

# Country Office Annual Report 2019

## Sao Tome & Principe



### Update on the context and situation of children

In the context of the West and Central Africa Region, Sao Tome and Principe continues to foster a conducive environment for the promotion of children's rights agenda. Since the beginning of the 2017-2021 Programme Cycle, the Government of Sao Tome and Principe, with the cooperation of UNICEF and its partners, was able to achieve important legislative and policy milestones such as the adoption of a Family Law and Child Protection Policy, a National Social Protection Policy and a Sanitation Policy, among others. However, if the institutional context has historically been child friendly, the translation of policy commitments and legal provisions into a more equitable society for children and young people is not yet a reality.

Following the change in administration deriving from the 2018 legislative elections, major reforms in social and other public sectors slowed down as the new government familiarized itself with the macro-economic and social situation in the country. As a result of extensive turnover at technical level within the various Ministerial entities, programmatic implementation was paused, especially in the first part of the year, requiring UNICEF as well as other UN Agencies to restore partnerships and dialogue to advance the SDGs' agenda. The announced graduation of Sao Tome and Principe from low-income country to low middle-income country met with mixed reactions at the national level, while new restricting financial and economic measures were put in place to comply with requirements by the IMF.

Sao Tome and Principe remains particularly vulnerable due to its small population and insularity. While investments from external donors have been triggered especially by the tourism and emerging oil production, economic growth declined due to reduced government investments. Throughout 2019 the country continued to be vulnerable to the energy crisis which caused nationwide protests and tensions and impacted the capacity of public services to function effectively.

In 2019, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) presented a report on the risk profile of Sao Tome and Principe with regards to floods and drought. The report informs on the very high vulnerability of the main Island of Sao Tome to floods, with 0.11% of the population being affected yearly. Additionally, the local economy is also heavily exposed to floods. According to the report, areas exposed to floods contribute 2.8 million per year to the GDP. The sectors which are most affected by the risks of flood are agriculture and services which in turn will result in even more constrained access to income generation, education, health and other services by children and their families. The fragile context of Sao Tome and Principe requires the UN, and UNICEF in particular, to adopt a prospective attitude and adjust programmes and interventions accordingly, by taking into account national capacities to react and respond to climate change as well as to epidemics and social conflicts.

According to the 2019 UNDP Human Development Report, Sao Tome and Principe HDI Value has been constantly improving, moving from 0.437 in 1990 to 0.609 in 2018. Nevertheless, the rate remains lower than peer countries in the medium human development group such as Cabo Verde. Preliminary data from the World Bank Poverty Index (2019) suggest that the poverty reduction has been stagnant since 2010 and that one third of the population in the country lives on less than US\$1.90. As the country waits for new MICS6 dataset and analysis to assess progress for women and children in the country, empirical observation suggests that inequalities are widening especially as important exodus from rural areas bring urban population to 67%.

The increasingly younger population (52% less than 20 years old) with a projected increase of the population (3% increase by 2050 according to the World Bank) require the adoption of innovative and game changing strategies to promote 21st century skills and sustainable youth employment.

The unemployment rate for those 15 years and over is at 13.6 percent (9.3 percent for men and 19.7 percent for women). Women have a much lower rate of participation in the labor market. Unemployment is higher amongst youth (23 percent, almost twice the national average) and in urban areas. The country's labor market is unable to absorb educated youth with approximately one-third of those with some post-secondary education still living below the poverty line.

In 2019, UNICEF used the 30th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child to highlight the country important progresses in the fulfillment of children's rights. Neonatal mortality (38/100) and Child mortality (45/100) were reduced by more than half in the first 15 years of the century. Vaccination rates continue to be amongst the highest on the continent and access to basic education is universal.

In 2019, the country ratified the African Charter of Children's rights and through UNICEF advocacy, the President of the Republic publicly renewed the commitment to the implementation of Convention of the Rights of Children. With UNICEF support the government started the transition to Vaccine Independence through the activation of the VII initiative, allowing the government to continue to purchase vaccines and essential drugs through a zero-interest loan option. Through the support to the cold chain functioning and continuous assistance, Sao Tome and Principe results on vaccination continued to represent an important contribution to the achievement of KRC1.

