UNICEF Annual Report 2016

South Africa

Executive Summary

Although South Africa is a middle-income country, it has one of the highest rates of inequality in the world. After over two decades in the country, UNICEF South Africa continues to work towards supporting social transformation in a society still scarred by the legacy of apartheid. Against the background of municipal elections and low economic growth in 2016, the Government of South Africa presented its progress report to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) committee. This highlighted progress in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (EMTCT) and early childhood development (ECD), as well as challenges facing children, including violence, HIV and poor quality of education. In 2016 UNICEF South Africa continued its work with partners to accelerate progress and address bottlenecks in these areas to improve results for children in line with its three priority areas: ECD, ending violence against children (VAC) and supporting results for adolescents.

ECD is a critical component of South Africa’s social protection system and formal preschool education. With the adoption of the Integrated National ECD Policy in December 2015, there is broad political momentum to improve access to quality ECD services. In 2016 UNICEF’s technical support was vital to developing the investment case for ECD to ensure that implementation of the national ECD policy is adequately resourced. This support was reinforced with capacity-building to improve qualifications and in-service training related to play-based learning.

Significant progress was achieved towards the reduction of MTCT, with rates of HIV at six weeks declining from 2.7 per cent in 2011 to 1.5 per cent in 2015. Coverage of early infant diagnosis of HIV and antiretroviral therapy (ART) in pregnant women both increased to over 95 per cent. In 2016 UNICEF led the development of the five-year ‘Last Mile’ plan for EMTCT, which was launched by the Minister of Health at the International AIDS Conference in Durban in July 2016. The Government acknowledged UNICEF South Africa’s support as catalytic, especially the inclusion of analysis of routine data. This analysis led to the prioritization of 14 districts with high numbers of HIV infections in children for the implementation of innovative high-impact EMTCT interventions.

The first nationally representative study of sexual violence against children in South Africa was published in 2016, and confirmed that one in five school-aged children reported having experienced some form of sexual abuse. Despite strong legal and policy protections for children, implementation remains a challenge. UNICEF is therefore focusing on enhancing understanding of what works and supporting evidence-generation to inform the effective implementation of anti-violence policies and laws. In 2016, a cluster randomised control trial of the Sinovuyo Teen parenting programme was completed. The programme aims to reduce maltreatment of children aged 10–17. Scale-up commenced in 14 sites in the Eastern Cape in order to provide evidence, content and focus for the newly proposed Social Development Act, which is to be developed in 2017.

HIV-prevention and treatment among adolescents, especially girls, is a Government priority. Despite progress, work remains to be done to fill gaps in adolescent HIV care, as only 14 per cent of eligible HIV-positive adolescents are accessing antiretroviral treatment. Lack of age-disaggregated data for adolescent HIV care remains the biggest challenge. Therefore,
UNICEF is supporting analysis to disaggregate adolescent HIV data on important indicators.

Steady improvements in primary school learner performance have been noted in the foundation and intermediate phases. However, mathematics performance in the senior phase (Grades 7–9) has regressed since 2013. UNICEF supported the development of teacher training resources for mathematics based on performance in the annual national assessments for Grades 3, 6 and 9, and 90 master trainers from all provinces were trained.

UNICEF South Africa’s visibility and communication capacity continued to expand. This resulted in the office attaining the highest UNICEF opinion improvement globally, as measured by the 2016 WIN/Gallup survey (up 22 points), and the highest increase in awareness (up 28 points). Through ongoing engagement with various media and corporate platforms, an estimated 20 million people in the country have accessed UNICEF branding and visibility products. Building on existing robust relationships with private and public donors, new partnerships were mapped and undertaken. UNICEF South Africa pioneered the promotion of children’s rights and business principles (CRBP) with the mining sector and established a coalition for children among national corporate executive officers.

In 2017, UNICEF and its partners will continue to focus on its three core priorities to advance the child agenda and leave no child behind.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

In 2016, the Government of South Africa declared eight out of nine provinces to be ‘drought disaster’ areas. The Government provided relief to the affected provinces with the help of state-owned entities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to alleviate the effects of the drought and water shortages. Within the context of Government leading the relief efforts, UNICEF South Africa partnered with World Vision International (WVI) and the Department of Social Development (DSD) to assess the impact of the drought on the well-being of children, with a focus on child protection, to enable the Government to complement the water- and food-based interventions already underway.

The rapid assessment of child protection in emergencies (CPiE) – while based on purposive sampling, and not necessarily representative of the entire affected population – found evidence of increased violence and exploitation, which if not addressed will continue to place children at heightened risk of protection rights violations. For example, the majority of key informants from local communities reported that the drought had contributed to increased family separation and increased child labour (including transactional sex), and over half of those interviewed also believed that rates of violence had increased since the onset of the drought. Negative effects on children’s behaviour, school attendance, increased stress and changes in caregiver’s behaviour and increased reliance on child labour were also reported.

In the follow-up to the CPiE assessment, UNICEF South Africa worked closely with existing national coordination mechanisms, led by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and the DSD, to inform the development of drought and broader emergency policy and response. Capacity in CPiE was built for 120 NDMC and DSD officials and NGO partners. In the follow-up to the assessment, child protection services were provided to approximately 300 children (200 girls, 100 boys), in partnership with WVI, in three of the assessed provinces. To strengthen national standards and align them with international standards and guidelines, UNICEF also provided technical inputs for a national disaster risk reduction strategy in schools and minimum standards for humanitarian assistance, a process initiated by the National Disaster Management Centre.
Emerging Areas of Importance

Early childhood development (ECD). UNICEF South Africa has a long history of cooperation with the Government on ECD. The year 2016 marked the first year after the approval of the National Integrated Policy for Early Childhood Development by the Cabinet in December 2015, which resulted in focused efforts to accelerate its implementation through capacity development of a broad range of stakeholders and finalization of a financing strategy and investment case for ECD.

In addition to ECD policy, UNICEF supports ECD interventions across the health, nutrition, education and social development sectors. This includes improving child and maternal health through a package of integrated neonatal, child and maternal health services at hospitals and linked feeder clinics. There is a special focus on districts with remote rural areas, where the tracking of HIV-positive mothers and babies for treatment and care to eliminate MTCT is being intensified. Increased focus is placed on improving infant and young child feeding through a comprehensive package of high-impact child nutrition interventions, including in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and support of integrated management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in select districts.

Investment in strengthening early learning was accelerated through a series of actions, including implementing a quality national early learning curriculum for young children, developing and implementing a human resource strategy for early learning and supporting innovation in ECD using mobile technology. To help protect children from abuse and violence, Isibindi – a community-based programme to promote positive parenting in the most disadvantaged families – received UNICEF support. Given strong evidence that access to social assistance is associated with improved outcomes, especially for young children, UNICEF South Africa contributed to improving the efficiency of social grants targeting eligible children currently not receiving assistance, particularly children younger than two years.

Adolescent development. UNICEF South Africa positioned adolescent development as an office-wide priority programme focus area to address specific risks that jeopardize realization of the full potential of adolescents. Key problems facing adolescents in South Africa include the risk of exposure to HIV, teenage pregnancy, poor quality of education, poor retention at secondary schools, poverty and social exclusion. Additionally, high levels of violence at home, in the community and at school – including sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) – impact adolescents’ well-being and is a key UNICEF focus area.

UNICEF South Africa supports integrated HIV prevention and treatment for adolescents, including in schools, and improving service provider responses around adolescent sexuality. UNICEF also contributes to improving quality, inclusive, education through a range of approaches. These include supporting the capacity of educators to better understand and use education management information systems (EMIS) for decision-making, developing tools to identify learners at risk of dropout, developing standards for an exit qualification for Grade 9 and creating diagnostic tools to improve assessment for learning based on annual national assessment performance rates (in mathematics and languages) and for remedial education, among others.

To help keep girls in school and prepare them for employment, UNICEF South Africa provided technical support for the development of a policy framework for gender equality and equity in basic education. It also supported peer education to address teenage pregnancy, violence and other barriers to learning, and facilitated job placement in the private sector for female graduates of the Technogirl programme. In addition, UNICEF assisted in increasing access to social protection for adolescents by expanding child support grants to reach
eligible adolescents currently not receiving assistance.

Violence is increasingly being recognised as a major concern for adolescents and UNICEF worked with partners to adapt existing service delivery models to be more adolescent-sensitive. For example, the formally evaluated Sinovuyo Teen programme, shown to reduce violence among adolescents, has been integrated into the Isibindi programme, enabling child and youth care workers in the Eastern Cape to support adolescents and their caregivers to improve communication and create a more positive caregiving environment. In addition, the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) is introducing WiFi in selected ‘Safe Parks’, and now includes a greater range of sports, creative arts, life skills and education support at these facilities. This has led to increased participation by adolescents, who are otherwise at risk of other rights violations. UNICEF South Africa also invested in supporting partners to document young peoples’ efforts to access justice services, the recommendations of which will be used to inform new programme interventions in 2017.

Violence in schools is addressed through the Safe and Caring Child-Friendly School framework and the School Safety framework, as well as through the implementation of Sport and Music for Development programmes, which build resilience and life skills.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

‘The 3 feet approach’ – Gives health care workers the tools to respond to system and community health needs in a simplified way, supporting them to provide quality care for mothers and young babies, manage illnesses such as tuberculosis and HIV and promote community engagement to improve healthcare outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART</td>
<td>Antiretroviral therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCP</td>
<td>Business continuity plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNLSS</td>
<td>Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa</td>
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<td>DBE</td>
<td>Department of Basic Education</td>
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<td>CMT</td>
<td>Country management team</td>
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<td>CPIE</td>
<td>Child protection in emergencies</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>DBE</td>
<td>Department of Basic Education</td>
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<td>DoH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
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<td>DSD</td>
<td>Department of Social Development</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early childhood development</td>
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<td>EMIS</td>
<td>Education management information system</td>
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<td>EMTCT</td>
<td>Elimination of mother-to-child transmission</td>
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<td>ESARO</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office</td>
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<td>GBEM</td>
<td>Girls’ and Boys’ Education Movement</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender-based violence</td>
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<td>GSSC</td>
<td>Global Shared Services Centre</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<td>IB</td>
<td>Integrated budget</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and communication technology</td>
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<td>JCC</td>
<td>Joint consultative committee</td>
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<td>LTA</td>
<td>Long-term agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTCT</td>
<td>Mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOSS</td>
<td>Minimum operating security standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>NACCW</td>
<td>National Association of Child Care Workers</td>
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**Capacity Development**

UNICEF’s capacity development work contributes to Government efforts to accelerate the implementation of policies and improve the quality of services for children by improving the knowledge and skills of both the Government and NGOs.

Support was provided to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) to strengthen the capacity of officials to manage and use data for decision-making, in collaboration with Stellenbosch University. In 2016, given the strong focus on strengthening district support to schools in the National Development Plan and the DBE’s Action Plan for 2019 (‘Towards Schooling 2030’), this effort was cascaded in districts.

Through a partnership between UNICEF South Africa, the University of Johannesburg, the University of South Africa, Vodacom and Microsoft, a university-accredited training course on integration of information and communication technology (ICT) with teacher development was developed and implemented for e-learning specialists and teacher centre managers.

One hundred and sixty-three nurses and 78 doctors were trained in the newborn improvement framework and 214 doctors, 548 nurses and 44 facilitators were trained in the ‘Helping Babies Breathe’ programme. Knowledge and skills of 55 healthcare professionals, at both national and district levels, were strengthened through quality improvement in contraceptive services, sterilization, maternal and child death reviews and root cause analysis. In KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces, 2,008 primary care workers and community health outreach workers were trained on improved handwashing tools for the delivery of integrated services for the maternal, newborn and adolescent groups.

To strengthen the implementation of violence prevention programmes, UNICEF South Africa partnered with NGOs to build capacity and integrate Sonke MenCare, a programme designed to encourage men’s participation in caregiving, within Isibindi, while strengthening...
the model pioneered by the National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW). Training of Government officials was completed in four provinces and officials began to reach out to an estimated 1,800 fathers and male caregivers over the next six months.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

Leveraging evidence through technical policy dialogues and public advocacy is a key UNICEF South Africa strategy for scaling-up good practice and models, and for mobilizing public awareness of key child rights issues.

