70 per cent earmark for prevention, mitigation and preparedness. Both policies present opportunities to widen access to more resources by vulnerable local governments to support community-based measures for risk reduction. UNICEF intends to assist partners in using these new policies in building up their knowledge and capacities for DRR programming.

**PC 800 - Cross-sectoral costs**

**PCR 3420/A0/05/800 Advocacy, resource mobilization, partnership, and monitoring & evaluation are addressed through internal management arrangements**

**On-track**

**IR 3420/A0/05/800/001 Governance and Systems: Office results are proficiently managed and systems efficiently applied that ensued maximum efficiency of resources.**

**On-track**

**IR 3420/A0/05/800/002 Financial Resources and Stewardship: Financial resources are acquired for commitments and efficiently managed to support realization of results.**

**Progress:**
Financial resources are being used and monitored according to agreed plan in realization of results.

**IR 3420/A0/05/800/003 Human Capacity: Staff members empowered to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate agreed programme and management results in a secured learning environment.**

**Progress:**
All staff members have been empowered to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate. The workforce was 96 per cent encumbered all year round, and supported with training and coaching activities from respective supervisors and institutions.

**IR 3420/A0/05/800/888 HR**

**Progress:**
Management of human capacity in the Office was routinely done with organizational guidelines, policies and procedures.

**PCR 3420/A0/05/807 Cross Sectoral - Advocacy, resource mobilization, partnership, monitoring and evaluation and emergency response are addressed through management arrangements**

**IR 3420/A0/05/807/001 Enhanced capacities for collection, access and utilization of disaggregated information at national and sub-national levels to monitor and evaluate policies and plans.**

**Progress:**
UNICEF continued to assist in the mainstreaming of monitoring and evaluation to promote learning and accountability in governance for better development results. UNICEF’s partnership with NEDA has facilitated the drafting of the National Evaluation Policy Framework which aims to establish the basic foundation for institutionalizing M&E systems in Government. With cooperation from the Asian Development Bank and the Asia and the Pacific Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results, UNICEF contributed to continuing advocacy for M&E through its support to the conduct of the 3rd M&E Network Philippines international and subnational forums in Manila and Cebu. UNICEF has supported the Department of Budget and Management in developing tools for capacity assessment of selected government agencies to inform appropriate capacity building strategies and programmes.

UNICEF Philippines is also continuing in its efforts to develop and operationalize Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) in order to improve monitoring in emergencies down to the beneficiary level. The Yolanda emergency has also given UNICEF Philippines the opportunity to achieve significant success in developing the household survey approach to HPM, now known as eHPM.

UNICEF also implemented a MIS-like survey that focuses solely on the characteristics of the informal settlers in five of its partner cities. The baseline survey aims to provide UNICEF with information about informal settlers in these cities on selected indicators on maternal and child health, education, social protection, WASH, child protection, disaster risk reduction, housing and tenancy status, and safety; and to generate profiles of informal settlers in terms of access to and quality of basic services. The data and insights will be incorporated into existing data management systems to support the work of local policy and decision makers in urban cities in planning for equity-focused, timely and cost-efficient interventions. Preliminary results of the survey were presented to city government partners for validation and as part of a continuing dialogue on how to achieve better outcomes for women and children.

UNICEF also stepped up the monitoring of programme results for children delivered through partnerships with government and non-government organizations by integrating the results framework and results-based reporting in project cooperation agreements. Results matrices for Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) Intermediate Results as well as Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action were developed through close collaboration and dialogue between programme sections and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. These results matrices provide the integrating frameworks for reporting and analysis of programme and humanitarian outputs delivered and outcomes achieved through PCAs and partnerships with Government.

UNICEF also managed the final evaluation of two UN Joint Programmes under the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund: 1) "Ensuring food security and nutrition for children 0-24 months in the Philippines (MDG-F
"2030)", and 2) "Enhancing Access to and Provision of Water Services with the Active Participation of the Poor (MDG-F 1919)". The evaluation was independently conducted, and the findings and recommendations were presented to the major stakeholders in the joint programme which include the United Nation's Country Team in the Philippines and implementing partners from national Government agencies.