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With the support of the World Bank and within the framework of the Social Protection Policy, the government started to implement the "Programa Familias" aiming at providing cash transfer to more than 2400 households. In 2016, the country budgeted less than 0.65 percent of the GDP to social protection and social assistance, which is well below the African regional average of 1.2 percent of GDP and is amongst the lowest in the region. The ongoing financial measures are likely to further reduce domestic investments in social sectors. UNICEF successfully lead the development of the Joint SDG fund proposal on social protection which aims at completing the WB intervention and strengthen social registry and support to caregivers of young children.

About the SDGs, the government of Sao Tome and Principe had decided to prioritize 8 out of the 17 goals, and 115 indicators were identified to monitor their achievement. UNICEF, in collaboration with UNDP and UNFPA have been supporting the National Directorate of Planning - DNP and the National Statistics Institute - INE, in setting goals and indicators to measure progresses towards the SDGs. In the second quarter of 2020, the country will release the results of MICS6, which represents a quintessential source for evaluating progresses towards the CPD outcomes, UNDAF and ultimately SDGs.

### Major contributions and drivers of results

The annual management plan identified three key priorities to be achieved in 2019 including i) increased access to vaccination (KRC1), ii) reduction of violence in school (KRC5 and KRC3) and iii) MICS6. While special focus was put on these three priorities, UNICEF in Sao Tome and Principe continued to work with partners across government and civil society to strengthen country child friendly systems across sectors.

#### Sao Tome and Principe Progresses towards Universal access to Immunization (KRC1)

Throughout 2019 the country office contribution to KRC1 continued to be significant. Consolidating important advocacy efforts made in 2018, UNICEF supported the Government to ensure sustainability of Vaccination Programme, through the VII Plan. The Government met its responsibility on co-financing and reimbursement of funds made available by UNICEF Supply Division for vaccines procurement. Back in 2017, UNICEF collaborated with GAVI Alliance to modernize Cold Chain equipment through the installment of solar panels in all health facilities of the country to improve vaccine conservation and increase vaccine coverage.

In 2019, in collaboration with WCARO, the country office conducted an evaluation of the cold chain whose results are will allow UNICEF, GAVI and other partners to further strengthen the transition plan. Because of UNICEF support, in 2019, vaccination coverage remains among the highest in the region with BCG at 95% and Penta3 at 96%. The country did not register any vaccine stock out and following HPV pilot administration in the past two years the HPV vaccine will be officially introduced in routine immunization by 2021. The very good immunization coverage was the reason behind the choice of Sao Tome and Principe to host the African Vaccination Week which took place in April 2019 and which was jointly supported by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and GAVI.

UNICEF support to the health system management went beyond support to vaccination and cold chain. Following the breakout of an important malaria epidemic in the first quarter of 2018, the country office provided timely support to respond to the emergency by purchasing and shipping into the country essential anti-malaria drugs as well as malaria tests to cover more than 50,000 children. UNICEF also provided support to the government for the design and implementation of a national communication plan against malaria. Consequently, UNICEF joined forces with WHO to support the government to conduct a mid-term review of the Malaria Strategic Plan which should prevent similar emergency situations to occur again.

In the area of nutrition, the office supported the elaboration of the National Breastfeeding Policy. Following successful advocacy for the approval of the Code for regulation of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes in 2018, the Country Office supported the Ministry of Health with the implementation of the first phase of Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative pilot, expected to be extended to all maternity centers by the end of 2020. Both the Baby Friendly Initiative as well as the new Breastfeeding Policy are part of the Action Plan for Nurturing Care, developed within a multi-sectoral framework involving the Reproductive Health Programme and Nutrition Programme (Ministry of Health), the Pre-School Department of the Ministry of Education as well the Ministry of Social Affairs and in collaboration with WHO. Additionally, the improvement of SAM management led to significant reduction of number of cases admitted to the Central Hospital. UNICEF continues to support Vit A distribution and the coverage of two doses is about 78%.

In collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF supported the review of the HIV/AIDS treatment guidelines which, associated with increased services decentralization, resulted in 100% ART treatment of pregnant women in need and in a decrease of mother-to-child transmission rate to 2%. With regards to partners capacity building, UNICEF supported the training of 18

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newly recruited health professionals on IMCI, 10 professionals from the from Reproductive Health and Nutrition programmes benefited from the participation to external trainings and 39 doctors and nurses were trained on the new HIV treatment.

