

Sao Tome and Principe

Executive summary

In 2015, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Sao Tome and Principe placed great emphasis on generating evidence to support programmes based on equity and that respond to the actual and current needs of children in the country. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 5 report was finalized and disseminated and now constitutes a database of information on the status of children in the country, including the actual prevalence of anaemia, malaria and HIV. This new data has also served to update the UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe-supported STPInfo, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which serves as an electronic public database of indicators on the country. A situation analysis (SITAN) of the situation of children and women in Sao Tome and Principe was conducted using both an economic and a multi-dimensional approach to child poverty using Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis tools to ensure that inequalities and disparities were identified. Immediate, intermediate and contextual causes of child poverty and deprivation have been identified and analysed. The SITAN and MICS have served as reference documents for the country analysis in preparation of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

In the area of policy development, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued supporting the Government with the adoption of the national Social Protection Policy as well as two plans in support of social assistance for children – the first 1,000 days and parental education programmes. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also continued to support the finalization and validation of the national Child Protection Policy and its multi-sectorial action plan as well as the revision of the Family Law.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued playing a key role in supporting the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports (MoE) in the implementation of early childhood development (ECD). This included the definition of the ECD prototype to support policy-related decision making, preparation of legal documents for pre-school (statute and framework laws), finalization of the pre-school curriculum, extension of the pilot experiences in 17 kindergartens and establishment of model pre-schools in the country’s two islands.

In the area of child survival, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued supporting the Government to ensure a minimum health package for child survival (vaccines, vitamin A, essential medicines) and health-related equipment. The programme of food fortification with micronutrient powder (MNP) was also expanded nationwide, starting in Principe island as the pilot region. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to support improved access to water and sanitation in education facilities by building systems to use rainwater for supply in all primary schools and some kindergartens.

Strategic partnerships remained critical to the achievement of planned results. In 2015, enhanced coordination and partnerships were established with the World Bank in the areas of early child education and social protection with support from the Portuguese Government in the area of social protection, the private sector in support to early child education, universities in support of communication for development (C4D) and early childhood education, and civil

society organizations in support of C4D, nutrition and programme evaluation. In addition, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued its collaboration with civil society partners to improve behaviours and practices linked to nutrition, parental practices, exclusive breastfeeding, immunization and the prevention of violence against children and women. An initiative to put in place a communication plan and tools for youth to present and discuss their issues and concerns was developed together with the Institute for Youth.

Although the Country Programme did not face major shortfalls, there were some delays in implementation due to the appointment of a new Government at the end of 2014. As a result, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe had to wait for the new Government programme to realign its evidence-based advocacy towards a stronger equity focus and a capitalization on gains, especially in the areas of child survival and education.

Summary notes and acronyms

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AMP	Annual Management Plan
ARV	antiretroviral
C4D	Communication for Development
CACVD	Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence
CMT	Country Management Team
DCT	direct cash transfer
ECD	early childhood development
ePAS	electronic Performance Appraisal System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HACT	harmonized approach to cash transfer
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
INE	National Institute of Statistics
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MNP	micronutrient powder
MoE	Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
MOSS	Minimum Operating Security Standards
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAS	Performance Appraisal System
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission
SITAN	situation analysis
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VISION	Virtual Integrated System of Information
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WCARO	West and Central Africa Regional Office
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Capacity development

The following training sessions were conducted to improve government knowledge and technical capacity:

- 37 health technicians (doctors and nurses) from seven districts were trained on the integrated management of child illnesses strategies to improve integrated care for children under 5 years.
- In the basic and pre-school education sectors, in partnership with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and the World Bank, 26 educators and directors were provided with field and pedagogical experiences in one workshop and a two-week interdisciplinary seminar. In addition, 70 educators and educational assistants were trained locally.
- 40 people, including personnel from the Directorate of Social Protection and Solidarity at central and decentralized levels and representatives of civil society, received a one-week training on social protection and cash transfer programmes.
- A group of 40 youth were trained on communication tools and techniques with the support of the Brazilian organization, Comunicarte. The objective was to enhance their capacity to present their problems, communicate with other youth on key issues and advocate for solutions to their needs and expectations.
- Technicians from various ministries were trained on the use of the database, STPInfo, so that this can be used in their analysis of the situation of various indicators, especially those related to children.
- Health technicians, members of local administration and communities at the decentralized level in three health districts (out of seven total health districts) were trained on decentralized monitoring using the Monitoring for Results in Equity System approach to identify and tackle bottlenecks in health service delivery.
- UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also supported the participation of two members of the judicial system in the training on the jurisdictional protection of children's rights in Lusophone Africa.
- Three technicians from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Planning and Finance received training on innovative financing for nutrition and health supplies, and two technicians from the Ministry of Public Works and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment received training on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria supported the National Institute of Statistics (INE) to implement the MICS5, which has provided statistically sound and internationally comparable estimates on a range of indicators in the areas of health, education, child protection, water and sanitation and HIV and serves as an important source for situation analyses, such as the country analysis, and in preparation for the UNDAF 2017–2021, policy decisions and programme interventions. Although the results of the survey were already disseminated in a public event in Sao Tome, greater dissemination through various tools and events will be conducted in 2016.