**IR 3420/A0/05/807/002** By 2016 child rights realized through increased awareness of UNICEF's focus areas (multiple vulnerabilities and MDGs with equity) through public debate and discussion and targeted advocacy campaigns.

**Progress:**
UNICEF developed a public advocacy campaign to highlight cross-cutting issues under the framework of equity for children's rights. The core message, drawn from the consultative workshop, was framed as: "Together, we can improve the lives of more Filipino children—more quickly, more cost efficiently, and more sustainably", with the campaign proposed aligning UNICEF’s partnership with local government units.

The plan will guide UNICEF’s advocacy work in 2014-15, and to feed into strategic approaches with partners and stakeholders to be disseminated through multiple channels of communication. It includes mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, managing risks, building relationships and securing partnerships for sustained advocacy.

UNICEF's programmes and activities received extensive coverage throughout the year and reached a range of audiences, general public, donors, partners and young people through the media and various platforms.

Regular news coverage aside, 50 feature stories in print or containing video and photos reported on issues of children, mobilized support and gave visibility to UNICEF's programmes and partners. The crux of the media coverage focused on messages about breastfeeding, early childhood development, emergencies and fundraising events.

Compared to 2012, UNICEF messaging and presence in social/digital media in 2013 increased by 31 per cent, from regular monthly visitors of 29,000 to 38,000, and to reach an 111,000 fans/followers base. The traffic peaked at 121,000 in November after Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda hit. Two previous emergencies (Zamboanga armed conflict and Bohol earthquake) and special fundraising projects also resulted in increased website traffic in October, hitting the second-highest number of visits at 62,000.

UNICEF generated significant child-focused coverage in the media on all five major emergencies and featured them on digital and social media outreach. The coverage of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda exceeded by far the others.

UNICEF had continued engagement with journalists and the media for public advocacy to protect the National Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes against a number of proposed amendments engineered by infant formula manufacturing companies. To promote the use of iodized salt, a "Communication and Salt Iodization Advocacy Workshop" was organised by UNICEF in collaboration with the Philippine Information Agency to craft advocacy plan involving consumers, retailers, salt producers, food processors and local government chief executives. This was executed in partnership with SM Group, the biggest chain of supermarkets that now screens vendors supplying iodized salt to ensure that only adequately-iodized salt are sold in all the SM chain of supermarkets nationwide.

**IR 3420/A0/05/807/003** By 2014, high quality income from private individuals and corporations is increased to US$4 million.

**Progress:**
UNICEF Philippines raised a total of US$6.3 million in 2013 from private sector fundraising, exceeding the target by 13 per cent and attaining an income growth of 55 per cent from 2012. The Face-to-Face pledge programme recruited 11,552 donors, which was 32 per cent more than total 2012 recruitment. The Office also remitted US$829,000 to global Regular Resources in 2013 from its private sector fundraising earnings. The Office successfully executed its annual donor communication plan on-time, and mounted two major fundraising events in October, the "Auction for Action" and "Trick or Treat for UNICEF". The Office also undertook three integrated emergency appeals in the fourth quarter, which resulted in US$1.1 million in emergency income.
IR 3420/A0/05/807/004 Emergency for 2012-2013

**Progress:**
Emergency response fully implemented as per report from lessons learned exercise.
**Effective Governance Structure**

2013 required both a robust and flexible approach to management and governance across the Office in the context of significant changes due to multiple emergency events - the Zamboanga conflict, the Bohol earthquake and Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda. The Haiyan/Yolanda level-3 emergency response promoted the temporary modification of the UNICEF Philippines Office management structure, where the Immediate Response Team (IRT) headed by an Emergency Coordinator took direct control and management of the UNICEF Tacloban Office under the leadership of the UNICEF Global Emergency Coordinator. All emergency field matters were handled by the IRT in Tacloban and other Yolanda-affected locations, whereas the Office management team in Manila addressed and managed all national level activities in Manila related to the emergency response.

Notwithstanding these changes, the Office continued to pursue efficiencies and a concept and strategy for a Transaction Hub (TH) was developed including terms of reference for the respective Operations and Programme streams. The full TH strategy was adopted as part of the Haiyan/Yolanda response where transactions were not processed in the field location but at the TH. Given natural disasters and conflict continue to reoccur yearly in some parts of the country, the Office has and continues to update the well-developed Early Warning and Early Action (EWEA) database for emergencies.

