2014 marks 20 years of democracy for South Africa. Children born in 1994 are entering the next phase of their lives as young adults. This defining moment for the country coincided with the 25th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); giving UNICEF an opportunity to take stock and reflect on the country's fulfilment of children's rights. Over the last two decades, the State has designed and implemented a comprehensive framework of child-focused laws, policies, strategic plans, budgets, programmes and services aiming at the realisation of children's rights in pursuance of the founding principles of the Constitution, Bill of Rights and CRC. Building on lessons learned and good practices, South Africa – with support from partners such as UNICEF – continues to review, amend and develop its legal and implementation frameworks to improve the quality of services provided to children.

To support Government readiness to improve its ability to fulfil the child rights agenda, in 2014 UNICEF focused its efforts on strengthening the existing good collaboration with key public and non-public stakeholders, while engaging new partners to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of strategic sectoral coordination architecture; develop meaningful laws, policies and plans of action; and manage systems, including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of services.

Policy, advocacy and implementation milestones reached through joint collaboration between the Government, UNICEF and other key actors in 2014 included, but were not limited to:

a) Establishment of early child development (ECD) as a public good with the new policy on ECD endorsed by Cabinet in December 2014 and to be gazetted in February of 2015. This will influence the quality of daily care services – including nutritional services to young children – delivered by over 19,000 ECD centres to about 1.7 million children.

b) An independent national review of the MNCH strategy led by UNICEF that identified 18 priority interventions to fast-track the achievement of MDG 4 and 5 targets.

c) Launch of the ‘End Violence against Children’ national campaign with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and UNICEF’s national Goodwill Ambassador, which has gained country-wide support through public advocacy, outreach programmes and the release of the 2014 South African child gauge titled “Ending the Cycle of Violence”, jointly prepared with DSD and the Children’s Institute of the University of Cape Town, to help inform policy-makers.

d) Completion of a study on “Poverty Traps and Social Exclusion among Children in South Africa” with the SA Human Rights Commission that identified factors that keep over 41 per cent of the country’s 18 million children trapped in poverty and made recommendations on policy measures to reduce the entrapment and exclusion of children.

e) Finalisation of the National Strategic Implementation Plan for the re-instatement by 2017 of 56 Sexual Offences Courts (SOC), with clear provisions for child-friendly standards in criminal
proceedings, and the upgrading of 17 of 19 SOC, to increase the prosecution rate and reduce secondary victimisation (over 45,000 cases of contact crimes against children reported by the South Africa Police in 2014)

f) Expanded support for strengthening school retention, completion and learning achievement through the Child-Friendly Schools (CFS) framework (e.g., Sport for Development and Youth Leadership programmes, the Techno Girls initiative, the Farm School project) and consolidation of the critical gains made in the reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV rates

Taking into account the priorities of the NDP, building on past and current achievements on the rights and challenges faced by children to survive and thrive, UNICEF has refocused its engagement on Ending Violence against Children, ECD and adolescents and youth. Using an equity lens two special interest groups, adolescent girls and children with disabilities, with a geographic focus on the poorest provinces, and the specific objective of leveraging opportunities with the corporate sector will be key strategies.

**Equity Case Study**

In 2014 UNICEF South Africa worked closely with various Government departments and other partners to advance the equity agenda for children in South Africa. A number of programme activities were undertaken to promote equity in access to early childhood development, education, health and nutrition and social welfare services. Among the programme activities undertaken in 2014, the generation of high-level evidence on equity, meant to inform policy formulation, was especially significant.

A study on “Preventing Exclusion from the Child Support Grant – A study of exclusion errors in accessing CSG benefits” was commissioned in collaboration with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Department of Social Development to identify which children are excluded, their characteristics and factors that prevent them from accessing the grants. This provided the evidence needed by SASSA to address the problem of excluding eligible children from benefiting from the Child Support Grant (CSG). Based on this evidence, SASSA developed an action plan and is implementing the recommendations of this study to address the challenge of excluding eligible children from benefiting from the grant.

In furtherance of the National Development Plan vision 2030, UNICEF South Africa also partnered with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to gain better understanding of the disturbing evidence of considerable deep-rooted and sustained poverty among children, despite advances in poverty reduction in the country as a result of programmes implemented since 1994 by the democratic Government. UNICEF South Africa undertook a study on “Poverty Traps and Social Exclusion among Children in South Africa”, which sought to examine why some children manage to escape poverty while others remain trapped. Key issues identified by the study were: health, education, social and family influences, geographic influences, wealth and assets. Through a child rights lens, and by means of literature reviews and policy simulations, the study developed recommendations for policy measures required to reduce children’s entrapment and exclusion.

As in many parts of the world, children with disabilities in South Africa face a myriad of challenges and barriers. One such barrier is the additional cost that they have to bear when trying to access services, which other children do not face. To understand this inequity, UNICEF partnered with the former Department of Women, Children and People with Disability to undertake a study on “Elements of the Financial and Economic Costs of Disability to
Households in South Africa. The study revealed high opportunity and out-of-pocket costs for most households with persons (including children) with disabilities. However, current costs and spending vary drastically depending on disability type and the level of support needed, as well as economic status. The findings of this study will provide evidence for determining social security benefits; subsidising residential care facilities, special schools and other services targeting people with disabilities; as well as reasonable accommodation support.

In addition to these three studies, UNICEF partnered with the SAHRC to update the publication “South Africa’s Children: A Second Review of Equality and Child Rights”, which was first undertaken in 2011. The publication aimed to demonstrate the multiple deprivations suffered by children from various segments of child population, using statistics from the national General Household Survey and other official data sources. The report serves as a handy reference for policy-makers on progress toward the realisation of children’s rights as defined by the CRC.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

ACERWC - African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child  
ACRWC - African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child  
ACSA- Airports Company South Africa  
AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome  
AMP - Annual Management Plan  
ART - Anti-retroviral therapy  
AU - African Union  
BNLSS+A - Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland & Angola  
BNLSS PC - Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa Procurement Centre  
BOS - Business Operations Strategy  
BCP- Business Continuity Plan  
C4D- Communication for Development  
CBD - Central Business District  
CBI - Competency-based Interviewing  
CMT - Country Management Team  
CPD - Country Programme Document  
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child  
CRVS - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics  
CSG - Child Support Grant  
DBE - Department of Basic Education  
DFAM - Division of Finance, Audit and Management  
DFID - Department for International Development  
DHIS - District Health Information Software  
DOCO - Development Operations Coordination Office  
DoH - Department of Health  
DSD - Department of Social Development  
ECD - Early Childhood Development  
ERM - Enterprise Risk Management  
F2F - Face to Face  
G/BEM - Girls and Boys Education Movement  
GBV - Gender-based violence  
GDP - Gross Domestic Product  
GOSA - Government of South Africa  
GSSC - Global Shared Services Centre  
HACT - Harmonised approach to cash transfers
UNICEF continues to work with Government and civil society to strengthen national systems and local capacity for addressing systemic barriers to accelerated delivery of services for all children through rigorous evidence generation and use. In 2014 support was provided for the '3
feet approach – Call to Action for MDGs 4, 5 and 6’, using district-based planning and capacity building, including functional mentoring systems with data as the entry point. This was piloted in one district that completed decentralised planning at the facility level, resulting in facility dashboards across the continuum for HIV, TB, maternal, new-born, child and women’s health and nutrition indicators. As a result facilities have prioritised actions based on bottleneck analysis addressing key issues to fast-track towards achievement of results for MDGs 4, 5 and 6. The actions are linked to the 2015 Countdown and recommendations from the mid-term review of the Maternal, New-born and Child Health and Nutrition strategy.

Indicators for monitoring were selected and plotted monthly at the facility level, using run charts that show both the numerator and denominator for each indicator, which is then represented on a facility-based Dashboard (adapted from the national Dashboard). This allows the facilities to measure and monitor themselves against specific targets set by each facility for maternal and child health, including HIV and TB. Bottlenecks are identified within the four domains (enabling environment, quality, supply, demand). Following the identification of bottlenecks by indicator, facilities identify actions. Both indicators and actions are monitored closely.

In close collaboration with Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) and the Department of Social Development a national database on children, based on DevInfo technology, was finalised. This database contains a set of 64 core indicators across the domains of health, education, early learning, access to services, children’s living arrangements and access to a safe environment.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

South Africa is beset with persistently high levels of child poverty and inequality, in both income and non-income dimensions. The extraordinary expansion of child grants in the last 15 years has eased child poverty levels. Combined, three types of child grants (Child Support, Foster Care and Care Dependence) now reach about 11.5 million children. However, despite massive social investments and progress across a range of child indicators, a majority of children (56 per cent) still live in poverty. Poverty is higher among those below 18 years than any other age group: children account for almost half of all poor people in South Africa, despite representing 37 per cent of the population. Most social indicators are closely associated with race and space. Invariably, child outcomes are worse among Black Africans, while the former apartheid-era “homelands” continue to exhibit the highest concentration of poverty and deprivation.