Based on the recent MICS5 and other available national data, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe conducted a SITAN of children and women in the country. This analysis has allowed UNICEF and partners to identify the level and areas of deprivation of children in the country, its causes, and disparities across the country in terms of access to services. The SITAN was also used during the strategic reflections that have taken place with UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) support in preparation for the new Country Programme 2017–2021

and allowed the team to identify priority thematic and geographical areas. This analysis can be a powerful tool for advocacy and will be disseminated in 2016.

An in-depth analysis of national allocations to social sectors has been conducted with the Ministry of Planning and Finance. This analysis will serve as an advocacy tool for increased budget allocations to these sectors and specifically to social protection. Based on the study, only 2 per cent of the national budget is invested in social protection and assistance, the lowest percentage of investment in any social sector.

Visits by the UNICEF Regional Director presented opportunities for high-level, evidence-based advocacy with the Government, donors and Parliament for advancing social inclusion of the most vulnerable children.

Partnerships

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to strengthen its strategic partnerships with the Government, development partners and the private sector in 2015. Particularly effective were the partnerships with academic institutions (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and the University of Minho) for the expansion of coverage and the improvement of the quality of pre-school education. Thanks to effective advocacy with the World Bank, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe was able to secure funding for sending educators to Brazil for training on early child education and for printing additional exemplars of the curricula for pre-school education, developed in collaboration with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

Strategic partnership was also key to advances in private sector fundraising. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe engaged in additional partnerships with the private sector in Principe, leveraging funding from construction companies to support existing construction works for the provision of water supply in schools and kindergartens on the island.

Strategic alliances with civil society organizations also continued, including with the International Committee of the Red Cross, Helpo and the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations, with new partnerships initiated to support educational activities for children to prevent violence, evaluate C4D interventions in schools or rehabilitate kindergartens in Principe.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe, UNDP and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria supported the INE to implement the MICS5, which included information on bio-markers (HIV, anaemia and malaria) to update information on the situation of women and children.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe and UNFPA implemented a joint activity to improve knowledge management and access to data by updating the STPInfo database and strengthening the capacity of key personnel in ministries and academic institutions on the use of STPInfo.

External communication and public advocacy

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe contributed to improving child-friendly information about the Convention on the Rights of a Child with the production of 11 spots on various rights contained in the Convention that were disseminated on Universal Children's Day. In addition, teachers were trained in the use of child-friendly booklets explaining the Convention on the Rights of the Child to children, which were distributed in all primary schools. Advocacy on the importance of the Convention and its implementation was also delivered during the Month of the Child (June) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child anniversary in November.

An additional 10 episodes of the mini-series, *N'gue Kinte Non*, were produced to stimulate discussions within families and beyond on child-related rights and issues like vaccination, road safety, prevention of sexual abuse, etc.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also engaged in the evaluation of advocacy and sensitization sessions on hygiene practices that were conducted in all primary schools during 2014. This evaluation will facilitate the assessment of the impact of those sessions and will improve the organization of further sensitization activities targeting children.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also developed various communication materials such as posters and booklets for sensitization in the framework of the micronutrients programme and a child-friendly booklet on MICS results. In addition, all relevant international dates and campaigns, such as World Breastfeeding Day, Global Handwashing Day and the Fight Unfair campaign, among others, were commemorated with advocacy activities. The revamping of its Facebook and YouTube channels allowed UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe to increase its social media presence and platforms for advocacy on child-related issues.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also participated in advocacy activities of the United Nations system, which were centred this year on the dissemination and advocacy related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with a strong focus on equity.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

In 2015, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued its partnership with the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro for the development and pre-testing of the pre-school curricula and teacher training. The partnership was very effective thanks to the University's long experience in the area and the availability of its teams for technical advice both on-site and at a distance.

In addition, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has been a key player in a successful partnership between the national radio station of Sao Tome and Principe and the national radio station of Mozambique to share the rights to broadcast a radio soap opera on children's rights that has been developed with the support of UNICEF Mozambique.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe gave particular attention to the implementation of cross-sectoral linkages in a number of programmes, including:

- The implementation of WASH-in-Schools through collaboration with health, education and C4D resources and staff;
- The development of a national child protection policy and its action plan as well as a social protection policy involving collaboration with technicians from various ministries, including the MoH, the MoE, the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Social Affairs, which supported the development of the policy and of its action plan in various ways;
- The development of a parental education programme that was made possible through inter-sectoral collaboration of ministerial technicians and UNICEF staff and included the development of a joint communication plan and several communication tools.
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Human rights-based approach to cooperation

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe worked to build capacities and empower both duty bearers and rights holders, with particular focus on advancing the rights of the most vulnerable groups. Focus was placed on the development of the following key C4D materials, which were designed to inform parents and empower children in their rights and duties:

- Additional episodes of the parental education television mini-series, *N'gue Kinte Non*, ('Our Family') were filmed and broadcast.
- To commemorate the anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, the use of an educational booklet on the Convention on the Rights of the Child was launched in a school in Guadalupe, starting a series of sessions on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in schools across the country until the end of the school year (2015–2016) to empower children in their rights.
- 11 spots on children rights were produced for dissemination through national and social media for awareness of the population, decision makers and rights holders on the rights of children.