Examples in 2016 include a study carried out with the DSD and the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) on the child support grant, which assessed grant take-up and exclusion rates among eligible children and identified barriers to grant access and drivers of exclusion. The South African Social Security Agency is using this study’s recommendations to develop targeted strategies for expanding grant coverage.

UNICEF South Africa supported an analysis of structural determinants of violence against children in South Africa and a report on the opportunities and risks associated with children accessing online content as part of the global Kids Online initiative. Together with a diagnostic review (bottleneck analysis), the Government is using this body of evidence to develop a plan to guide efforts to accelerate prevention and early intervention programmes in 2017.

The ‘3 feet approach’, pioneered by UNICEF South Africa in selected districts, was adopted for use in the ‘Integrated Plan for Reduction in Maternal, Neonatal and Child Deaths’. The analysis of district- and facility-level prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and HIV infant testing data led to the prioritization of districts for EMTCT, as per the Last Mile Plan for EMTCT.

UNICEF also initiated a public discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and children. In collaboration with the South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), UNICEF supported a study of six global goals for children, which provided equity analysis of progress and disparities. Its launch galvanized attention on the opportunities and challenges in making the SDGs work for children and generated significant media interest, reaching over 3 million viewers and listeners through television and radio.

**Partnerships**

UNICEF South Africa continued to establish and nurture strategic partnerships with various Government departments, civil society and academic institutions that share its mandate or have influence on issues affecting children. This included: the departments of basic education, health and social development and expanded partnerships with national NGOs, including Cotlands (for capacity building of ECD practitioners in play-based learning), Sonke Gender Justice (for promoting the role of fathers in positive parenting and violence prevention), Wits Health Consortium (for paediatric HIV), Children's Radio Foundation (to support Youth Reporters Network and Sportstec in sports for development). These partnerships promoted evidence generation and evidence-based advocacy, capacity development, identification and promotion of innovations.

UNICEF South Africa continued to roll out the Private Fundraising and Partnerships (PFP) Strategy (2015–2017), aiming to diversify income streams through corporate engagement and individual giving. Corporate engagement for 2016 included strengthening the partnership with Unilever in support of water and sanitation and the Westin Hotel in support of ECD, while re-activating partnerships with Mango Airlines and Ster Kinekor. New partnerships to mobilize resources, advocate for child rights and leverage resources for
children were established with: GC Rieber, the Ernest E. and Brendalyn Stempel Foundation, H&M, Philips, Lanseria Airport and Ogilvy, as well as the Graham and Rhona Beck Foundation.

Strategic discussions with the private sector focused on mining and engaging corporates on the SDGs and the children's rights agenda. UNICEF South Africa hosted a side event on children during the South African Mining Indaba in Cape Town in February. In addition, it provided comments on the new Mining Charter and is in dialogue with key actors in the sector. UNICEF also hosted its first chief executive officer breakfast meeting with 10 high-profile leaders, discussing business, the SDGs and child rights. This was the start of more regular chief executive officer breakfasts to be held in 2017.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF South Africa achieved the highest UNICEF opinion improvement globally in the 2016 WIN/Gallup Survey (up 22 points), and the highest increase in awareness (up 28 points).

Communication for public advocacy was provided for Child Protection Week, the World AIDS Conference in Durban, the 16 Days of Activism campaign and the World Breastfeeding Conference. A new partnership with the South African Institute of International Affairs was secured, which entailed speaking engagements with youth focusing on water, sanitation and the SDGs.

UNICEF South Africa enjoys a strong working relationship with several platforms in the country, thereby collectively reaching an estimated 20 million people. Videos produced by the office were broadcast at Lanseria Airport (2.4 million travellers annually), on Mango Airlines flights (2 million passengers) and at Ster Kinekor cinemas (reaching 19 million viewers annually) along with print materials featured in Destiny magazine and South African Airways’ inflight magazine, Sawubona (1 million readers). As a result of UNICEF’s partnership with cable channel SuperSport, the ‘End Violence’ video spot featuring UNICEF ambassador David Beckham’s animated tattoos reached over 20 million viewers.

Facebook fans increased to over 65,500 while Twitter followers increased to almost 14,000. Twenty-two interviews of UNICEF experts by media on child rights topics were facilitated, thus amplifying advocacy and fundraising efforts.

On UNICEF’s 70th Anniversary, the office partnered with the Women in the Arts Awards on 8 December, during which UNICEF ‘Tiny Story’ author, 7-year-old Michelle Nkamankeng, received the ‘Girl Child of Promise Award’. UNICEF@70 billboards were placed outside major airports, a photo exhibition was produced and there were street pole displays in Johannesburg’s business centre.

A series of reports were launched, including the ‘Child Gauge Report’, the Lancet series on early childhood development, the ‘Progress in reducing exclusion from South Africa’s Child Support Grant’ report and the ‘Global Goals for Every Child’ report.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF South Africa facilitated several learning and exchange visits to South Africa from other countries. These included a visit from a high-level delegation from Mozambique, which travelled to South Africa to meet with Government officials and learn from their experience in implementing cash grants targeting poor children. Facilitated by the UNICEF offices in Maputo and Pretoria, the visit was in response to a request from the Government of Mozambique to be exposed to practical examples from within the region. The delegation
learned about the policy, legislative and institutional framework governing South Africa’s social development strategy, grant system and implementation strategies. The main result of this visit was the drawing of practical lessons from South Africa’s decades-long experience with social assistance to help inform the design and implementation of Mozambique’s incipient child grant programme.

In September, a visit from a high-level delegation of 12 officials from Nepal, facilitated by UNICEF Nepal and UNICEF South Africa, focused on learning, child protection and justice systems in South Africa. The Nepalese delegation learned how child rights-related institutions, structures and mechanisms are designed and function in South Africa, as examples for the reform of the child protection system in Nepal.

Within the framework of triangular cooperation, a delegation from the United States visited South Africa in February, consisting of two senior officials of the United States Department of Education and six senior academics from technical centres supported by the Office of Special Education Programs at the universities of North Carolina-Charlotte, Kansas and Connecticut, focusing on inclusive education, drop-out prevention and care and support. They interacted with the Minister of Basic Education and DBE staff. Discussions are currently under way with the DBE to customise positive behavioural interventions and supports for the South African context.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

A 2016 innovation strategy was produced, focusing on mainstreaming innovation as a critical enabler to support results for children in UNICEF South Africa’s programme implementation. Examples of innovations to accelerate the delivery of results for children include:

**Last Mile Plan for EMTCT:** Simple monitoring systems (cascades, dashboards), for continuous performance monitoring, with a focus on numbers lead to better prioritization of districts for the Last Mile Plan for EMTCT and across the maternal and child health continuum, as well as decentralized and continuous review of bottlenecks and actions.

**EMA App Project:** Assessment of an app for adolescents living with HIV was completed to understand how user design requires adaptation to resonate with the experiential and psychodynamic needs and desires of adolescents.

**TechnoGirl:** The TechnoGirl programme enables girls to make more-informed career choices in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. During 2016 TechnoGirl benefited 3,750 girls. The girls follow a structured job-shadowing programme during school holidays offered by over 100 companies in various STEM-related areas.

**Rapid Pro:** A pilot project to retrieve key information from HIV-positive mothers was rolled out in three districts in KwaZulu-Natal via SMS, in an effort to address the bottlenecks related to PMTCT. Information is made available in real time on a dashboard to support appropriate actions.

**Project Namola:** Project Namola is a reporting app for smart phones. Users are able to report crimes in progress or crimes that have taken place. In November 2016, UNICEF South Africa became a pilot country in the Eastern and Southern Africa region for monitoring and measuring use of the ‘Internet of Good Things’.

**MomConnect:** One million pregnant women and mothers received support through MomConnect in 2016. MomConnect is a programme that links pregnant women and mothers to healthcare through mobile technology.
Support to Integration and Cross-sectoral Linkages

UNICEF South Africa continued to strengthen multi-sectoral linkages and integration, which contributed to effective and efficient programming in 2016.

This included the development of the new National Strategic Plan for HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis 2017–2022 (NSP), which emphasizes the need for a comprehensive multi-sectoral prevention programme. The Plan prioritizes biomedical prevention and treatment programmes (PMTCT, paediatric and adolescent HIV, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections), as well as structural drivers of HIV infection (such as gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination, economic deprivation).

National adolescent and youth prevention efforts, including the ‘She Conquers’ campaign, were launched in 2016. This is a three-year campaign (2016-2019) that focuses on the prevention of HIV and teenage pregnancy, keeping girls in school, addressing gender-based violence and creating economic opportunities for adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years.

UNICEF’s ‘WASH Challenge’ was broadcast on the ‘Bona Retsang’ youth programme on SABC 1 television from June to August, reaching over 1 million listeners. The WASH Challenge is a game show that highlights hygienic practices and spreads awareness in communities across South Africa.

In support of MomConnect, a programme that links pregnant women and mothers to health care through mobile technology, six videos were developed and promoted on UNICEF’s and other partners’ social media platforms. A social media plan was also developed.

As a curtain-raiser to the global ECD campaign, a critical thinking forum on play and early stimulation was organised in November 2016.

In addition, as part of the global Shout Out for Health initiative, UNICEF South Africa is supporting the empowerment of an estimated 1,000 children and youths on health issues through media training, and is reaching over 800,000 community members through youth programmes broadcast on community radio stations.

Service Delivery

UNICEF South Africa supports selected implementation and service delivery modelling initiatives with a view to generating evidence for scale-up by the Government and other partners.

Technical support was provided at the national and sub-national levels to support data for action reports and dashboards for tracking results for maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition programmes, including HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and WASH. Support was provided to improve district health planning and establish accountability mechanisms for tracking results. Documentation was also completed on the decentralized health systems-strengthening initiative known as the ‘3 feet approach’.

Support was further provided to the Help Desk feature of the MomConnect programme, reaching more than 1 million women from pregnancy through the first year of life of her child. Registered women can lodge complaints and compliments, and ask questions and seek support. The Help Desk is being aligned with the RapidPro and CasePro systems, which support UNICEF’s work in several countries.
Approximately 25,000 children accessed UNICEF-supported ‘Safe Parks’ this year and demand and usage continues to increase. These parks provide a safe space for children to meet, learn and develop educational and life skills. They also provide both prevention and early intervention opportunities. As part of an initiative to encourage greater participation by adolescents, access to Wifi is being pioneered in three Safe Parks. UNICEF South Africa and its partner, the NACCW, are using this opportunity to use U-Report to elicit feedback from the adolescents about the quality of the parks. This is part of a broader effort to strengthen the partners’ routine service delivery monitoring systems and promote greater accountability to beneficiaries.

Similarly, UNICEF also supported the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to undertake a baseline assessment of the perceptions of survivors who access specialized courts, and to determine the extent to which these courts respond to their needs.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

UNICEF’s continued strong partnership with the South Africa Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) resulted in the joint publication of ‘Global Goals for Every Child: Progress and Disparities Among Children in South Africa’. The partnership also resulted in a joint side event during the Mining Indaba in February, where UNICEF and the Commission, together with the chief executive officers of key mining houses, highlighted the importance of CRBP in the mining industry.

UNICEF South Africa attended the 73rd Pre-Sessional Working Group (1-5 Feb 2016) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, together with the SAHRC and national NGOs, for a confidential dialogue on the Second State Party Report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and South Africa's initial country report on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which provided an opportunity to engage on key child rights priorities. The committee’s concluding observations were analysed by UNICEF for inclusion in its new country programme, as well as for immediate areas of support to the Government. UNICEF continues to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure, such as the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Children.

The UNICEF office contributed to the joint United Nations (UN) country report for the universal periodic review on South Africa, which will provide a platform for joint UN collaboration on universal periodic review recommendations in 2017.

The office also adopted a model for a child rights focal person to assist it in keeping abreast of local and international developments that impact on children’s rights in the country. All UNICEF South Africa programmes are based on the human rights-based approach to programming, to ensure rights-based and equity-focused results for children.

