Executive Summary

The year 2013 marked the beginning of the Country Programme 2013-2017 for South Africa. The country’s economy is yet to fully overcome the effects of the global recession of 2008-2009 and the recent Eurozone crisis. GDP growth was 2.1 percent in 2013, well below the 7 per cent level needed for sustained poverty reduction. Poverty and inequality remain at very high levels. About three out of five children remain in poverty. Poverty and inequality still exhibit a strong racial dimension despite significant public investment in the social and economic sectors since the end of apartheid in 1994.

On the political front, the country lost its ‘father’, Nelson Mandela, on 5 December 2013. Progressive legislation aimed at bridging socioeconomic deficits continues to receive attention in Parliament. The country is still in the process of unravelling the massacre of 34 miners during an industrial action in August of 2012. The next round of presidential elections is expected to be held in the second quarter of 2014.

UNICEF in 2013 intensified implementation of the equity agenda in all programme areas, supporting the country to address some of the major barriers to child wellbeing, including HIV, violence, poverty and poor quality education. Strategies have focused on simultaneously strengthening national policies and systems while supporting local capacity for an expanded, sustainable and inclusive development for all children.

Efforts have included assistance to various Government departments and partners on: (a) how outreach and registration programmes can cover the remaining 2.3 million children eligible, yet excluded from, the child benefit; (c) rejuvenation of efforts to bring down high levels of violence against women and children through a Government-led plan of action and a social norms and behaviour-change programme; (d) facility and district level planning for new-born care in 52 districts; (e) dashboards for district and provincial level action on PMTCT; (f) formulation of a policy framework and national programme for making early child development (ECD) services available, especially to children experiencing multiple deprivations; (g) completion of the country’s CRC report; (h) completion of a diagnostic review on nutrition; (i) training of managers of the country’s basic education programme in use of data to target areas with severe bottlenecks in service provision; (j) establishment of dashboards to track teaching and learning activities in the worst-performing schools and districts; (k) the Techno Girl programme, which improves the participation of girls in science, technology, engineering and math and involves about 11,380 girls; (l) empowerment of young people through the Girls/Boys Education Movement, involving close to half a million active members (55 per cent girls); (m) the Sports for Development programme, involving 18,000 schools (with a 44 per cent participation level for girls and 30 per cent for children with a disability); (n) child-friendly schools (CFS), involving 2,060 schools; (o) a young reporters radio programme that reaches some 600,000 people.

Lessons for next year include the need to focus more intensively on the poorest provinces and districts. Successful partnerships with Government departments, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), Parliament, research institutions and civil society organisations will also be strengthened.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

South Africa continues to be the economic powerhouse in Africa despite weak economic growth the global recession of 2008. The country also continues to wield considerable political influence through its expanding leverage at the African Union, as well as membership in the G20 and BRICS. With a population of 53 million[1], including 19 million children, and an upper-middle-income status, the country carries on with improving progress in many areas of development, especially for children.

Yet, the quintuple burden of high levels of inequality, poverty, unemployment, HIV and violence persists, despite substantial effort by the state and partners since the end of apartheid in 1994. In October 2013, the National Treasury projected GDP growth of 2.1 per cent in 2013, down from 2.5 per cent in 2012 and 3.5 per cent in 2011[2]. The slowdown in economic growth reflects global conditions as well as domestic factors. According to Statistics South Africa, the unemployment rate stood at 24.7 per cent in the third quarter of 2013; a 0.9 per cent decline from 25.5 per cent in the third quarter of 2012[3].

Almost three out of five children in South Africa live in poverty[4], a situation that shows considerable improvement since the early part of the last decade, but still reflects high levels of deprivation. The decline in child poverty is due primarily to the country’s extensive social protection system. The country’s Child Support Grant reached some 11 million children in 2013[5]. However, the apartheid legacy of inequality persists.

Overall, there was mixed progress in relation to other global goals for children. The under-five mortality rate,
though on the decline, was at a high 47 per 1,000 live births in 2011, having dropped from 74 per 1,000 live births in 2002[vii]. The leading causes of death of children under five are AIDS, neonatal causes, diarrhoea, pneumonia and injuries. Significant gains in PMTCT uptake in recent years largely accounts for the drop in the under-five mortality rate. One in five children are stunted, and less than 10 per cent of infants are exclusively breastfed up to six months. The quality of care in the public sector remains poor, and distribution and access to essential services are unequal.

According to the 2011 national antenatal sentinel HIV prevalence survey, an estimated 5,600,000 people were living with HIV, while 270,000 people died of AIDS that same year. The estimated percentage of new infections was 1.43 per cent in 2011, compared to 1.63 per cent new infections in 2008. HIV prevalence among the general adult population aged 15-to-49 years has remained stable at around 17.3 per cent since 2005. Prevalence among 15-24-year-old pregnant women was 20.5 per cent and 12.7 per cent among younger women aged 15-to-19 years. HIV prevalence increased in Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Free State and North West provinces. An estimated 460,000 children aged 0-to-14 were living with HIV in 2011 (UNAIDS). Study results from a 2011 national survey on the effectiveness of the national PMTCT programme at six weeks postpartum show a national HIV transmission rate from mother-to-child of 2.7 per cent, down from 3.5 per cent in 2010. An estimated 2 million children aged 0-to-17 years have been orphaned due to AIDS (UNAIDS).

By 2012, about 67 per cent of children 0-to-4 years had been exposed to some form of ECD programme, up from 16 per cent in 2001. Around 37 per cent of the children attended centre-based ECD programmes. Children from urban areas were more likely to attend ECD centres.

In 2011 the total number of public schools was 25,851 with 420,608 teachers reaching some 12,287,994 students. In 2012, grade R net and gross participation rates stood at 75 per cent and 85 per cent, respectively. In 2012, the gross enrolment rate was 99 per cent in primary schools and 89 per cent in secondary; the gender parity index was 1.00 and 0.99 in primary and secondary school, respectively. However, quality remains a challenge in all settings. Learning outcomes remain very poor and attendance at the secondary school level is much lower than at the primary level. Early pregnancy compels many girls to drop out of school. About 8 per cent of girls age of 7-to-18 years who were not attending any educational institution in 2012 cited pregnancy as the main reason for dropping out.

Violence against children is pervasive in South Africa. In 2012/13, there were 49,550 reported child victims of all crimes, around a 12.4 per cent drop from the preceding year. Sexual offences contributed to almost half of the reported crimes against children, but declines by 8.1 per cent from 2010/11 levels. In 2011 just below one-fifth (19.1 per cent) of all children in South Africa, representing approximately 3.6 million individuals, were orphaned. About 93 per cent of children under the age of five have both biological parents still living, but only 36 percent of them live with both biological parents. Migrant children, including unaccompanied minors, are particularly vulnerable to neglect, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. Child participation as a civil and political right is well safeguarded in South Africa’s Constitution and national legislation, but it is not the norm. Over 90 percent of births are registered.

On the political front, the loss of South Africa ‘father’, Nelson Mandela, on 5 December 2013, led to the expression of deep grief among the population and globally. Progressive legislation aimed at bridging socioeconomic deficits continues to receive attention in Parliament. The country is still in the process of unravelling the massacre of 44 miners during an industrial action in August of 2012. The next round of presidential elections, the fifth after the end of apartheid in 1994, will be held in the second quarter of 2014. Evolving political formations suggest that the inequity faced by millions of children and citizens will continue to be on the political agenda.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

Given South Africa’s upper-middle-income context, the Country Office continues to use a mix of strategies to directly reach disadvantaged children experiencing some of the major barriers to childhood development, including: poverty, inequality, HIV, violence against women and children, poor quality education, and unemployment in households with children. In 2013 these strategies focused on simultaneously strengthening national policies and systems while supporting local capacity for an expanded, sustainable and
inclusive development for all children.

Strategies to strengthen national systems focused on addressing systemic barriers to accelerated delivery of services for all children. Efforts in 2013 included direct technical assistance to various Government departments in relation to: (a) how outreach and registration programmes can cover the remaining 2.3 million children eligible for, yet excluded from, receipt of the country’s child benefit; (b) training of managers of the country’s basic education programme in use of data to target areas with severe bottlenecks in service provision; (c) rejuvenation of efforts to bring down high levels of violence against women and children through an Integrated Programme of Action for the Prevention and Response of Violence Against Women and Children (PoA 2013-2018); (d) formulation a policy framework and national programme on making ECD services available, especially to children experiencing multiple deprivations; (e) assessment of digital safety for young people (report on ‘Connected Dot Com: Young People’s Navigation of Online Risks’); (f) further development of the policy knowledge hub on equity and child rights; (g) completion of the country’s CRC report; (h) completion of a policy and programme review on how to reduce high levels of stunting.

Strategies to strengthen local capacity for service delivery include (a) M&E organisational development support for the Isibindi programme (community-based support for orphans and vulnerable children); (b) social norms and behaviour-change programmes to directly reduce violence against women and children; (c) young reporters radio programme that reaches an estimated audience of 600,000 people; (d) establishment of dashboards to track teaching and learning progress at the district level as well as in the 20 worst-performing schools; (e) the Techno Girl programme, which improves the participation of girls in science, technology, engineering and math, involving about 11,380 girls; (e) empowerment of young people through the Girls/Boys Education Movement, involving close to half a million active members (55 per cent girls); (f) Sports for Development programmes involving 18,000 schools (75 per cent of schools, with a 44 per cent participation level for girls and 30 per cent for children with a disability); (g) child-friendly schools, involving 2,060 schools; (h) ongoing facility and district level planning for new-born care in 52 districts; (i) dashboards for district and provincial level action on PMTCT.

