

## Sudan (the)

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### Executive Summary

Sudan continued to face acute and protracted crises in 2016, with 3.2 million people internally displaced, including some 1.9 million children. In Darfur, fighting between government forces and armed movements continued, and intensified in the Jebel Marra region, newly displacing 82,000 people, including 47,000 children. In 2016, there was also an influx of an additional 90,516 South Sudanese Refugees (SSRs), 60 per cent of them children, due to renewed conflict and food insecurity, bringing the total number SSR arrivals since 2013 to 263,245. Two million Sudanese children under five were acutely malnourished, with half a million of them severely malnourished, and the situation was further exacerbated by El Niño, epidemics, floods and droughts during the year.

Despite such challenges, significant milestones were achieved in 2016.

Joint advocacy by UNICEF, the UN Resident Coordinator and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), resulted in two Action Plans on Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, one with the Government and one with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N). Signing these action plans was a critical step for child protection, in line with UN Security Council resolutions and International Humanitarian Law.

UNICEF and partners treated more than 220,000 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), increasing treatment coverage from 25 per cent in 2014 to 40 per cent in 2016. Joint advocacy efforts with other UN agencies and the World Bank, a Government focal point were successful nutrition: the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Initiative was appointed, three country networks for SUN were created, and a nutrition investment case was launched by the Government.

More than 50,000 newborns benefited from essential services through enhanced capacity of various cadres of healthcare providers and the provision of essential reproductive health supplies at health facilities and to community-based midwives. A total of 253 community-based midwives graduated from basic midwifery training and were equipped with skills to perform safe deliveries in their communities.

Technical and financial support provided by UNICEF Sudan and implementing partners enabled 276,091 out-of-school children from rural areas, nomadic, and emergency affected communities to access basic and alternative learning programmes (ALPs) through construction and rehabilitation of 478 classrooms, including the provision of 268 gender-sensitive toilets and water facilities to improve the teaching-learning environment. Some 508,340 school children in poor communities received social assistance through distribution of teaching and learning materials and school supplies to offset the cost of schooling for poor households. A total of 82,508 children who enrolled in the alternative learning programmes received textbooks and 9,807 girls from poor households received school uniforms and dignity kits.

Life-saving access to improved water supply for 1,945,330 vulnerable people was provided in emergency and unserved rural areas, reaching 134 per cent of the targeted 1,400,000 people. A total of 70,500 vulnerable rural people and 44,339 emergency affected people

gained access to new and rehabilitated improved water sources, and 1,830,491 internally displaced persons (IDPs), South Sudanese refugees, and people affected by acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and floods were given access to improved drinking water supply through operation, maintenance and water chlorination services.

UNICEF Sudan and partners effectively contributed to the control of the AWD epidemic that reportedly infected 6,553 people, with 173 deaths. While no new cases were reported for the remainder of 2016, new outbreaks that emerged in January 2017 indicated the need for sustained, systematic interventions. Large-scale water chlorination campaigns focusing on treatment at the source and household levels were supported and benefited 2.5 million people in the seven affected states. Hygiene promotion interventions reached 1,729,047 emergency-affected and vulnerable rural people with a focus on hand washing with soap, reaching 123 per cent of the target for 2016.

UNICEF continued to support immunization services nationwide but was constrained by a lack of Government budgetary allocation towards the procurement of traditional vaccines. Sudan's transition to a lower-middle-income country impacted its eligibility for international development association (IDA) support, including the Global Partnership for Education, while there is still limited readiness for the Government to fully finance social budgets. The decline in donor funding continued to be the main constraint for programme delivery. In 2016, just over half of other resources – emergency (ORE) and less than three-quarters of other resources – regular (ORR) needs were funded (both included carry overs from previous years).

On 13 January 2017, the United States Government partially lifted its sanctions against Sudan (Executive Order of November 1997, and Executive Order of October 2006), in recognition of positive steps taken by the Government of Sudan in recent months, including the improvement of humanitarian access. It is hoped that this move will further improve humanitarian access and help create a solid platform for sustainable development for the country.

## Humanitarian Assistance

In 2016, children in Sudan were affected severely by multiple hazards, namely armed conflict, floods and disease outbreaks (including measles, acute watery diarrhoea and viral haemorrhagic fever). In Darfur, fighting between government forces and armed movements continued, and intensified in the Jebel Marra region, newly displacing 82,000 people (47,000 children).

While humanitarian access in areas of active conflict such as Jebel Marra, South Kordofan and the Blue Nile continued to be a challenge, UNICEF gained access to some of the hard-to-reach new IDP localities such as Fanga Suk, Golo and Nertiti in Central Darfur, Sortony in North Darfur and Kurmuk in Blue Nile.