In addition, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the Government to develop a comprehensive strategy and national plan of action for the Convention on the Rights of the Child implementation in order to allow all national partners to coordinate their actions towards the realization of all chapters of the Convention.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has also strongly advocated for the Government to ratify the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. This issue is currently under discussion by the Council of Ministers.

Programme staff were also trained on the human rights-based approach to programming during a training organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for United Nations staff in the country.

Gender mainstreaming and equality

The SITAN conducted in 2015, with data disaggregated by sex, has enabled UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe to establish the current situation of girls and women with regards to several gender-related issues such as domestic violence, early pregnancy, child labour and child development and protection. This up-to-date evidence will allow for better focusing of UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe's programmes through a gender lens.

In 2015, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to support the Counselling Centre against Domestic Violence (CACVD), which provides protection and counselling for victims of domestic violence and works to widen community awareness and knowledge of the subject.

Environmental sustainability

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has been an active member of the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative, which has assessed national capacities on disaster risk reduction, developed a plan for increasing national capacities on disaster risk reduction and updated the national contingency plan.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe conducted an evaluation of the office's level of greenhouse gas emissions. The results of this evaluation will allow the office to establish appropriate

measures for progressively reducing greenhouse gas emissions (the current level is 5 tCO₂ per staff member) and contribute to reducing the office's resource consumption.

Effective leadership

Key annual results (programme, operations and management priorities) were defined through a participatory process and described in the 2015 Annual Management Plan (AMP). Progress towards the AMP results was discussed quarterly during the Country Management Team (CMT) meetings, while specific programmatic issues were discussed in regular programme meetings. Any necessary corrective measures were taken. AMP results were reviewed during the mid-year review.

The following key performance indicators agreed upon in the AMP were also monitored during CMT meetings, and necessary corrective actions were identified, implemented and monitored:

- Programme: budget implementation status, direct cash transfer (DCT) status, donor reports and resource mobilization
- Operations: number of statutory committee meetings, open internal audit recommendations, support budget implementation status, vacant posts, gender parity, electronic Performance Appraisal System (ePAS)/Performance Appraisal System (PAS) completion status, time spent on learning activities and supply plan implementation

At the beginning of 2015, action was taken on the last recommendation presented in the 2013 internal audit, so all audit recommendations have been closed.

The Programme Cooperation Agreement Review Committee's terms of reference were updated to create the new Partnership Review Committee, which complies with the revised UNICEF partnership guidelines.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe started to fully use the harmonized approach to cash transfer (HACT) on 1 July 2015, which simplified and harmonized disbursement procedures with other United Nations agencies. Partners were trained on this new approach in June to facilitate a smooth transition to the new approach.

The Business Continuity Plan and Early Warning Early Action and risk management documents were updated during the AMP finalization process. Two areas of high risk and three areas of medium risk were identified, and action plans were developed to further manage these residual risks. The Business Continuity Plan/DRP simulation exercise could not take place and will be rescheduled during the 2016 Business Continuity Plan update.

Financial resources management

In 2015, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe had 22 active IRs with a total funded amount of US\$1,801,522. The total amount utilized was US\$1,676,750, which represents an overall implementation rate of 93 percent. The regular resources utilization rate was 92 per cent, and the other resources utilization rate was 93 per cent. The support budget utilization rate was 100 per cent, with an annual allocation of US\$191,629.

In 2015, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe ensured the improved management and follow-up of unliquidated DCTs to partners and was able to transition from 81.5 per cent of unliquidated DCTs for more than six months in June to less than 2 per cent of unliquidated DCTs in

September 2015. As of December 2015, the outstanding DCT balance amounted to US\$259,717. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe does not have an outstanding DCT balance of more than six months.

The monthly closure of accounts was completed on time as per the UNICEF Division of Financial and Administrative Management monthly closure deadlines. Open items are reviewed and processed regularly. The monthly bank reconciliation reports were completed on time and submitted in the Virtual Integrated System of Information (VISION). UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe did not have any open item for more than one month as of this reporting period.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to improve the management of assets. In 2015, three Property Survey Board meetings were held to review obsolete items and make recommendations for their disposal. Approved disposal actions are in course of being implemented and actions will be taken in VISION to deactivate the relevant AMRs. The physical count of equipment was performed and results uploaded to SharePoint.

Fundraising and donor relations

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe actively pursued the mobilization of additional resources for its 2015 programme and beyond. While the donor base in the country is limited, relations with bilateral donors and the private sector continued to be strengthened, resulting in the leveraging of funds from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency to support the organization, Helpo; from the World Bank for pre-school education; and from the private sector in Principe for the rehabilitation of kindergartens. In addition, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe successfully mobilized other resources regular (thematic funds) from WCARO for the implementation of activities in early child education, youth and child survival and development, and WASH; set-aside funds for the Monitoring Results for Equity System; and GAVI Alliance funds for the procurement of vaccines. All of the grants were utilized prior to their expiration.

Evaluation

No evaluations were planned for 2015 in the Programme of Cooperation. Due to limited resources in the country, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe opted for regular reviews with national counterparts to assess the implementation of the Country Programme. The results achieved and the strengths and weaknesses of the two programmatic components were thereby analysed during the mid-year and annual reviews. Recommendations were made on how to improve the implementation of interventions. During the mid-term review of the Country Programme in 2014, it was proposed that UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe evaluate the effectiveness of the Programme of Cooperation to reduce inequities for the current five-year cycle, 2012–2016, before starting a new cycle. However, this proposal has not been implemented due to lack of funds. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has an integrated plan of monitoring and evaluation that was developed at the beginning of the year and monitored by the CMT regularly and during the Country Programme annual review.