Humanitarian Assistance
The Country Office did not engage in the provision of humanitarian assistance in 2013.

Effective Advocacy

Fully met benchmarks

UNICEF South Africa developed an advocacy strategy for the new Country Programme 2013-2017, which focuses on four levels: political intervention, high-level technical input, operational interventions and mobilisation/public education. For 2013 the emphasis was on legislative reform to prohibit corporal punishment of children in the home by parents and caregivers. In this respect UNICEF participated in Government forums, developed policy briefs and fact sheets, raised awareness on the country’s child rights obligations, lobbied for the issue to be included in the National Plan of Action for Children, made inputs to legislative reform and hosted a policy dialogue on the topic with key policy role-players. The effort will continue next year as part of a larger legislative reform process. Additionally, UNICEF effectively advocated for the participation of children in Parliamentary processes, which resulted in a formal programme of engagement by a Portfolio Committee’s MPs with children in their constituencies. UNICEF also partnered with a civil society organisation (Molo Songololo) to initiate advocacy for an independent national ombudsperson for children, which resulted in a stakeholder consultation that included child participants and set the discourse in motion.

Capacity Development

Fully met benchmarks

Capacity development continues to be one of the major strategies of the South Africa Country Office (SACO) to remove barriers and bottlenecks in the delivery of essential services for children. Efforts described in the 2012 Annual report were accelerated – involving (a) removal of systemic bottlenecks in sectors responsible
for delivering essential services for children at scale, (b) geographical areas that lack a wide range of services for children, (c) state institutions with oversight responsibility for the realisation of children's rights.

Sector-based capacity development initiatives included strengthening results-chain monitoring and planning through district and provincial dashboards for PMTCT delivery, and the introduction of a similar initiative for quality education. A combination of the dashboards and training of managers in the basic education sector has led to improved targeting of resources to the most deprived schools and districts. Local 'stock-taking' and micro-planning support focused the attention of the state on addressing supply and demand-related constraints to the expansion of PMTCT services. SACO also continues to provide organisational development support, especially to provinces and districts for expanded child protection and HIV-related services. This involves coaching, mentoring and technical and managerial training initiatives.

Furthermore, SACO provided data analysis support to the national statistical agency, Statistics South Africa, in poverty measurement and monitoring, anthropology, and strengthening of selected child protection-related modules in national surveys. In addition, the development of Ulwazi Children, a collation of priority child wellbeing indicators was almost completed in 2013, and is under review by Statistics South Africa and the Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disability. Ulwazi Children is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2014.

Initiatives for the removal of capacity constraints to the provision of quality services in deprived geographical areas targeted Mpumalanga province (quality education), KwaZulu-Natal (health and nutrition, Free State (health and nutrition, violence reduction) and Eastern Cape (ECD, child protection), among others. Capacity support for the implementation of primary health care reforms in KwaZulu-Natal and Free State provinces also continued.

State institutions with oversight responsibility for the realisation of children’s rights received specific capacity-development support in 2013, including the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities (completion of CRC report and National Plan of Action on Children), the South African Human Rights Commission (completion of the child complaints procedure, commencement of poverty traps and social inclusion study, etc.) and the Parliament. Parliamentary researchers who require frequent exposure to good practices were supported through capacity development in the application and mainstreaming of child rights in the work of Parliament, including committee work, public participation and oversight of the executive branch of government.

Partnership with the Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation has ensured the use of diagnostic reviews as a tool to investigate the underlying causes of poor services provision. Special focus in 2013 was on completion of the Diagnostic Review on nutrition and the design of another on violence against women and children, which is expected to start in the first quarter of 2014.

**Communication for Development**

*Partially met benchmarks*

While the Communication for Development Specialist position continued to remain vacant due to funding shortfalls, additional C4D capacity in the form of a consultancy led to stronger and more strategic technical support provided to targeted programme areas, including: 1. increased integration of hand-washing promotion messages across programme interventions; and 2. preparatory technical support to Government for strengthening C4D in the fight against violence against women and children, with the objective of training Government officials in C4D-focused programme design in early 2014.

In addition, the Young Reporters Network (YRN), which brings out the voice of children and young people across the country on issues that affect them and their communities, continued to produce and broadcast programmes by and for children, with weekly radio shows at 12 existing YRN radio stations – a total 676 hours’ worth of shows produced and 110 shows and features uploaded and shared on digital platforms.
Service Delivery

Fully met benchmarks

Given South Africa’s upper-middle-income status, UNICEF does not engage in direct service delivery. The Country Office works mainly at the “up-stream” policy and systems-development levels, using a mix of strategies most appropriate to achieving results for the most disadvantaged. The Office supports the Government to model certain interventions and generate sufficient evidence to inform their scale-up.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

The Country Programme is rooted in key strategic partnerships in the execution of its mandate, which include all spheres of Government, Parliament and provincial legislatures, institutions that promote and protect democracy established through the country’s Constitution, civil society, media and academia. A key strategic partner was the SAHRC, which works in close collaboration with UNICEF on child rights matters ranging from civil rights and freedoms of children to socio-economic rights. UNICEF is also progressively strengthening its partnership with Parliament, particularly the National Council of Provinces, which took some key resolutions in 2013 on its role in the oversight of implementation of child rights in the country. UNICEF continued its partnership with the Children’s Institute (University of Cape Town) with the development and publication of the annual Child Gauge, which in 2013 focused on early childhood development.

Corporate engagement this year focused on strengthening UNICEF’s positioning in the corporate world through two new major partnerships: Santam (in support of education) and Unilever (in support of hand-washing promotion), which together brought in a total of ZAR5.8 million in 2013. Furthermore, the partnership with the media group SuperSport was renewed for another four years. In addition, opportunities to leverage partners’ assets included free flights for participating children as prizes for UNICEF events from Mango Airlines, sponsorship of nationwide hand-washing campaigns, GEM/BEM Sports Awards from Unilever and a social art project to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the CRC from Santam.

Knowledge Management

Mostly met benchmarks

The Country Office provided support to the Government of South Africa and partners to generate evidence through surveys and studies in the areas of health, nutrition, HIV, education, communication and social protection. These include the National HIV prevalence survey, post-provisioning norms and standards in education, the exclusion error on the Child Support Grant and young people’s navigation of online risks. The Office also supported the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to create “virtual schools” with the goal of supporting learners in three key areas: core education material, supportive social relationships and learning communities. This is done through the development and deployment of a mobile platform called Mxit; information gathered through this platform was used to compute the learner happiness index.

In addition, the Country Office entered into Phase II of its child rights knowledge hub (PAN:Children) with the Human Sciences Research Centre. The online platform was strengthened to provide evidence based information on current and emerging policy issues related to children. Policy dialogue events on violence against children and the prohibition of corporal punishment in the home were also organised. Furthermore, the Country Office supported Statistics South Africa and the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities to create a database on children based on Devinfo technology. Government departments provided the data for the various indicators, and the adaptation is scheduled to be launched during the first quarter of 2014.

Throughout the course of 2013, the Office continued its knowledge-sharing drive by convening Special
Programme strategic meetings to update staff on current issues and approaches for improved programme performance. The SACO website, public drive and Facebook page were regularly updated. The sharepoint facility will be operational from January 2014.

**Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation**

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF South Africa continues to strengthen partnerships with organisations that enhance the human rights agenda. A sustained partnership was established with the South African Human Rights Commission, which has a Commissioner dedicated to child rights realisation in the country. In 2013 the partnership enabled a special focus on upholding the principle of non-discrimination, especially in the realisation of socio-economic rights of children. Consequently, a landmark assessment of poverty traps and social exclusion among South Africa’s children got underway.

Child rights governance enjoyed significant milestones in 2013, with support from UNICEF. The National Plan of Action for Children was approved by Cabinet (with a child-friendly version developed to ensure that all children have access to what is contained in it) to facilitate a rights-based framework for the implementation of national policies and programmes at all levels of government. The 15-year backlog in the country’s international reporting on child rights was closed as Cabinet approved reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocol on the Children’s Communication and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which were submitted to the UN and AU, respectively, to meet South Africa’s obligation for accountability on progress made in the realisation of child rights. Children’s participation as a civil right and freedom was promoted. Inputs on child participation were submitted to Parliament’s public participation model, to ensure that child rights are included in public participatory engagements of Parliament. Members of Parliament from the Portfolio Committee on Women, Children and People with Disabilities formally engaged (for the first time) with more than 300 children in their respective constituencies during constituency oversight, guided and supported by UNICEF. This assisted the MPs to get first-hand information from the real experience of children as part of their oversight. A Report on Child Rights was launched with the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), and resolutions related to the outcomes of the seminar on which the report was based were adopted, with follow-up actions by the NCOP to take matters forward, particularly in the 5th Parliament. Advocacy for the abolition of corporal punishment at home gained momentum with partners (Parliament, SAHRC, Working Group) during the year.

SAHRC provincial offices were trained in a child rights complaints procedure to enable them to deal with complaints from children. This was also linked to their role in developing a communications procedure tied to the Optional Protocol, as they will be one of the first local structures to be contacted before a complaint can be escalated to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In order to foster more independent oversight for child rights in the country, UNICEF partnered with Molo Songololo and others to hold a Roundtable on the need for an Ombudsperson for children. Follow-up actions were defined for advocacy and technical work in 2014. Eastern Cape Province’s structure for provincial and local government adopted a resolution on the assignment of functions to municipalities in terms of the Children’s Act.