Sanitation and the fight against open defecation remain important priorities for UNICEF in Sao Tome and Principe. The National Sanitation Policy validated in 2017, created an enabling environment for the testing and implementation of CLTS in the country. After kickstarting the CLTS strategy in three communities in 2018, the country office partnered with the Sanitation Direction and specialized NGOs to expand CLTS to additional 8 communities reaching 2.293 individuals (about 491 families). To date no community has been declared ODF, but three communities have been certified in early 2020 and preparations for its official declaration by central government authorities are underway.

### **Strategic support to the reduction of Out of School Children Rate (KRC3)**

In 2019, UNICEF in collaboration with the World Bank and GPE provided intensive support and guidance to the Ministry of Education for the finalization of the Education Policy Chart action plan and for its endorsement by the local education group. The development of the action plan represented an opportunity for UNICEF to leverage support to the OOSC agenda, in contribution to KRC3. As GPE coordinating agency, UNICEF was able to convene and engage main stakeholders intervening in the area of education. In line with the historical support to early learning by UNICEF, the country office in collaboration with HQ and WCARO used the BELDS (Better Early Learning and Development Standards) analytical methodology to strengthen planning for quality early learning services within the action plan.

UNICEF continues to be also the main actor to advocate and provide support for a more strategic inclusion of children with disabilities in the education sector. In 2019, UNICEF provided financial and technical support for the development of an institutional strategy for the Inclusive Education Direction which is currently not organized or adequately staffed. The Country Office also partnered with the Ministry of Education and specialized civil society organizations to sensitize on the rights of children with visual impairments, through the development of a communication campaign on the importance of inclusion of visually impaired children.

On top of the institutional and strategic support to the education sector, the country office invested in equipping schools and learning spaces with pedagogical material, mobile libraries, outdoor spaces equipment and school furniture benefitting a total of 1400 children across basic education (preprimary and primary education). Additionally, and building on previous year support, the country office provided technical and financial support for the rehabilitation and equipment of 4 preschools, complementing the work of the Ministry of Education towards more child friendly and safe learning environments. The pilot experience on school self-assessment continued throughout the year leading to the training of approximately 280 delegates, directors, parents' associations members and educational assistants in the processes across all domains of minimum quality standards.

While Parental Education still features among the Education outputs as a result of the framing done with Theory of Change, it is now clear that the programme would benefit from a stronger integration across all programmes with a special attention to the Health, WASH and Child Protection programmes. A stronger integration would allow Parental Education to support the achievements of several priorities, with a special attention to the prevention of violence against children. With the support of WCARO, the country office conducted an evaluation of the Parental Education Programme which highlighted the lack of monitoring system, the need for a stronger decentralization through different platforms beyond social services and the need for a more individualized approach to parental education to ensure behavior change.

### **Strengthening Child Protection System for prevention and response to violence against children (KRC5)**

In line with the CPD priorities and theory of change for a stronger Child Protection System and specifically regarding the country office contribution to KRC5, UNICEF has been supporting relevant Ministries (Justice and Social Affairs) for training on new child protection laws. The legal framework for the protection of children and family has been strengthened with the finalization of the process of its coming in force: the package of laws, which includes the following legislation: (i) Juvenile justice, (ii) Promotion and protection of children and youth at risk, (iii) Institutional and family alternative care; (iv) National adoption, and (v) Revised Family Law came into force in early 2019. The process of elaboration of these laws started back in 2013 and required long and constant support and advocacy by UNICEF and its partners to be finally approved by the National Assembly, promulgated by the Head of State, published in 2018.

In 2019 the country office focused on the support for the legislative reforms' implementation. The national Child Protection Policy includes reference to the creation of a National Commission for the policy implementation and overall coordination in the areas of prevention and response to violence, exploitation of abuse of children. Throughout 2019, UNICEF continued to advocate for the effective functioning of the Commission which is chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs, co-chaired by the Minister of Justice and which includes all relevant sectors involved in the strengthening of the child protection system at national level. Despite UNICEF intensive follow up and the designation of the members of the Commission, the first

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meeting did not take place because of lack of availability of both Ministries throughout the year as well as conflicting priorities at government level such as the kick start of the cash transfer programme by the WB and the beginning of the justice reforms dialogue.