Efficiency gains and cost savings

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe is housed in the United Nations common building with other agencies, such as UNDP, UNFPA, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the African Development Bank. The following common services are implemented: security services, office cleaning services, gardening, office maintenance services, generator operations and maintenance, DHL courier services, pouch services and premises utilities services. A system has not been established to assess the cost savings

resulting from the implementation of these common services. However, some efficiency gains were achieved due to the potentially improved efficiencies resulting from the common services implementation and the access to better quality and more cost-effective services from service providers.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe did not implement specific efficiency gains and cost savings initiatives in 2015. However, the office continues to favour the use of Voice over Internet Protocol, Lync and Skype for telephone communications and to sensitize staff by inviting them to ensure that electric equipment, splits, lamps and bulbs are switched off at the closure of the office or when the occupant goes away for a reasonably long period of time. All office desktops were replaced with laptops. These measures aim to reduce electricity consumption.

Supply management

The supply plan was signed in April 2015. The procurement activities were as follows: Total value of procurement and services received in 2015:

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe 2015 Supply input (goods and services)	Value in US\$
Programme supplies	165,826
Operational supplies	46,439
Services with constructions	18,931
Grand total	231,196

Supplies channelled via procurement services	Value in US\$
Via regular procurement services	401,100
Via GAVI Alliance	171,687
Grand total	572,787

Locally managed procurement	Value in US\$
Programme supplies	13,967
Operational supplies	46,571
Services	18,931
Grand total	79,469

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also procured information technology and communication equipment and supplies totalling US\$46,904.97. However, some equipment, totalling US\$44,853.78, will be received during the first quarter of 2016.

Security for staff and premises

In 2015, UNICEF contributed financially to improving the security of the United Nations compound by co-funding works to build a new entrance hall that will allow visitors to be better

screened upon arrival to the compound.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe received security funds from the Central Investment Fund totalling US\$16,500 from the UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes for the implementation of the following Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) reinforcement activities: 1) first aid training for drivers and staff frequently on mission; 2) emergency trauma-bag training for first responders and security personnel; and 3) purchase of medical equipment, including emergency trauma bags, and first aid and pep kits. The implementation of these activities is ongoing.

In 2015, the UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe driver and other United Nations drivers were trained on first aid in a joint training initiative for improved road safety.

Human resources

In 2015, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe had nine established positions (one international professional, four national officers and four general service staff) and one temporary assignment position (general service). In terms of recruitment, an assistant was hired to support activities related to C4D and provide support to the education programme.

In regards to learning and development, the 2015 Area Learning Plan was approved in March 2015 and included regional meetings and formal trainings and workshops. The Area Learning Committee meets on a quarterly basis to monitor the implementation of all these training activities to ensure the degree to which these activities impact the capacities of staff so that related results can be achieved. The plan completion rate will be assessed during Annual Management Review in January 2016. Following the 2015 staff retreat, human resources staff shared information on career development, coaching, pensions and UNICEF principles. Colleagues are encouraged to take trainings in Agora to strengthen their competencies and knowledge.

In terms of PAS, the monitoring of ePAS/PAS constitutes one of the office performance indicators and is tracked by the CMT, which meets quarterly. As of January 2015, all staff had completed their PAS phase 1.

The implementation of the staff retreat action plan is ongoing. The actions were taken and reported at Country Management Team and Joint Consultative Committee meetings on a quarterly basis. The completion rate will be assessed during the 2016 staff retreat in January 2016.

In regards to ethics and integrity and HACT, 100 per cent of staff completed the ethics and integrity online course. In addition, 100 per cent of staff with work related to HACT completed the HACT training.

In the area of HIV/AIDS, no sensitization was officially organized in 2015; this is planned for 2016.

Effective use of information and communication technology

The implementation of UNICEF-standard, cloud-based office automation tools enables staff members to access their email using smart phones. This arrangement increases staff efficiency. Critical staff have been provided with smart phones. The personal phones of staff members who

have shown an interest have also been configured. Skype for Business has become the preferred choice of communication platform. Skype for Business launches automatically when Microsoft Windows starts. This allows all staff members to be reachable at any time. Microsoft OneDrive serves as a backup storage system for working documents and makes document sharing easier. SharePoint allows staff members to update their annual reports in an effective and efficient manner. Staff can complete their annual reports simultaneously, with all involved individuals working on their particular part. In addition, staff can take advantage of the many tools offered by the Microsoft Outlook client, including the calendar, meeting scheduler, etc. Each staff member also received a laptop configured to allow secure access to UNICEF Business Applications. This enables colleagues to work properly from home, on mission as well as at the office, enhancing overall efficiency and effectiveness.

In Sao Tome, there are two Global System for Mobile Communications operators that provide a 3G+ Internet connection. Nowadays, most young people are active on social media, and UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has used social media, mostly Facebook, to interact with this age group. For UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe, Facebook and YouTube have a threefold function: they raise awareness, they can be used to share information and they can be used as advocacy tools for both internal and external audiences. These platforms allow UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe to give greater visibility to children's issues and UNICEF activities in the country. For example, the #FightUnfair campaign involved sharing good hygiene and sanitation practices and positive behaviours with youth on Facebook and sharing all related audio-visual content on YouTube.