**Gender Equality**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Gender Theme Group led by UN Women. UNICEF closely worked with UNFPA and UN Women to ensure that gender was effectively reflected in the new UN Strategic Cooperation framework for South Africa. Furthermore, UNICEF and UNFPA have established a One UN programme to systemically address violence against women and children (VAWC) programming in South Africa.

Most notably, UNICEF is supporting the Inter-ministerial committee for the prevention of violence against women and children to conduct a diagnostic review in relation VAWC – to analyse the effectiveness of
policy/law and programmes to address VAWC and to make recommendations on required policy/programme shifts necessary for substantial reduction in the prevalence of VWAC. Furthermore, the Country Office directly supported the establishment of the National Council against GBV. Further support is being provided to the Council to develop its strategic plan to address GBV.

Following finalisation of the gender audit in the education sector, the DBE began developing a Policy on Gender Equality and Equity. 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. The policy will be completed in March 2014 and launched in May, following finalisation of a costed implementation and M&E plan.

UNICEF strengthened service delivery of gender-sensitive services for survivors of sexual assault in 2013 through completion of the uMthatha-Sinawe Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC), a one-stop service centre for GBV survivors in Eastern Cape. This centre reached 1,300 women and children (50 per cent women) in 2013. In total UNICEF has supported the completion of 12 TCC in South Africa, which has facilitated the closing of about 31,000 cases of GBV.

The Country Office also supported DBE to focus on improving the participation of girls in science, technology, engineering and math classes; an estimated 11,380 girls (through the Techno Girl programme) were active in the programme nationally in 2013 (an additional 250 were already in universities). Challenges remain, however, in relation to including girls with disabilities. The Girls/Boys Education Movement (GEM/BEM) boasted close to half a million active members (55 per cent girls) continued to empower both girls and girls through promotion of youth leadership, life skills, sports, music and other creative programmes.

### Environmental Sustainability

**Partially met benchmarks**

A UNICEF-supported study on the ‘Impact of Climate Change on Children in South Africa’ completed in 2011 found that substantial changes in South Africa’s climate are likely to be caused by rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and increased frequency and intensity of extreme events. Each of these changes will have a significant impact on children, with potentially profound implications for health, nutrition, education, emotional and social well-being across different parts of the country. Climate change is also likely to impact children and families through rising food prices and mounting pressures that will force households to cope and adapt.

At the national and local levels, the South African Government has been active in generating strategies, policies and plans that respond to growing awareness of the impacts of climate change. One example is the National Climate Change Response White Paper of 2011, which identified groups vulnerable to climate change, including children and acknowledged the need to respond to the potential for a changing disease profile as a result of climate changes.

Environmental sustainability is an integral part of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), which states that the Government has to work towards having an environment where natural resources and assets are well protected and continuously enhanced for the benefit of all children. It further calls on the Government to ensure that all climate change policies and actions consider the impact on children at all levels of society. Nevertheless, many programmes fail to adequately recognise children as agents of change.

UNICEF developed a draft concept note to engage the Government and other partners to ensure that adaptation plans fully integrate children’s issues. It will also continue to empower children through GEM/BEM clubs to equip them with knowledge and skills related to climate change and broader environmental issues.
South-South and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF continued to build on South Africa’s considerable leverage at the African Union (AU), southern Africa region, G20 and BRICS.

The Country Office facilitated technical support from the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa to the National Prosecuting Authority of the Kingdom of Swaziland for setting of standards and procedures in One Stop Centres (OSC) for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as the establishment of accompanying M&E systems.

Important foundations were also laid during 2013 for a high-level technical meeting and political dialogue on scaling-up social protection systems in Africa, scheduled for the first half of 2014. The meeting and dialogue will be jointly sponsored by the AU and the Government of South Africa, with support from SACO, UNICEF’s Regional Office (ESARO) and its AU Liaison Office. The objective of both meetings, especially the political dialogue at ministerial level, is to inform and endorse the development of policy options for scaling-up nationally owned and financed systems that deliver benefits to African children and their families.

South Africa also had the opportunity to share good practices from its paediatric HIV programme with several countries in Africa and beyond, including policy and programme elements essential to increasing uptake of early infant diagnosis, paediatric ART and enhancing retention in care, as well as integration with child survival. The interest was based on the country’s success with rapidly increasing early infant diagnosis and improving coverage of access to treatment and care for infants and children over the last few years (from < 50 per cent in 2010 to 63 per cent in 2012). Good practices from South Africa also informed deliberations at the high-level meeting of ministers from the region held on 7th December 2013 during the ICASA conference.

In addition, South Africa hosted the first African Union conference/meeting to take stock of the progress in reaching the goals of Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (CARMMA) in August 2013. CARMMA is part of an AU multi-country campaign focused on improving maternal and child health outcomes. The campaign calls for the highest level of political commitment, and scaling up proven high-impact interventions to reduce maternal and child deaths across Africa. The conference was attended by ministers and delegations from all AU countries, and featured skill-building sessions on maternal death reviews and sharing of best practices and lessons learned on MCH from across the continent. A declaration with a call to action was endorsed at the meeting to expedite achievement of campaign goals. UNICEF South Africa was integrally involved in the organisation of the conference, and also had the opportunity to present best practices from its PMTCT programme as well as its provincial-level initiative (Free State) to improve maternal health and reduce maternal mortality.
## Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results

### South Africa - 3930

#### PC 1 - Child survival and development

**On-track**

**PCR 3930/A0/04/801** Women, children and adolescents have improved and equitable access to high quality maternal, child and adolescent health and nutrition interventions

**Progress:**

Government continues to fast-track implementation of the Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Women’s Health (MNCWH) and Nutrition strategy 2012-2016. To achieve the MDG for infant and under-five child mortality. Significant progress is evident in the reduction of mother-to-child transmission of HIV rates (<2 per cent in some provinces, as per District Health Information System, 2013). The country is revising the PMTCT regimen to provide triple anti-retroviral therapy for all HIV-positive pregnant women throughout pregnancy and the breastfeeding period. There was a reduction in infant and under-5 mortality as well as institutional maternal mortality rates; however, more focused work to further accelerate the rate of reduction will be needed in 2014. The country has seen an increase in the numbers of HIV-positive children on anti-retroviral therapy (ART).

Data from the South African National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey raised concern about and attention on increasing levels of childhood stunting, as well as the low rates for exclusive breastfeeding for six months, which will require action at decentralised levels. The country completed the first-ever national integrated HIV/TB/PMTCT review, which provided key information to inform policy and improve specific programmes and re-focus on adolescents and children. The coverage for immunisation remains over 90 per cent nationally, however there are variations across the provinces and districts that require decentralised planning and response. The roll-out of the Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) was ongoing, but faced human resource challenges that led to gaps in complete and functional school health teams, as well as challenges with data quality that affected programme monitoring.

**On-track**

**IR 3930/A0/04/801/001** Health systems strengthened to improve quality, access and utilization of high impact maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health and nutrition interventions.

**Progress:** Focus was on understanding the bottlenecks and actions needed to reach the MDG targets over the next two years for infant, child and maternal health. A key achievement was the focus on improving the coordination mechanisms for MCH with the finalisation of a dashboard to track progress in key MCH indicators. Major work and progress took place in the new-born care programme, including the finalisation of the national new-born care implementation plan with facility and district-level planning in process across all 52 districts.

Community-level care for maternal and child health and nutrition, with specific skills-building for community health workers, was completed in selected districts in Kwa-Zulu Natal (KZN), Free State and Eastern Cape provinces. Monitoring mechanisms for tracking the roll out of ISHP was being implemented. Challenges remain in the area of child nutrition, with poor coverage of high-impact interventions and increasing rates of malnutrition; especially stunting and obesity among children aged one to three years. A breastfeeding training package and an advocacy package for decision-makers were completed. Steady progress was made in the implementation of MBFI.

The package of services for ECD was in the process of being finalised through consultations with key stakeholders in all nine provinces. Focus in 2014 will be to ensure that nutrition is a key component in the ECD package, with capacity building of ECD practitioners and improved referral linkages with the health care system. The Diagnostic review for Nutrition, under the leadership of the Presidency, was completed; the final report due in early 2014 with recommendations focused on improving coordination mechanisms as well as highlighting gaps and challenges for nutrition programming on the ground.

**On-track**

**IR 3930/A0/04/801/003** Quality, access and utilisation of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and paediatric and maternal AIDS care and treatment services improved.

**Progress:**

2013 was an important year for the PMTCT program, as the revised regimen was introduced as of 1st April 2013. This resulted in all HIV-positive women (regardless of CD4 count) receiving triple drug therapy throughout pregnancy and the post-natal period, until the cessation of breastfeeding. Major work in rolling 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 was done in 2013. There continues to be progress towards the goal of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (eMTCT) from 8 per cent per cent in 2008 down to 2.7 per cent in 2011 (MRC Impact Study). The as yet unreleased estimate for 2012 was 2.3 per cent.