Golo, for example, had been inaccessible for the past six years, yet two monitoring missions were made in 2016. Kurmuk was visited for the first time in many years in December 2016.

According to the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 5.8 million people, including 3.1 million children, across the country needed humanitarian assistance. Of them, 2.2 million people (1.3 million children) were internally displaced. In 2016, there was an influx of an additional 90,516 South Sudanese refugees (SSRs), 60 per cent of them children, due to renewed conflict and food insecurity, bringing the total number SSR arrivals since 2013 to 263,245. Since January 2016, 55,957 (39,170 children) new South Sudanese refugees arrived in East Darfur, where UNICEF took the lead as a provider of last resort.

A total of 216,124 people (110,419 children) were affected by floods in seven states (South Darfur, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Kassala, South Kordofan, West Kordofan and White Nile). In response, UNICEF supported life-saving nutrition, health, child protection, education and WASH interventions, benefiting 132,232 people (67,438 children).

In 2016, 94,282 children (45,142 boys and 49,140 girls) received community-based psychosocial support (PSS) through child-friendly schools and home-based visits by social workers. UNICEF support also enabled 4,474 separated and unaccompanied children to be reunified with their families or to receive long term alternative care arrangements. The UNICEF-led child protection sub-sector, with the support of the National Council for Child Welfare and Save the Children, also produced child protection minimum standards adapted for Sudan.

UNICEF Sudan continued to work closely with UNAMID and the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in monitoring, reporting and advocating to end grave violations against children. Twenty-one children who were detained for alleged association with Justice and Equality Movements (JEM) since 2015 were released in September and were pardoned by the President, an important milestone achieved in the implementation of the action plan. More than 20,686 people were reached through mine risk education.

A total of 42,323 conflict-affected children were able to continue studying and learning through safe learning spaces constructed and supported by UNICEF. A total of 120,253 children received emergency education supplies and recreational materials. In October, following the assessment in Golo, situated in the conflict-affected Jebel Marra area of Central Darfur, 3,001 children (1,499 girls, 1,502 boys) benefited from education supplies and recreational material after six years of restricted access. Conflict in the area had left 9,000 children out-of-school, with many schools abandoned or used for military activities.

With UNICEF support, 363,001 children under 1 year of age received their first dose of measles vaccine and 3,120,000 conflict-affected people gained access to primary health care services. A total of 189,507 children ages 6-59 months suffering from severe acute malnutrition received timely treatment, and 405,861 caregivers received infant and young child feeding counselling aimed at promoting positive behavioural change.

The epidemic of acute watery diarrhoea reportedly affected 6,553 people, and there were 173 deaths. Three states (Gezira, Sennar and Gedaref) were still reporting new cases in December 2016. The other states affected (Blue Nile, Kassala, Khartoum and River Nile), did not report any new case since the first week of December 2016. UNICEF provided integrated health and WASH support to the affected states.

A total of 1,945,330 emergency-affected people (1,011,571 children) including IDPs, SSRs, people affected by acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), and flood affected and conflict-affected people benefited from access to improved drinking water. A total of 232,643 people affected by conflict, floods or AWD benefited from access to improved sanitation facilities and safe means of excreta disposal and an additional 1,729,047 were reached with hygiene promotion and sensitization activities.

In Darfur, UNICEF prepositioned critical supplies in 12 key locations to cover the needs of approximately 120,000 vulnerable people, providing rapid life-saving support to people affected by conflict.

## Emerging Areas of Importance

**Refugee and migrant children.** A total of 263,245 (184,272 children) South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Sudan since December 2013, with 90,516 new arrivals (60 per cent children) residing in eight refugee sites in White Nile, 21,425 living within communities in South Kordofan, 8,458 in camps in West Kordofan, and 5,448 in camps in South Darfur.

Since January 2016, there have been 55,957 (39,170 children) South Sudanese refugees newly arrived in East Darfur, where humanitarian assistance has been challenging due to the weak capacity of the state government and the limited presence of humanitarian actors. UNICEF led the refugee response in East Darfur as a provider of last resort to provide urgent initial response for health, WASH, nutrition, protection and education services.

According to the White Nile Ministry of Health, the prevalence of diarrheal diseases among children under 5 in the SSR camps was reduced by 66 per cent compared to 2015, thanks largely to the operationalization of four newly constructed improved water sources supported by UNICEF that served approximately 70,000 refugees from South Sudan. The number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) significantly increased due to continued influx of SSRs and due to displacements caused by armed conflict. A total of 3,741 unaccompanied and separated children (1,739 girls, 2,002 boys) in the five Darfur States, Blue Nile, White Nile, North and South Kordofan States were reunified and placed with relatives or placed in family-based alternative care services in 2016, representing 170 per cent of the 2,200 who had been targeted.