**Gender Equality**

In 2016 UNICEF South Africa continued to advocate for girls’ secondary education, as evidenced in the TechnoGirl programme, which benefited 3,750 girls during the year. These girls follow a structured job-shadowing programme during school holidays offered by over 100 companies that participated in the programme in 2016. There are ongoing efforts to interest more companies in supporting the programme. A database for the alumnae of the programme was developed to ensure that beneficiaries’ progress is being tracked during their study years. For this reporting period 1,095 alumni were attending various institutions of higher learning, 76 of whom are in their final year, with 57 young women having entered the world of work and become business leaders in their own right.
In addition, gender-based violence was integrated into different partnerships. UNICEF forged a partnership with iSchoolAfrica Trust, which uses advanced technology to build capacity of young people as agents of change in their communities. The partnership had a special focus on raising awareness about GBV, while promoting social cohesion among learners from 131 selected schools. Up to 89 per cent of educators believed that learners had a better understanding of gender-based violence as a result of the campaign. The attitude towards gender norms changed dramatically (by 97 per cent) after learners gathered information on gender-based violence, created their own films and talked with others.

Gender mainstreaming remained a priority for UNICEF South Africa; gender disaggregated data was promoted in all studies supported by UNICEF. This allowed for equity analysis and contributed to designing interventions aimed at closing or reducing gender inequalities in schools, social grant access and economic opportunities.

### Environmental Sustainability

Building resilience is key to mitigating the risk of child rights violations arising from the consequences of climate change. The impact of the drought in South Africa, related to the El Niño effect, has resulted in significant decreases in crop production and water scarcity. In the context of Government relief to drought-affected areas, UNICEF South Africa focused its efforts on generating evidence of the impact of climate change on children. The office supported a child protection rapid assessment in drought-affected provinces to understand the impact and assist the Government to address associated child rights violations. Results of the assessment were used to advocate with Government and other partners to raise awareness and mobilize immediate responses, as well as to invest in supporting long-term resilience-building through strengthening child protection systems.

Together with the NACCW, UNICEF South Africa encourages children and adolescents to use the Safe Parks established in the Eastern Cape, which are supervised by trained child and youth care workers. To date, 18,529 children and adolescents have been served by 337 qualified child and youth care workers. A component of the Safe Parks initiative is the food and gardening programme, which trains youth at each of the 14 Safe Parks in organic gardening. Three youth radio programmes were established in partnership with three community radio stations, with programmes produced by youth selected from the Safe Parks programme. Environmental conservation and recycling are regular topics and the total number of listeners reached by the weekly radio programmes at the radio stations is estimated at 472,000.

As part of the ‘Greening the Blue’ initiative, UNICEF South Africa supports the prohibition of plastic plates, cups, etc. in its office premises, as well as the installation of individual light switches, motion sensors and timers for security lights. It is also developing a proposal for generating solar power as a back-up source. The office uses coded recycling bins and recycles paper through a recycling company.

In addition, air travel is undertaken only when video conferencing cannot produce the desired results. Network printing is the rule, and printing by each computer is monitored.

### Effective Leadership

During 2016, the country management team (CMT) continued to prioritise, review and monitor implementation of the risk management plan, the office plan for implementation of agreed audit actions, the office improvement plan, the periodic review of funding status and the monitoring of key management. The team identified gaps in implementation and recommended actions towards the achievement of the targets. It also deliberated on ‘eight opportunities to streamline office management’ and decided to implement the ceiling of
US$100,000 for the partnership cooperation agreement review, which was the only opportunity yet to be implemented. The team also reviewed and recommended two programme budget review proposals aimed at addressing weaknesses in vacancy and funding.

Key management indicators were monitored during quarterly all-staff meetings, and deliberated on during mid-year and annual review meetings.

During 2016 all statutory bodies, including the CMT, contract review committee, property survey board, programme cooperation agreement review committee (PCARC) and joint consultative committee (JCC) were in place and effectively supported the achievement of programme and management objectives.

The risk management committee was instrumental in developing and implementing the risk management plan, focusing on six main risks identified in the annual management plan. The committee consists of members from all categories of staff and all sections, ensuring a transparent, inclusive and structured approach to risk management.

The business continuity plan (BCP) was updated, approved and successfully simulated in 2016. The table of authority includes a list of officers-in-charge and alternates, ensuring continuity, while the BCP provides for alternate and devolution locations. The Office is finalising an agreement with UNICEF Zimbabwe (one of the regional BCP centres) for support as an alternate devolution location for processing transactions.

**Financial Resources Management**

The country management team holds section meetings regularly, and monitors funding/utilization status by monthly outputs. A monthly dashboard was shared with staff, including information on funding/utilization, balances of grants expiring in three to six months, and commitments, with detailed breakdowns by section.

Total funds utilized in 2016 amounted to US$11.9 million, comprising US$0.75 million from the integrated budget (IB), US$1.3 million from regular resources (RR) and US$9.83 million from other resources (OR). The OR funds were received from private foundations, national committees, corporate entities and pledge donors. UNICEF South Africa achieved 97 per cent implementation of IB funds, 100 per cent implementation of RR funds and 87 per cent implementation of OR funds.

A total of US$188,600 remained unused on grants that expired in 2016. This includes US$188,000 from the Centers for Disease Control grant, which will be extended into 2017, making the net amount of expired grants just US$ 600.

As of 31 December 2016, the balance for direct cash transfers (DCTs) over six months was nil. As an additional quality assurance step, each direct cash transfer payment/liquidation was reviewed by the budget officer before it was approved/verified by programme/operations.

During 2016 UNICEF South Africa conducted 37 programme visits and 17 spot-checks, meeting minimum requirements, and commissioned four micro-assessments. The spot-checks were conducted by UNICEF staff, which proved to be efficient and cost-effective.

The office largely complied with month-end cash balance requirements in 2016; and issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for recording and reconciliation of pledge collection, to ensure appropriate segregation of duties in management of funds received from private
sector fundraising activities.

The 2016 audit report included 12 recommendations – two of high priority and 10 of medium priority. Seven recommendations were closed and the remaining five are in the final stage of implementation.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

Fundraising and donor relations efforts resulted in funding of 90 per cent of the OR ceiling of US$14 million, of which US$12.3 million was utilized in 2016. Most of the funds were generated from private sector donors, including private foundations, corporations and high-net-worth individuals, through UNICEF national committees and in close coordination with the private fundraising and partnerships (PFP) unit. Partners included LEGO, MacAids, Ryan Trust and Elma Foundations, as well as FC Barcelona. Funding was also generated through the Schools for Africa National Committees campaign.

The private sector fundraising programme in South Africa, the only such UNICEF operation on the continent, continued to roll out implementation of its 2015–2017 strategy through fundraising, advocacy, leveraging and programming. The office raised US$1.23 million from South African local corporations and foundations. This includes funds raised through UNICEF Netherlands, the Dutch Postcode Lottery and the Australian National Committee for UNICEF. In addition, UNICEF received in-kind support from Ndalo Media, Mango Airlines, Lanseria Airport, Ster Kinekor, SuperSport, Titans Cricket and Ogilvy, for an estimated total of US$ 200,000.

In comparison to 2015, the office achieved a 42 per cent increase in funding mobilized through individual or pledge donors during the year under review, reaching gross revenue of about US$ 277,000. A major success of UNICEF South Africa’s pledge programme was the high retention rate for pledge donors – around 90 per cent – and an average monthly gift increase of 20 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015.

UNICEF South Africa submitted all of its donor reports on time, and used a donor reporting quality assurance mechanism to ensure the quality and timeliness of reports. The process also made use of a checklist from headquarters for donor reporting standards facilitating the compilation of quality reports.

**Evaluation and Research**

UNICEF South Africa continued to use evaluations to learn about the effectiveness, relevance and impact of supported programmes. Evaluations are reviewed in detail with partners, and a management response is prepared for all evaluations. Three evaluations planned in the 2016–2017 Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan have been completed. Two are still being reviewed by the DBE and have not yet been made public.

Evaluation of the Department of Basic Education’s RUBRICATE platform focused on the extent and nature of its uptake among teachers and the extent to which it has supported improvement in teaching and learning practices among teachers. In coordination with the DBE, UNICEF commissioned an evaluation of the ukuFUNda virtual school model. The evaluation showed a high level of interest in digital learning content amongst learners and teachers through a cost effective ‘bring-your-own-device’ model in a secondary school context. While the overall reach of the programme was relatively high, sustained usage was low, except for a core group of learners. The evaluation recommendations will be used to develop a revised mobile-learning solution to rectify this.
UNICEF also conducted a rapid evaluation of the KwaZulu-Natal DoH pilot ‘m-health’ project, MomConnect. MomConnect aims to use mobile technology to improve the uptake of PMTCT services and the health outcomes of mothers and infants in the project. The results showed that the project met its objective, with over 6,000 clients enrolled and using MomConnect, with positive feedback. Recommendations will be used to build the capacity of healthcare workers and develop a data quality plan to support real-time data entry and a two-way feedback system.

The office participated in the global evaluation of the preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV programme; South Africa was one of the countries selected for an in-depth case study.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF South Africa completed the office relocation from non-minimum operating security standards (MOSS)-compliant premises to premises that are fully MOSS-compliant, adopting a ‘cost conscious approach’ while making decisions related to remodelling, furniture, fixtures and security upgrades, and completed the office relocation within the approved budget. The office move significantly improved staff morale and the quality of the work environment, which positively contributed to efficiency gains.

In 2016 UNICEF South Africa focused on improving the efficiency of transaction processing in view of the migration to the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC), as well as on streamlining standard operating procedures (SOPs) and tables of authority. A system of section-based local focal points was adopted so that each invoice was received, reviewed and submitted to the Centre for processing by the section concerned. This approach helped to reduce the time taken for transaction processing and to place responsibility for processing of invoices where it belongs.

The SOP on travel by staff and consultants was revised, eliminating the use of hard-copy travel requests and printing of authorizations, reducing the time required to process these documents.

The use of stretch assignments to cover staff capacity gaps, the transfer of the Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa (BNLSS) human resources hub to UNICEF’s Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in Johannesburg, using UNICEF South Africa staff for spot-checks, and keeping the procurement specialist post vacant until the outcome of the BNLSS review, were a few strategic actions aimed at enhancing efficiency and cost savings.

Although UNICEF moved from the UN common premises, it continued to participate in common services-related initiatives, including supporting the recruitment of a wellness officer under common service, which will contribute to cost savings in 2017.

Total savings in 2016 is estimated at US$141,000 (spot checks US$61,000, procurement specialist US$65,000, common contracts US$5,000).

### Security for Staff and Premises

Crime, largely attributed to social inequalities, unemployment and lack of effective deterrence, remains the main security concern for the UN in South Africa. Crime is pervasive, but the highest levels are recorded in Gauteng Province, which hosts the main UN duty stations of Pretoria and Johannesburg. The level of security in most programme areas is, however, low.

UNICEF South Africa continued to take steps to enhance the safety and security of staff and
UNICEF premises and assets through: 1) active participation by the senior management team; 2) mandatory security briefing to new staff members; 3) sharing of security alerts with all staff (over e-mail and WhatsApp); 4) sharing of weekly security updates with all staff; 5) provision of salary advances to national staff for upgrading their residential security.

The year 2016 witnessed a major step forward towards the strengthening of security and safety of staff. UNICEF premises were finally relocated from the non-MOSS compliant UN common premises – characterized by a lack of standoff distance, inadequate parking facilities and sharing of premises with other non-UN entities – into fully MOSS-compliant premises. The move has provided a much more secure, healthy and productive work environment.

The security systems and access control for the new premises were designed with guidance and support from the regional security advisor. The compound security procedure and building evacuation procedure were drafted and an evacuation drill was conducted in 2016.

The senior management team adopted a revised MOSS and residential security measures system for South Africa, and also completed security risk management training and security management training.

Although seven security incidents were reported in 2016 involving UNICEF staff, none of these resulted in injuries or required specific action by the organization.

Human Resources

UNICEF South Africa continued to review and monitor the status of staffing and other inputs vis-à-vis programme results. A review was conducted in 2016 for the child protection and social policy programmes, and strategic decisions were implemented to adjust staffing, as well as programme priorities and activities for 2016–2017. In addition, a change of funding sources for posts from IB to RR and private sector fundraising to OR was also implemented to ensure compliance with budget guidelines. Besides the adjustment in staffing structure, short-term contractual modalities and stretch assignments were used to respond to human capacity gaps.