Quality improvement workshops were held in all nine provinces and priority districts, ensuring that the quality of service delivery was addressed and tracked. Standard Operating Procedures for integrating PMTCT services with MCH was also finalised. Further printing and dissemination is planned for 2014. Data for action reports with dashboards were completed every quarter, indicating further improvement in the decentralised planning and monitoring of the programme. The HIV estimates for South Africa, including for PMTCT
and paediatric HIV were completed using Spectrum. Several workshops for capacity building were held, resulting in national and provincial estimates, and work is ongoing to develop district-level estimates as well. Video and print documentation for PMTCT were completed and showcased at the AU conference in August 2013 at the request of the Government, since progress on PMTCT had been selected as one of the success stories to be shared by DoH.

The country completed the first-ever integrated review of HIV, TB and PMTCT programmes to understand bottlenecks and challenges and agree on key recommendations and actions moving forward. The MRC impact study continued to track infants enrolled at six weeks, six months, nine months and further, on to 18 months. Data will be available for the 2012 cohort in early 2014.

The Blueprint for Action document outlining key steps for paediatric and adolescent HIV and TB was finalised and workshops were held with all 52 districts to develop district-specific plans of action to improve paediatric HIV testing and treatment.

The innovative use of mobile technology linked with electronic medical records in select sites across two districts in KZN will continue through 2014. Some 2,400 women are enrolled in the project and being tracked on health outcomes; an external evaluation is planned for 2014 to assess the project’s impact.

IR 3930/A0/04/801/005 Technical and other programme support, salaries and related cost for Health System

IR 3930/A0/04/801/006 Technical and other programme support, salaries and related cost for PMCTC and Paediatric Treatment.

### PC 2 - Basic education and adolescent development

#### On-track

**PCR 3930/A0/04/802** All boys and girls access improved quality education, with increased school retention, completion and achievement rates

**Progress:**

Good progress continues to be made by the Department of Basic Education to address systemic barriers to quality education. These include the review of teacher supply and distribution to schools on an equitable basis (post-provisioning norms and standards). Twenty of the worst-performing schools districts were identified through a systemic, evidence-based process using district dashboards. The evidence generated from the dashboards also greatly contributed to the design of specific interventions to address the identified bottlenecks in each district. The dashboards per district include results from national assessments (Minimum Learning Achievement) conducted on an annual basis from grades one to six and grade nine, teacher/learner data (all disaggregated by gender, disability and poverty) and socio-economic and environmental issues. The DBE was also supported in 2013 to strengthen its national, provincial and district capacity in managing for results through EMIS; 400 district education staff were reached (51 per cent female) cumulatively over the past two and half years.

Technical assistance was provided to enhance school health, through the national implementation of the Integrated School Health Programme. To ensure effective tracking of results, an M&E strategy was finalised for the ISHP. In addition, following the baseline on violence (in particular gender-based violence) in schools, a national school safety and monitoring tool is under development, which includes a tool for promoting social cohesion.

Following finalisation of the gender audit in the education sector, the DBE is in the process of developing a policy on Gender Equality and Equity, with support from UNICEF. The policy will contribute to ensuring a gender-sensitive/responsive system impacting on empowered educators and learners, facilitating improved performance for girls and boys, as well as minimising all forms of exploitation and abuse, including GBV in schools. The policy will be completed in March 2014 and launched in May, following finalisation of a costed implementation and M&E plan.

To support retention and quality completion, there was a strong focus on improving the participation of girls in the science, technology, engineering and math subject areas. An estimated 11,380 girls (through the Techno Girl programme) were active in the programme nation-wide in 2013 (with an additional 250 already in university). Challenges remain, however, for including 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 schools nation-wide (75 per cent of schools, with a 44 per cent participation level for girls, and 30 per cent participation for disabled children, 45 per cent of whom are girls.

Through evidence-based advocacy, the state is preparing to take over the provision of ECD. In this context, 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 the 0-to4 age group), and will include state-backed delivery and financing models. This assignment will be finalised in the first quarter of 2014. Models to strengthen the provision of ECD services at the community level were implemented 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. In addition, the proportion of five-year-olds accessing grade R has increased from 51 per cent to 77 per cent; 91.5 per cent of public schools offer grade R classes.
IR 3930/A0/04/802/001 Strengthened national capacity to increase access to and utilisation of quality integrated early childhood development services, with a focus on the most vulnerable children.

Progress:

Work began in 2013 on developing a strategy to train quality ECD facilitators, following the process of finalising the National Curriculum Framework for 0-to-4. Collaboration with the University of the Free State yielded a comprehensive ECD pre-service training programme. This curriculum will be reviewed for in-service training in 2014 through the DBE and the South African Qualifications Agency. The objective is to establish a shorter qualification process instead of waiting for universities to supply ECD professionals.

Technical and financial support was provided to Eastern Cape Province for establishing an ECD centre of excellence, which evolved into an ECD Enrichment Centre during 2013. The enrichment centre caters for about 50 children and also runs an outreach for another 103 children in the catchment area. The idea behind the enrichment centre is to provide support in the form of training and other capacity-building activities for other ECD facilities in the catchment area as well Community Health Workers in the areas of nutrition, stimulation and protection. The 20-person (100 per cent female) staff of the centre were trained as trainers/resource persons on the above. The centre will also be used to test the new National Curriculum Framework for 0-to-4-year-olds, finalised with UNICEF financial and technical support, building on the internationally validated National Early Learning Development Standards.

IR 3930/A0/04/802/002 Strengthened education systems for the delivery of quality education for improved learner progression and performance in at least quintile 1 and 2 schools.

Progress:

Evidence generated from the dashboards has greatly contributed to the design of specific interventions to address the identified bottlenecks in each district. The dashboards per district include national assessment results, teacher/learner data (all disaggregated by gender, disability and poverty) and socio-economic and environmental issues. The dashboards were carefully designed to ensure as much accuracy as possible and are updated by the department on a quarterly basis—dependent on new available and verified data aligned to the education sector plan of 2014. They are used for tracking schools’ strengths and weaknesses at the district level, showing performance and guiding future planning; There are 84 dashboards for each of the education districts in the nine provinces, covering all 24,000 schools and 12 million schoolchildren (.98 parity rate).

UNICEF’s partnership with the University of Stellenbosch is aimed at strengthening capacity of the 400 personnel to provide quality education information in a timely, cost-effective and sustainable manner, at all administrative levels, with an aim to support selected operational functions. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) is now being built to provide answers for the questions that education stakeholders can raise. One of the key requirements of the capacity building exercise is to develop the capacity for interpretation and analysis of the data collected and use it to improve learner performance. This support has so far yielded timely annual EMIS reports with disaggregated data (by gender and disability) on access, retention and performance. Plans are already advanced for restructuring the in-service teacher training programme for implementation during 2014-2017, targeting 180,000 teachers (63 per cent female) in 9,000 schools in 20 districts. This programme will be augmented by an innovative virtual community of practice for teachers via mobile phone (including feature phones) in partnership with Mxit Reach. In addition, a Happiness Index (mood meter) was launched on the same platform for learners, to gauge their mood on a number of areas related to progress toward the 27 goals of the Education Sector Plan 2010-2014. The results provide the department with a snapshot of where things are going well and where there could be problems.

The incremental introduction of teaching will be piloted in grade R (dividing learning up into small, easily mastered units for learners to absorb quicker and receive constant feedback) and one will be piloted in 2014. This process will draw from the work modelled with the Nelson Mandela Institute for rural education in literacy and numeracy teaching at the foundation phase. The 100 grades R-to-three classrooms directly supported through the NMI partners have shown remarkable progress, with an improvement of 35 per cent over the last four years—from 37 per cent to 72 per cent overall for both numeracy and literacy. The University of Stellenbosch is in the process of having the results verified and validated.

IR 3930/A0/04/802/003 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.

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 program, following a life skills and music training with a total of 4,720 learners benefiting (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. These, in turn led to the induction of 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.

The process of developing a Social Cohesion toolkit with special emphasis on GBV is underway and will be finalised by March 2014. The toolkit cover issues such as teenage pregnancy, vulnerability of teenage girls to HIV infections and exploring issues around gender norms and stereotypes. The toolkit will assist schools in conducting dialogues with learners, educators and community members, including parents, traditional leaders, etc. Peace education and peace building is a key principle 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 with other relevant stakeholders for further analysis and refinement following the verification workshop held in October. An implementation plan and monitoring tools were drafted, incorporating indicators from the Social Cohesion Toolkit. This will assist schools to implement school safety plans and monitor progress on a regular basis. Information will be collected on a monthly basis from schools through the South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS), and will be collated and analysed at district level.

An online training was developed to support teachers in addressing GBV in their schools. The training will be rolled out in 2014, targeting 180,000 teachers in 20 target districts. 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 NSSF.

| IR 3930/A0/04/802/004 Technical and other programme support, salaries and related costs for Early childhood development and Education System. |
| IR 3930/A0/04/802/005 Technical and other programme support, salaries and related costs for Child Friendly Schools and HIV/AIDS Education |

**PC 3 - Child Protection**

**On-track**

**PCR 3930/A0/04/803** All children have their rights to protection from violence, exploitation, neglect and discrimination recognized and fulfilled.

**Progress:**

In 2013, UNICEF continued its strategic engagement at both upstream and downstream levels, offering high-level technical advice to relevant Government authorities to strengthen the different components of the child protection system (including laws and policies, human and financial resources, governance/coordination between and among different system components and actors, monitoring and data collection, and services) and promote behaviour change. Strategies applied by the Child Protection programme during 2013 included legislative review, capacity-building, advocacy and partnership-building.