As part of its governance structure, the Office participated in the UN Country Team, the Humanitarian Country Team and Security Management Team at the country Office and sub office level in Manila and Cotabato city respectively and ensured membership in inter-agency committees and teams such as the Operations Management Team, programme and communication groups.

Management, programme and operations objectives and priorities were developed jointly by all staff and periodically monitored by the Country Management Team (CMT) and through management meetings. Regular and special staff meetings were conducted to ensure that related Office and programme sector priorities were discussed, debated and actioned. In consultation with the staff association, Office statutory committees were formed to support management in the decision making process to ensure objectivity and equitable use of resources. The CMT made informed decisions on Office and programme performance by routinely reviewing Office management reports (from VISION or manually prepared) including review of management indicators measuring Office performance.

As in 2012, the Office continued using Rolling Work Plans where the respective Intermediate Results were supported by a related Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. To reduce risk in financial management by implementing partners and support the realization of agreed results, a joint UN Risk Assessment and Assurance plan was developed and the related activities implemented.

**Strategic Risk Management**

Building on the Office-wide risk assessment conducted in quarter four of 2012 where risks were identified and analysed, 2013 saw consideration and active management of these risks embedded into the Annual Management Plan (AMP). As a result of the Haiyan/Yolanda emergency response, where substantially increased financial input was projected, the Office started risk assessment of implementing partners including planned risk assessments of the UNICEF Tacloban and Manila Offices. The Office maintained a
standing minimum of readiness as stated in the EWEA plan, Business Continuity Plans and Crisis Response Plan (developed by the UN Department of Safety and Security DSS with input from all UN agencies).

As in previous years, Disaster Risk Reduction formed part of the 2013 priorities where the Office and partners collectively addressed disasters in a proactive risk reduction manner to reduce and manage risk associated with emergency preparedness and climate change. To further address the inevitable beyond DRR in emergency and to better manage the associated risk, the Office continues to maintain the EWEA database (hosted at the UNICEF intranet) which was updated twice in the year.

**Evaluation**

The ability to demonstrate programme impact and develop rigorous monitoring and evaluation has been essential in establishing UNICEF as a key voice for children’s rights in the Philippines, and has become increasingly important in engaging and negotiating ongoing donor support. In 2013, UNICEF and Government benefited from several studies, surveys and evaluations commissioned to inform programme design and advocacy.

Studies scheduled and completed in 2013 included the Child-Centred Conflict Analysis, while evaluations included the final evaluations for the MDG-F 2030 Joint Programme on Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition; the MDG-F 1919 Joint Programme on Enhancing Access to and Provision of Water Services.

Baseline information was collected through surveys in six urban settlements, as well as baseline data collection completed for ECCD project indicators and for the Tahderiyyah project indicators in Mindanao. In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, UNICEF also launched several humanitarian performance monitoring surveys, which were also conducted earlier in the year to follow-up on 2012-2013 responses to Typhoon Bopha/Pablo and conflict in Mindanao. By the end of the year, nine surveys, studies and evaluations had been completed and helped improve organisational learning to best support improve survival and well-being for children and women in the Philippines.

The response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda – and the global mobilisation it triggered inside UNICEF – was also an opportunity to launch different lessons learning and evaluation exercises. The Office developed a Lessons Learned document from UNICEF’s Response to Typhoon Yolanda and conducted a timeline exercise on the key different steps in the response, and also participated in an Operational Peer Review together with the local Humanitarian Country Team and the overall IASC partners. A Real-Time Evaluation has been commissioned (for implementation in 2014) to complete the organization learning and performance review in the wake of the typhoon and the subsequent response by UNICEF and partners.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

The information and communications technology (ICT) system has effectively served as the Office digital nervous system providing innovative ways of collaboration and 24x7 availability of systems. These systems include secured access to country programme results and monitoring (for example, through Vision/SAP performance management), shared programme/project documents, donor reports, annual work plans, financial, supply and human resource information, business continuity and emergency preparedness documents, Intranet files, fund-raising information, e-mail communications, multimedia
files, and important archived documents.