Performance management is one of the key management indicators monitored by the country management team and discussed at the all-staff meeting. The need for regular online performance appraisal system (e-PAS) discussions and feedback was emphasized in team and all-staff review/planning meetings. The office achieved 100 per cent completion for the 2015 performance evaluation report. Managing People for Results training was conducted in support of performance management and achieved 98 per cent completion. Implementation of the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace focused on ensuring access to information and tools, and the completion of HIV and AIDS in the workplace training by staff.

In 2016 UNICEF South Africa supported 28 medivacs from 16 countries, with one repatriation for a fatality.

The emergency preparedness and response plan was updated in 2016 and specific human resources needs were identified for possible humanitarian scenarios.

The office hosted a three-day all-staff retreat where the office improvement plan was drawn up, including elements of the results of the 2014 global staff survey. Implementation of the office improvement plan is monitored by the joint consultative committee and is reported on to the regional management team.
Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2016 ICT solutions were provided in accordance with global UNICEF policies and standards, with emphasis on infrastructure maintenance and the provision of technical support during change and migration initiatives; advising and supporting on the use of technological innovations for programme results; office relocation and business continuity management; and technically effective and efficient user support.

As the office relocation provided an opportunity for UNICEF to re-design its ICT infrastructure, a new Voice over IP-based unified communications telephony system was introduced. This system is fully integrated with Office 365 and Skype for Business. The new system allows inter-operability between PC workstations, Polycom IP handsets and Smart phones, creating a truly mobile staff member who can work from anywhere, any time.

In addition to the introduction of the new telephony system, other rollouts included workstation operating system upgrade to MS Windows 8 and backup system upgrade to VEEAM 9. Both upgrades were completed successfully and end user training was conducted, including training on the telephony system. The uptake of SharePoint as the preferred option for cloud storage, through a UNICEF South Africa team site, was slow in 2016. This will be a priority in 2017 with a view to eventually replacing the traditional file and print server public shared drives.

UNICEF South Africa continued to emphasize looking at ways to promote and support the use of innovative technology for programme results. In 2016 ICT undertook site surveys in the Eastern Cape for the installation of wireless routers for the provision of Internet access to rural, hard-to-reach children who participate in the joint UNICEF/NACCW (implementing partner) Safe Parks initiative. Three such solar-powered Internet routers were installed at three Safe Parks during December. This was a 2016 addition to other innovative technologies already in use.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 The identity, direction and well-being of UNICEF and staff are managed efficiently and effectively to enable the achievement of results for children in the country.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
N/A

OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems exist to support the direction of country operations

Analytical Statement of Progress:
During 2016, the CMT continued to prioritise, review and monitor the implementation of the Risk Management Plan, the Office Plan for Implementation of Agreed Audit Actions, the Office Improvement Plan, the periodic review of funding status and the monitoring of key management indicators (including compact indicators, global score card, and office-specific performance indicators).

The CMT identified gaps in implementation and recommended concrete actions to achieve the targets. The CMT also deliberated on "Eight opportunities to streamline office management" and decided to implement the ceiling of US$100,000 for the PCA review, which was the only opportunity yet to be implemented. In addition, the CMT reviewed and recommended two programme budget review proposals that were aimed at addressing
weaknesses identified in the areas of vacancy and funding.

Key management indicators were also monitored by the All Staff Meeting on a quarterly basis, and discussed at mid-year and annual review meetings.

During 2016 all statutory bodies were in place and effectively supported the achievement of programme and management objectives. The CMT met 12 times, JCC met 6 times, while the PCARC and CRC met as required on a weekly basis.

Moreover, the RMC was instrumental in developing and implementing the risk management plan, focusing on six main risks identified in the annual management plan. The RMC consisted of members from all categories of staff and all sections, ensuring a transparent, inclusive and structured approach to risk management.

The BCP was updated, approved and successfully simulated in 2016. The table of authority includes a list of officers-in-charge OICs and alternates, ensuring continuity, while the BCP provides for alternate and devolution locations. The office is finalising an agreement with the Zimbabwe Office (one of the regional BCP Centres) to support as an alternate devolution location for transaction processing.

The 2016 audit report included 12 recommendations - two high priority and 10 medium priority. Seven recommendations were closed, the remaining five are in the final stage of implementation.

In 2016, UNICEF South Africa focused on improving the efficiency of transaction processing in view of the migration to GSSC, as well as on streamlining SOPs and the Tables of Authority. A system of section-based local focal points was adopted so that each invoice was received, reviewed and submitted to GSSC for processing by the concerned section. This approach helped to reduce the time taken in transaction processing and to place responsibility for invoice processing where it belongs.

In 2016, the SOP on travel of staff and consultants was revised, eliminating the use of hard copy travel requests and the printing of travel authorizations, thereby reducing the time required to process these documents.

**OUTPUT 2** Stewardship of Financial Resources creates the conditions to pursue country operations.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The CMT continued to monitor funding/utilization status monthly by outputs. A monthly dashboard was shared with all staff, including information on funding/utilization, balances per grants expiring in three-to-six months and commitments, with detailed breakdown by section.

The total funds utilized in 2016 amounted to US$11.9 million comprised of: US$0.75 million from IB, US$1.3 million from RR and US$9.83 million from OR. The OR funds were received from a combination of private foundations, national committees, corporate entities and pledge donors. UNICEF South Africa achieved a 97 per cent implementation of IB funds, 100 per cent implementation of RR funds and 87 per cent implementation of OR funds. A total of US$188,600 remained unutilized on grants that expired in 2016. This amount includes US$188,000 of the CDC grant, which will be extended to 2017, leaving a net amount of US$600 on expired grants.
The status of cash transfers was monitored by the CMT every month and by programme sections regularly in section meetings. As of 31 December 2016, there was a zero DCT balance greater than six months. As an additional quality assurance step, each DCT payment/liquidation was reviewed by the budget officer before it was approved/verified by programme/operations. During 2016, the office conducted 37 programme visits and 17 spot-checks, meeting minimum requirements, and commissioned four micro-assessments. The spot-checks were conducted by UNICEF staff, which proved efficient and cost-effective. The office largely complied with month-end cash balance requirements in 2016. It issued an SOP on recording and reconciliation of pledge collections to ensure appropriate segregation of duties in management of funds received from private sector fundraising activities.

The use of stretch assignments to cover staff capacity gaps, the transfer of the BNLSS HR hub to the ESARO Sub-regional office in Johannesburg, and the decision to use UNICEF staff for spot-checks, and to keep the Procurement Specialist post vacant until the outcome of the BNLSS review, were a few strategic actions aimed at enhancing efficiency and cost savings. The total amount of cost savings realised in 2016 is estimated at US$141,000 (Spot checks US$61,000 + Procurement Specialist US$65,000 + common contracts US$5,000).

**OUTPUT 3 Human capacity management**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

One of UNICEF’s 2016 priorities was to ensure that all staff work in a safe, secure, hygienic, respectful work place and supportive environment; and have high morale and motivation. The office prioritised recruitment of vacant posts to ensure full capacity on board to support deliver of programme and implementation priorities. All IP vacant posts have been filled by the end of the year. Four NO posts, including three new posts established by the PBR in 2016 are vacant and are in process of recruitment.

Under the leadership of the Staff Association, the Office Improvement Plan (OIP) was updated and implemented considering the progress/results of the 2016 OIP in addressing the issues raised by the Global Staff Survey and follow-up discussions in office retreats. Learning and Staff Development Plan was developed and its implementation was monitored by the Learning and Staff Development Committee. All mandatory trainings were completed by staff and majority of group trainings were implemented.

2016 witnessed a major step forward towards the strengthening of staff security and safety. UNICEF premises were relocated from the non-MOSS compliant UN common premises – characterised by lack of standoff distance, inadequate parking facilities, and sharing of premises with other non-UN entities – into fully MOSS-compliant premises. The move adopted a ‘cost conscious approach’ when making decisions related to remodelling, furniture, fixtures and security upgrades, and completed the relocation within the approved budget. The move has provided a much more secure, healthy and productive work environment, and has significantly enhanced staff morale and the quality of the work environment which positively contributed to efficiency gains.

Although UNICEF South Africa moved away from the UN common premises, it continued to participate in common services-related initiatives, including supporting the recruitment of a wellness officer under common service which will contribute to direct cost savings in 2017.

The security systems and access control for the new premises were designed with guidance and support from the regional security advisor. The Compound Security Procedure and Building Evacuation Procedure were drafted and an evacuation drill was conducted in 2016.
The SMT adopted a revised MOSS and RSM system for South Africa. The senior management of UNICEF completed the Security Risk Management Training and Security Management Training.

Although, there were 7 security incidents reported in 2016 involving UNICEF staff, none of those resulted in injuries and required specific action by the organisation.

**OUTCOME 2** 80% of pregnant women, new-borns and children less than five years of age and adolescents access quality maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health interventions including HIV and AIDS with a special focus on the most disadvantaged districts and communities

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
South Africa has already achieved the SDG target for neonatal mortality, but the country has not met its infant mortality rate Millennium Development Goal, despite having invested substantially in policies and programmes to achieve these targets. Under-five mortality was stagnant at 41 per cent in 2015, compared to 42 per cent in 2013, with large disparities between provinces and population groups, linked to poverty and the apartheid legacy. Infant mortality rates in Free State and KwaZulu-Natal provinces are more than double those in Western Cape, and compared to a white child, a Black African child is almost five times more likely to die before his or her first birthday (2011 Census).

Over the past five years, pneumonia, diarrhoea and HIV have remained the leading causes of under-five mortality. The national immunization rate in 2014 was reported at 95 per cent, reflecting near-universal coverage for one-year-olds. However, rates vary between provinces and districts, suggesting that implementation remains a challenge. The World Health Organization and UNICEF estimated national immunization coverage for DTP3 (three doses of combined diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine) to be low (69 per cent) in 2015. Circumstances such as poor living conditions intersect with limited support for mothers and sub-optimal quality of services, making children vulnerable to death from preventable infections.

At 21 per cent in 2015, the stunting rate for children under five is higher in South Africa than in many poorer African countries. This is linked to poor infant and young child feeding practices, including low exclusive breastfeeding rates. While 80 per cent of mothers initiate breastfeeding almost immediately after birth, exclusive breastfeeding at six months is only 7.4 per cent (2012 SANHANES-1), and over 70 per cent of infants are given solid foods between two and three months of age. The premature introduction of food and liquids to infants younger than six months has a detrimental impact on infant and young child nutrition and health. Qualitative research points to a lack of support for and understanding of the importance of breastfeeding among all sectors of society.

The Government prioritized maternal and child health as an area where progress needs to be accelerated in order to meet national and global goals. UNICEF has been a key technical partner, working with the national DoH and other partners to identify bottlenecks and solutions to reduce disparities and improve outcomes. Major efforts have been directed toward implementing the recommendations of the mid-term review of the Maternal, Newborn, Child, Women’s Health and Nutrition Strategy, developed with UNICEF’s support in 2014. UNICEF contributed to national-level strategies and policies, monitoring performance of maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition care programmes and innovations, and modelling solutions for strengthening service delivery to improve health and nutrition outcomes. This included technical support to the DoH to develop the new strategy being developed for 2017–2021 and a national breastfeeding media campaign, as well as
support to the Presidency to develop a National Food and Nutrition Security Plan. Innovations include the '3 feet approach' to health system-strengthening in seven districts with some of the worst outcome indicators; this approach has been shown to contribute to a decrease in the deaths of mothers and children. This evidence paved the way for inclusion of the 3 feet approach tools in national strategy and implementation plans for the reduction of maternal, new-born and child deaths. It also led to improving district health planning and budget allocations linked to identified bottlenecks and actions. Technological innovations included UNICEF’s support to the MomConnect programme, which reached over 1 million pregnant women in 2016 with reminders to get antenatal care, early testing and treatment for HIV-positive mothers, and other related messages.

The country is also making important strides in addressing the HIV epidemic. Significant progress was achieved in reducing MTCT, with rates at six weeks amongst babies declining from 8 per cent in 2008 to 1.5 per cent in 2015 and transmission at birth estimated to be 1 per cent (NHLS, August 2016). The number of new HIV infections in children declined from 21,000 in 2012 to 5,100 in 2015 and testing and access to treatment is growing. The national coverage of ART for children under the age of 15 increased from 50 per cent in 2014 to 74 per cent in 2015. Coverage of early infant diagnosis of HIV and antiretroviral therapy in pregnant women remained high (over 95 per cent) and coverage of HIV polymerase chain reaction testing at birth increased from 39 per cent in June 2015 to 92.5 per cent in August 2016. Testing at 10 weeks rose from 13 per cent in June 2015 to 49 per cent in May 2016 and 73 per cent by August 2016.