UNICEF provided inputs to the second and third amendments of the Children’s Act to further protect children’s rights through new provisions, such as: (i) extend children’s courts’ jurisdiction to hear applications for guardianship, (ii) align the Act with the Sexual Offenses Act, (iii) prohibit corporal punishment in the home, and (iv) ensure equity in the application of the Act in relation to foreign children regardless of their legal status.

To accelerate the efforts of the GoSA to address high levels of violence against women and children in the country, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Violence against Women and Children in the formulation of their Integrated Programme of Action for the Prevention of and Response to Violence Against Women and Children (PoA 2013-2018). The PoA, which was submitted to the Cabinet for approval in September 2013, requires government departments (Social Development; Women, Children and People with Disability; Education; Health; Justice and Constitutional Development; Home Affairs; and South Africa Police Service) to implement interventions on the prevention and early detection of, and response to, violence. UNICEF supported the IMC to conduct a Diagnostic Review of key Government interventions (programmes and institutional mechanisms) to assess their effectiveness in reducing the scale of VAWC and recommend areas of improvement. Furthermore, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, UNICEF also supported the IMC to carry out a study on determinants of VAWC in 2014.

A new strategic partnership was formalised with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to support the formulation of a National Strategic Plan to guide the re-establishment of Sexual Offenses Courts. The courts will contribute to a reduction in secondary victimisation of survivors going through the criminal justice system and increase the conviction rates for sexual offenses.

UNICEF supported the Department of Social Development (DSD) to develop a five-year Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy. This comprehensive national strategy establishes the building blocks for the gradual shift from remedial, curative social services to integrated prevention and early intervention programmes. In 2014 the section will facilitate the role of local governments in developing and implementing long-awaited provincial strategies, ensuring that programmes in this area (including outreach services, education, information and promotion, therapeutic programmes, family preservation, diversion programmes and temporary safe care programmes) will be adequately resourced, co-ordinated and managed. Technical assistance was provided to strengthen the M&E system of the Isibindi programme. Organisational development support was also provided to 50 implementing partners of Isibindi. In 2013 the Government of South Africa scaled up this community-based programme to reach 130,000 orphans and vulnerable children in all nine provinces through 1,000 child and youth care workers.

Throughout the year UNICEF sought to consolidate its leadership role in child protection and accelerate the achievement of key protection outcomes by establishing new, and strengthening existing, partnerships with a number of partners, including: UN agencies (UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNHCR); academic institutions (the University of Pretoria and the University of Cape Town); national and provincial coordination structures; bilateral organisations; the media and the private sector. UNICEF is also an active member of the UN Gender Theme Group led by UN Women and the Protection Working Group, led by UNHCR.
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.

**Progress:**

The child protection system remains challenged by an underfunded service delivery model largely dependent on NGOs, a social welfare workforce largely insufficient to meet the demand for child protection services, and a disconnect between legislative provisions and implementation. UNICEF continues to work with UN and other partners to address these challenges through providing strategic inputs into the reformulation of the welfare sector. UNICEF and UNAIDS supported the DSD to finalise the new OVC National Plan of Action (2012-2016). The action plan will: (i) strengthen the capacity of families to prevent vulnerability, (ii) provide care and support to orphans and other vulnerable children, (iii) ensure access to essential services and (iv) strengthen national/provincial structures for programme coordination and monitoring. Technical assistance was provided to DSD to analyse the recommendations from audits of the Child and Youth Care Centres and initiate the development of provincial plans to improve planning and delivery of services to approximately 14,000 children in alternative care. In addition, in the area of Information Management, UNICEF assisted DSD to further analyse the maternal orphan data to assess its usefulness as a targeting tool for orphan services. The data was found to be insufficiently fine-tuned at decentralised level for detailed planning purposes, but the analysis nevertheless highlighted migratory patterns of mothers and was informative in terms of information gaps regarding very vulnerable children. Technical inputs were also provided to DSD in the conceptualisation of the Child Protection Surveillance Study and the analysis of its findings from three pilot provinces.

To improve the protection of un-accompanied foreign children, UNICEF offered technical support to DSD in disseminating the Standard Operating Procedures for the tracing, reunification or alternative care placements of unaccompanied and separated children in South Africa; as well as to the South Africa Police Service for reviewing the Guidelines for the provision of age-appropriate assistance and protection to this vulnerable group.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Department of Women, Children and People with Disability to (i) revise the 365-day National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children; (ii) strengthen the organisational capacity of the National Council for GBV through the appointment of a CEO; and (iii) initiate discussions on the conceptualisation and establishment of the first national M&E system for gender-based violence. In 2013 service delivery of gender- and child-friendly services for survivors of sexual violence was further reinforced through the establishment of the uMthatha-Sinawane Thuthuzela Care Centre (TTC/One-Stop Crisis Centre) in the Eastern Cape Province. The centre reached approximately 1,300 women and children during the current year. UNICEF also reconvened the ‘Together for Girls’ initiative to promote stronger synergy between UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, USAID, CDC and the US State Department to promote a coherent approach to address issues faced by the girl child.

**Constrained**

**IR 3930/A0/04/803/003 National capacity strengthened to promote social norms and behaviour changes that are favourable to child protection.**

**Progress:**

Efforts to tackle social norms and behaviour that continue to generate, sustain and perpetuate VAWC were supported through both upstream (described under IR 1) and downstream interventions. New and existing partnerships with national and provincial authorities, civil society organisations, the media and the private sector, as well as other UN agencies, also contributed to strengthen the protective role of families and communities, open a dialogue on child rights and decrease societal acceptance of VAWC. UNICEF, with UNFPA and Save the Children, supported by the UK Department for International Development, continued to roll out the One UN programme to tackle social norms and behaviour-change at the provincial level as part of the Safer South Africa initiative. In the framework of this initiative, a total of 201 Children’s Committee members were trained in the Free State by Save the Children on the prevention of violence in schools, peer identification and referral of cases. UNICEF, with Child Radio Foundation, trained young people in 12 sites throughout South Africa on communication skills and radio programme development, reaching an estimated target audience of 600,000 people. To underpin these social mobilisation efforts, UNICEF continues to support the Department of Social Development and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Violence against Women and Children to develop guidelines on how to more effectively plan, implement and monitor behaviour change programmes to tackle violence; the guidelines will be completed and utilised during 2014.

**IR 3930/A0/04/803/004 Technical and other programme support_Salaries and related for Child Protection.**

**PC 4 - Social policy and advocacy**

**On-track**

**PCR 3930/A0/04/804 Equity-sensitive national policies, programmes and budget allocations are made based on high quality evidence and strengthened oversight**

**Progress:**

Through collaboration with various partners, substantial evidence was generated that will help shape the equity-sensitivity, and more likely, the allocation of resources to policies that affect children. For the first time in 15 years, South Africa completed (with support from UNICEF) and submitted its report on CRC implementation to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. This is a critical milestone for the country’s international obligations and accountability for the advancement of child rights. And through the National Plan of Action for Children (approved by Cabinet), South Africa has a national rights-based framework for the implementation of child rights through Government and non-governmental structures.
In the 2013/14 Budget, the Government increased its spending on social services by 7.8 per cent (to ZAR682.3 billion) over last year's expenditure. This accounted for almost 60 per cent of the total planned expenditure and 8.6 per cent of estimated GDP. The Child Support Grant (CSG) was increased from ZAR280 to ZAR300 per month. In terms of national expenditure, the amount allocated to the CSG will grow from ZAR26.7 billion in 2009/10 (reaching 9.4 million children) to ZAR47.6 billion in 2015/16 (reaching 12.1 million children) at an average annual rate of 10 per cent.

**IR 3930/A0/04/804/001 Strengthened national capacity for evidence, policy and budget and institutional analyses, with a focus on reducing child poverty and disparity**

**Progress:**

To identify the bottlenecks in accessing the CSG, UNICEF, in collaboration with the South African Social Security Agency, undertook a study on the exclusion error in the CSG, which was completed and presented to SASSA and the DSD. The study will culminate in an action plan and policy reviews (where necessary) to reach the children who, despite being eligible, are currently not receiving the grant, which will be followed up with work on a Poverty Trends Report with Stats SA that will look at trends related to child poverty.

Evidence from the Child Gauge 2013 that focused on Early Childhood Development proved to be a valuable source of information and analysis as well as a key advocacy tool to help decision-makers understand issues critical to the sector. Despite some initial problems with the implementing partner (National PAN: Children), a knowledge hub and platform on children's rights started to take shape with the commencement of the implementation of Phase II, which will increase the number of web-based facilities to provide information in relation to child rights. The number of users increased significantly during the second half of 2013, and now stands at 4,234 visitors. Work on Ulwazi Ngabantwana is progressing, though slowly, due to rigorous data quality checks conducted by Statistics South Africa.

**IR 3930/A0/04/804/002 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.**

**Progress:**

Child rights governance experienced significant milestones in 2013, with support from UNICEF. The National Plan of Action for Children was approved by Cabinet (with a child-friendly version developed to ensure that all children have access to what is contained in it) to facilitate a rights-based framework for the implementation of national policies and programmes at all levels of Government. The 15-year backlog in the country's international reporting on child rights was closed as Cabinet approved the CRC, OPSC and ACRWC Reports, which were submitted to the UN and AU to meet South Africa's obligation for accountability on progress made in the realisation of the rights of children. Children's participation as a civil right and freedom was promoted. Inputs on child participation were submitted to Parliament's public participation model, to ensure that child rights are included in public participatory engagements of Parliament.