UNICEF’s ICT unit provided technical leadership on the disaster recovery and business continuity of Office operations, critical to staff delivering programme and emergency results in the field. In coordination with UNICEF Division of Information Technology Solutions and Services and EAPRO, the front-end assistance and technical consultations ensured all Office units were able to fully and efficiently function.

In response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, emergency field offices were established with ICT provisions in Tacloban, Roxas, Guiuan, and Cebu. The ICT emergency response included: (a) completion of an ICT supply plan and budget including equipment allocation to emergency field Offices; (b) rapid assessment and provision of ICT infrastructure and support to emergency field Offices; and (c) emergency ICT staffing supporting a large number of surge staff in country Office and emergency field offices.

Other key accomplishments in 2013 included the following:
- Offsite functional tests of ICT disaster recovery plan and Office business continuity plan simulation exercise (12-13 Aug 2013);
- Extensive use of video/audio conference equipment and Internet-based Webex/Skype to facilitate programme/inter-office coordination and also minimize travel costs;
- Up-skilling staff in effective usage of new ICT systems and emergency ICT equipment;
- ICT support and consultation on appropriate hardware/software related to GIS-related projects (to achieve better targeting and faster executive information) for local government partners;
- Upgrading of Internet links (up to 6Mbps) in the Office to facilitate faster access to corporate information and systems including SAP/Vision;
- Roll-out of a global project (VEEAM system) which provided more cost-effective backup of critical data of various servers in the Office.
- ICT emergency response provisions were mobilised for Zamboanga armed conflict and Bohol earthquake while maintaining the Cotabato zone office.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

Private sector fundraising totalled US$3.7 million in Other Resources for the country programme, in addition to US$829,000 remitted as global Regular Resources. 87 per cent of total funds raised came from private individuals, and 13 per cent were contributed by corporate partners. The corporate sector continued to be UNICEF’s active partner in 2013, including beyond fundraising. This included in the first few weeks of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda emergency response, Air Asia providing UNICEF with free seats and cargo space to transport essential supplies and emergency-response staff to the affected areas. UNICEF’s appeal to respond to this disaster was US$119 million for a period of 12 months, from November 2013 to November 2014, which is also part of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Action for Children appeal for the Philippines in 2014 covering other emergency needs in Bohol and Mindanao. Within 8 months of the appeal launch, the funding requirement had nearly been achieved, with the majority of funding coming from UNICEF’s National Committees. In addition, UNICEF’s telecom industry partners provided support to implement the Rapid FTR mobile-based technology for family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children in Tacloban.
Management of Financial and Other Assets

In 2013, the Office pushed for more cohesive planning of activities by common implementing partners across sectors for more equitable results for children. In October 2013, a general orientation on the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers was spearheaded for all implementing partners, both government and CSOs, to maintain a common understanding of and to keep the partners well-informed on the financial guidelines and procedures for UNICEF-supported programmes. Cognisant of the fundraising challenges it faces, the Office continued to effectively use funds at its disposal within the validity period. The CMT was persistent in its effort to ensure that activities were implemented as planned and that donor reports were completed within the prescribed period.

Despite strategies in place to ensure best practice in financial management, some of the ground gained in Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) reforms were affected by the onset of emergencies between August and November 2013. By the end of the year, only 87 per cent of the outstanding DCTs remained current, and only one account remained outstanding over 9 months. This was a carry-over from 2012 and was submitted to the UNICEF Division of Financial and Administrative Management for advice and support in mid-2013.

As it continues to implement its mandate under the current country programme, and at the same time, respond to multiple large-scale emergencies, the Office remains focused on ensuring resources are constantly safeguarded and measures are taken to address and mitigate financial risk.

Supply Management

Despite the significantly increased demand for supply due to the onset of large-scale emergencies, programme and donor confidence was maintained through strategic and sourcing and timely procurement and delivery of supplies. UNICEF maintained the ability to obtain quality products and value for money through robust, fair and competitive tendering processes.