In order to strengthen the capacity of collection of information and data on vulnerable children and their families, UNICEF is supporting the update and digitalization of the files of the social programs' beneficiaries. As part of UNICEF support to frontline child protection services and with the financial support of the Portuguese Natcom for UNICEF, the Country Office supported the rehabilitation of Directions of Social Protection at district level and organized an intense training of 60 social workers and young interns. Ahead of the training, UNICEF advocated for the establishment of an internship programme to palliate the critical HR gaps in the Direction of social Protection and financed the design of the three months intense training on case management and child protection for all the social workers and young interns. Additionally, UNICEF also continues to look for transformative partnership to support the establishment of a national professionalizing course for social workers in Sao Tome and Principe.

Considering that Child Protection has been recently added to the mandate of the Directorate of Social Protection, it remains critical to develop/strengthen its technical skills and organizational competencies. The capacity of child protection actors to collect and analyze data on violence against children continue to be extremely limited, therefore impacting the functioning of a referral system among health, education and social protection sectors.

In the area of Justice for Children, one of the main achievements was the signature of the triangular South- South collaboration between Sao Tome and Principe, Brazil and UNICEF. The partnership will allow capacity building and technical exchanges between the two countries for the strengthening of case management (specifically professional hearing) of children victims or witnesses of violence and in contact with the law. A first technical mission to Sao Tome and Principe took place in October 2019 to set up the basis of the collaboration and define the major milestones.

During 2019, UNICEF continued to collaborate with the government in the area of Social Protection. Thanks to UNICEF's continued efforts and advocacy at the highest level, the first meeting of the National Social Protection Council was held. During the high-level meeting, chaired by the Prime Minister and with the support of the UN Resident Coordinator, emphasis was placed on coordination between the different actors, to achieve synergy of interventions, on institutional capacity building for the improvement of functioning of the Council.

Additionally, in view of the transition of Sao Tome and Principe to low middle-income country, UNICEF supported the training of National Assembly delegates in Public Finance for Children (PF4C) with the support of UNICEF office in Guinea Bissau as well as WCARO. The 5-days training allowed to sensitize National Assembly staff on the cost of inaction if no adequate public spending is set aside to social services benefitting children and vulnerable families. As a follow up to the training, UNICEF will support the analysis of public budget expenditure through a child friendly lens in 2020.

Indeed, one of the most important achievements in the area of social protection has been the inclusion of STP among the 36 countries at global level accessing Joint SDG Funds for Social Protection, with a UNICEF led proposal and process and in collaboration with ILO, UNDP and WHO. The implementation of the proposal focusing on social registry, parental education, youth engagement and health data system will start in early 2020.

The UNICEF led initiative for youth "Generation Unlimited" was strongly amplified at national level through the UNICEF Adolescent Development Programme. Despite the important technical turnover suffered by the Ministry of Youth, UNICEF was able to support the achievement of important milestones such as the organization of the first CPLP Youth Parliament and the first national vocation fair for young people, with the involvement of the Brazilian Embassy and the Ministry of Education. The life skills programmes continued to be rolled out including through civil society organizations and advocacy have been made for the inclusion of life skills in education curriculum.

Between 2018 and 2019 UNICEF provided financial and technical support for the distribution of 1000 plaques to be installed in bars and restaurants to sensitize against the sale of alcohol to children under 18. Thanks to the support by the Portuguese Natcom for UNICEF, the Adolescent Development Programme benefitted of additional resources to support the dynamization of youth centers in each district as part of a broader support for the implementation of the Youth Policy validated in 2018.

With UNICEF support, Sao Tome and Principe was selected to host a Youth Challenge in collaboration with UNDP with the aim of promoting youth led solutions to most common problems such as environmental sustainability and early pregnancy.

Finally, in 2019, the roll out of MICS6 is to be considered one of UNICEF most critical contributions. The survey represents a unique source of data about children and women and will inform progresses towards the CPD, the UNDAF implementation but most of all the SDGs. With strong support from the Regional Office, the field phase of MICS6 was successfully completed and for the first time the survey sample included the Island of Principe. The survey results are expected in mid-

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2020 and will inform the Common Country Assessment as well as the UNICEF Sitan.

Additionally, UNICEF collaborated with UNFPA and UNDP in support to the INE for the definition of SDG related indicators and targets. The MICS6 exercise is confirming the country dependence on large survey data to monitor progresses on social indicators.