Programme components from the Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 By the end of 2016, a social protection system with adequate financial resources for the most disadvantaged will be set up and institutional and civil society capacities will be strengthened

Analytical statement of progress:

A major step towards the establishment of a social protection system was achieved in 2015 with the adoption of the National Social Protection Policy by the Government that was appointed in late 2014. In addition, capacity building activities with regards to key concepts of social protection and implementation strategies continued in 2015 with the training of 25 government technicians and 15 participants from civil society. In addition, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to provide the following support to the Government in the area of evidence generation:

- An in-depth analysis of national allocations to social sectors was conducted with the Ministry of Planning and Finance and was finalized in 2015. This will serve as an advocacy tool for increasing budget allocations to the social sectors of education and health, specifically social protection. Based on the study, only 2 percent of the national budget is currently invested in social protection and assistance, the lowest percentage of investment in any social sector.
- The MICS5 results were validated and a summary of the main results has been disseminated.
- A study on the situation of women and children in Sao Tome and Principe was conducted and will enable the Government, civil society and the United Nations to better prioritize and direct their programmes with an equity perspective.

- UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe and UNFPA updated the STPInfo database with MICS data.
- Finally, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the Government to develop a strategy and a plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, the capacity of the Government and civil society is strengthened for the development and implementation of a national policy framework for social protection sensitive to children.

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the Government to validate the National Policy and Strategy on Social Protection, which was finally adopted by the Government in September 2015. In addition, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe strengthened government capacity and technical knowledge about the key concepts of social protection and the implementation of cash transfer programmes with the organization of a training in Sao Tome conducted by experts from UNICEF Gabon and WCARO. The training targeted 25 technical staff from the Directorate of Social Protection and Solidarity at the central and district levels. This included 15 participants from civil society working on social assistance.

In order to improve public knowledge on social protection sensitive to children, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe conducted a study on national expenditures in the social sector. The study is in the process of being translated into Portuguese for final validation and dissemination. The study will be the basis for a nationwide discussion, especially with civil society, on how to improve social budgeting and how this can be influenced to improve child-sensitive programming.

During the reporting period, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to strengthen partnerships with other actors involved in the country's social protection sector, such as the World Bank, the the Portuguese Government and the International Labour Organization (ILO), to improve coordination and ensure programme complementarity.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, systems for monitoring disaggregated data and analysis on the situation of children and women are strengthened and regularly updated to inform policy.

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF and UNFPA continued to work on the regular update of the STPInfo database and organized several training sessions for government staff to strengthen the capacity of 40 key personnel in ministries and academic institutions on the use of STPInfo. The training sessions enabled participants to use the database, which contains information on 24,400 data values of socio-economic indicators for Sao Tome and Principe.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria supported the INE to finalize the MICS5, which includes information on bio-markers (HIV, anaemia and malaria), to update information on the situation of women and children. Both the key findings and final MICS reports were produced and presented to the general public and published online. The MICS report constitutes the main source of data on the situation of children and women in Sao Tome and Principe and will be widely disseminated using several media outlets and tools in 2016.

Using the recent MICS data, as well as other data available, such as the census and the Health

and Demographic Survey, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe conducted a thorough SITAN of the situation of children and women in the country. The study uses an equity approach to assess the situation with regards to the protection of child rights in Sao Tome and Principe. The SITAN has already been used for the country analysis in preparation of UNDAF 2017–2021 and will be widely disseminated in 2016 as it provides a very useful source of information and analysis for advocacy on child rights and programming for equity.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has been supporting the country's alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is currently supporting the Government in the elaboration of the national plan of action for the implementation of the Convention, based on the key recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

OUTPUT 3 Project support costs – management of human capacity

Analytical statement of progress:

The positions of social policy specialist and monitoring and evaluation specialist – functions shared with UNICEF Gabon and UNICEF Equatorial Guinea for the monitoring and evaluation position – have been filled (the social policy position only through the end of August 2015 due to the retirement of the incumbent). These staff members supported advocacy efforts for the realization of children's rights, particularly with regard to equitable access to the country's resources through inclusive social policies.

OUTCOME 2 By the end of 2016, access and quality of basic social services (health, nutrition, education and care for HIV/AIDS) will be increased, especially for the most vulnerable, and the legal framework services and assistance for the protection of the most vulnerable children will be strengthened

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe is contributing to the reduction of maternal and child mortality by providing support in: 1) developing policy and planning documents and strengthening health service delivery; 2) building the capacity of implementing partners strengthening health service delivery, including through the provision of the minimum health package; 3) introducing the inactivated polio vaccine for the elimination of poliomyelitis and the human papillomavirus vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer in adolescent girls; 4) reducing the prevalence of anaemia in children aged 6-59 months with a home food fortification programme with micronutrients; and 5) improving access to water in primary schools. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe support contributed to the implementation of communication tools to promote the four essential practices for child survival at the community level.