Through a combination of national-level engagement, technical assistance and support to monitoring and evaluation, as well as support to innovative solutions at the local level in selected districts, UNICEF’s contribution to these results has been recognized as catalytic by the Government. At the policy level, UNICEF led the development of the National ‘Last Mile’ Plan for EMTCT (2016–2021). Support also included analysis of routine data from the National Health Laboratory Services, which led to prioritization of 14 districts with high numbers of HIV infections among children for implementation of innovative high-impact interventions. The 90-90-90 District Improvement Plans were implemented in 2016.

**OUTPUT 1** At least 90% of birth delivery (Health facility) sites and the linked feeder (PHC) clinics in selected districts provide and monitor a package for improving new-born and under five child health outcomes

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF worked closely with the NDoH to finalise the next five years MNCWH&N Strategy 2017–2021; finalisation is expected in early 2017, and an investment case for maternal and child health is in progress. During 2016, UNICEF South Africa supported the holding of key meetings to enhance policy and programme dialogue for improving implementation of maternal and child health programmes. The meetings included a think-tank for maternal, new-born and child health and nutrition; the district clinical specialist (DCST) symposium and sharing of best practices; the maternal and child death audits meetings; and the national steering committee for DCST teams. Some initiatives led to a reduction in mortality and morbidity rates among mothers and neonates; UNICEF has supported the documentation of these practices, to be replicated and considered for policy formulation.

UNICEF also promoted the ‘Supplemental Immunization Activities’ (SIA) campaign, aimed at improving immunization coverage and vitamin A supplementation, deworming, health education and other health services designed to improve health outcomes among children under five.

UNICEF South Africa expanded its work in health systems through the 3 feet approach at
district level in 2016, including three new districts in Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal in addition to the four original districts in Eastern Cape. The 3 feet approach focuses on supporting decentralised health systems while improving maternal and child health outcomes in select districts. The work involved aiding districts to identify bottlenecks, prioritization of actions and monitor data and actions for results.

UNICEF works with district health managers to develop district health plans and budgets for implementation in Eastern Cape Province. It continued to work with the Government to monitor the performance of maternal, new-born and child health and nutrition care programmes, through assistance with quarterly district-level reviews, dashboards and data or action reports in select districts. Continued quality-improvement processes to address perinatal and neonatal mortality were implemented in Limpopo, Eastern Cape and Free State provinces through baseline and quarterly assessments for tracking progress, action, capacity-building and establishing neonatal units in hospitals, based on the national new-born HHAPI-NesS framework and incorporating maternal health outcomes.

The innovative continuous positive airway pressure machine (Pumani) for low-cost settings was also introduced in hospitals, and improvements in using data for action for new-born care were seen. Further work in strengthening new-born coordination mechanisms at the national level and supporting partnerships with academic and research institutions will take place in 2017.

In addition, UNICEF continued to support improvements in the MomConnect Help Desk linked with the RapidPro/CasePro technology. The programme reached over 1 million pregnant women in 2016. This SMS-based programme shares information throughout the antenatal care and postnatal period by sending antenatal care reminders and messages on early testing and treatment among HIV-positive mothers, nutrition, hygiene and immunization.

**OUTPUT 2** Output 2: At least 90% of health care facilities and linked community systems in selected districts implement a comprehensive package of high impact child nutrition interventions including WASH programmes to improve key under 5 child nutrition indicators by at least 50 per cent.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
A multi-sectoral nutrition committee at the Presidency level is proposed in the draft National Food and Nutrition Security Plan, developed with technical support and coordination leadership from UNICEF South Africa and planned for finalisation in early 2017. The Plan was presented by the Minister for Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation and endorsed by the Social Protection, Community and Human Development (SPCHD) Cabinet Committee. In the meantime, UNICEF continues to support a think-tank for nutrition, bringing together academic experts and researchers to discuss issues and solutions for improving child nutrition.

The National ECD Strategy, adopted by the Government in December 2015, includes nutrition as a key component. The development of a training curriculum on infant and young child feeding (IYCF), including training on ECD stimulation and development for community workers/health service outreach, has been identified as a key action. UNICEF is working with Eastern Cape Province to understand the gaps and relevant messages needed at ECD spaces, which will inform the development of a curriculum.

UNICEF was also instrumental in supporting a deeper understanding of the problems and bottlenecks contributing to the persistence of SAM in the country, as well as mobilizing
partners to promote breastfeeding as a key strategy for improving IYCF. UNICEF supported South Africa’s first nutrition consultative meeting, which debated the need for a national think-tank focused on nutrition. UNICEF also facilitated a SAM workshop, which was attended by 250 delegates attending the public health nutrition meeting in August 2016, and resulted in recommendations to be taken forward by the SAM Technical Working Group. UNICEF is also a member of the National Breastfeeding Technical Working Group and the lead technical agency on the breastfeeding media campaign, which was launched by the Deputy Minister of Health at the World Breastfeeding Conference in December 2016.

Work also continued on nutrition outcomes using decentralized health systems-strengthening (the 3 feet approach) in select districts, at the facility level, to understand the current status of child nutrition and identify key bottlenecks and solutions. UNICEF is working with a partner in Uthukela district (KwaZulu-Natal) to design and implement a comprehensive framework to address child malnutrition. Tools to track the nutrition cascade at facility level, including regular growth monitoring, were designed and tested. This will inform the national scale-up plan for addressing SAM in the country.

The new draft National Hygiene and Handwashing Strategy, developed with technical guidance from UNICEF, emphasizes the requirement for hygiene promotion programmes in the country to shift from being focused on health education and knowledge dissemination, to being driven by behaviour change and sustainability. In this context, UNICEF supported the National Hygiene and Handwashing Coordinating Task Team, with the aim of ensuring improved coordination of hygiene and handwashing promotion initiatives in the country. At the same time, UNICEF supported ongoing community-based interventions in selected districts through training of community health workers on WASH, as a critical component in the reduction of maternal and child deaths.

OUTPUT 3 At least 95% of HIV positive pregnant women, HIV exposed infants access PMTCT services and 80% of HIV positive children access treatment and care and support nationally

Analytical Statement of Progress:
All facilities in South Africa have the capacity to offer provider-initiated testing and counselling to children. UNICEF works closely with the DoH and other stakeholders to monitor, identify key bottlenecks and pilot innovations to eliminate MTCT and ensure that all HIV-positive children access and are retained on ART.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, UNICEF led the development of the ‘Last Mile’ Plan for EMTCT 2016–2021. The Plan was launched and presented by the Minister of Health at the International AIDS Conference in Durban in 2016. Through a series of technical presentations, UNICEF led the United Nations in building an understanding for the DoH and local partners of global pre-elimination and elimination validation criteria and processes.

Support also included an analysis of routine data from the National Health Laboratory Services, which led to the prioritization of 14 districts with a high number of HIV infections in children for implementation of innovative, high-impact interventions to eliminate MTCT. The 90-90-90 District Improvement Plans, developed with UNICEF’s support, are being implemented across all districts.

UNICEF South Africa continues to work with the Medical Research Council to prepare for the impact evaluation of the PMTCT B+ regimen in South Africa. Technical support was provided for the completion of the 2015 HIV Spectrum Estimates, providing expertise in PMTCT and paediatric HIV care. UNICEF also completed a pilot phase for real-time tracking
of HIV PCR-positive infants that commenced in three districts in KwaZulu-Natal province (EThekweni, UMgungundlovu, and UMkhanyakude), to understand the gaps in the PMTCT cascade and link HIV-positive infants to early ART. Assistance also included building bi-directional referral and linkage systems for PMTCT and nutrition between communities and clinics through groups of women living with HIV and other community groups, in four districts (Waterberg, Zululand, OR Tambo and Amathole), including adolescent peer-to-peer counselling and an adherence-support programme in Tshwane District.

UNICEF continued to encourage and assist the Government to monitor the performance of PMTCT and paediatric HIV-care programmes through the development of quarterly district-level dashboards and data for action reports, which serve as a basis for quality improvement plans. Challenges still remain to further reduce MTCT in the breastfeeding period, and to locate and treat HIV-infected children early.

UNICEF supported the DoH to prepare and conduct a satellite session on EMTCT during the 2016 International AIDS Conference in Durban in July, where success stories and best practices in EMTCT in South Africa were showcased. UNICEF also hosted a webinar session in which lessons learnt in the roll-out of birth HIV PCR testing were shared globally.

The early infant male circumcision (EIMC) pilot study is ongoing, and is to be completed in 2017. Consultation workshops with provincial DoH and stakeholders on the draft scale-up strategy for EIMC and finalization of training and monitoring tools/materials took place in KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape. A costing study for EIMC was initiated; the plan for 2017 includes dissemination to national stakeholders and finalisation of the national scale-up strategy.

OUTPUT 4 80% of pregnant women, newborns and children less than five years of age and adolescents access quality maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health interventions including HIV and AIDS with a special focus on the most disadvantaged districts and communities

Analytical Statement of Progress:
According to a 2012 Human Science Research Council Report, only about 14 per cent of eligible HIV-positive adolescents in South Africa were accessing ART. Lack of age-disaggregated data for adolescent HIV care remains a key challenge. UNICEF partnered with research institutions to conduct secondary analyses on previous datasets to disaggregate adolescent HIV data on a number of important indicators; the report will be available in 2017.

A report outlining the mapping of digital platforms used by adolescents is available and provides information about ways to engage adolescents. Developed with UNICEF’s technical assistance, the 90-90-90 District Improvement Plan for adolescent HIV is available and is being implemented at district level. Work is on-going to support the facility-level data review (cascades) and planning focused on adolescents in select districts.

Training to establish ART adherence clubs was conducted in Eastern Cape Province through partnerships with district and local NGOs. Community adolescent mentor mother support groups are being established through a partnership with mothers2mothers in four districts. Targeted at adolescent pregnant women living with HIV, these support groups will follow up and conduct peer psychosocial adherence counselling and education as part of the Last Mile Plan for EMTCT.
Emerging evidence on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has led to Government-led technical discussions with all stakeholders on adolescent HIV prevention amongst girls; UNICEF is part of the national technical team. Within this context, UNICEF supported preparatory work to implement PrEP demonstration projects at three sites (in KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and Gauteng provinces) with support from UNITAID.

UNICEF South Africa supported discussions and dialogue on implementing the core package of the national ‘She Conquers’ campaign, launched in June by the Deputy President and led by the DoH, the Presidency and the South African National AIDS Council.

At the policy level, UNICEF provided technical inputs to the development of the new National Strategic Plan for HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis 2017–2022 (NSP), which emphasizes the need for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral prevention programme targeting high-burden areas and priority populations, including adolescents and young people. The NSP also prioritizes biomedical prevention and treatment programmes, including PMTCT, paediatric and adolescent HIV, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections.

**OUTPUT 5** At least 90% of health care facilities in selected districts implement facility level planning and monitoring as part of the district and facility based health systems strengthening towards reaching the targets for MDGs 4, 5 and 6

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continues to work with national government, and at the provincial and district levels, to support the use of accurate data collection and analysis as essential components of planning and improving health outcomes in facilities. Improving the district health systems was a key recommendation from the mid-term review of the Maternal, Newborn, Child, Women’s Health and Nutrition Strategy, completed in 2014.

Through consultations with provinces and districts, it became evident that facility-level ownership, accountability and action were needed to improve results along the continuum of care for women and children. UNICEF designed the 3 feet approach to improve systems across different levels of health care delivery, using simple tools, including: facility-based planning linked with data review, identification of bottlenecks, priority actions and partner alignment towards results. The set of tools help health care workers to understand data in a visual manner, understand targets and bottlenecks, identify priority actions, initiate and track actions for results across the continuum of care and establish accountability forums. The set of tools includes 24-hour death reporting, monitoring and response units and forums, action plan templates, data dashboards, run-charts, a 3x4 matrix for bottleneck analysis and an action dashboard to track actions and link with results.