In 2014 an analysis was completed on the extent to which South Africa’s children are trapped in long-term, structural poverty. The study found that two decades after the end of apartheid, about 40 per cent of children are trapped in chronic poverty. Such large numbers are not merely affected by a transitory decline in their living conditions from which they will subsequently recover. Rather, chronically poor children are locked into a complex web of cumulative deprivations (in health, education, shelter, nutrition, sanitation) that compromise their future opportunities from an early age and, as they grow, lead them to transmit these disadvantages to their offspring.

The study highlighted areas of heavy concentration of poverty traps, and how learning deficits at a young age translate into increasingly divergent learning trajectories over time, with negative impacts on adult employment and earnings later in life. Addressing chronic poverty will require more than cash grants; a package of well-targeted, integrated interventions is clearly called for.

A policy dialogue held in mid-2014 to present the study brought together high-level
representatives from Government, the SAHRC, civil society and the media. More such dialogues are planned for 2015.

**Partnerships**

The Private Fundraising and Partnerships portfolio continued to roll out the private fundraising and partnerships strategy, aiming to diversify income streams through corporate engagement and individual giving. UNICEF South Africa’s corporate engagement for 2014 consisted of a three-pronged approach including: maintaining existing partnerships, recovering lapsed partnerships and building new partnerships.

Special focus was placed on UNICEF South Africa’s existing relationship with the Santam insurance company (in support of education) and with Unilever (in support of hand-washing promotion). Engagement with Unilever is a global UNICEF partnership that has been leveraged at the national level with specific country context deliverables.

In addition to supporting existing partnerships, UNICEF has been re-engaging and renewing relations with partners that had lapsed in recent years. Through the UNICEF global partnership, partnership with the Sheraton Hotel in Pretoria was renewed; UNICEF South Africa is currently supporting Sheraton to increase fundraising efforts in support of UNICEF’s work in early childhood development (ECD). Furthermore, meetings to enhance collaboration were held with Tshikululu Social Investments, which manages the corporate social investment budget for Discovery Health (which has in the past supported child survival programmes).

UNICEF actively explored new partnerships across a broad range of industries to fundraise, advocate for children’s rights and leverage resources for children, concluding multiple major national advocacy partnerships in support of the #ENDViolence initiative with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Gautrain, Ster-Kinekor (cinema franchise) and the Airports Company South Africa (ACSA). UNICEF South Africa partnered with International Bank Vaults on the Supercar Charity Parade, which provides a platform amongst high-net-worth individuals to encourage them to donate to UNICEF’s work in South Africa. As the year drew to a close, preliminary research began into engaging the oil, gas and extractive sector. Efforts will focus on ways to fundraise, leverage resources and reform business practices in line with the Child Rights and Business Principles approach.

UNICEF South Africa also worked closely with bilaterals – such the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union – on a number of programmes in child protection, health and education.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

The Public Information and Advocacy portfolio contributed to highlighting key child right issues and positioned UNICEF as an authority on children’s issues through national media, public events and initiatives, with a focus this year on enhancing UNICEF’s profile on all media platforms. Media outreach focused on key public initiatives and events, including the launch of a national #EndViolence campaign, activities around the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the launch of the “Child Gauge Report” and promoting the #Imagine song campaign. UNICEF senior colleagues participated in interviews with major media outlets during November and December.

Active engagement and dedicated support to social media led to significant growth for
UNICEF’s digital and social media platforms. 2014 saw an increase of over 100 per cent in the number of supporters on its Facebook page – from 20,333 in December 2013 to 40,664 in December 2014. The number of Twitter followers also increased over this period, by 41.4 per cent. Visits to the UNICEF South Africa website remained fairly stagnant during 2014, but plans are underway to revive and more regularly update the website in 2015.

During the course of 2014 UNICEF also facilitated and supported visits by a number of foreign donor delegations, including representatives of the National Basketball Association, IKEA, DFID, Lego, and the All Blacks rugby team.

A diverse range of information materials, including posters, brochures and publications, were produced during 2014, including the Communication for Development (C4D) “Guidelines on Addressing Violence Against Women and Children” as well as the Programme of Action to Address Violence Against Women and Children. In addition, UNICEF worked with the Department of Health to publish and edit informational materials on breastfeeding and on nutrition, which will be disseminated in various parts of the country. Plans are underway to increase the dissemination of these much-valued information materials among targeted groups, through current and new partnerships. The visibility of UNICEF in public spaces was enhanced through billboards mounted at major airports in South Africa. These billboards highlighted the Techno-Girls programme, as well as the work of UNICEF Celebrity Advocates.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF’s East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) commissioned an assessment in selected countries in the region to better understand factors that facilitate or hinder birth registration. Statistics showed that South Africa has recorded a tremendous increase in the number of children whose births were registered. In 2012, 85 per cent of births that occurred that year were registered, an increase from about 55 per cent in 2003. South Africa was identified as a good practice country in the management of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). UNICEF facilitated the documentation of the South Africa CRVS case, which was shared at the Global Conference on National Identity Management, organised by the Government of Korea in September 2014. UNICEF South Africa worked with Stats SA to mobilise a wide variety of CRVS stakeholders, including departments of Home Affairs, Health, Justice and Social Development and academia. The conclusion indicated that important factors contributing to the increase in birth registration included laws, policies, institutional arrangements and delivery of social assistance. These factors, in turn, required appropriate registration with civil authorities, business processes, availability of infrastructure/personnel, allocation of resources, data management, advocacy/communication, demand creation, monitoring and evaluation.

Over 40 African Union (AU) member states, as well as national, regional and international social protection experts and civil society organisations converged in Cape Town, South Africa, and committed to the progressive scaling-up of social protection programmes – increasingly financed from domestic resources – as well as to embedding social protection systems within their national policy structures. This was agreed during the first-ever AU Expert Consultation Meeting on Children and Social Protection Systems in Africa, held from 28-30 April 2014 under the theme: “Children and Social Protection Systems: Building the African Agenda.” The delegates affirmed that social protection policies, measures and systems must be responsive to the rights of children, especially the most vulnerable, and further added that although gains have been made in recent years, too many children and families entitled to social protection are not receiving it, and many are trapped in chronic poverty.
Identification Promotion of Innovation

UNICEF, in partnership with Mxit Reach and the Department of Basic Education recently launched a virtual school called ukuFUNDa (a Zulu word meaning ‘learning to grow’). ukuFUNDa is an innovation that uses mobile technology to make education resources available to learners and teachers, promotes professional development amongst educators, informs parents about what is happening in school and brings social and emotional support closer to learners. New applications, in the form of annual national assessment tests, are also now available on ukuFUNDa.

ukuFUNDa is unique because it allows accessibility and support across 8,000 mobile devices (both feature and smart phones). While many past and current mobile phone-based education programmes in South Africa focus solely on direct support to learners, ukuFUNDa also focuses on the needs of Government, schools, teachers and parents to improve education.

The programme was launched by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, on 12 September 2014. In less than three months, 113,813 potential users visited the UkuFUNda platform, of whom 34,535 were learners and 4,253 were teachers representing 6,471 schools registered on the site. This exceeds the anticipated target of 29,761 learners.

Between January and March 2015, the targets for the programme will be threefold:
1) Development of a parent platform to enable communication between schools and parents, thereby facilitating greater parent involvement in teaching and learning
2) Increasing usage amongst learners and educators
3) Development of a dashboard that will track usage and the types of resources/services that learners/educators/parents are accessing on the platform.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

UNICEF South Africa identified three key office-wide priorities for the current programme cycle, namely: violence against children, early childhood development and adolescent development, delivery of which demands a multi-sectoral approach.

Responding to the high levels of violence against children (VAC) in the country took centre stage with the launch of the #EndViolence campaign in July by the Minister of Social Development and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Gavin Rajah, providing a platform for a number of strategic partnerships with key mass media agencies to raise awareness on the issue. Significant progress was made toward strengthening the capacity of the Department of Basic Education (DBE) using tools to maximize ‘violence free’ schools, ensuring that data on incidences of VAC are tracked effectively. The Department of Health (DOH) was supported to revise “Guidelines for the Management of Child Abuse” and the National Youth Policy, ensuring that the detection, diagnosis, treatment, referral and follow-up of cases of violence against children are adequately managed.

The ECD internal working group met regularly and contributed to the draft National Policy on Early Child Development, in relation to early learning and development, nutrition, child health, social assistance and child protection. Furthermore, it contributed to the promotion of hand-washing for very young children as an effective deterrent to the spread of diseases, including advocating for the inclusion of ECD services in the DSD provincial profiling process currently underway.