The capacities of National Institute of Statistics are severely limited and as a response, UNICEF and its partners are attempting to strengthen sector monitoring including through increase field presence through the expanded CLTS approach, improved dialogue with decentralized authorities and close collaboration with existing NGOs.

### **Cross-Cutting: Strategic Communication, Advocacy and Partnership**

In the areas of communication, advocacy and partnership the Country Office was very dynamic throughout the year. The 30th Anniversary of the CRC created an important opportunity to pledge for the renewed commitment by high level decision makers to the implementation of the Convention. The 5th and 6th report on the implementation of the Convention finalized in 2018 were used to inform on progresses made towards the universalization of child rights and to discuss with policy makers, civil society and communities which are the priorities that need collective efforts such as quality of education, prevention and response to violence against children and sanitation, among others.

The country office in collaboration with the Direction of Social Communication, helped produce a miniseries on child rights "Nas Nossas Maos" which produced at local level and which captures ably the opportunities and challenges of children and young people in the country and which foster dialogues at all levels. UNICEF was the first UN entity to be invited twice in the Ministerial Council to present the situation of children and young people in the framework of the CRC@30 Anniversary.

The Country Office also stepped up the use of its social media to inform and engage society in Sao Tome and Principe to act for the respect of children rights and for the public to know more of UNICEF work daily. As a result, the Country Office social media profiles were among the most followed in Sub Saharan Africa in 2019.

UNICEF continued to play an important role within the UNCT and leverage the new mechanisms of UN Reform to strengthen advocacy on children rights and joint action, especially with UNDP, WHO and UNFPA. The partnership with the World Bank has expanded from the Education area to Social Protection leading to the World Bank and UNICEF joining forces as of 2020 for the delivery of Parental Education as complementary measure to the cash transfer programme. Furthermore, UNICEF continues to contribute and influence existing partners coordination platforms across health (CCM), education (LEG) and social protection.

**Cross-Cutting Operational Enablers:** Operations functions (Supply, HR, Administration, Finance and ICT) made it possible for the above results to be achieved. Because of 100% timely completion of the 2018 PERs, the office was rewarded with free performance management and career management workshops from DHR and all staff were engaged in a very inspiring speak up session. Staff were kept abreast of all new policies and procedures including refresher sessions and 100% of staff completed mandatory courses. The PSEA plan was adequately rolled out including through the engagement of RC office. As of end 2019, 4 NGOs registered in the UNPP platforms and digitalization of PMVs and other documents in the Etools Platform is ongoing.

100% of minimum HACT requirements were met and with the support of WCARO, the office mobilized funds for a partner Audit to be carried out in 2020. Regular CMTs, programme and operations meetings throughout the year allowed the office to carefully monitor progresses, act on bottlenecks and eventually meet all KPIs indicators by the end of the year including 100% budget utilization. Throughout the year, the office strived to maintain a healthy, caring and respectful work environment that is conducive to staff well-being. During the year 17% of staff requested and was granted the use Flexible Working Arrangement modalities. The Peer Support Volunteer played an important role through the provision of tailored support to the team and each team member was provided with ergonomic equipment.

### **Lessons Learned and Innovations**

While a formal MTR was not organized, the country office had several opportunities to take stock of three years of implementation of the CPD, identify lessons learnt and test the theory of change to inform programme implementation. With regards to cross-sectoriality, the country office identified in the CLTS approach an ideal platform for integration of other sectors and services. The office increased joint field visits in CLTS communities and realized that multiple deprivations and vulnerabilities affect community engagement to end open defecation. As a result, the team designed a package of interventions which could allow UNICEF and its partners to respond to needs of vulnerable children and their families across

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health, education and protection sectors.

In collaboration and with the support of the Regional Office, UNICEF Office in Sao Tome and Principe successfully concluded two important evaluations: the evaluation of the cold chain and the evaluation of the parental education programme (PEP). Both evaluations relate directly to the KRCs and allow the country office and partners to reflect on sustainability of UNICEF support, equitable access to services and effective ownership by national counterparts. Specifically, with regards to the country office contribution to KRC1, the cold chain evaluation as well as the stable positive trends in vaccination coverage, confirm UNICEF added value within the wider health system. The evaluation results are being used to draw attention to the existing bottlenecks to universalization of vaccination and at the same alert government on the risks related to transition to vaccine independence, if adequate measures are not taken in time.