In 2016 the 3 feet model was implemented across seven districts (Eastern Cape: Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, OR Tambo, Amathole, Buffalo City Metro, Sarah Baartmann; Limpopo: Waterberg; and Mpumalanga: Gert Sibande). All facilities in these districts were trained in the use of performance dashboards as a way of tracking child outcomes and a simple way to maintain and monitor quality performance indicators. Clinical and management teams were also supported to perform overall quality assurance checks, death audits/root cause analysis of deaths at facility level and responsiveness post-analysis, and to document and monitor remedial actions. Ongoing support for improved services is provided to districts as part of the integrated programme and package for child health, with a plan to roll out to all districts as the next phase.

Work is also ongoing to support further detailing of the implementation of the 3 feet approach at scale with the DoH. Through partnerships with academic institutions, curricula of
professionals to address the gaps in provincial service delivery were influenced. The focus has been on linking the bottlenecks and actions with the district health planning process and facilitating costing and budgeting in the financial health plans. Because the 3 feet approach simplifies planning, UNICEF has worked with the DoH to support the development of district health plans in the seven districts, promoting better quality district health plans that result in improved budget allocations and monitoring of expenditures linked with results.

**OUTCOME 3** All boys and girls access improved quality education, with increased school retention, completion and achievement rates

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Access to ECD services improved, with over 48 per cent of children aged 0-4 years attending ECD programmes outside their homes and 87 per cent of five-year-olds, attending Grade R pre-school. Adoption of the integrated and multi-sectoral national ECD policy in December 2015 resulted in broad political momentum to improve access to quality ECD services.

UNICEF-supported capacity enhancement through in-service training of 150,000 practitioners and educators was initiated to improve quality in early learning and development, supported by knowledge-sharing and advocacy, in partnership with the LEGO Foundation. Support to the Government to implement both the ECD policy and the national curriculum framework (NCF) for children from birth to four years continued in 2016, focusing efforts on key implementation levels related to investment, human resource gap reviews, feasibility studies on coordination and management, in-service training on play-based learning in the early years and mobilizing inter-governmental commitments, with an emphasis on local municipalities strategically positioned UNICEF as a key partner at policy level.

Primary school attendance is nearly universal at 99 per cent, with 4.8 per cent being children with disabilities. Only 1 per cent of children within the compulsory school age (7-15 years) are not in school. The gender parity index (GPI) continues to remain stable, indicating equal opportunity for both males and females participating in institutions of learning.

Results from the ‘Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study’ 2015 showed improvement in maths (from 352 in 2011 to 372 in 2015) and science (from 332 in 2011 to 358 in 2015) performance amongst Grade 8 and 9 learners and the steady movement of performance of the system from very low to low, relative to the other participating countries (the annual national assessments have been suspended since 2015 due to objections from unions. A new assessment framework is being developed and due for implementation in 2018).

During 2016 the CSTL programme framework was modelled in one province through direct support to 393 schools, strengthening district capacity and commitments by provinces to extend the programme to all 1,800 schools due to the pilot’s positive results. UNICEF South Africa provided technical assistance, capacity-building and modelling of good practice to improve the quality of school management and teaching. UNICEF has been a key partner in promoting safe school environments through support for the DBE to adopt the child-friendly schools model, which was aligned with the DBE’s own CSTL. The School Safety Framework was finalized with a strong emphasis on GBV prevention and management in schools (2015). The gender equity framework is still under review, while the policy on teenage pregnancy is in draft form. Over 200 girls’ and boys’ education movement (G/BEM) groups were trained on violence prevention in schools.
The gross secondary enrolment rate has remained stable at 0.99, and more than 1 million learners were reached through UNICEF-supported e-learning innovations for teaching and learning (ukuFUNda) and enhancing teachers’ capacity in the area of information and communications technology. Further, the training on error analysis for mathematics initially done with UNICEF support in 2015, was integrated into the National Strategy for Learner Attainment, for which there is compulsory quarterly reporting. Data from eight provinces indicate that 7,105 teachers and 1,186 provincial/district officials were trained in 2016.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The National ECD Policy was approved by the Cabinet in December 2015 and the Department of Social Development (DSD) is leading implementation. UNICEF has guided the development of the investment case for ECD, which provides evidence in relation to funding and commitment to ensure that implementation of the national ECD policy is adequately resourced.

A basic orientation programme on the national ECD policy, equipping 1,051 officials with essential knowledge to lead its implementation, was supported directly by UNICEF South Africa. A draft implementation plan (pending Cabinet review in the first quarter of 2017) and a feasibility study on coordination and management of ECD at the national level were developed. An audit by human resource on Government departments in relation to ECD was also conducted. Through UNICEF’s technical assistance, a national sectoral social development financing strategy paper for ECD was prepared. This served as the basis for securing for the DSD just over US$6 million for ECD within the medium-term expenditure framework.

To raise awareness and mobilize key policy-makers, programme developers and community members, UNICEF supported advocacy events. These included the 11th annual ECD knowledge building seminar, attended by 350 stakeholders, and the critical thinking forum on ‘Reimagining ECD’ that provided the impetus for a national forum focused on the importance of play.

A national online in-service training programme on play-based learning linked to the NCF and Curriculum Assessment and Policy Statement (CAPS) for Grade R to 3 was developed, targeting 150,000 practitioners and educators. The online platform was launched in November 2016 and UNICEF supported intensive capacity development of 110 DBE district officials to ensure a mind-shift on the role of play as the foundation of learning.

UNICEF is also working closely with the Department of Higher Education and Training to strengthen ECD pre-service qualifications and training linked to the draft national policy on Minimum Requirements for Programmes Leading to Higher Education Qualifications for Educators Working in Early Childhood Care and Education, to be finalized in March 2017.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The indicator on learning assessment is constrained because annual national assessments were suspended due to objections by unions. UNICEF is providing technical support to the
DBE to understand how assessment is undertaken in other countries in order to redesign assessment in South Africa. Discussions are on-going with the unions on the annual national assessments, and resumption is anticipated in 2018.

Although South Africa produces regular EMIS reports, they are often delayed. The use of regular EMIS data to identify learning bottlenecks and improve performance is inconsistent and weak in some districts. Forty-five district officials, representing 30 per cent of schools, received capacity-building on using EMIS data to inform planning and decision-making, as a result of UNICEF support, using datasets that are familiar to the DBE – EMIS, the quick survey (known as ‘SNAP’), South African School Administration and Management System, the annual national assessment, national school certificate examinations, personal and salary system – and involved practical exercises that managers regularly encounter in their day-to-day work.

UNICEF also supported strengthening maths and science teaching through pre/in-service teaching training with a focus on e-learning. The UkuFUNda virtual school, an m-learning solution, was subjected to a rigorous evaluation in 2016. The evaluation showed a high level of interest in digital learning content amongst learners and teachers through a cost effective ‘bring-your-own-device’ model, the feasibility of which was ascertained in a secondary school context. While the overall reach of the programme was high relative to other such initiatives in the country, sustained usage was generally low, except for a core group of learners. The evaluation recommendations will be used to develop revised m-learning solutions.

A university-accredited training course on integration of ICT into teacher development was developed and implemented for 166 e-learning specialists and teacher centre managers through a partnership between the University of Johannesburg, the University of South Africa, Vodacom, Microsoft and UNICEF. A professional development framework for digital learning was also developed to support teacher development on ICT and ICT standards to be met by teachers.

To generate evidence on what works to improve learning, UNICEF led a randomized control trial on three interventions designed to improve early grade reading (teacher training; teacher training and coaching; and parental support) in partnership with DBE and a private foundation. The study will be extended in 2017 to cover Grade 3 learners. This will inform evidence-based decisions for national rollout.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Implementation of the merged CSTL programme is on-going countrywide with UNICEF directly supporting the testing of the efficacy of the CSTL in Mpumalanga Province in 393 schools, reaching over 300,000 students, as a model for national scale-up. The province committed to extend the CSTL programme to all 1,800 schools and its 1.2 million learners, well situated within the Integrated School Health Programme Programmes, including with respect to deworming and good hygiene practices in primary schools across the country.

A learner wellbeing concept note was developed and submitted to the National Treasury for additional funding for the DBE’s Care and Support Branch to strengthen the CSTL programme. Through direct UNICEF technical assistance to the DBE, the conditional grant framework for the HIV and AIDS Life Skills Programme was redesigned to effectively address issues of HIV and AIDS and life skills in the school system.
Through the sports for development programme 18,155 learners from 60 schools in KwaZulu-Natal and North West provinces benefited from sports for development activities, including life skills education. Three hundred additional educators were also trained in physical education and over 1.2 million learners in 16,000 schools across all nine provinces engaged in schools' netball tournaments. This programme is equally central to the CSTL framework as a vehicle to address participation, retention, quality and essential life skills through partnerships.

Furthermore, a total of 5,000 learners in 42 high schools have a voice, take responsibility for their actions and actively participate in sport and youth development programmes within their schools as part of the G/BEM youth leadership programme in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Gauteng.

Some 5,600 schools were reached in 2016 following the approval of the National School Safety Framework (NSSF) in 2015. The NSSF provides standard operational guidelines for provinces to implement plans relating to school safety, including standardized school safety indicators. Through this framework, schools are expected to collect data on violence and upload it to the EMIS. As part of NSSF implementation, over 200 GBEM youth leaders were trained on GBV prevention in KwaZulu-Natal.

With UNICEF’s support, 3,750 girls benefited from a structured job-shadowing programme during their school holidays. These programmes are offered by over 100 companies, and in 2016 TechnoGirl alumni were tracked through a data base. This is an innovative programme through which school-girls aged 15-18 years are drawn from disadvantaged communities, selected on academic merit and placed in job shadowing programmes in companies. Job shadowing exposes girls to career experience and role models in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers, which will subsequently motivate the girls to aspire to studies and careers in these fields.

**OUTCOME 4** Children's rights to protection from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination are progressively recognized and fulfilled

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
South Africa enjoys some of the world’s strongest legislative and regulatory frameworks, including constitutional protections, a comprehensive Children’s Act and a well-trained and coordinated social welfare workforce.

Nevertheless, violence remains an everyday experience for many South African children. The 2016 Optimus Study offered the first-ever nationally representative data on violence against children. It found that one of five school age boys and one of three school-aged girls reported having experienced some form of sexual abuse in their lifetimes. An overwhelming majority of children (82 per cent) reported experiencing some form of violent victimization, such as criminal victimization or exposure to family or community violence. Despite the strong legal and policy protections for children, violence is rooted in historical and structural inequalities. Demand for, access to and quality of prevention, early intervention and response services for survivors of violence remain vastly inconsistent across the country. As a result, eliminating violence against children requires a comprehensive and multi-sectoral effort, considerable political will and much greater investment by all actors.

In this context, UNICEF has focused on documenting what works to prevent violence against children and supporting the generation of evidence to inform the implementation of anti-violence policies, laws and programmes, playing a key coordination and convening role.
among diverse partnerships in the anti-violence policy arena and promoting quality in service delivery.

Complementing other significant pieces of work (including the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention’s Optimus Study, which provides prevalence data; and the economic and social burden documented by Save the Children), UNICEF has supported key pieces of research that are now informing the Government’s and other partners’ strategies for addressing violence against children. This includes a comprehensive analysis of the direct and indirect social determinants and a diagnostic review of the bottlenecks to implementation of the government’s overarching National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children. These pieces of research are now being used to guide policy discussions in key forums, including the technical task team for the National Programme of Action to End Violence against Women and Children 2013–2018 (NAP), the Child Care and Protection Forum, the think-tank on orphans and vulnerable children and the child protection system reform process. Close collaboration with UNICEF’s Innocenti Centre also enabled key research initiatives to both benefit from, and inform, global initiatives related to parenting programming and online safety.

UNICEF South Africa also solidified its coordination and convening role among Government, academia and non-governmental organizations. The office continued to enjoy a reputation as a neutral, credible broker and has used its strong professional relationships to advocate for the reinvigoration of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC, which met in 2016, for the first time since 2013) and to ensure the regular convening of its technical task team. The violence-prevention sector continues to face coordination challenges characterized by multiple coordination forums, overlapping mandates, inconsistent degrees of political will and limited collaboration across government departments at the provincial and national levels, and between Government, civil society and the private sector. Ongoing support for brokering and fostering collaboration will remain a critical role for UNICEF in the coming years, as multiple child protection-related reforms and scale-up efforts take shape.