Strong capacity for local procurement was maintained by continuing to expand the network of sources and suppliers in Metro-Manila as well as in provincial areas. Local market and supply capacity was developed, evidenced by 21 Local Long Term Agreements (LLTAs) issued with local suppliers for various educational, child protection and other kits designed for emergency response. These LLTAs for different kits systematized procurement processes and substantially reduced local procurement lead time.

The maintenance of buffer stocks (stockpiling) of emergency-related supplies proved to be advantageous in allowing responses to emergencies within 48-72 hours. The use of stockpiled kits from Manila and Cotabato City increased UNICEF’s profile as an early emergency intervention provider during Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.

Strengthened working arrangements and collaboration with Supply Division (particularly in VISION operations) facilitated the processing of Sales Order and the development of new kits as well as new material codes. The majority of offshore supplies arrived within 2-3 months for regular supplies and 48-72 hours upon request for emergency operation supplies. As part of personnel development, two Supply Staff were sent to Supply Division
for training. All webinars related to the supply function, particularly those facilitated by Supply Division, were attended as part of continuous familiarization of supply staff in the use and manipulation of various supply functionalities in VISION.

UNICEF undertook procurement services on behalf of the Department of Health worth US$8,282,472 during the year. An estimated portion amounting to US$2,898,255 were reprogrammed from completed transactions.

The total value of supply expenditure, regular and emergencies, both local and offshore for 2013 was US$24,366,159.

The procurement of kits and packages for education, health and child protection was undertaken from a single source despite the complexities of the components which are not normally common to one source. This resulted in the creation of 18 different kits and packages which are now covered with time-bound LTAs and instrumental contributions to the timely delivery of emergency supplies.

Although not required because the combined value of the Manila and Cotabato warehouses is less than US$1.0M, in July 2013, the Office, as a matter of self-audit, conducted a mid-year Physical Inventory of Programme Supplies for these warehouses. This mid-year inventory found 99.99 per cent fully accounted programme supplies.

UNICEF Philippines supply unit continued to consistently orient other staff to ensure VISION’s Inventory Module is operational. In addition, the inventory movement of programme supplies was proactively monitored, allowing monthly updates to inform programming schedules.

A template was developed for the movement and disposition of supplies during emergency operations. However, given the onset of emergency operations, VISION Monitoring system was introduced and operationalised by UNICEF headquarters’ Supply Division.

Human Resources

The Office’s Human Resources (HR) team engaged across management and staff association for a strategic approach to HR management and administration. The Office became well-positioned to have skilled and committed employees to meet current and future needs as well as capacity to respond to emergencies.

Achievements against planned outcomes during the year included:

- Ensuring a Skilled Workforce with the Capacity to Meet Challenges: The focus for HR in 2013 was to ensure that the Office workforce continued to be productive and provided quality service in the different programmes. Opportunities to enhance knowledge, skills and competencies were available through a variety of learning and development options including on-line courses, external programmes, brown bag sessions, and attendance in meetings/conferences. The Office had two coaching champions and one workshop facilitator for Managing People for Results and Competency-Based Interviewing Skills. This resource maximised the capabilities of local staff in a cost-effective way, and is set to continue moving forward. As a follow-up to the Coaching Conversations, the Philippines was selected as a pilot country for “Supervisor as Coach,” the second phase of the
initiative towards a coaching culture started in 2012. One coaching champion and six supervisors completed the training.

- Support and Enhance Efforts to Recruit and Select the Best Talent: Efficient business processes were promoted, including review of recruitment guidelines for the Office. The Level 3 emergency escalated recruitment for temporary posts and consultants, presenting some challenges for existing capacity. A local talent group list was used, particularly for General Service posts. Gender balance at all levels was considered.

- Creating a Healthy, Safe, and Quality Work Environment: The Office acknowledges that a healthy, safe, and quality work environment provides a foundation for employees to do their best work. The HR unit worked in collaboration with the staff association to promote workplace wellness by periodic reporting of leave balances and encouragement to use flexible work arrangements. Deployment kits for emergency response were developed and a self-sufficient bag was provided to all staff to be deployed to the emergency areas.