The Adolescent Development task team supported delivery of the programme through a well-
established school-based structure of the Girls and Boys Education Movement (G/BEM). Over 1,000 G/BEM members have been trained in the Eastern Cape to disseminate information on prevention of HIV and gender-based violence (GBV). The trained G/BEM members were able to reach over 5,000 learners, 700 parents and 105 educators through community dialogues that included HIV and GBV prevention messages on World AIDS Day and during the 16 Day of No Violence against Children and Women. Furthermore technical support was provided to the DoH to conduct a rapid assessment of Youth-Friendly Services (YFS), develop a Blueprint for Action for paediatric and adolescent HIV and TB and review the Policy Guideline on Youth and Adolescents.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

UNICEF South Africa’s Country Programme Document (CPD) is rooted in the human rights-based approach to programming, and continues to apply this approach to ensure that focus remains on equity in the realisation and advancement of the rights of all children, especially those most at risk and trapped in cycles of poverty, inequality and exclusion. Applying a causality analysis and prioritisation, UNICEF identified three over-arching priority areas to be “game changers” for equity in child rights realisation in South Africa, with a multiplier effect:

- early childhood development, prevention of violence against children and adolescent development, with a focus on adolescent girls.

Partnerships continue to be strengthened with organisations that enhance the human rights agenda, such as the strong partnership with the South African Human Rights Commission. In 2014 a special focus on upholding the principle of non-discrimination, especially in the realisation of children’s socio-economic rights, was pursued with the completion of an assessment of poverty traps and social exclusion among South Africa’s children. This report was also presented to Parliament.

The 15-year backlog in the country’s international reporting on child rights was closed as Cabinet approved the 2nd, 3rd and 4th CRC, OPSC and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) reports in 2013, which were submitted in 2014. The ACRWC report was received by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which had an official engagement with the Government of South Africa (final concluding observation are awaited).

UNICEF published and disseminated a guide for parliamentarians and local counsellors with practical ideas for engaging children in their constituency work. To ensure that policy-makers and practitioners alike have easy access to child rights instruments, UNICEF South Africa published a consolidated booklet with all child rights instruments and General Comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the CRC, UNICEF, in partnership with the South African Human Rights Commission, published a poster on child rights for nationwide distribution.

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

UNICEF continues to be an active member of the UN Gender Theme Group, led by UN Women; however, the group was not active in 2014. Nonetheless UNICEF worked closely with UNFPA and UN Women to ensure that gender was effectively reflected in the final results matrix of the UN Strategic Cooperation framework for South Africa. In 2014 UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA continued to work closely with the newly established Department of Women, as well as with Save the Children South Africa and the Department of Social Development, to strengthen programming for ending violence against children and women.
Most notably, UNICEF launched the End Violence against Children campaign in July with the Minister of Social Development and UNICEF’s National Goodwill Ambassador Gavin Rajah, in collaboration with the Cape Town Fashion week. The campaign gained momentum and support across the nation with partnerships through Sterkinekor (over 30 of South Africa’s movie houses), the Gautrain, the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) etc. UNICEF and partners also continue to support the Techno Girl programme that provides opportunities for girls in the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects – which currently has over 10,000 girls from disadvantaged communities placed nationally in the programme, more than 500 of whom reached tertiary level. UNICEF worked closely with Tracker and Uweso Consulting (the implementing partner for Techno Girl) to develop a similar programme for boys from disadvantaged communities, to be called “Man in the Making” planned to start in 2015.

The Department of Basic Education finalised a draft policy on Gender Equality and Equity. The policy will be gazetted for public comment in February 2015 and legislated in mid-July 2015. The policy will contribute to ensuring a gender sensitive/responsive system impacting on empowered educators and learners, leading to improved performance for both girls and boys, as well as minimising all forms of exploitation and abuse, including GBV, in schools.

**Environmental Sustainability**

UNICEF supported the DSD to expand the Isibindi programme – a community-based family strengthening and child protection programme directly targeting vulnerable children and their families in Eastern Cape Province. This programme, in addition to offering home visitation programmes to prevent, detect and refer protection risks and vulnerabilities, also includes the establishment of “safe parks” – green areas where children engage in recreational activities under the supervision of trained child and youth care workers. To date, approximately 5,000 children are benefiting from the UNICEF-supported programme, while Government-supported Isibindi programmes are reaching approximately 100,000 children nationwide.

**Effective Leadership**

In a bid to strengthen and streamline programme oversight and quality assurance, UNICEF developed a management dashboard to monitor financial and programme performance on a monthly basis, linked to results for children and regional priorities. The Finance Dashboard provides the CMT with an overview of UNICEF’s financial status. It is updated on a monthly basis, and used as a monitoring tool, in particular in relation to unspent balances and commitments.

The harmonised approach to cash transfers (HACT) Dashboard provides key data per section on HACT and active Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs). A further breakdown, which provides data on each individual PCA, is attached as a separate Annex. Data is provided for key assurance activities, relating to micro-assessments, spot-checks, programme monitoring visits and scheduled audits. UNICEF South Africa also developed comprehensive HACT standard operating procedures (SOP), adapted from the global guidelines with input from both the Regional Office and Headquarter. To operationalise the guidance in the SOP, UNICEF further developed templates for programme planning and monitoring. The CMT met monthly to review, among other things, key management priorities and the acceleration of cross-sectoral priorities. UNICEF also held mid-year and annual reviews, both internally and externally with counterparts and partners, to take stock and plan.

Until 2013 the CMT tracked Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) status based on the Risk
Control Library and Risk profile developed in 2011 and updated annually. Following a decision by the CMT, a comprehensive risk assessment and reporting exercise based on the new ERM guidelines, with the participation of all staff, was conducted in November 2014. The ‘Risk Assessment, Residual Risk Rating and Action Plan’ were to be reviewed by the CMT in December 2014 and incorporated in the 2015 annual management plan (AMP), section work plans and individual work plans.

The CMT also reconstituted the Internal Control Committee in October 2014, with a cross-section of staff from Operations and Programmes as members, to review all closed audit recommendation from the 2010 Internal Audit Report and previous peer review recommendations to ascertain if all the implemented actions have been sustained and complied with, in addition to other objectives, including:

- Preparation for upcoming internal/external audits and peer reviews
- Self-assessment exercises to identify strengths and weaknesses of existing internal controls
- Work processes review and quality assurance
- Monitor performance of Statutory Committees
- Staff knowledge management
- Internal control documentation and record keeping

The Business Continuity Plan (BCP) was updated with staff and in light of logistical changes in 2014. The updated BCP was shared with the Crisis Management Team members and Critical Operations Staff. A simulation exercise to test the BCP was carried out in July 2014 at the designated alternate site. The shortcomings and lessons learnt from the exercise were incorporated in the BCP.

### Financial Resources Management

There has been an upward trend in funding annually for the current Country Programme, from 57 per cent of the ceiling reached in 2013, to 70 per cent in 2014.

Contributions and budget control are systematically managed through the ‘Finance Dashboard’, a monitoring tool that tracks funding, commitments, grant expiry and key expenditure categories per section. For 2014, due to the timely re-phasing of funds to 2015, utilisation was over 95 per cent for OR funds and over 97 per cent for RR funds.

Attention was given to HACT management, with a weekly alert sent to all staff for monitoring direct cash transfer advances, for improved financial control of funds advanced to implementing partners.

UNICEF South Africa had 19 active partners during 2014; spot-checks were conducted for 16 of these partners. Ten micro-assessments were conducted, of which six were for new partners and four were due to the five-year threshold. One simplified financial assessment was done for a new partner. Programme monitoring visits were conducted for 15 of the 19 partners.

The Institutional budget allocations was US$1,487,885 with US$163,983 allocated to non-staff costs and the balance to national staff salaries, with receipt of an additional US$4,000 to cover security enhancement costs. The exchange rate in 2014 was very favourable, with the average rate of exchange being R10.85/US$1. OR resources for operating costs amounted to US$337,837, and RR funds to the value of US$112,260. OR and RR allocations for operating costs included salary costs for staff in operations funded from programme budgets.

UNICEF South Africa maintains two bank accounts; for Private Sector Fund Raising and
Country Programme/ operational activities. Monthly bank reconciliations were completed within the deadline. Cash flow forecasting remained a challenge.

The bank signatory panel was kept up-to-date during the year. Transactions were coded to correct GL accounts.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

A ‘Weekly Alert’ report tracks all outstanding donor reports due/overdue, ensuring that all 36 donor reports were submitted on time. UNICEF South Africa experienced certain technical issues with regard to three donor reports that were noted as outstanding, although they had been submitted; this was resolved in October with HQ's assistance.