At the same time, as part of preventing violence through positive caregiving practices and promoting quality in service delivery, UNICEF directly supported over 25,000 children to access Safe Parks and home visits. This was part of the national Isibindi prevention and early intervention programme, and was an opportunity to support the DDSD and NACCW to infuse emerging good practices into the standard service delivery model. The good practices included the Sinovuyo Parenting Programme, the Sonke MenCare Programme and a more sophisticated service delivery monitoring system. The lessons learned from these initiatives are now available to inform and promote a more comprehensive package of services, as Isibindi continues to expand across the country.

UNICEF continued to work directly with key national justice and social welfare departments, including the DSD, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Planning and Monitoring and the South African Police Service. Key civil society partnerships included the Children’s Institute, the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention, the NACCW, Clowns Without Borders, World Vision and Sonke Gender Justice. Provincial-level partnerships with the Eastern Cape administration and the local NACCW team were critical to ensuring that service delivery models were implemented and monitored and that results were documented.

Whilst advances in research, coordination and service delivery have each contributed to raising the profile of the violence-prevention agenda and leveraged additional resources, cost efficiencies and partnerships, sustainable, comprehensive expansion efforts remain elusive. Efforts in 2016 focused on defining and supporting national and provincial
governments to resource, roll out, monitor and replicate successful scale-up strategies, seeking to promote the ‘whole of government’ approach demanded in the diagnostic review.

**OUTPUT 1** National Child Protection System to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, neglect and discrimination and ensure the care of vulnerable children strengthened.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF partnered in a study of the structural determinants of violence against women and children by the University of Cape Town and the Children’s Institute. Findings from the study – which utilized structural equation modelling to construct explanatory models that reflect pathways and sequencing for violence victimization and perpetration in relation to women and children – confirmed the need to invest in family strengthening interventions, especially home visitation and parenting, to prevent and mitigate factors that continue to place children at risk of becoming victims and/or perpetrators of violence. This study has now been endorsed by the IMC and will continue to exercise influence over the broader child protection system reform.

Building on this work, UNICEF also supported the IMC to undertake a diagnostic review on violence against women and children. This looked at the ‘whole of government’ response and identified overarching challenges faced by 11 key departments tasked with addressing violence against women and children. The review, completed in 2016, found that the national Programme of Action to End Violence against Women and Children required a more coordinated effort within government and stronger engagement with civil society. Promoting coordination has subsequently remained a key strategy in UNICEF’s effort to strengthen the Government’s response. UNICEF also maintained ongoing engagement with the IMC technical task team, which met several times in 2016.

UNICEF South Africa continues to play a key supporting role in the DSD’s efforts to advocate for greater priority and national attention to violence prevention. For example, UNICEF undertook an analysis of national budget allocation and expenditure in social development, finding that only 4 per cent of the national budget is assigned to actual services. This information is now informing national policy discussions related to child protection system reform, the think-tank on orphans and vulnerable children and the technical task team’s improvement plan (related to the implementation of recommendations from the diagnostic review). UNICEF also continued to promote collaboration across the child protection civil society sector. This included convening and/or participating in a range of dialogue and advocacy forums, including the Child Care and Protection Forum and 16 Days of Activism to End Violence against Women and Children.

**OUTPUT 2** Prevention strategies and services strengthened to prevent and mitigate factors that place children at risk of violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Government remains committed to and driven by evidence-based planning, and UNICEF continued to play a key role in promoting good practice models in the Eastern Cape that can inform a national and provincial scale-up policy. This is also consistent with recommendations emerging from the evaluation of the Safer South Africa Programme (funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development).

Isibindi is a family-strengthening programme implemented by over 40 partner organizations in 67 sites across the country. The social franchise is overseen and coordinated by the
NACCW, and the national Government has committed to increasing the number of child and youth care workers (CYCWs) to 8,000 by the end of 2017. Building on this commitment and seeking to ensure that this investment for children is maximized, UNICEF partnered with the NACCW to infuse promising practices into its family-strengthening model. Through this partnership, UNICEF directly supported 24,528 children, adolescents and youths to access 14 Isibindi sites in Eastern Cape, with NACCW, DSD and Clowns Without Borders. Each site employs 25 CYCWs, who support over 250 vulnerable families through monthly home visits; psychosocial support; accessing essential services and entitlements; ensuring that orphans are provided with appropriate, alternative parental care; and helping families through practical and participatory measures to restore functionality. Each site has a Safe Park where young children receive ECD programmes and older children gather after school for supervised recreation, life-skills training and homework. The Parks are run and funded by small, local civil society organizations. In 2016 UNICEF South Africa supported NACCW’s network of mentors to provide coaching and mentoring support to CYCWs, and provided supplies and funding for upgrading and maintenance of Safe Parks. These lessons are now also being progressively applied across Isibindi, which now reaches an estimated 280,000 children per year.

In addition, UNICEF supported the NACCW to infuse new strategies into family strengthening programmes. For example, Sinovuyo Teens (a positive parenting programme) was initiated and evaluated through a randomized control trial that found that participating families reported reductions in physical and emotional abuse and increased use of positive caregiving practices. Based on this success, the programme was adopted by the Eastern Cape provincial government in 2016 and is being rolled out in two more provinces; social workers are expected to be fully trained by mid-2017.

Sonke MenCare, a programme designed to encourage men's participation in caregiving, is also being rolled out as part of an enhanced Isibindi family-strengthening model. The training of Government officials is complete in Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces, and officials plan to reach out to some 1,800 fathers and male caregivers over the next six months.

An assessment of the family-strengthening programme was commissioned and the fieldwork completed. Analysis of results is expected in the first quarter of 2017 and, together with an assessment of a pioneering residential therapeutic programme implemented by ChildLine and NACCW (completed this year), will inform the DSD and NACCW scale-up strategy.

OUTPUT 3 Child victims and witnesses of violence and neglect access child friendly, multi-disciplinary services

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Given the limited available resources and considerable progress already made by the Government in child justice, UNICEF South Africa has focused its efforts on advocating for the scale-up of specialized sexual offences courts (SOCs) for survivors of sexual violence. With the establishment of SOCs, the need for operational research has taken on greater significance, as it will enable the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to respond appropriately to survivors and witnesses of sexual violence. In 2016, a baseline assessment on the experiences and satisfaction levels of witnesses and survivors accessing regional courts was finalized. It highlights the challenges that these survivors face in accessing the courts and indicates that the regional courts still need to be prepared/equipped with required infrastructure, staff know-how and clarity of roles and responsibilities. It also reaffirms the importance of specialized staff and survivor-sensitive processes.
A second baseline assessment is under way in nine provinces, examining the extent to which existing SOCs have upheld the rights of survivors and identified the needs, experiences and satisfaction of victims and witnesses vis-à-vis available services, facilities, information and their access to established SOCs. The assessment will provide recommendations for strengthening these courts to ensure stronger protection of survivors' and witness's rights before, during and after court proceedings. These lessons will also be used to inform a more accelerated and effective transition of normal courts to specialised courts. The survey will be completed in first quarter of 2017.

While the findings of both surveys will pave the way for improved SOC services, it has also become clear that the services provided by the courts are not sufficiently well communicated to the people and communities. In order to inform and educate people on the role of SOCs, child-friendly processes and available services/assistance, as well as how to access those services, a review and development of information, education and communication materials is also being conducted. The review will identify gaps in existing materials and develop materials for targeted groups/audiences (survivor, witness, court personnel, community, etc.) that are sensitive and suitable with regard to culture, age and sexual orientation, as well as being suitable for people with disability. This will be completed in first quarter of 2017.

In terms of humanitarian support, an initial rapid assessment was conducted to document drought-related protection risks, and 200 children were supported through referrals and psychosocial support. Additional support for direct service delivery was not requested by the Government; thus, UNICEF focused on providing assistance for broader preparedness efforts, including technical assistance on the drafting of new national minimum standards and monitoring the situation through inter-agency forums such as the National Steering Committee on Separated and Unaccompanied Children. In 2017, efforts to increase access to sexual violence response services will remain focused on supporting reforms to the national sexual offences courts while promoting a scale-up, particularly in provinces most affected by drought.

OUTCOME 5 Equity-sensitive national policies, programmes and budget allocations are made based on high quality evidence and strengthened oversight

Analytical Statement of Progress:
South Africa not only has a highly progressive Constitution, but also a set of laws and policies strongly informed by a human rights focus. However, 2016 was characterized by a tightening fiscal space which is likely to lead to significant shifts in budget allocations in the coming years. To ensure that children remain a priority, UNICEF continued to work closely with the Government and other partners to monitor budgetary allocations and the implementation of national social protection programmes, while applying an equity lens to social policy efforts.

Child support grants remained a central tenet of the national social protection programme. Around 84 per cent of the consolidated national and provincial DSD budget was allocated to social grants in 2017. This includes child support grants for approximately 12 million children, a further 470,000 children receiving the foster child grant and around 130,000 children who receive the care dependency grant. The Child Support Grant Exclusion Study, jointly conducted by UNICEF, SASSA and the DSD reveals that South Africa continues to make progress in reducing exclusion from the grants, especially among infants and older adolescents, the two most affected cohorts in previous studies.
In fact, take-up and coverage of the child grants continues to expand, reaching more than 12.5 million children by mid-2016, above the target set at the start of the year. This report is now being used by SASSA as the basis for developing a new research agenda, with a view to further reducing the exclusion rate and ensuring that all eligible children have access to appropriate social protection mechanisms. From an equity perspective, it is important that the remaining 18 per cent of children are reached, as there is increasing evidence (including a UNICEF co-authored review of the effectiveness of social protection for improving child and adolescent outcomes, published in the 2016 South African Child Gauge Report) to confirm that grants, especially the Child Support Grant, are contributing to positive impacts on young children’s health and nutrition, birth registration and access to early child development services, as well as on schooling and preventing risky behaviour among adolescents.

UNICEF is also supporting the Government to establish baselines from which to track its progress towards the achievement of SDGs targets. In 2016, the Atlas on Equity and Child Rights for South Africa, completed together with the National Human Rights Commission, provided a baseline from which to measure progress against six SDGs (social inclusion, nutrition, health and HIV, education, water and sanitation and child protection). Monetary and child poverty data will also be released in early 2017, based on information collected through the 2016 Living Conditions Survey. This will enable the country to track progress since the previous survey in 2008, and provides a baseline from which to measure improvements during the SDG period.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF has worked closely with a range of Government, civil society and academic partners to generate high-quality evidence and strengthen the information base for decision-making on policy design and implementation, with a focus on reducing child poverty and closing the equity gaps among children. With UNICEF support, three major pieces of research were undertaken, each designed to fill information gaps and ensure that future social policy decisions remain informed by evidence.

1. **Living Conditions Survey:** This survey was conducted jointly with Statistics South Africa and provides data on monetary child poverty. Once released in 2017, it will update the most recent data, which was collected in 2008.

2. **Global Goals for Every Child:** This atlas provides an extensive analysis of disparities in the realization of child rights. Using data from the General Household Survey and the National Income Dynamics Study, this work produced by UNICEF and the South African Human Rights Commission, will provide a basis for advocacy and strengthening political will to bridge existing inequalities pertaining to children with disabilities and access to the Child Support Grant.

3. **Child Grant Exclusion Study:** Conducted in partnership with SASSA and the DSD, this study assessed the extent to which eligible children are not receiving the grants to which they are entitled, and what measures need to be put in place to remove barriers to access. The study reveals that South Africa continues to make progress in reducing exclusion from the grants, especially among infants and older adolescents, the two most affected cohorts. It also confirms that take-up and coverage of the child grants continues to expand, reaching more than 12.5 million children in 2016.

UNICEF has also continued to play a key convening role, as a neutral and credible broker, to ensure that these critical pieces of research are widely disseminated. The office also
promoted dialogue and discussion between Government, non-government and academic partners.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Two significant research activities were conducted, with UNICEF assistance, in 2016 – the South Africa Child Gauge and a series of departmental budget briefs – to ensure that Government investment in social protection is acknowledged and encourage this level of Government commitment and funding to be sustained in the current context of tightening fiscal space.