In the area of education, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued its efforts in ECD with the testing of the curriculum modules and the development of a television programme for children. Thanks to a partnership with the University of Minho, a pre-school framework was developed and presented to the MoE for its validation. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe focused its support on inclusive education, with the presentation of the results of the survey on children with special needs and discussions on the implementation of inclusive education.

The reform of the child protection system is underway. Several laws have already been developed and are in the process of being approved. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe is supporting the finalization of a child protection strategy and plan of action. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe and UNFPA continued to support government efforts to raise awareness to combat domestic violence.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016, policy documents that strengthen the National Health System include the rights of children and women.

Analytical statement of progress:

In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the MoH to develop a National Communication Plan for Nutrition as a tool to improve the guidance and coordination of communication activities on nutrition and the definition of a set of sensitization and social mobilization interventions to improve or change practices and behaviours related to food and nutritional health. The plan will be fully implemented in 2016.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe, WHO and Helpo supported the MoH Programme of Reproductive Health, upgrading the child and adolescent health card with the introduction of new growth monitoring curves that have improved the health control and effective monitoring of nutritional status, allowing for early intervention on the nutritional development of children and adolescents.

The First 1,000 Most Critical Days Programme, which is part of the National Parental Education Programme developed with UNICEF support, was already technically approved by the MoH and the Ministry of Social Affairs and is now awaiting political approval, which is expected in 2016. The Most Critical Days Programme is considered a key strategy for scaling up nutritional interventions, a multi-sectoral synergistic effort towards the prevention of stunting in children and a contribution to improving the physical and cognitive development of children under 5 years.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, capacity of district health centres to provide and monitor basic health care, including HIV/AIDS care, is strengthened.

Analytical statement of progress:

This output contributes to the achievement of the A Promise Renewed commitments by building the capacities of implementing partners and strengthening health care through the provision of the minimum health package, which includes vaccines, vitamin A, essential drugs, antiretroviral (ARV) drugs and MNPs for anaemia prevention for children under 5 years:

- Vaccines: In collaboration with GAVI Alliance and WHO, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the preparation for the introduction of new vaccines – inactivated polio vaccine for the elimination of poliomyelitis and human papillomavirus vaccine for the prevention of cervical cancer, to be introduced in 2016.
- Nutrition: Home food fortification with MNP, which started in 2014 in Principe to reduce the prevalence of anaemia in children aged 6-59 months, is being implemented at a national scale, including for children in pre-school. This will cover approximately 25,000 children under 5 years, corresponding to 100 percent of the target group. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also supported the monitoring and control of severe acute malnutrition with the use of ready-to-use therapeutic food for the treatment of severe cases. In total, 88 children were treated.
- The Iodine Deficiency Diseases Programme was supported through the distribution of iodized salt kits. National coverage was 88 per cent (MICS 2014).
- HIV: As part of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme (PMTCT), UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe provided paediatric ARV and HIV testing for pregnant women and supported the training of 160 nurses on the application of new guidelines for

the elimination of vertical transmission, which allowed for the decentralization of PMTCT care to all 38 health units (100 per cent) in the country, allowing 17 pregnant women to be on ARVs (100 per cent). Three new cases of HIV transmission in children aged 0-14 years occurred, and all of these children have been treated.

- Concerning maternal and neonatal health, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has partnered with UNFPA on the reinforcement of equipment in the maternity wards to improve service delivery aimed at the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality.

A joint WASH programme with WFP and the MoE aimed at improving the water supply and promoting handwashing in all 80 primary schools and kindergartens is ongoing to reach a total of 34,493 children aged 6-12 years, which is 78 per cent of the target group.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe has supported the MoH to apply decentralized monitoring in one of the most deprived health districts.

OUTPUT 3 By 2016, vulnerable communities and families will have strengthened capacity and knowledge to adopt essential family practices (oral rehydration therapy, handwashing with soap, sleeping under impregnated mosquito nets and PMTCT) to improve child survival and the protection of children and women.

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, efforts aiming to consolidate the gains achieved in previous years made it possible to achieve planned goals, in particular related to capacity building and enhancing knowledge of essential practices among families and communities. The results of the MICS5 indicate improvement in terms of behaviour changes within families vis-à-vis the four essential family practices. These results show the progress of the programme, which is implemented by governmental partners and NGOs through radio and television programmes (*N'gue Kinte Non*) and new cartoon episodes on parental education distributed directly in the schools to children and teachers.

In addition, under the schools programme, the International Committee of the Red Cross conducted hygiene promotion sensitization activities to increase children's knowledge of hygienic practices, notwithstanding the persistent problem of lack of water and bathrooms.

Significant progress was made in terms of working with young people, in particular in regards to the acquisition of life skills such as the consumption of drugs, teenage pregnancy and youth entrepreneurship. One hundred young people representing youth associations from across the country were trained and shared the vision that young people are the solution and not a cause of the problems. Six videos were produced by young people and posted on the website entitled 'Young Solution'.

There is still much to be done, particularly in regards to the chapter of engagement and community participation. The absence in the Government's structure of a body dedicated to communication activities hampered the appropriation and coordination of communication interventions and their integration with the major national programmes. The challenge will be to continue to work towards developing two-way communication, allowing for local solutions to problems and reinforcing the technical capacity of community radio and other partners in field.

OUTPUT 4 By 2016, children from 0-6 years, particularly in the most vulnerable areas, benefit from improved access to, and quality of ECD through the reduction of barriers to early childhood education.