As noted per the ‘Financial Resource Management’ section, the Finance Dashboard tracks grant utilisation by section. Funds earmarked for 2015, as per donor conditions, were re-phased to 2015, thereby resulting in a high utilisation rate for the 2014 period.

**Evaluation**

Planning and implementation of the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) is monitored by the CMT on a regular basis. The SOP and other relevant tools are used to guide the commissioning, production, dissemination and use of reports from studies, surveys and evaluations. The SOP also maps out the role of the sections in relation to planning and prioritisation, implementation and dissemination of work that will form part of the IMEP. Management responses for evaluations were prepared. Findings and recommendations of evaluations are used to improve programme performance.

The 2012 impact assessment of the Child Support Grant was one of the most illuminating impact evaluations of the grant since it was introduced more than a decade ago. The assessment showed that accessing the grant has contributed to improved developmental outcomes of beneficiary children, such as improved height-for-age scores, reduced likelihood of being ill, ability to complete more grades of schooling and lesser likelihood to be involved in child labour. These outcomes of the CSG had been highlighted in previous reports, but this was the first time that rigorous analysis of primary data was undertaken. The study also highlighted the impeding factors, key among which were: that a considerable number of children were accessing the social grant later in life, hence the positive impact of the grant on children was not fully realised, and a considerable number of children were still not able to access the grants due to institutional barriers. The assessment study was followed up with a focused study, “Preventing Exclusion from the Child Support Grant – A study of Exclusion Errors in Accessing CSG Benefits”, which highlighted who the excluded children were, their characteristics and factors that prevented them from accessing the grants.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

The three potential areas identified by UNICEF South Africa for cost-savings were travel, telecommunication and staff overtime. The expenditure on official travel was reduced by adopting a number of measures such as: eliminating overnight stay whenever possible, implementation of a two-week deadline for travel requests for domestic travel and four-week deadline for international travel, facilitating purchase of cheaper tickets. Further, UNICEF significantly reduced telecommunication costs by rationalising the allocation of cellular phones and 3G internet cards, scaling down the service provider packages and discontinuing roaming access, as well as by restricting overseas call facilities and encouraging the use of VOIP on
landlines. In view of the expanding programme activities and renewed thrust in terms of partnerships and fundraising the CMT has agreed to review and revise the cost savings targets for 2015.

In December 2012 the UN Country Team approved and communicated to Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) that South Africa will be one of the pilot countries for the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) Framework, after which the Operations Management Team (OMT) completed the baseline analysis, needs analysis and cost benefit analysis of the existing and proposed common services for the UN Agencies in South Africa. The BOS exercise, which was disrupted due to a change in UNDP operations management staff, is expected to be completed by February 2015 with support and assistance from DOCO and UNDG Reference Group on common services.

The South Africa OMT succeeded in maintaining UN common services contracts for travel, insurance, security, building maintenance, Internet services, pest control, office supplies and stationery and cleaning services, and proposes to initiate UN common long-term agreements (LTAs) for hotels and conference venues, taxi services and cafeteria services in 2015. UNICEF South Africa is currently leading the procurement and human resources working groups of the South Africa OMT.

**Supply Management**

The Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, and South Africa (BNLSS) Procurement Centre (PC) continued procuring programme-related supplies and institutional contracting, providing technical assistance with market surveys, prequalification of printers, design services and establishment of LTAs for BNLSS, as well as technical and VISION support.

The BNLSS PC also supported an additional 15 UNICEF Offices in the procurement of emergency and regular supplies. Supply Division was supported in sourcing and procurement of infant formula for Ebola-affected countries.

The BNLSS Review Meeting held in February 2014 to assess the operation was attended by BNLSS representatives. The Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted prior to the review meeting indicated an 85 per cent satisfaction rate for the centre. The meeting facilitated further streamlining of business processes including SOPs, communication and monitoring.

The BNLSS PC procured a wide range of goods and services. Total procurement in 2014 values US$4,991,518 million, of which US$337,333 and US$1,380,083 accounted for Operations and Programme supplies, respectively. Procurement of services contracts represented US$3,274,102. Key commodities included: school furniture (Mauritania, Mali) motorcycle ambulances (Zambia, Uganda), printing (SA, Guinea Bissau, Eritrea, Malawi, and Chad), Mother-Baby-Packs (Lesotho); water purification chemicals & NFI kits (Kenya, Somalia, CAR, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Namibia), warehousing (Namibia, Lesotho, CDR), vehicles and parts (Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Swaziland). Major services contracted for BNLSS are: F2F individual giving (fundraising) and ECD, HIV/AIDS and Child Protection-related contracts.

Valuable surge support was provided by three staff to L3 emergencies, Iraq and South Sudan, as well as one month to Malawi for supply assistance and audit preparation. The UN Procurement Working Group, led by UNICEF, was instrumental in the establishment of LTAs for Internet connectivity, travel management services and HACT micro-assessment. Minimal
participation and commitment from agencies remains an obstacle to meeting all planned objectives.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

Pretoria is currently classified as “A” duty station with a moderate security level. While the security level in the rest of the country is low, Gauteng Province (where Pretoria and Johannesburg are located) is rated as moderate only due to the prevailing crime situation.

UNDSS, through their SRA, in 2011 classified the UN premises in Pretoria as not fully MOSS-compliant. The premises will never achieve 100 per cent MOSS compliance due to lack of standoff distance, inability to implement access control, inadequate parking facilities for UN staff and occupancy by non-UN entities on the first four floors of the building. The UN building is located at the corner of two very busy streets in Pretoria's CBD, where petty crimes are common. Despite the deployment of additional security guards at various points in the street to protect UN staff, several security incidents have occurred. For more than 10 years the UNCT and OMT have been pursuing with the Government of South Africa (GOSA) an alternate accommodation for the UN agencies, but without much success despite assurances from GOSA that an exclusive UN building may be constructed.

In August 2014 a severe earthquake in Pretoria exposed a number of serious shortcomings in terms of evacuation of the UN building, assembly point and assessment of damage to the building structure. After this incident UNICEF, with the support of the Regional Director and Regional Security, presented a case to DFAM, NYHQ for relocation from the current building to fully MOSS-compliant premises, along with other interested UN agencies, and have obtained a conditional go-ahead. UNICEF planned to publish an advertisement detailing the specifications and MOSS requirements in the newspapers to elicit responses from commercial building owners and real estate agents by 15 Dec 2014, and to identify suitable office premises by the end of January 2015.

A comprehensive Risk Assessment and Reporting exercise, with participation by all staff, was conducted in November 2014. The Risk Assessment, Residual Risk Rating and Action Plan will be reviewed and incorporated in the 2015 AMP, work plans of sections and individual work plans.

The Business Continuity Plan was updated with staff and logistical changes in 2014. The updated BCP was shared with Crisis Management Team members and the Critical Operations Staff. A simulation exercise to test the BCP was carried out in July 2014 at the designated alternate site. The shortcomings and lessons learnt from the exercise were incorporated in the BCP.

Warden lists and the communication tree were updated monthly and shared with all staff. UNICEF residential wardens and fire wardens regularly participate in the meetings and trainings hosted by UNDSS. Provisions and reimbursements under MORSS, based on UNDSS assessment, cover security installations at the residences of international professionals. UNICEF provides salary advances equivalent to four months’ net salary to local staff for security enhancement at their residences, based on UNDSS assessment.
UNICEF South Africa continues to respond to change in the programming landscape by reviewing its resourcing, to remain agile and relevant in delivering results for women and children. There were two structural reviews: i) a comprehensive review for operations functions as part of Global Shared Service consolidation – no staff on encumbered post were affected as UNICEF made use of natural attrition and unencumbered posts. ii) a Communications Section review, based on changes in the scope and recognition of untapped potential in Corporate Social Responsibility and corporate partnerships in South Africa. This required a strategic shift in required competencies. Management and the Staff Association worked closely together, hosting a critical Staff Retreat that resulted in a comprehensive set of action plans and development of a Staff Charter that articulates behavioural expectations for workplace relations. As there was no Global Staff Survey in 2013, these action plans have set a common framework for improvements; the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) tracks progress on key issues. Two formal JCC meetings were held, and the JCC vigorously encouraged all staff to participate in the Global Staff Survey 2014 and await the results.

UNICEF South Africa achieved 100 per cent completion of staff assessments (PAR), which is regularly monitored through All-Staff, Country Management and Regional Management Team meetings. There is a functioning local inter-agency UN Cares, led by a fulltime UN staff counsellor. UNICEF is a key player on the overall interagency team. Dialogue is in advanced stages with UNAIDS to revamp and accelerate UN Cares in Pretoria, engaging more strongly with UNCT for visibility and effectiveness. Supervisors are required, and all staff encouraged, to successfully complete the HIV in the Workplace Training. Compliance with all mandatory courses is monitored quarterly in conjunction with UNICEF’s active Local Learning Committee, which also develops the annual learning plan and submits an annual learning report. The emergency preparedness framework was developed as part of the Risk Management review and is monitored by the CMT and the Regional Office. Ebola preparedness was a key focus during the last half of 2014.