The Child Gauge includes a series of essays that outline highly positive impacts, especially from the Child Support Grant, on vulnerable young children's health and nutrition, birth registration and access to early child development services; schooling; and preventing high-risk behaviour among adolescents. The Gauge provides a series of evidence-informed recommendations for future research and programming directions. These are based on the data included in the Child Gauge and a series of consultative workshops with key informants and stakeholders – a participatory process which was also supported by UNICEF South Africa.

The budget briefs, covering the DSD, DBE and DOH, provide a factual overview of current budget allocations and expenditures along with preliminary reflections on the current budget, comparing allocations and expenditure over time. These have been made available to departmental heads both to inform their internal advocacy and to highlight the potential gaps in funding allocations that could be addressed in future budgets. They also provide a platform for UNICEF to begin more detailed discussions with Government decision-makers and advocacy partners on developing a more targeted advocacy platform in 2017, with a view to maintaining budget allocations, promoting cost efficiencies and ultimately reducing the impact of future austerity measures on child-focused services. These briefs are complemented by a review of the political economy, the results of which are expected to be released in early 2017.

OUTCOME 6 All programme components supported through communication, advocacy and partnerships and improved accountability for results

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A major achievement of UNICEF South Africa during 2016 was to attain the highest UNICEF awareness increase globally (from 59 per cent in 2015 to 87 per cent in 2016 – an increase of 28 percent), as reflected in the 2016 WIN/Gallup Survey.

In 2016 discussions commenced on domestication of the SDGs in South Africa from a child rights perspective. UNICEF identified Communication and Partnerships as key strategies for supporting the SDG’s focus on children and women in South Africa. This was amplified by the successful launch of the ‘Global Goals Report’, which galvanized attention around the opportunities and challenges for South Africa to make the SDGs work for children. The launch generated significant media interest, allowing UNICEF to reach over 3 million viewers and listeners through strategic television and radio interactions.
UNICEF’s 70th Anniversary provided multiple opportunities for communication action, allowing UNICEF to reach an estimated 3 million people with messaging, through various media platforms, on the impact of UNICEF’s work over the past 70 years.


Fundraising and donor relations efforts resulted in over 90 per cent of the OR ceiling being funded in 2016, a total of over US$12 million. Most of these funds were generated from private sector donors, including private foundations, corporations and high-net-worth individuals through UNICEF national committees, in close coordination with the Geneva-based Private Sector Fundraising and Partnership (PSFR) Division. They include partnerships with LEGO, MacAids, the Ryan Trust and the Elma Foundations, as well as FC Barcelona. Funding was also generated through the Schools for Africa National Committees campaign, implemented in cooperation with the Nelson Mandela Institute in South Africa.

In addition, the PSFR programme in South Africa, the only such UNICEF operation on the continent, continued to roll out implementation of the Private Fundraising and Partnerships Strategy (2015-2017) through fund-raising, advocacy, leveraging and programming. UNICEF South Africa raised US$1.23 million from South African local corporations and foundations. A major success of UNICEF’s pledge programme was the high retention rate for pledge donors (around 90 per cent), and an average monthly gift increase by 20 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015. UNICEF also saw a 42 per cent increase in funding mobilized through pledge donors between 2015 and 2016.

Strategic engagement with the private sector in South Africa focused on the mining sector and how best it can support the SDGs and the child rights agenda. With this in mind, UNICEF drafted a strategy to leverage engagement with the mining sector, which included a side event at the Mining Indaba in Cape Town in early 2016. UNICEF also provided technical input into South Africa’s new Mining Charter and hosted its first chief executive officer breakfast with 10 companies featuring discussions about the SDGs and children’s rights. Further interactions of this nature are planned for 2017.

In 2016 UNICEF South Africa contributed to behavioural and social change by amplifying people’s voices through a variety of communication approaches and tools, focusing on water and sanitation, breastfeeding promotion, early childhood development and child survival and development. Communication for development was a key strategy to achieve programme results in 2016, in terms of impact, scale and sustainability. Another key achievement of UNICEF South Africa in 2016 was the launch of a national campaign to promote breastfeeding, developed jointly with the DoH and civil society. The campaign, launched during the World Breastfeeding Conference and using online and traditional media as key platforms, sought to reach over 10 million people.

**OUTPUT 1** Public alliances and initiatives established leading to increased awareness and understanding of child deprivations and support for child rights.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, South Africa started discussions about domestication of the SDGs from child rights perspective. Both the National Development Plan and UNICEF’s country programme document identified Communication and Partnerships as key strategies for achieving high impact for children and women in South Africa.

As per the 2016 WIN/Gallup Survey UNICEF South Africa achieved the highest UNICEF
Opinion improvement globally (from 31 per cent in 2015 to 53 per cent in 2016), and the highest increase in Awareness (from 59 per cent in 2015 to 87 per cent in 2016).

UNICEF developed its South Africa Advocacy Strategy 2017-2018, which aims to reach over 40 million South Africans and engage 2.5 million people through integrated campaigns focused on priority issues.

In 2016 communication support was provided for Child Protection Week, the Durban AIDS Conference, 16 Days of Activism and the World Breastfeeding Conference. Visits from UNICEF Canada and IKEA, UNICEF Australia and Qantas, and the FC Barcelona, with UNICEF Spain, generated additional visibility and support.

UNICEF’s 70th Anniversary provided multiple opportunities for communication action: UNICEF partnered with the Mbokodo/Women in the Arts Awards on 8 December, during which ‘Tiny Story’ author, seven year-old Michelle Nkamankeng, received the ‘Girl Child of Promise Award’. UNICEF@70 billboards were placed outside major airports, a photo exhibition was produced and street poles displayed in Johannesburg’s business centre, reaching an estimated 3 million people over a month.

A new partnership with a research institute, the South African Institute of International Affairs, secured speaking engagements with youth focusing on water, sanitation and the SDGs, reaching about 20,000 young people.

UNICEF South Africa enjoys strong partnerships with several platforms in the country, reaching an estimated 20 million people. UNICEF videos were broadcast at the Lanseria airport (2.4 million travellers annually), on Mango Airlines flights (2 million passengers) and at Ster Kinekor cinemas (reaching 19 million viewers annually), along with print materials featured by UNICEF’s media partner (Ndalo Media’s Destiny magazines) and South African Airways’ inflight magazine Sawubona (1 million readers). In partnership with cable channel Supersport, the Endviolence video spot featuring David Beckham’s animated tattoos reached over 20 million viewers in Africa in December.

UNICEF engaged with a larger population segment on social media. Facebook fans increased to over 65,500. Twitter followers increased to almost 14,000. UNICEF South Africa’s celebrity advocate Jo-Ann Strauss (a former Miss South Africa and well-known media personality), was elevated to National Ambassador in October. The country website enjoyed 15,813 unique visitors in 2016, with 4,730 returning visitors.

A series of reports were launched, including the: Child Gauge Report, Lancet series on ECD, and the ‘Progress in reducing exclusion from South Africa’s Child Support Grant’ report. Over 4,000 people were reached through these key publications. Successful media outreach around the launch of the ‘Global Goals for Every Child’ report - which looks at opportunities and challenges to realising the SDGs for children in South Africa – allowed UNICEF to reach over 3 million individuals in South Africa.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, South Africa started discussions about domestication of the SDGs from child rights perspective. Both the National Development Plan and UNICEF’s country programme document identified Communication and Partnerships as key strategies for achieving high impact for children and women in South Africa.
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OUTPUT 3 National capacity strengthened to plan, develop, implement and monitor evidence-based communication for development strategies to ensure positive behaviour and social change.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016 UNICEF contributed to behavioural and social change by amplifying people’s voices through a variety of communication approaches and tools focused on: water and sanitation, breastfeeding promotion, ECD and child survival and development. Communication for development was a key strategy for achieving programme results in 2016, in terms of impact, scale and sustainability.

UNICEF’s ‘WASH Challenge’ was broadcast on the ‘Bona Retsang’ youth programme on Radio SABC1 from June until August, reaching over 1 million listeners. The WASH Challenge is a fun game show that highlights hygienic practices and spreads awareness in communities across South Africa.

A national breastfeeding communication and behavioural change campaign was designed and launched with the DOH during the International Breastfeeding Conference, which took place from 11 to 14 December. The aim of the campaign was to: i) raise awareness about low exclusive breastfeeding rates in South Africa; ii) motivate, empower and inspire mothers to exclusively breastfeed for the first six months; iii) encourage support for mothers to breastfeed optimally by changing the attitudes of all stakeholders. The campaign was rolled out in the form of posters and billboards displayed in public spaces (including taxi ranks and health facilities), advertisements in magazines and television public service announcements.

In support of MomConnect, a programme that links pregnant women and mothers to health care through mobile technology, six videos were developed and promoted on UNICEF’s and other partners’ social media platforms, and a social media plan was developed for implementation by the DOH.

As a curtain raiser to the global ECD campaign, a critical thinking forum on play and early stimulation was organised in partnership with the Mail and Guardian newspaper in November.

UNICEF South Africa received a grant as part of the global ‘Shout Out for Health’ initiative (value US$100,000), which promotes empowerment of an estimated 1,000 children and youth in South Africa on health issues through media training and school-based sensitisation sessions. The initiative is reaching out to over 800,000 community members through youth programmes broadcast on community radios.

OUTPUT 4 Quality programme planning, monitoring and evaluation ensured in a timely manner for efficient and effective delivery of results for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF South Africa continued to have in place systems and structures for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation. Results-based management (RBM) was strengthened through all programme staff completing RBM training and reviewing the programme’s vertical and horizontal programme logic, including aligning the outcome and output results structure with the new global indicators framework and ESARO/UNICEF South Africa Compact priority results.

Implementation of activities and achievement of results were reported and documented through mid-year and annual reviews. In addition, the office has started preparation for the new country programme 2018-2022, a new situation analysis was developed and a ‘strategic moment of reflection’ held with ESARO’s assistance.
In 2016, the office managed a total of 25 PCAs. UNICEF South Africa commissioned 4 micro-assessments and conducted 37 programme visits and 17 spot-checks, meeting minimum requirements. The spot checks were conducted by UNICEF staff, which proved efficient and cost effective.

UNICEF continued to use evaluations to learn about the effectiveness, relevance and impact of supported programmes. Evaluations were reviewed in detail with partners and a management response was prepared for all evaluations. Three evaluations planned in the 2016-2017 IMEP have been completed. Two of the evaluations are still being reviewed by the DBE and are not yet public.

Evaluation of the DBE’s RUBRICATE platform focused on the extent and nature of its uptake among teachers and the extent to which it has supported the improvement in teaching and learning practice among teachers. In coordination with DBE, UNICEF South Africa commissioned an evaluation of ukuFUNda virtual school. The evaluation showed a high level of interest in digital learning content amongst learners and teachers through a cost effective ‘bring-your-own-device’ model in a secondary school context. While the overall reach of the programme was relatively high, sustained usage was low, except for a core group of learners. The evaluation recommendations will be used to develop a revised m-learning solution to rectify this.

UNICEF also conducted a rapid evaluation of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health pilot m-Health project, MomConnect, which was implemented in two districts between 2011 and 2014. MomConnect aims to use mobile technology to improve the uptake of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services and improve the health outcomes of mothers and infants on the project. The results showed that the project met its objective, with over 6,000 clients enrolled and using MomConnect with positive feedback. Recommendations will be used to build the capacity of healthcare workers and develop a data quality plan to support real-time data entry and a two-way feedback system.

The Office participated in the Global Evaluation of the PMTCT programme, and South Africa was one of the countries selected for an in-depth case study.

Document Center

Evaluation and research

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<td>Report on Diagnostic Review of the State Response to Violence against</td>
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<td>SOUTH AFRICAN HIV AND TB INVESTMENT CASE</td>
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mHealth and Young People in South Africa 2016/004 Review
Breastfeeding in the Northern Cape – the Greatest Start to Life 2016/003 Review
The 3 Feet Approach in South Africa 2016/002 IMEP
Conducting a Rapid Assessment of MomConnect Project from September 2011 to date in eThekwini and Umgungundlovu districts, KwaZulu-Natal 2016/001 Evaluation

Other publications

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Lessons learned

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Programme documents

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