Analytical statement of progress:

The Sao Tome and Principe educational system is in a transition phase involving the adoption of universal pre-school access and improving the quality of basic education. In 2015, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe focused on the following areas:

- ECD model analysis: UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the political and technical validation of tools to support ECD, namely the study on parenting practices in Sao Tome and Principe, the evaluation of children's skills at the initiation of primary education and the simulation model of the budget and costs for ECD. The recommendations of the prototype ECD studies will allow the Government into the decision-making process for the ECD model.
- ECD policy: An agreement signed with the University of Minho allowed the realization of two technical missions and the completion and public presentation of the documents regarding the law on pre-school and the statute to regulate the functioning of day-care centres and kindergartens. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe will continue to raise awareness for government approval of this document (i.e. turning it into a decree) and will support the MoE in the review of the Basic Education System Law, given the changes envisaged in the Law on Pre-Primary Education. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe will also support the creation of a strategic group for pre-school education to monitor compliance with the law.
- Quality of ECD pre-school curriculum: UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported technical missions of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro for the expansion of the new pre-school curriculum to 100 per cent of kindergartens in the country. Through these missions, a team of mentors was created to ensure decentralized pedagogical support for pre-school institutions, and 200 copies of eight curriculum modules and teaching guides were printed and will be distributed to all classes of four-year-old children.

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also continued to rehabilitate 10 kindergartens (out of 17 pilot kindergartens). The objective of this pilot project was to improve the educational environment. The percentage of children enrolled in pre-school education has increased significantly, from 48.3 per cent in 2012 to 60 per cent in 2015. In terms of policies, the ECD model proposals will allow the Government to adopt a pre-school model with a compulsory cycle of two years (for children ages 4 and 5 years) and will assure 80 per cent enrolment. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe will continue to help civil society and rural communities with non-formal initiatives.

OUTPUT 5 By 2016, school principals, teachers and parents have strengthened capacity to promote a quality education as a part of the Child-Friendly School initiative.

Analytical statement of progress:

One of the main challenges encountered by the education system is improving the quality of education. In support of government efforts to improve quality, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe focused on the following activities:

- As a local lead partner (coordination entity of the local education group), UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the Government to implement the Quality Educational Project For All (in basic education), which focuses on teacher training, the Education Management Information System, evaluation assessment and strengthening the capacity of management.
- The Simulation of Equity in Education model began in 2015 with an analysis of the socio-geographical context of the country. The model is a strong tool for improving

access to the early years of secondary-level education (for the 11-15 age group). This process will be finalized in 2016.

- UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe is also supporting the Government to implement a participatory strategy in which the goal is to create a Federation of Parents' Associations. The creation of management committees has been the starting point. This has been a pilot initiative involving 40 schools (25 per cent of the total) and will contribute to enhancing and improving the support and participation of parents in school management.
- UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to support the Government to improve the student learning environment through the provision of 620 desks (7 per cent of the overall needs in the country). This equipment was produced locally and distributed according to identified needs throughout the country.
- In the inclusive education programme, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe, in collaboration with the college ESE Santarém (Portugal) and the MoE, proceeded with the publication of the study related to the identification of children with special needs in the education system and outside of schools. It is hoped that the Government can use the results to define specific programmes for the care of children with special needs and make the identification of these children more focused in terms of the different types of deficiencies detected. Through the partnership with the Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr, pilot experiments were undertaken in regards to the use of the sign language of Sao Tome and Principe in the process of enhancing the literacy of children and training young people.
- An inter-sectoral programme about water and sanitation supply in schools was developed, allowing for the construction of four fountains and handwashing points in schools and kindergartens, the deep rehabilitation of toilets in primary schools and the implementation of a hygiene awareness programme that reached some 6,944 students in primary school and pre-school.

OUTPUT 6 By 2016, national legislation and regulations for the protection of children and women are strengthened and fully in line with international conventions ratified by Sao Tome and Principe.

Analytical statement of progress:

Since 2012, the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, with UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe support, has been working to strengthen the legal framework for the promotion and protection of children. In 2013, five law proposals on the protection of at-risk children and youth, foster care, institutions, adoption and civil juvenile justice, were finalized, approved by the Government and submitted to the National Assembly for adoption. However, due to the change in the Government at the end of 2014, the process of adoption was stopped and will need to be repeated with the new National Assembly; that is, the new Government must accept the proposals, approve them in the Council of Ministers and submit them back to the National Assembly. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe continued to advocate for their adoption during 2015.

In 2015, the Directorate for Social Protection and Solidarity, with the support of a multi-sectoral group of resource persons and UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe, proceeded with the revision of the Family Law (adopted in 1977) to fill gaps identified during its 40-year implementation and modernize some of these provisions in the sense of compliance with, inter alia, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. This exercise was conducted in a participatory manner with consultations

involving civil society, decentralized authorities and professionals from all districts of the country and in the Autonomous Region of Principe.

Before their entry into force, the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs assumed the responsibility of proceeding with the harmonization of these two packages of laws with the National Child Protection Policy, which was developed in the meantime.