UNICEF’s human resource team, as a common service hub, supports the five countries in the sub-region BNLSS, and Angola, through which, managing people for results (MP4R) and competency-based interviewing (CBI) training, aimed at equipping staff with self and supervisory management skills, is offered annually. Total staff trained: MP4R – 24, CBI – 82 and facilitation of two staff retreats. Recruitment and selection of all professional level staff was also managed through the hub, complementing UNICEF’s unique positioning as a sub-regional leader and loci. Twenty recruitments were completed, and four countries received support for their GSSC reviews, onward submissions and effecting staffing changes. UNICEF South Africa staff also supported five UNICEF offices outside the sub-region with staff missions for emergency response and one for training in competency-based interviewing (CBI). As the designated country of medical evacuation for Africa, UNICEF South Africa supported 28 medical evacuations from 15 UNICEF offices and unfortunately, facilitated two repatriations of staff who passed away while undergoing care.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

Migration to the new UNICEF standard of office automation in the cloud-based Office 365 suite, which in addition to typical tools such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint, MS Outlook (that replaced Lotus Notes), includes the new MS Lync and OneDrive for Business was embraced. MS Outlook came with an offering of an inbox size of 50GB, ten times larger than that of Lotus Notes, and the capability to send mail attachments of up to 25MB as opposed to 10MB previously. MS Lync is revolutionising the way that staff members connect and collaborate with
each other and other UNICEF staff globally across the organisation as well as with partners, using such user-friendly features as instant messaging (IM) and audio/video conferencing. Time and space have shrunk, travel costs were reduced and collaboration is instant. With each user having a business account and access to OneDrive for Business, cloud file storage of up to 1 Terabyte each is available for all users to access from anywhere, as long as they have internet connectivity.

The above migration also meant that UNICEF South Africa broadened its mobility policy, by upgrading from the somewhat limiting Blackberry platform to open source smartphones such as the Samsung Galaxy S4. With all the features of Office 365 extended to this handset, UNICEF’s workforce became mobile, with the ability to work from anywhere, at any time.

All of the above has led to a reduction in UNICEF South Africa’s technical ICT footprint. It continues to engage in social media and has active accounts with both Facebook and Twitter that are also linked to local website. UNICEF also continued to grow its innovations footprint, through several ICT4D and C4D projects.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** Women, children and adolescents have improved and equitable access to high quality maternal, child and adolescent health and nutrition interventions

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Government continues to fast track implementation of the Maternal, New-born, Child, Women’s Health and Nutrition strategy 2012-2016 towards the achievement of the MDGs for maternal and under-five child mortality. In 2014, the Department of Health commissioned an independent review of the strategy, for which UNICEF served as the lead technical agency providing overall technical support and oversight. The review provided specific recommendations at all levels of health care delivery to fast-track implementation and achievement of results and targets for MDGs 4 and 5. This was linked to the ‘Countdown to MDGs 4 and 5’ report finalised by the Department of Health, highlighting 18 priority interventions necessary to achieve MDG 4 and 5 targets.

In 2014 the country administered two rounds of HPV vaccine to all Grade 4 learners. The national new-born care implementation plan was finalised and approved for dissemination to all facilities across the country. The plan outlines key interventions to address the important causes of neonatal deaths at different levels of health care service delivery across the country. The national ‘Mom Connect’ programme to register and send text alert messages to all pregnant women in the country was launched and rolled out by the Government, with almost 160,000 pregnant women receiving regular messages on their mobile phones by the end of 2014. The women receive messages linked to their stage of pregnancy and the age of their babies, and are also able to send text messages to the Department of Health to either compliment the health service they receive or to complain.

Significant progress was evident in the reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV rates (<2 per cent in some provinces as per DHIS, 2014). The country is moving to lifelong treatment for all HIV-positive pregnant women as of 1st January 2015. Intensive and targeted support for
provinces and districts lagging behind will be needed to reach the last mile target of <2 per cent six week MTCT rate target by 2015. Access to paediatric ART increased to 73 per cent by mid-2014 (from 68 per cent in 2013), as per the routine health information system. More efforts will be directed towards supporting provinces and districts to identify, test and link HIV-positive children to care by integrating paediatric HIV care into other child survival interventions and across other sectors in 2015.

OUTPUT 1 Health systems strengthened to improve quality, access and utilisation of high impact maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health and nutrition interventions.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The monitoring system for tracking progress in maternal, new-born and child health is functional and used at national, provincial and district levels to inform programme action. This is a key achievement for the country and work is ongoing to build capacities at decentralised levels to collate data for these dashboards and analyse to inform programme action.

The national new-born care implementation plan was finalised and approved by the national Department of Health in 2014. The plan was informed by district-level workshops conducted in 2013-2014 and highlights key actions needed to fast-track results for new-born care. Further work to institutionalise new-born care planning at provincial, district and facility level and develop, implement and monitor tailored plans for new-born care will be carried out in 2015.

A baseline study to understand the status of violations of the code for breast milk substitutes was completed in 2014. This will form the basis for planning and implementing a monitoring system to understand and track violations (if any) in the country. The study will be discussed and next steps agreed with the Department of Health in 2014.

Work continues to progress on implementation of the three streams of primary health care reengineering: district-based clinical specialist teams, ward-based outreach teams and the integrated school health programme. An assessment of the leadership and management training package, developed and implemented with UNICEF’s support and focused on results for maternal and child health, was completed for one province. This effort informed further work in the area, including a national assessment to be undertaken in 2015.

Ward-based outreach teams have facilitated improvements in uptake of early booking for ANC and improved coverage of post-natal care (such as the 6-day post-natal visit and EPI). However, continued efforts are needed to develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive infant and young child feeding strategy and package to address low exclusive breastfeeding rates and reduce the early introduction of solid foods before six months, in order to reduce the prevalence of stunting and paediatric obesity.

The Integrated School Health Program (ISHP) improved its performance in 2014; additional numbers of learners in Grades 1, 4 and 8 were reached with school health programmes. The country successfully completed the administering of two doses of HPV vaccine to grade 4 learners this year, with one dose in February/March and the second dose in September/October. Now over 300,000 learners nine years of age in 2014 are protected against the human papilloma virus.

OUTPUT 2 Quality, access and utilisation of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and paediatric and maternal AIDS care and treatment services improved.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Significant progress continues to be seen in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) programme, with the transmission rate at six weeks estimated at 2.6 per cent in 2012 (MRC Impact study 2012). A change in the guidelines is scheduled for 1 January 2015, with all HIV-positive pregnant and breastfeeding women receiving ART for life. Major work is still required to roll out the revised guidelines, including training of health personnel, consultations with civil society and women living with HIV, supporting DoH with roll-out plans and monitoring.

Decentralised quality improvement workshops at district and sub-district levels continue to be conducted to build capacities in quality data management to inform programme design. Data for action reports with dashboards were completed every quarter and used for programme monitoring. Work is ongoing to finalise the “Investment Case for South Africa for HIV”, of which PMTCT is a key component. Work is also ongoing for HIV spectrum estimates at province and district levels for South Africa, including for PMTCT and paediatric HIV.

The country completed an elimination of mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) stock-taking exercise across all provinces and districts, with action plans to fast-track momentum towards the eMTCT goal by 2016. Work to improve coverage and access for children infected with HIV and to fast track access to treatment is ongoing. Further work to improve decentralised monitoring and planning at the facility level for paediatric and adolescent HIV is envisaged in 2015. A rapid assessment of adolescent and youth-friendly services in South Africa was completed, including recommendations to support and inform adolescent and youth health policy at the national level. The policy is planned for roll-out and implementation across the country in 2015.

OUTCOME 2 All boys and girls access improved quality education, with increased school retention, completion and achievement rates

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Good progress continues to be made by the Department of Basic Education to address systemic barriers to quality education. Performance, as measured by the Annual National Assessment (ANA) results, is on an upward trajectory. This is especially the case with respect to languages. However, the progressive decline in mathematics performance from Grade 1 to Grade 9 is a cause for concern. In particular, performance in mathematics in Grade 9 regressed from 14 per cent in 2013 to 11 per cent in 2014. What is more, only 3 per cent of learners in Grade 9 achieved a 50 per cent pass or higher. Urgent intervention is required in the intermediate and senior phase to turn this trajectory around. UNICEF is supporting the Department to develop resource materials for educators on summative assessment in mathematics for Grades 3, 6 and 9 based on the ANA results. Subject advisors in five provinces, targeting eight underperforming districts, will be trained and will train teachers on this topic. DBE will subsequently roll out the training to all 83 districts based on the model developed through this process.