Members of Parliament from the Portfolio Committee on Women, Children and People with Disabilities formally engaged (for the first time) with more than 300 children in their respective constituencies during constituency oversight, guided and supported by UNICEF. This assisted the MPs to obtain first-hand information from the real experience of children as part of their oversight. A Report on Child Rights was launched with the National Council of Provinces (parliament) and resolutions related to the outcomes of the seminar on which the report was based were adopted, with follow-up actions by NCOP to take matters forward, particularly in the 5th Parliament. Advocacy for the abolition of corporal punishment at home gained momentum with the report and the work of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Children and People with Disabilities. The report was based on the issue of corporal punishment as a human rights violation. These resolutions were adopted, with follow-up actions by NCOP to take matters forward, particularly in the 5th Parliament.

A topical guide on the issue was developed for PAN: children were involved in a dedicated policy dialogue, which will feed into the development of a policy framework on corporal punishment, linked to the review of the Children's Act. SAHRC provincial offices were trained in a child rights complaints procedure to enable them to address children’s complaints. This was also linked to their role in terms of the Optional Protocol to a communications procedure for children, as they will be one of the local structures to be contacted before a complaint can be escalated to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In order to foster more independent oversight for child rights in the country, UNICEF partnered with Molo Songololo and others to hold a Roundtable discussion about the need for an Ombudsperson for children. The resolution adopted by Parliament on the issue of corporal punishment provided a coordinated response. The resolution was adopted by Parliament on the issue of corporal punishment.

**IR 3930/A0/04/804/003 Technical and other programme support. Salaries and related costs for Social Policy and Advocacy**

**PC 5 – Cross-Sectoral**

**On-track**

**PCR 3930/A0/04/805 All programme components supported through communication, advocacy and partnerships and improved accountability for results**

**Progress:**

The Communication & Partnerships function 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 2013 on expanding digital and social media. The Private Fundraising and Partnerships portfolio continued to roll out its strategy of diversifying income streams through corporate engagement and individual giving. The Communication for Development portfolio provided ongoing technical support in communication for development to targeted programme areas, in order to enhance integration of hand-washing promotion messages across programme interventions and social and behaviour change in the Office's agenda to reduce 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.

Progress:

Media outreach throughout the year contributed to highlight key child rights issues and position UNICEF as an authority on children’s issues among major national media. A slight decline 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, media outreach gathered pace, 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 77 per cent increase in supporters on Facebook, 70 per cent on Twitter and significant increase in page views of 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.

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 ZAR6 million this year. The partnership with the media group Super Sport 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 the nationwide Hand-washing Competition and GEM/BEM Sports Awards from Unilever and a Child Art Project to commemorate 25th CRC anniversary from Santam. The individual giving programme faced significant challenges as the agency responsible for the recruitment of pledge donors under-delivered. As a result, income projections from pledges are significantly below initial targets. Nevertheless, the number of active individual donors grew from 1,300 to nearly 1,800 during the year, bringing in a total of ZAR1.4 million.

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 to capacity building activities and the planning and development of a national social and behaviour-change communication framework in support of the Safer SA programme and 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 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.

Progress:

The SACO 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). The Office managed a total of 14 PCAs during the course of 2013. Of these, programme monitoring visits and spot-checks were conducted for 12. One evaluation was completed in 2013.
IR 3930/A0/04/805/007 Technical and other programme support_salaries and related cost for Communication & advocacy and Communication for development.

PC 800 - Programme Support

PCR 3930/A0/04/800 Programme support

On-track

IR 3930/A0/04/800/001 Governance and systems

Progress:

IR 3930/A0/04/800/002 Financial and resources management

On-track

IR 3930/A0/04/800/003 Human capacity management

Progress:

The Office prepared the PBR submission for a new Country Programme 2013 to 2017. To facilitate implementation of the programme strategies, the Office proposed some adjustments to the management and staffing structure, with a view to increasing UNICEF’s capacity to deliver results for children.

The 2012 Office Training Plan identified six groups based on global, regional and programme priorities. Of six group activities, five were implemented and completed. All staff in the Office attended at least one training session, depending on their function. The Training Plan also included four quarterly informal information-sharing sessions, of which three were completed with positive feedback from staff and above average attendance. The mandatory e-learning completion was monitored throughout the year with the average completion rate of 75 per cent. In addition, to ensure that staff are knowledgeable about critical issues that either affect their life or UNICEF’s image, the Office conducted six training / information-sharing sessions on important subject such as: ethics, pension, disability, PPP, 2012 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement & Census 2011 results, and early warning/early action programme activity.

The Office achieved 100 per cent completion of Performance Assessments (PAS).

As part of the Business Continuity Plan, the Office has a data recovery plan, a communication tree that is updated regularly, and a warden’s list. The simulation exercise for the Business Continuity Plan is yet to be completed. To ensure relatively smooth transition to the new system 4, VISION clinics were conducted on key topics.

All staff members are aware of the Peer Support Volunteers, and staff members have used their services. This year the Office, as part of the UN Wellness Team, completed three activities; namely: Spar Women’s marathon, The AIDS International Candlelight Memorial, and nutritional workshop. The Office achieved 100 per cent implementation on 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace.

IR 3930/A0/04/800/004 Salary and related costs for Programme Support staff
Effective Governance Structure

The CMT met 11 times during the year; while the minutes were posted in the shared drive, key issues were also disseminated by section chiefs and the staff representative to all staff. The Office AMP identified a set of programme and operational performance indicators to guide the Office in measuring progress. Office performance was discussed at CMT and other governance committee meetings.

Performance targets for cost-cutting measures in the area of Travel and Telecommunications were also reviewed by the CMT. The results are included in the "Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings" section of this report.

The CRC met 34 times and reviewed 50 submissions, including amendments and resubmissions, of which 40 were for SACO supplies and services and 10 for other countries. The PCA review committee met 19 times and reviewed 14 cases.

The Table of Authority was reviewed for staff changes in April 2013. At the time of reporting SACO did not have any high- or medium- risk violations. New staff members who were assigned roles in Vision signed the delegation of authority memos.

Weekly All-Staff Meetings on Mondays were well-attended and helped share information on the common mission of SACO; i.e. to deliver results for the most disadvantaged children in the country. This forum reviewed weekly alerts on key management indicators and was also used to address common problems encountered by Vision users.

The Office made two separate submissions to the PBR to make changes to the 2013-17 Country Programme approved by the PBR in 2012. The mail poll submission in May 2013 covered changes to restructure the Pretoria Procurement Centre, as per recommendations by the Regional Chief of Supply, to cater for BNLS countries (an arrangement addressing procurement for UNICEF offices in neighbouring countries). The second submission included changes to the level of the ECD Specialist post in Education and the addition of a NO2 (national officer) position in the Child Protection section was made to the regular second round PBR session in June 2013. The PBR, based on TRP review of the changes proposed, approved both submissions. The Office also made the Quadrennial Integrated Budget Submission to the PBR in March 2013, which included the restructuring of the Office’s Human Resources Section with the addition of a HR Manager P-4, as part of establishing an HR “Common Services” Unit to provide professional-level HR support to UNICEF offices in five neighbouring countries (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, and Swaziland). A desk review of the ERM Risk Control Library in December 2013 resulted in predictability of funding remaining “high”; aid environment and neutrality rated “medium-to-high”; partner relations, RBM measurement & reporting on results were rated “medium to low.” UN reforms, governance & accountability, foreign exchange and financial management continued to be low risk.

Business Continuity Plans were updated to reflect staff and logistical changes. Crisis Management Team members and Critical Operations Staff were oriented on BC Plans. A simulation exercise to test the BC plans is planned for the first quarter of 2014.

Strategic Risk Management

The most significant specific risks to the achievement of Programme/Office results (those identified as high and medium-to-high risks in the ERM control library, along with an action plan and risk profile was finalised and endorsed by the CMT in September 2012, and re-assessed in December 2013 to adjust the risk ratings. The revised risk ratings in respect of aid environment, neutrality, partner relations and RBM were presented to the CMT for endorsement. The risk ratings for predictability of funding, process procedures and control and safety & security were maintained.

The Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans were updated in light of staff and logistical changes in 2013. The updated BCP was shared with Crisis Management Team members and Critical Operations Staff. A simulation exercise to test the BCPs could not be carried out in 2013 due to unforeseen changes in the alternate site and other corporate priorities.

Emergency preparedness and response continues to be an integral part of the Country Programme and is coordinated by the Deputy Representative, with support of the P3-PME post under the overall guidance of the SACO Emergency Management Team (EMT), chaired by the Representative. The EMT includes senior management, all section heads and their alternates, who act as Emergency Focal Points. UNICEF participates in the UN Disaster Management Group, and is especially active in the UNHCR-led UN Protection Working
Group.
The Office updated all critical standard operating procedures (SOPs) to be VISION-compliant so that staff members in SACO and BNLSS countries are provided with guidance on major work processes. To facilitate the monitoring of Country Programme management, a set of Management Results key performance indicators was used to measure progress in a range of areas. The Office effectively uses the Performance Management System for monitoring and reporting of all PCRs and IRs, as well as overall management.

During 2013 the Office continued to conduct micro-assessments of all new implementing partners, with the help of an external audit firm. Subsequent to the micro-assessment and based on the risk ratings spot-checks, programme assurance monitoring of planned results and orientations were conducted by the HACT Focal Point, with the support of programme staff.