The important surge in malaria cases at the beginning of 2019 showed that without continuous support and adequate budget provision, important milestones achieved by the country in meeting the MDGs can be lost. The emergency situation led to improve coordination between WHO and UNICEF which joined forces to conduct a mid-term review of the malaria plan. The risk profile presented by UNISDR is calling for the UN system to step up its support to the government for the development of a national contingency plan. While the profile is not child sensitive, UNICEF will have to be ready to support the exercise to make sure the plan takes into account children and young people needs.

The Country Office contribution to KRC3 has been characterized by the institutional and strategic support for the integration of key interventions to reduce the rate of out of school children in the new Education Policy Chart and its Action Plan. UNICEF used the results of the OOSC study completed in 2018 to leverage support by other critical stakeholders. As a result, the World Bank committed funds to improve retention in secondary education and boost quality education which are considered the main bottleneck for the reduction of the number of out of school children.

Despite the limited resources available, UNICEF in STP was able to effectively use the knowledge generated to influence investments and leverage attention on important areas such as girl's education and life skills.

Through the use of the BELDS (Better Early Learning Development System) methodology to strengthen preprimary education planning, the country office showcased the importance of an in-depth analysis of education subsectors in lieu of a general planning exercise which often maintains the status quo of the education system functioning mechanisms.

With regards to KRC5, the office continues to struggle with data monitoring. The efforts done in collaboration with UNFPA and UNDP to strengthen criminal statistics and case monitoring at are not yet productive. Following consultation with both the regional office and HQ, the Country Office decided to wait for MICS6 results expected in mid-2020 to conduct a secondary analysis of violence data and possibly a comprehensive VAC study. Nevertheless, the Country Office equipped the child protection section with additional HR resources to support internal data collection and analysis on violence by tapping into existing data sources (police, health centers, counselling centers) while institutional capacities on data case management are further strengthened. As highlighted by programme monitoring as well as by both evaluations mentioned above, behavior change strategies needs to be further refined and informed by evidence.

Consultative processes with children, young people and associations are being accelerated through UNICEF support at both national and district level. The dynamization and empowerment of the child parliament, created with UNICEF support in 2017, proved that through close monitoring and support, the parliament can truly become a forum for youth empowerment and foster co-creation of child friendly solutions to societal problems.

With regards to innovation and especially T4D, the Country Office was able to gain the government support for strategies such as Internet of Good Things and Ureport. Unfortunately, despite efforts to attract private and national communication companies to support those strategies, conditions are not yet there to move forward. The arrival of an ICT officer in charge of T4D in the team is expected to help UNICEF to identify additional opportunities for the use of T4D to advance children's agenda.

Because of UNICEF's voice in the country and its role in advocacy for children's rights, the Agency receives to ad hoc requests by National Counterparts such as support to events and campaigns which are often unplanned or for which clear objectives are not identified upfront. This situation can be explained by the need of the new government to show quick results and concrete actions to the nation.

Looking forward, it will be important for UNICEF, in collaboration with other UN Agencies, to further support strategic vision and planning across all sectors and help the new government and partners to focus on game -changing strategies. From an internal planning and monitoring perspective, in 2019 UNICEF started to be confronted to the limits of the current theory of change, especially as rapid urbanization, climate change and an increasingly young population impact profiles of vulnerable children and their families.

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As the country office enters the last two years of its CPD implementation and starts preparing the new country programme, it will need to further invest in knowledge generation especially in WASH, Child Protection and social Protection areas. A gender programmatic review will be conducted in 2020 and most of all MICS6 results will be finally released. Indeed, MICS6 data represent an extraordinary opportunity not only to adjust ongoing programming by UNICEF and its partners but also to inform progresses towards SDGs in the framework of UNDAF as all the UN agencies engage in the decade of action. In line with Strategic Plan MTR, the Country Office will need to clearly identify its role and contribution to reduce the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on children and social services. Finally, the increased presence and involvement of private sector from the tourism, oil and cocoa/coffee business areas is an opportunity to expand partnership for children in Sao Tome and Principe. The modus operandi of business sector, demands that UNICEF be aware their interests, entertain regular dialogue and ultimately engage with private companies to support child friendly financing and promote sustainable development for younger generations.