Following the findings of the 2012 National School Violence Survey, UNICEF supported the DBE to develop a National School Safety Framework. This Framework provides standard operational guidelines for provinces to implement more detailed plans relating to school safety, including standardised school safety indicators. It also provides guidance on the development of a school safety plan and promotes the engagement of key partners within the school and in the community to ensure overall safety in schools. Through this framework schools are expected to collect data on violence and upload the data on the national Education Management Information System (EMIS). All indicators on school safety frameworks have now been included in the
South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS), which is part of EMIS. This is a single data source of operational data from schools for districts, provinces and the national office of DBE. Standardised reporting protocols are being developed to ensure harmonised reporting of incidents of violence by all schools. The final draft of the framework was consolidated in June 2014 through a provincial consultation with over 800 stakeholders from various Government departments and civil society. In October 2014 a national consultation was held with the intention of consolidating all input received from the provincial consultations, after which the final draft was submitted for approval by the Minister.

The Basic Education Department has identified the heads of schools, teachers and district subject advisers to be trained, with knowledge and skills, to prevent, identify and respond to incidences of GBV in their schools using an existing and updated publication for educators called “Opening Our Eyes”. The idea is that the trained officials will complete the entire course to improve their content knowledge, and will be encouraged to work together in professional learning communities to achieve better and safer environment for teaching and learning. The training has already been disseminated to eight provinces, reaching over 500 master trainers.

Following the finalisation of the gender audit in the education sector, the DBE developed a Policy Framework on Gender Equality and Equity. This is a starting point for ensuring that all learners, especially girls, have access to quality education and that schools are safe environments for teaching and learning. It is intended to contribute to the elimination of all gender disparities in primary and secondary education, which are affecting not just enrolment, but safety and security, prevalence of sexual and gender violence, the ability to make informed choices regarding learner pregnancy, and so on. It will ensure that parity is supplemented with a view of the quality of the school experience, including: quality of infrastructure and facilities, the availability of good teaching and learning materials, the framing of curriculum content, the nature of pedagogy, teacher-learner relations, freedom from discrimination and the experiences of educators and other workers in the education sector. This policy framework will also ensure that the basic education sector, at various levels of government, has a uniform and consistent system to address issues of inequality and inequity, in addition to fulfilling its reporting obligations to various structures (e.g. United Nations, African Union and Southern African Development Community).

To support retention and quality completion, there has been a strong focus on improving the participation of girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, with an estimated 12,000 girls (through the Techno Girl programme) currently active in the programme nation-wide (an additional group of more than 266 girls have been accepted at different tertiary institutions and 289 are already employed). Challenges, though, remain, including for girls with a disability. The Girls/Boys Education Movement has close to half a million active members (55 per cent girls) and continues to empower both girls and boys through youth leadership, life skills, sports, music and other creative programmes. Coverage of Sports for Development programmes increased from 14,000 to 18,000 participants nation-wide (75 per cent of schools, with a 44 per cent participation level for girls, 30 per cent participation by disabled children of whom 45 per cent are girls.

Through evidence-based advocacy, the state is preparing to take over the provision of ECD. A process is in place, with UNICEF’s support, to develop a new ECD policy and programme (that encapsulates a comprehensive package on services – with a focus on ages 0-to-4), and will include state-backed delivery and financing models. Models to strengthen the provision of ECD services at community level were applied in one province, and a centre of excellence was developed. Although access for the 0-to-4 age group to equitable, quality ECD
services/programmes is still a challenge, parity has been reached in the 35 per cent access rate. In addition the proportion of five year olds accessing grade R increased from 51 per cent to 77 per cent; 91.5 per cent of public schools have grade R classes.

OUTPUT 1 Strengthened national capacity to increase access to and utilization of quality integrated early childhood development services, with a focus on the most vulnerable children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The National Curriculum Framework for Birth to Four, based on the National Early Learning and Development Standards, was reviewed and approved by the DBE, which obtained approval to start phasing in the framework. Technical and financial support was provided to the Eastern Cape Province during 2014 to review and strengthen its model for an ECD Hub. This will be linked to the province’s strategic plan for early childhood development. Drafts of the National Comprehensive ECD Policy and ECD programmes were completed in May 2014, followed by internal Government consultations with all provinces as well as the disability sector. The documents are being prepared to be gazetted by Cabinet for public comment early in 2015.

Approval of this policy will be a catalyst that will facilitate universal access to an essential and a comprehensive package of services for all children, especially those that are vulnerable. UNICEF assisted A Chance to Play (ACTP) Southern Africa to develop an advocacy strategy for play in South Africa and neighbouring countries, which is linked to UNICEF’s programmatic advocacy in favour of play-based learning in early childhood development. UNICEF continues to play a key role in coordinating the ECD donor community (serving as secretariat to the ECD Donor and Development Partner Forum), and has lobbied hard to focus additional resources for ECD on vulnerable children and groups in areas least serviced.

Groundwork for innovation for accessible ECD support through mobile technology (ECDmobi) was initiated through conceptual work and engagement of Government partners and technology partners, with an overwhelmingly positive response from the Department of Basic Education. A strategic knowledge broker, UNICEF organised, in partnership with the DBE, DSD and the Presidency, an ECD Knowledge-Building Seminar to review from an evidence base (research) the progress that the country has made in the past 20 years and to re-emphasise the importance of evidence in shaping ECD policy and programmes.

OUTPUT 2 Strengthened education systems for the delivery of quality education for improved learner progression and performance in at least quintile 1 and 2 schools.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Training of national and provincial officials on the use of data for managing for results was completed by Stellenbosch University, and is reported to have had a positive impact on decision-making systems to inform planning and interventions. Support was provided to develop resource material to enable educators to conduct summative assessments in mathematics using ANA data to inform teaching practice. In 2015 subject advisors will be trained, who in turn will train and support educators to implement error analysis. The DBE is committed to rolling out this work to all 83 districts based on the model developed through this process. A virtual school called uKUFUNDa was also developed to increase access to teaching and learning resources to both learners and educators, to facilitate teacher development through self-assessment and professional learning communities, to provide access to counselling and support services and to enable communication across all levels of the education system, including with parents.

UNICEF also supported the DBE to review several key entities in terms of performance and alignment with the sector plan. A consortium of partners, including UNICEF, is also supporting DBE to test three models of early grade reading, using a randomised control trial.

Technical
assistance was provided to the DBE to define the three interventions to be tested in 2015.

Technical assistance was provided to enhance school health, through the development of a five-year strategy for the Integrated School Health Programme. Further support was provided to refine the logic model and M&E framework in order to track results. In addition, technical support is being provided to the Department to conceptualise a deworming programme announced in the Minister’s budget vote speech in 2014.

OUTPUT 3 Increased number of schools that meet national quality standards based on 'safe and caring child-friendly schools' (SCCFS) model, with a focus on quintile 1 and 2 schools.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A total of 452 (79 per cent female) teachers were trained in Physical Education, 15 farm schools from two provinces participated in the Music for Development national programme, following life skills and music training benefitting 4,720 learners (60 per cent girls) and 150 teachers (80 per cent female). In addition 2,715 youth leaders (63 per cent girls) received training to lead empowerment activities at the school level. They, in turn, inducted 125,103 learners (59 per cent girls) into the G/BEM sports programme. The culmination was the national G/BEM awards at the end of the year.

'Social Cohesion Guidelines' with a special emphasis on GBV were finalised. The guidelines seek to build South African school communities that are inclusive and enabling environments – social 'hubs' that bring people together and foster learning and social development, in line with the National Development Plan. The guidelines cover issues such as teenage pregnancy, vulnerability of teenage girls to HIV infections and gender norms and stereotypes. The guidelines are intended to assist schools to conduct dialogue with learners, educators and members of the communities, including parents, traditional leaders and others. This was well demonstrated most recently in Eastern Cape Province, where over 1,000 G/BEM members have been trained to disseminate information on prevention of HIV and GBV. The trained G/BEM members were able to reach over 5,000 learners, 700 parents and 105 educators through community dialogues with HIV and GBV prevention messages during the World AIDS Day and during the 16 Days of No Violence against Children and Women. Peace education and peace-building are key principles of the toolkit, ensuring strong linkages with the National School Safety Framework (NSSF). It is envisaged that those who participate in the community dialogues become agents of peace building and reconciliation advocating that girls and women are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

The draft NSSF was developed and shared with district, provincial and national officials in education and other relevant stakeholders for further analysis and refinement, following a verification workshop held in October. An implementation plan and monitoring tools have been drafted, incorporating indicators from the Social Cohesion Toolkit. This will assist schools to implement school safety plans and monitor progress on a regular basis. This information will be collected on monthly at the school level through the South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS), and will be collated and analysed at the district level.