Membership in SACO statutory committees was regularly revised during 2013 based on staff changes. The Country Programme was managed using established mechanisms such as the CMT, PSM, EMT, etc. The Joint Coordinating Committee served as a two-way channel of communication between management and staff, to discuss and resolve any administrative or human resources matters of general concern to the staff.

The 2013 Security Risk Assessment constituted an in-depth review of the threat environment that may impact UN projects and staff, based on the information gathered from the host government, UN agencies, and research in the public domain. Mitigating measures are in place for the safety and security of the UN Staff and premises. However the location of the UN House in Pretoria, provided by the host Government, remains a weakness.

### Evaluation

In 2013 the Office completed a formative evaluation of the availability and quality of work/textbooks, which has been identified as a critical challenge within the South African education system, with an impact on the quality of learning and teaching. Little attention has been given to the need to assess the availability, quality and adequacy of the work/textbooks that teachers are expected to use.

The evaluation highlighted that workbooks are being utilised in approximately 80 per cent of schools by at least some teachers. The biggest barrier to workbook use was reported as non-delivery of workbooks. While most teachers see the workbooks as effective tools and use them on a daily basis, there are some indications that they are not using them as part of their mainstream teaching activities. The workbooks and textbooks were found to be of good quality. Identified characteristics of quality textbooks and workbooks encompassed visual presentation, ease of use within context, writing quality and design, alignment with learning goals, age and grade appropriateness of assessment tasks, pedagogic approach, and reflection of societal values as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa.

To ensure effective use of the work/textbooks, the evaluation recommended that professional training for teachers related to using the workbooks be undertaken. This could be supplemented with audio/visual materials to encourage creative use of the work/textbooks. It was also recommended that further review of the materials should be done, as some errors in the work/textbooks were identified. There is also a need to communicate widely with school management, teachers, parents and learners on the work/textbook project and how it will benefit the learners and all involved.

SACO also supported the Department of Performance Monitoring & Evaluation (DPME) to complete a diagnostic review of nutrition interventions for children under five. The review focused mainly on the effectiveness of Government interventions in the context of evidence-based, high impact strategies. The review revealed significant gaps in the prioritisation and implementation of high-impact nutrition interventions in the country – a possible explanation for high rates of stunting and obesity. Recommendations will be presented to Cabinet early next year in the form of an Improvement Plan.

Furthermore, SACO commenced support to DPME and DSD to carry out a diagnostic review of interventions for curbing high rates of violence against women and children. The review is expected to be completed in the second half of 2014.
Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

ICT solutions were provided in accordance with global UNICEF standards and policies, with particular emphasis on four key results: providing technical support during change and migration initiatives, engaging in UN Common Services projects aimed at delivering as one (DaO) thereby realising some savings, promoting the use of technology for collaboration and programme results and general technical user support. Highlights for the 2013 change and migration initiatives include the introduction of Cisco AnyConnect for remote access to UNICEF systems and the migration to the DHCP platform, which enables the dynamic assigning of IP addresses to client PCs, eliminating the cumbersome management of IP addresses by ICT. A new technology for backing up data and virtual servers (VEEAM) was introduced in 2013, as was the much-awaited single sign-on system that consolidates all the different passwords into one per user, facilitating access to all UNICEF systems. The ‘bring your own device’ phenomenon was abuzz in the ICT industry since early 2012, and with the growing popularity of smartphones and tablets UNICEF introduced a policy in 2013 that for the first time allowed the use of personal devices on UNICEF networks. As a result, users and their personal devices were connected – mostly to the Wireless network, but also a few users were able to use Lotus Notes Traveler, to test the flow of UNICEF email to personal devices. The latter experience was not completely positive; the architecture is being improved and enhanced with the hope that it will become the architecture of choice as during the migration from the traditional Blackberry platform.

Implementing UN common services and DaO has long been a challenge in Pretoria until UNICEF took lead of the ICT working group in 2013, with two main projects in mind: common internet connectivity and replacement of the current PABX. An ISP for common internet connectivity was selected and contracted towards the end of 2013. The PABX replacement project is in progress and an RFP should go out in early 2014.

Like other UNICEF offices in the region, SACO ICT emphasised looking at ways to promote the use of technology for programme results (technology for development - T4D). In 2013 there was collaboration with the Education section on use of social media for engaging youth. A wireless internet in remote camping sites was set up and e-surveys were conducted involving young people. Together with programme colleagues, ICT participated in a regional T4D conference in Nairobi.

For Business Continuity, satellite phone subscriptions were renewed and the BC document was updated throughout the year; no simulation exercise was completed. 3G connectivity modems was maintained for core staff. Systems and services were maintained to ensure availability at all times. BlackBerry services, voice and data sat-phones were also maintained for key staff and security focal points, as stipulated in the BCP.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

SACO’s total funding in 2013 was about US$18,076,081 (as of mid-December 2013), with about 90 per cent coming from OR. OR funding for the year amounted to about US$16,021,578. Funding from NATCOMs, predominantly through the PFP toolkit system, was the major source of OR, although bilateral donor sources continued to remain dominant. The low level of RR (below US$1 million) greatly constrains the Office’s ability to sustain high-impact upstream policy reform work.

The Country Programme is almost entirely dependent on OR for its programming; OR made up about 89 percent of the Office’s funding in 2013. Overall, the Office achieved significant success in fundraising efforts in 2013. The level of OR at the end of 2013 (US$16,021,758 as of mid-December) was 107 percent of the planned (programmable) amount.

The Office has a fundraising strategy in place (submitted as part of the 2013-2017 CPMP). A strong relationship with donors has high priority. A dedicated team is in place to manage corporate relationships and the individual giving programme. Apart from technical challenges with uploading information for one PFP toolkit report, all donor reports were submitted on time.

The Office’s multi-pronged fundraising strategy is informed by the need to continuously attract significant, yet flexible, OR to effectively support a combination of upstream and downstream work. The strategy includes continued engagement with bilateral donors such as DFID, extensive use of the PFP funding marketplace (toolkit), stepped-up partnerships with the corporate sector in South Africa (e.g. Unilever, Santam and Mango airlines), increased attention to individual giving (through Face-to-Face campaigns), and leveraging the resources of the Government in support of advancing child rights in the country. It is anticipated that this diverse strategy will enable a secure and growing OR resource base for programme delivery. Joint UN
programming is being pursued in order to maximise resources; for example, in the area of violence against women and children (a Joint Programme with UNFPA).

SACO 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 about US$580,000 in 2013. Partnership with the media group SuperSport was renewed for the next 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 GEM/BEM Sports Awards from Unilever and a Child Art Project to commemorate 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 are 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 about US$140,000.

**Management of Financial and Other Assets**

The Support Budget allocation for 2013 was US$1,423,584, of which US$234,041 was allocated to support costs and the balance to salaries. The Office also received an additional US $140,000 from the RCF in the third quarter of the year to cover operating costs, in line with the rules of the RCF. The exchange rate in 2013 was very favourable, with the average rate of exchange being ZAR9.652/US$. With the current rate of exchange, the Office realised a savings on allocation for Post costs to the value of US$9,000.00 that was transferred to the RCF after covering salary increases of 11.4 per cent for GS category staff and 14 per cent for NO category staff. OR Resources for Support amounted to US$238,403.57 and RR was to the value of US$339 850. The OR and RR allocations for Support included salary costs for staff in operations funded from programme budgets.

Bank reconciliation for 2013 was timely and bank balances were compared to the GL balances on a monthly basis. Bank reconciliations were also closely reviewed for long-outstanding transactions, and follow-up action was taken to ensure outstanding items were cleared within 30 days. Cash Flow forecasting was also a key activity for 2013 that was not consistently adhered to, as the Office closed with high month-end balances. The Office only maintained the minimum balance of $300,000 for the months of March, April, May, September and November. The bank signatory panel was kept up-to-date during the year, and was updated in September 2013 to include new staff members. Transactions were coded to correct GL accounts. Amounts transferred tallied to the amounts requested and payments made to correct payees. The Office effectively utilised e-banking facilities. Segregation of duties among finance staff was maintained. Requisitions were authorised as per ToA. The cash assistance liquidation process was streamlined.

A total of 94 per cent of RR (Non Grant GC) had been spent by 18 December 2013 per cent, with the remainder committed to be spent by the end of 2013. A total of 97 per cent of grants expiring by end-2013 were spent or committed by 18 December. The remaining 3 per cent were spent or committed by 31 December 2013. A total of 4 per cent of outstanding DCTs were over nine months as of 18 December 2013. The documentation for this outstanding DCT was being processed and full liquidation took place by 31 December 2013.

The Office managed a total of 17 active PCAs during the course of the year. Among these, only three were not micro-assessed, but plans were underway at year-end to do so. The three affected partners are therefore treated as high risk and a reimbursement modality applied. Training was organised for all staff involved in HACT on each stage of the process during the year. HACT assurance activities (spot-checks and programme monitoring) were implemented according to the Guidelines. Programme monitoring visits and spot-checks were conducted for eight partners assessed as medium risk and/or with a PCA amount exceeding USD100,000, or in instances when monitoring reports suggested the need for quality assurance. Observations and areas for improvement were documented and discussed with the partners. Management responses were received, highlighting what the organisations had done to improve the areas of improvement. Capacity
development was carried out as part of programme monitoring and spots-check visits. The Office’s SOP on HACT/PCAs will be reviewed in the first quarter of 2014 to capture issues raised at the DROPs meeting and expected guidance from HQ.