OUTPUT 7 Increased capacity on child protection civil society organisations will have enhanced capacity to ensure better monitoring of children and women who are victims of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Analytical statement of progress:

In 2015, following the development of the SITAN on violence against children and the mapping of responses linked to the protection of child victims of violence, abuse and exploitation led by the Directorate of Social Protection and Solidarity, the same implementing partner coordinated the participatory development of a policy and of a multi-sectorial action plan to strengthen the child protection system. The first document was already validated technically and the second was validated in December 2015. Both will be formally presented to the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs for policy adoption and implementation.

In 2015, CACVD, with support of UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe, continued its awareness-raising activities for children using communication materials developed in 2013 and 2014 with UNICEF support (e.g. 'The little booklet about violence') or directly by UNICEF (e.g. 'The class of Nina and Mano promotes children's rights') in rural communities, particularly in the Autonomous Region of Principe

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe also supported CACVD to develop a flipchart intended to serve as a tool for raising awareness about domestic violence. This tool will serve members of the network *Rede Vida*, which is composed of different entities that support victims of domestic violence (e.g. the National Police and its community agents, the judicial police, various institutions of the health system and some NGOs under the coordination of the CACVD) in their sensitization efforts. This tool is currently being reproduced, and the training of stakeholders in its use is scheduled for 2016.

In the context of the first international training on the legal protection of children for Portuguese-speaking countries, coordinated by UNICEF Angola, and responding to the planned activities of the specialization of judges and jurists foreseen in the Child Protection Policy plan of action, UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe supported the participation of a judge and a lawyer from the Ministry of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

OUTPUT 8 Project support costs – management of human capacity

Analytical statement of progress:

The implementation of the child survival, education, C4D and protection programme was implemented satisfactorily with the support of programme specialists, officers and assistants, and adequate technical and financial support was provided national partners.

OUTCOME 3 Effective and efficient programme management and operational costs

Analytical statement of progress:

The required support for the implementation of the Country Programme was provided. Resources were efficiently and effectively utilized: the percentage of funds utilized for the implementation of activities by 31 December 2015 was nearly 100 per cent. The CMT provided oversight and monitoring of performance indicators on a regular basis.

OUTPUT 1 Cross-sectoral project support costs: salaries, entitlements and operating costs

Analytical statement of progress:

The required support for the implementation of the Country Programme in the areas of monitoring and review of the cooperation with the Government was provided. Resources were efficiently and effectively utilized: the percentage of funds utilized for the implementation of activities was 100 per cent. The CMT provided oversight and monitoring of performance indicators on a regular basis.

OUTCOME 4 Special purpose

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe contributed to the MOSS compliance of the United Nations House, including staff security, through a financial contribution to shared security services.

OUTPUT 1 Premises and security

Analytical statement of progress:

The Business Continuity Plan, the Security Plan, emergency lists, contact points for Early Warning Early Action and the Wardens Systems Tree lists were updated regularly. The UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe driver participated in a first aid training refresher. MOSS compliant security barriers for the United Nations House, including a secure entry point and security controls were built.

OUTCOME 5 Programme support

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe based the management of the office, front desk, programme, and operations priorities and governance on the 2015 AMP, which was developed with the CMT under the leadership of the Regional UNICEF Director that provided programme, front office and operations objectives and performance indicators. A mid-semester review of the AMP was held. Progress towards the management indicators from the AMP 2015 was monitored during the joint programme/operations meeting, programme meetings and CMT meetings.

The compositions of statutory and non-statutory committees were updated as needed. The committees met regularly and, when required, functioned effectively.

OUTPUT 1 Financial resources and stewardship

Analytical statement of progress:

Regular travel by the Regional Director to Sao Tome and Principe was supported, allowing for engagement in high-level advocacy with partners (government, civil society) to promote UNICEF's priorities and leverage support.

The presence of the Regional Director in Sao Tome and Principe also allowed for active leadership of the CMT and Joint Consultative Committee meetings and regular participation at

the United Nations Country Team retreats, the office strategic moment of reflection and the UNDAF prioritization workshop.

The travel of key staff members was also supported, particularly in the area of information and communication technology to ensure that the office information and communication technology systems were updated. The participation of all shared staff at the 2014 annual management review (held in February 2015) and the staff retreat were also supported.

The provision of office supplies and maintenance ensured the smooth running of office.

OUTPUT 2 Financial resources and stewardship

Analytical statement of progress:

A large part of the budget was allocated to the common budget for the UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe contribution to the shared common services of the United Nations system in the country. UNICEF Sao Tome and Principe is housed in the United Nations common building with other agencies such as UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, WFP and the African Development Bank. The following common services are implemented: security services, office cleaning services, gardening, office maintenance services, generator operations and maintenance, DHL courier services, pouch services and premises utilities services.

OUTPUT 3 Human capacity

Analytical statement of progress:

All LSA activities were developed based on the 2015 action plan. In 2015, a staff retreat was organized, the recommendations of which were integrated into an implementation plan for the improvement of work conditions and welfare. The plan is monitored quarterly in the Joint Consultative Committee meeting.

OUTPUT 4 Human resources

Analytical statement of progress:

The office staff consisted of one international professional, four national officers and five general service staff, with a gender balance of 60 per cent women and 40 per cent men. No post was vacant in 2015.

In 2015, the selection of a new social policy specialist was ongoing, and the new staff member will be recruited at the beginning of 2016.