The face-to-face training on GBV, with an online mentoring component, is under development to support teachers in addressing GBV in their schools. The training was rolled out, reaching over 500 master trainers who, in turn, have started training 7,500 educators. Modules included in the manual cover the legislative environment on GBV issues for adolescents in terms of the sexual offences act, homophobic bullying and sexual harassment. The training is intended to reach 180,000 (72 per cent female) teachers over the next four years, targeting 20 worst-performing
districts – with the support of 2,500 (70 per cent female) master trainers. This activity will be tracked through indicators already developed as part of the National School Safety Framework.

**OUTCOME 3** All children have their rights to protection from violence, exploitation, neglect and discrimination recognized and fulfilled.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The GoSA made some progress in tackling the high levels of violence in the country. Violent crime reduction strategies are included in the National Development Plan Vision 2030 and the Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019. Both documents clearly articulate the necessity to adopt multi-sectoral, integrated approaches to address the root causes of crime, although they do not include specific targets to reduce violence against women and children. Violence against children remains pervasive. In 2013/2014 the South African Police Service recorded a total of 45,230 contact crimes against children, of which: 22,781 were sexual offenses; 11,104 common assaults; 9,630 assaults with the intent to inflict grievous bodily harm; 869 attempted murders; and 846 murders. Although the number of contract crimes declined slightly from the previous year, certain categories of contact crimes, including murder and attempted murder, have increased. UNICEF’s technical assistance to the GoSA to combat violence against children and women (VACW) was critical in supporting key interventions contained in the Cabinet-approved Programme of Action 2013-2018, coordinated by the Inter-ministerial committee (IMC) on VACW including:

- Analysis and evaluation of existing Government programmes specifically designed to tackle VACW
- Research on direct and indirect causes of VACW, using quantitative and qualitative methodologies to guide evidence-based policy and programmes
- Development of a draft monitoring and evaluation framework that includes cross-sectoral outcome level indicators to measure progress in reducing levels of VACW and providing services to beneficiaries
- Formulation of a national strategic plan to guide the re-establishment of 56 Sexual Offences Courts
- Formulation of guidelines to facilitate the planning, implementation and monitoring of communication strategies designed to influence social norms that condone and perpetuate VACW.

UNICEF also supported the Department of Social Development to roll-out a family strengthening programme (home visitation) based on the Isibindi model, and through collaboration between the provincial DSD, the University of Oxford and the University of Cape Town, to test a research-based parental programme specifically designed to reduce child maltreatment among vulnerable families.

In July 2014 the section revised the CPD result framework, drafted strategy notes and developed the Theory of Change for the Programme. It is expected that the proposed changes will inform the mid-term review and guide programme implementation in 2015-2017. The strategic direction of the programme will not substantially deviate from that already articulated in the Country Programme Document. The Child Protection Programme will tighten and refocus its efforts to reduce the extremely high levels of violence against children – with a strong focus on physical and sexual violence – acknowledging that preventing and reducing violence needs to be recognised as a key cross-cutting national priority and an essential component of the broader national transformation agenda of the country. In line with UNICEF’s Global Child Protection Strategy, UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014-2017, the World Health Organisation’s
approach and recent literature on the subject, the programme will primarily focus on prevention, attempting to reduce those factors, at the societal, community, relationship and individual levels that place children at risk of violence and abuse. Response interventions, including improving access to justice for child victims of violent crime and reduce their secondary victimisation by the criminal justice system, will also be supported. The effectiveness of both prevention and response interventions depend on the capacity of the system to implement the provisions included in relevant national legislation. Hence, the Programme will also contribute to generating the evidence needed to advocate successfully for reforming those components of the system that require strengthening, including: policy and legislation; regulatory frameworks; multi-sectoral strategy development, planning and coordination; and data collection and analysis. A stronger focus will be placed on the role to be played by other sectors, such as health, social protection and education, in preventing and responding to VAC.

Despite the improvements highlighted earlier, serious challenges limit the impact of measures introduced to more effectively prevent and reduce VAC. Insufficient provincial social development budgets and a lack of social service practitioners have frustrated the provision of services contemplated in the Children’s Act. In 2012/13, approximately 45 per cent of the basic implementation costs of the Children’s Act were covered. In addition, poor planning, management and implementation gaps have seen certain provinces under-spending the allocated child protection budgets, resulting in aggravated provincial inequity in relation to the availability of, and access to, child protection services. Although the IMC-endorsed ‘Programme of Action to Prevent and Respond to VAC-W’ contains clear, time-bound actions, it does not seem to have the necessary political back-up to ensure its translation into concrete actions.

To accelerate the Child Protection agenda – and in particular the VAC-W agenda – UNICEF collaborates closely with other UN agencies (UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women and UNAIDS), specialised NGOs (Save the Children; Childline; Institute for Child Witness Research and Training; Gender Links; Medical Research Council; Southern Hemisphere; the Institute of Security Study; etc.) and academic institutions (University of KwaZulu Natal; University of Cape Town; University of Oxford; Children’s Institute). In addition, UNICEF continued to be an active member of the Gender Theme Group led by UN Women, and the Protection Working Group led by UNHCR.

OUTPUT 1 The child protection system strengthened to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, neglect and discrimination, and to ensure the care and support of vulnerable children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2014 UNICEF intensified efforts to position VAC on national and provincial agendas and to reform specific components of the system that hamper a more effective approach to addressing the problem. Technical assistance was provided to the Inter-Ministerial Committee to Prevent and Respond to VACW [established in 2012, led by the Department of Social Development and constituted by Department of Education, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Health, South Africa Police Service, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Planning, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation] to strengthen multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for the planning, implementation and monitoring of VACW prevention and response programmes; generate new knowledge to support the development of evidence-based strategies to end VACW; and carry out institutional analysis to identify bottlenecks. UNICEF supported the Department of Performance Management and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency to conduct a diagnostic review of key Government programmes, in order to assess the effectiveness of key programmes in addressing VACW. The
wok involves two components. The first, a sector review, will assess the geographical and demographic coverage of Government programmes across the three pillars of protection; key institutional arrangements in place (service delivery mechanisms; coordination arrangements, etc.); and resource allocation. The second component, an evaluation of selected Government programmes, will examine their effectiveness in addressing VACW. Although the work commenced in July 2014, the contract with the service provider was terminated by DPME due to the poor performance. Following a third bidding process, a new service provider was selected and work will commence in Jan 2015.

To strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice sector to increase conviction rates for sexual offenses and reduce secondary victimisation, UNICEF supported the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in the formulation of a National Strategic Plan for the re-establishment of the Sexual Offenses Courts, which contain clear provisions for child-friendly standards in criminal proceedings. At end-2014, a total of 19 Sexual Offenses Courts were operational, and an additional 38 will be established by 2017.

UNICEF supported national and provincial DSDs to improve and complete provincial profiles on risk factors and child protection services in all nine provinces by: i) reviewing and amending existing tools and processes for developing provincial profiles; ii) listing and assessing the usefulness and validity of regularly updated data sources from existing surveys (including: living conditions survey, social profile of vulnerable groups, census, national income dynamics survey); iii) designing a tool for developing provincial profiles for planning child protection services and conducting a test in one province; iv) providing technical support to all nine provincial DSDs for using the tool and completing the profiles. UNICEF offered further technical assistance to DSD to develop a situation analysis of un-accompanied foreign children and recommend actions to improve the implementation of policies and legislation.

In the area of alternative care, UNICEF supported the DSD to test and revise the assessment tools for children in alternative care settings and develop a training guide for designated social workers. This will ensure standardisation in the assessment and monitoring of approximately 13,000 children in residential care facilities and improve the information management system to enable systematic tracking and follow-up of cases. Through the DFID-funded ‘Safer South Africa Programme’, UNICEF provided institutional strengthening support to the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities to: i) strengthen the organisational capacity of the National Council on GBV through the appointment of a CEO; ii) develop a national strategic plan for the GBV Council; iii) conceptualise the establishment of the first national information management system for VACW; and most importantly, iv) lead and coordinate a national, multi-sectoral response to VACW.

UNICEF also supported the DSD to expand family strengthening, parenting and adolescent development programmes through the Isibindi model, in one targeted province (Eastern Cape). The three-year programme commenced in March 2014 and aims at: i) Providing family strengthening programmes (home visitation) through trained child and youth care workers to approximately 3,000 families and 8,000 children and adolescents; ii) Empowering 8,000 adolescents and strengthen their resilience by facilitating their access to meaningful and rewarding education and livelihood opportunities; iii) Testing and rolling out a research-based parenting programme specifically designed to reduce child maltreatment among targeted families. The latter is part of a larger research collaboration between the implementing partner [Clowns without Borders], the University of Cape Town, the University of Oxford, UNICEF South Africa and the Department of Social Development. The universities of Oxford and Cape Town will evaluate the pilot programme in a pre-post pilot study funded by the European Research
Council, and the study will examine programme impact on reducing the risk of maltreatment in the home, improving parent-child communication and improving positive parenting. Initial findings from the pilot were being consolidated in late 2014, and will be shared with all key national and provincial stakeholders as of January 2015.