Supply Management

The UNICEF Pretoria Procurement Centre (PPC) was converted to the BNLSS Procurement Centre to meet the needs of Programme-related procurement of supplies, institutional contracting and establishment of LTAs for Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa. The consolidation of the BNLSS not only covers procurement of supplies and institutional contracts, but also provides technical assistance in market surveys for the most frequently procured supplies, prequalification of printers, design and layout services and establishment of LTAs as and when required.

The BNLSS operation started in January 2013. Supply focal persons from BNLS countries attended an orientation in Pretoria in March 2013 to streamline the consolidation and validate business processes and procedures including SOPs. Supply and contracts plans for the reporting period were received from all countries except Botswana. Cooperation and communication were streamlined, but the value of the supply component was small due to a change in country profiles.

The BNLSS Pretoria Procurement Centre continued to procure a wide range of goods and services for children’s programmes and support was provided for 20 African countries, including BNLS. In 2013, the Centre purchased a total of US$2.04 million (compared to US$1.28 million in 2012) worth of supplies from South African manufacturers and distributors, and procured a further US$2.82 million (compared to US$3.69 million in 2012) in various services. Key areas of support included: school furniture (Swaziland, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Central African Republic, and Mali), warehouse equipment (Mozambique); Printing of SARA materials and classroom supplies (Eritrea); printing of Mother/Baby pack (Lesotho); classmates for school children (Uganda); water purification chemicals (Senegal, Somalia and Central African Republic).

Some of the major services contracted for SACO were for the: Rapid Appraisal of School Health Services in three selected provinces, MomConnect, New-born Care Strategy, Children and AIDS Communication and Advocacy, Stock Take Data Quality PMTCT, Women Living with HIV in EMTCT Agenda, Formative Evaluation of Textbook/Workbooks, Development of ECD Policy & Programme and Implementation of the SCCFS Programme.

Among the major services contracted on behalf of the BNLS countries were: review of national information systems for social assistance, development of national social protection strategy and HIV sensitivity analysis for Lesotho, fundraising resource mobilization for Swaziland and development of social accountability programme for Namibia.

In support of the Country Office and the region, the Centre has focused on LTAs for essential and frequently procured commodities and services, such as school furniture, calcium hypochlorite powder, chlor-floc water treatment sachets, motorcycle ambulances, pre-delivery inspection, HACT-micro-assessment, stationery and office supplies. The BNLSS Centre also renewed regional LTAs for soap, tarpaulins and NFI kits, in coordination with ESARO.

In coordination with SACO Operations, the Centre procured conferencing venues, accommodations and catering services. Contracting and logistics support were provided to the Global New-Born conference, ICASA, various NatCom visits and a number of programmatic workshops, conferences and training sessions.

Technical assistance provided to the BNLS countries also included market surveys, prequalification of printers and event management service providers in Swaziland, as well as prequalification of service providers and establishment of LTAs for design and layout for Namibia. Continuous technical advice is provided in areas of contracting and VISION.

The BNLSS Procurement Centre began a review of the supplier database to verify existing supplier information, expand the supplier database and include not only suppliers of goods but also institutional contractors. This will streamline the procurement and contracting processes of the Centre, and will assist in the technical assistance to BNLS.

The Centre continued to revise and enhance BNLS business processes and procedures, including SOPs in
relation to DFAM and SD guidance, and exploit VISION capabilities to strengthen procurement and contracting processes, reporting and record-keeping.

Further, two supply staff members successfully completed MDP and SCM respectively and one was admitted to UNICEF’s DLC-Prime e-learning programme.

BNLSS continues to be a major player in the UN SA Inter-Agency procurement and implementation of cost-savings initiatives through common services contracting. The Procurement Working Group, which is led by UNICEF, finalised the establishment of LTAs for UN Common internet connectivity and LTAs for procurement of stationary and office supplies, pest control and HACT micro-assessment on behalf of UN Agencies, and continued work on LTAs for travel and replacement of the 15yr+ old PBX system. The BNLSS Centre also actively participated in the establishment of UN Common Building Cleaning LTA and recruitment of UN Common services manager. However, minimal participation and commitment from agencies continued to adversely affect the Group’s ability to meet all objectives planned for the reporting period.

**Human Resources**

The Office made two PBR submissions in 2013 to build on the 20013-2017 CPMP approved by the PBR in 2012, and the Quadrennial Integrated Budget submission for 2014-2017. The Quadrennial Integrated Budget Submission to the PBR in March 2013 included the restructuring of the Office’s Human Resources Section into the ‘HR Common Services Unit’ to provide professional-level HR support for the whole range of HR management in six countries: BNLSS and Angola (BNLSS+A). HR process mapping and work process review, preparation of job description for the P4 HR Manager’s position and review of the job description for the NOC HR Specialist’s post were completed and shared with the BNLSS+A country offices.

The 2013 Office Training Plan identified six group training initiatives based on: skills development results; the 2012 training report and lessons learned; global and regional training initiatives and budget constraints. Of the six, two were implemented and completed. All staff in the Office were given the opportunity to attend one of the training initiatives. Two mandatory e-learning activities were added in the course of the year. Staff also benefited from the MDP, DLC and Rosetta Stone Language Learning Tool. The Office achieved 100 per cent completion of Performance Assessment (PAS).

As part of the Business Continuity Plan, the Office has a data recovery plan, communication tree and a wardens’ list, which are updated regularly.

All staff members are aware of the PSVs and staff members have used their services. This year the Office, as part of the UN Wellness Team, completed two activities; namely a movie on HIV/AIDS and a fun-run. The Office achieved 100 per cent implementation of 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace. Follow up to the 2011 global staff survey will be carried out in the first quarter of 2014.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

The Table below reflects the actual performance against cost saving targets for 2013. The actual travel data is up to 15 December 2013 and has been pro-rated up to 31 Dec 2013 and the telecommunication costs are up to 30 November 2013 pro-rated up to 31 Dec 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/Opportunity</th>
<th>Target Savings for 2013</th>
<th>Actual Savings for 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Travel - Staff</td>
<td>US$ 35,500</td>
<td>US$ 63,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Travel - Staff</td>
<td>US$ 16,300</td>
<td>US$ 13,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Staff Travel – Local and International</td>
<td>US$ 9,500</td>
<td>US$ 5,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellphone and 3G Internet Cards</td>
<td>US$ 26,000</td>
<td>US$ 37,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>US$ 87,300</td>
<td>US$109,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the operational exchange rate between SA Rands and US dollars remained favourable throughout 2013, the reduction in travel expenditure was achieved by adopting measures such as: imposition of two-
weeks deadline for travel requests for domestic travel and four weeks deadline for international travel, facilitating purchase of cheaper tickets; eliminating overnight stays wherever possible; and obtaining corporate discounts based on volume of business from South African Airways, which is the most used airlines for official travel. The Office was able to implement these measures for about 90 per cent of official trips during the year.

Further, the Office significantly reduced telecommunication costs (voice & data) by rationalizing the allocation of cellular phones and 3G internet cards, scaling down the service provider packages, discontinuing roaming access and, more importantly, by orienting users of official cell phones in the effective use of WiFi and other instant messaging applications available.

### Changes in AMP & CPMP

1. Sustain 2010 internal audit and prior years’ peer review recommendations
2. BCP/DR simulation and more frequent radio checks and communication tree testing
3. Renovations and alterations to Office premises to improve working environment, hygiene and safety.
4. Represent SACO at OMT interagency meetings and pursue the establishment of additional common services to achieve cost efficiencies and effectiveness.
5. In consultation with RO and BNLSS+A countries, establish key performance indicators to assess the performance of the Consolidated Procurement and Human Resources Common Services Centres established in Pretoria to support BNLSS+A countries
6. Support the UNICEF Global Steering Committee and Field Reference Groups to implement the recommendations for improving efficiency and effectiveness.

### Summary Notes and Acronyms

Footnotes from Country Situation:

[vi] Estimates Developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, 2012

**Acronyms:**

- **ACRWC**: African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- **BLNNS**: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland
- **BLNNS+A**: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland + Angola
- **BRICS**: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
- **CARMMA**: Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa
- **CDG**: Care Dependency Grant
- **CSG**: Child Support Grant
- **DaO**: Delivering as One
- **DBE**: Department of Basic Education
- **DOH**: Department of Health
- **DPME**: Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation
- **DWCPD**: Department of Women, Children and People with Disability
- **FCG**: Foster Child Grant
- **GDP**: Gross Domestic Product
- **GEM/BEM**: Girls Education Movement/Boys Education Movement
- **HSRC**: Human Sciences Research Centre
- **ICASA**: International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa
- **KZN**: KwaZulu-Natal
- **NCOP**: National Council of Provinces (2nd Chamber in Parliament)
- **NPAC**: National Plan of Action for Children
**Document Centre**

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formative evaluation of textbooks and workbooks in South Africa</td>
<td>2013/001</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preventing exclusion from the Child Support Grant</td>
<td>2013/002</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connected Dot Com: Young people Navigation of online risks</td>
<td>2013/003</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assessment of the national South African Early Childhood Awards</td>
<td>2013/004</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Other Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Keeping mothers and children alive and healthy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mobile technology: Connecting mothers and babies to health care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Blueprint for action for Paediatric and adolescent HIV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Lessons Learned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Document Type/Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Learner Happiness Index</td>
<td>Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Youth Leadership Development</td>
<td>Innovation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>