- Business continuity: Responding to multiple emergency events, contingency plans were put in place with pre-identified local emergency and critical staff in the Manila and Cotabato offices, as well as regional and HR surge staff deployments, such as during the Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda response. A Standard Operating Procedure was developed to provide guidance for the processes and steps to be taken in cases of in-country emergency. This includes deployment and fast-track recruitment of staff, employment of surge capacity, simplified processes, and staff welfare.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The UNICEF Philippines Office continued to reduce office costs through simplifying and harmonizing processes and systems. A number of internal processes were redesigned and streamlined, including the creation of new forms and guidance for internal monitoring of the Office effectiveness. These improved procedures related to staff travel, consultants and partners whose trips are funded by the Office, with travel expenses of consultants are now aligned to the new global guidelines.

UNICEF actively participated as a member of the UN Operations Management Team where opportunities to improve procedural efficiencies and reduce costs of existing common services were explored. Common services received at a reduced cost included travel, couriers, security, transport car lease, office vehicle fleet cards, hotel room rates and meetings packages, office supplies and printer toners, and other premises-related services, such as pest control, cleaning, washroom and hygiene supplies. An annual evaluation of service providers is being conducted by participating agencies to assess the competitiveness of these shared services in terms of cost and quality of service.

UNICEF and other participating UN Agencies continue to benefit from the combined lease for the premises in RCBC Plaza (current until 31 October 2017), with rent and maintenance costs proportionately based on space occupied. A UN House committee was setup (chaired by UNICEF) to identify a cost-effective or rent-free office option for the UN. The committee succeeded in presenting cost-effective options to the UN Country Team and the staff associations, however, options were not pursued due to increased staff deployment during the Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda response, which rendered the proposed accommodation options insufficient. However, the UN expects to move to the rent-free premises provided by Government before the current lease agreement ends.
The Manila office maintains thirteen (13) office vehicles, four of which were bought in 2013 in response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda and two vehicles for disposal. Additionally, five vehicles are assigned at the Cotabato office; one of which is deployed in Bohol. The Manila office coordinated closely with the Cotabato and Tacloban Sub-offices on the assignment of vehicles for official visits.

In order to properly manage the use of the office vehicles, a daily transport schedule of drivers and office vehicles’ assignment was prepared on the basis of transport requests. Each office driver was assigned an office vehicle, and was responsible for the vehicle’s registration, maintenance and regular servicing. A driver’s vehicle log-sheet was maintained for each vehicle to log official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes, greasing, etc.

**Changes in AMP & CPMP**

The 2014 AMP will focus on mainstreaming the adjustments in the Office which were made as a response to Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, and to ensure that the Office has the necessary means and resources to deliver on its response and recovery plans, in addition to continuing development assistance under the 2012-2016 Country Programme.

While the regular development assistance programme was temporarily suspended during the emergency response it will be essential to position the Office so that it can move both efforts simultaneously. Key priorities will include recruitment of more than 100 staff, while increased monitoring and risk assessment are anticipated in 2014. In this regard, a comprehensive risk assessment of UNICEF’s implementing partners will be conducted together with associated risk mitigating measures implemented. With most aid agencies fully funded in terms of their emergency appeals, UNICEF Philippines may find it challenging to spend funds received for humanitarian action due to capacity and competition issues. Partnership strategies and opportunities to support local municipalities are thus being explored.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

ACF - Action contre la Faim  
AFP - Armed Forces of the Philippines  
AMP - Annual Management Plan  
ARMM - Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao  
ATD - All Together Dignity Philippines  
C4D - Communication for Development  
CBCPN – Community Based Child Protection Network  
CCA - Climate Change Adaptation  
CCC - Climate Change Commission  
CCCA - Child-Centred Conflict Analysis  
CCT - Conditional Cash Transfer  
CFS - Child-Friendly Space  
CMT - Country Management Team  
COLF- Community of Learners Foundation  
CPAP - Country Programme Action Plan  
CPD - Country Programme Document  
CPIE - Child Protection in Emergencies  
CPWG - Child Protection Working Group  
CSO - Civil Society Organization
## Document Centre

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Performance Monitoring Information Systems (Website)</td>
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### Lessons Learned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Document Type/Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lessons From Yolanda</td>
<td>Lesson Learned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>