OUTPUT 2 National capacity strengthened to promote social norms and behavior changes that are favourable to child protection.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Efforts aimed at mobilisation, changing social norms, attitudes and behaviour that sustain VAC continued in 2014, through the consolidation of existing partnerships with Government authorities, UN agencies, academic institutions and NGOs. In collaboration with the Communication Section and under the leadership of the Representative UNICEF launched, jointly with DSD and the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, the ‘END Violence against Children campaign’. Its overall aim is to raise the visibility of the VAC agenda through the consolidation and establishment of partnerships with a broad range of public and private institutions, professional bodies, media and CSOs. UNICEF supported the Children’s Institute to produce and publish the ‘Gauge on Violence against Children’, which through an analysis of secondary data, aims to raise awareness on the issue and mobilise actions to curb it. UNICEF and UNFPA, supported by the UK Department for International Development, continued to roll out the ‘One UN Programme to Prevent Violence against Children and Women’, tackling attitudes and social norms that encourage violence through school and community programmes that engage influential, trusted individuals to act as agents of change. Through the Children’s Radio Foundation, 270 young reporters produced radio programmes on different social issues that reached an estimated 1.5 million listeners nation-wide. UNICEF supported the DSD and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on VACW to develop guidelines for planning and implementing communication interventions to tackle VACW. To more strategically contribute in this area, it would be important for UNICEF to support Government efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of the many communication programmes designed to alter cultural and social norms that foment or perpetuate violent behaviours against women and children.

OUTCOME 4 Equity-sensitive national policies, programmes and budget allocations are made based on high quality evidence and strengthened oversight

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Progress toward achieving the outcomes set in the CPD is proceeding apace, with all outcome indicators deemed to be on track. High-quality evidence and analysis was produced during 2013-14 to inform the design/expansion of programmes shown to have a positive impact on equitable outcomes for children. Despite mounting fiscal constraints, budget allocations to child-relevant sectors remain high, although the quality of expenditures needs improvement. South Africa has taken a major step toward fulfilling its CRC obligations by completing the combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th country report on implementation of the Convention, but the report has not yet been officially submitted to the Committee.

OUTPUT 1 Strengthened national capacity for evidence, policy and budget and institutional analyses, with a focus on reducing child poverty and disparity

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A new committee was appointed by the Minister of Social Development in late 2014 to advise on the reform of South Africa’s foster care system. Additionally, a study was undertaken by UNICEF, in collaboration with the South African Social Security Agency, to estimate the number
of eligible children and caregivers not accessing the Child Support Grant, their location and profile, and the factors preventing them from receiving the grant. Following the publication of the study, SASSA devised an action plan and issued a set of instructions to its provincial managers and field staff to implement the measures recommended in the SASSA/UNICEF report, with a view to expanding coverage and closing the loopholes preventing eligible children from accessing the grant. Work also continued with the National Treasury during 2014 on revising the financing model for the social welfare sector, which is beset by inefficiencies, inequities and a weak service-delivery model. To better understand how South African children can become caught up in a complex web of cumulative deprivations that reinforce one another and keep children in a situation of extreme disadvantage, a major piece of work was carried out jointly with the Human Rights Commission. The analysis showed that as many as 40 per cent of South African children are trapped in long-term, chronic, structural poverty, which thwarts their development potential from an early age and gets transmitted to their offspring in an endless cycle of poverty transmission. Further work was carried out during this year to shed light on the particularly difficult situation faced by children with disabilities.

OUTPUT 2 Child rights governance system strengthened to mobilise and support government, the legislature, civil society and children to advance the realisation of the rights of all children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
One policy dialogue was held to advocate and provide options for the elimination of corporal punishment in the home. Support was given to the Presidency for its 20-year review of progress in the realisation of child rights. Technical support was provided for finalisation of the Child-Friendly Cities framework and the development of guidelines for child participation in the integrated development planning process, as well as for the launch of Child-Friendly City initiative in the Municipality of Msunduzi, Kwa-Zulu Natal.

OUTCOME 5 All programme components supported through communication, advocacy and partnerships and improved accountability for results

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Communication and Partnerships functions provided balanced support for key priorities of the Country Programme, including resource mobilisation, C4D, advocacy and partnership efforts. The Public Information and Advocacy portfolio contributed to highlighting key child rights issues and positioned UNICEF as an authority on children’s issues through national media, public events and initiatives, with a focus in 2014 on expanding digital and social media outreach. The Private Fundraising and Partnerships portfolio continued to roll out the private fundraising and partnerships strategy, aiming to diversify income streams through corporate engagement and individual giving. The Communication for Development portfolio provided ongoing technical support in C4D to targeted programme areas, to enhance integration of hand-washing promotion messages across programme interventions and social and behaviour change in UNICEF’s work on reducing violence against women and children. Key areas of growth included the scale-up of the Young Reporters Network, with radio programming by and for children across the country, as well as the release of findings on children’s navigation of online risks, based on focus group discussions in schools across the country. The new study explores children’s use of social media in South Africa and the opportunities and threats that exist in the digital world, aiming to inform future policies and guidelines.

OUTPUT 1 Public alliances and initiatives established leading to increased awareness and understanding of child deprivations and support for child rights.
**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Media outreach throughout the year contributed to highlighting key child rights issues and positioning UNICEF as an authority on children's issues among major national media. A slight decrease in media engagement was observed in the first half of the year, mostly due to on-boarding of new staff members, as indicated by the lower number of media requests processed this year. In the later part of the year, however, the pace of media outreach picked up, focusing on key public initiatives and events. The roll-out of a new social media strategy led to significant growth and above-average engagement on our digital and social media platforms, with a 77 per cent increase in supporters on Facebook, 70 per cent on Twitter and a significant increase in page views on the website. UNICEF supported the visits of six foreign donor delegations. As part of the Digital Safety and Citizenship programme the report ‘Connected Dot Com: Young People’s Navigation of Online Risks’ was released, based on focus group discussions with 1,600 learners in 93 schools across the country. The study explores children's use of social media in South Africa and the opportunities and threats that exist in the digital world.

**OUTPUT 2** Commitment and resources from the private sector leveraged for child rights programming and advocacy

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to roll out its private fundraising and partnerships strategy, aiming to diversify income streams through corporate engagement and individual giving. Servicing and co-ordination of corporate partnerships focused on establishing reputational equity in support of two major corporate partnerships: Santam and Unilever, which together brought in a total of US$ 497,350 this year. The partnership with the media group SuperSport was renewed for four years. Opportunities to leverage partner assets included free flights for child participants as prizes for UNICEF events from Mango Airlines, sponsorship of nationwide Hand-washing Competition and G/BEM Sports Awards from Unilever and a Child Art Project to commemorate the 25th CRC anniversary, from Santam. The individual giving programme faced significant challenges as the agency responsible for the recruitment under-delivered on recruitment of pledge donors. As a result, income projections from pledges were significantly below initial targets. The number of active individual donors grew from 1,300 to nearly 1,800 during the year, bringing in a total of US$ 116,047.

**OUTPUT 3** National capacity strengthened to plan, develop, implement and monitor evidence-based communication for development strategies to ensure positive behaviour and social change.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Additional C4D capacity this year led to stronger and more strategic technical support provided to targeted programme areas in support of national strategies, including: integration of hand-washing promotion messages across programme interventions and ongoing technical support for capacity-building activities and the planning and development of a national social and behaviour change communication framework in support of the Safer South Africa programme and the Inter-ministerial Committee against violence. The Young Reporters Network continued to produce and broadcast programmes by and for children, with weekly radio shows at the existing 12 YRN radio stations, for a total of 676 hours’ worth of shows produced and 110 total shows and features uploaded and shared via Soundcloud.

**OUTPUT 4** Quality programme planning, monitoring and evaluation ensured in a timely manner for efficient and effective delivery of results for children.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF South Africa continued to have in place systems and structures for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation. Different programmes were assisted to articulate their plans in line with results-based management principles. Implementation of activities and achievement of results were reported and documented through two reviews (mid-year and annual reviews). UNICEF carried out 14 PCAs during the course of 2013. Of these, 12 had programme monitoring visits and spot-checks conducted. One evaluation was completed in 2013.

Document Center

Evaluation

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Households in South Africa - Results from a Pilot Study