Sudan also continued to be a major transit route as well as producer of migrants to Europe. Against this backdrop, the European Union and various European donors shifted their development policy to focus on addressing the issue of migration in Sudan. With support from Germany (KfW), UNICEF Sudan initiated activities to provide integrated education, child protection and WASH services in Eastern Sudan to address the vulnerabilities of the targeted 250,000 children from the mainly Eritrean refugee and migrant community as well as host communities in Kassala and Gedaref, states which suffer from under-development and chronic poverty.

**Support 'movements' to accelerate results for children.** A participatory qualitative assessment of community engagement on promoting positive social change toward abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) was completed with recommendations that informed the programme direction on promoting community engagement. Sudan Free of FGC, a UNICEF-UNFPA-WHO partnership, engaged existing adolescent and youth movements to lead change efforts to abandon FGM/C in the next 15 years. In early 2016, the partnership identified existing youth movements within school girls' clubs, universities, and in communities in 10 states of Sudan and engaged them to build a common understanding of social change to end FGM/C. In August, 25 participants from UNICEF programmes were trained on social change communications and formulated plans to integrate these skills into their ongoing work at state level. A national youth forum took place in November in North Kordofan with more than 3,000 participants, who will be engaged in community dialogues in some 700 communities in 2017.

In 2016, for the first time, the views of 250 adolescents affected by armed conflict and displacement from eight refugee camps and three host communities in White Nile were documented during a participatory assessment, which guided the child protection emergency responses to ensure meaningful engagement of adolescents and equipped them with appropriate life skills.

**Greater focus on the second decade of life.** Adolescents represent 24 per cent of the total population in Sudan. UNICEF Sudan integrated adolescents' needs and rights into programming, with a focus on education and child protection. Under the Child Friendly Schools Framework, approximately 20,000 adolescent boys and girls benefited from the integration of life skills and citizenship education programmes in both formal and non-formal education systems to respond to their needs for protection as well as social and emotional life skills. A total of 238,500 adolescent learners benefited from UNICEF support to the alternative learning programme (ALP) for out-of-school children, a key entry point for reaching the most vulnerable adolescents, including adolescents among IDPs and refugees, to enhance their meaningful engagement and participation in school committees and clubs.

## Summary Notes and Acronyms

ALP	Alternative Learning Programme
AMP	Annual Management Plan
AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhoea
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
C4D	Communication for Development
CBS	Central Bureau for Statistics
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CMT	Country Management Team
CPD	Country Programme Document
CPMP	Country Programme Management Plan
DCTs	Direct Cash Transfers
DFID	UK Department for International Development
EHA	Evaluation of Humanitarian Action
EMOPS	UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ERM	Enterprise Risk Management
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GS	General Service
GSSC	Global Shared Services Centre
HAC	Humanitarian Aid Commission
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HQ	Headquarters
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
IP	Implementing Partner
LLINs	Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets
LOU	Letter of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

MoIC	Ministry of International Cooperation
MOSS	Minimum Operating Security Standards
NCCW	National Council for Child Welfare
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NO	National Officer
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
ORE	Other Resources - Emergency
ORR	Other Resources - Regular
OSF	Official Status File
PBR	Programme and Budget Review
PHC	Primary Health Care
PPD	Public Partnerships Division
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
RBM	Results Based Management
RR	Regular Resources
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SCO	Sudan Country Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPLM-N	Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North
SRSG/CAAC	Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflict
SSR	South Sudanese Refugee
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAMID	African Union / United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
US	United States
VHF	Viral Haemorrhagic Fever
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

## Capacity Development

The 'Alshuffa'a Alsoghar' ('Little Children') communication for development (C4D) initiative strengthened parents and caregivers' knowledge on key family practices in 28 localities in eight states. Sensitization on essential family practices strengthened the knowledge and capacity of 1,175 religious and community leaders in creating an enabling environment for community engagement. A total of 1,793 key frontline workers (promoters, community mobilizers and volunteers) were trained on interpersonal communication and community

dialogue on essential family practices. The partnership with state and community radios was also strengthened, with targeted broadcasting reaching 65 per cent of radio listeners in eight states with key messages, according to media monitoring.

Nine hundred doctors, nurses and midwives received targeted training to provide quality maternal and newborn health services. Two hundred fifty community midwives graduated from an 18-month pre-service training course to provide community-based maternal and child health services, including assisted deliveries.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) developed institutional and individual capacity for the roll out of child friendly school standards through school self-assessment and improvement plans, benefiting 3,373 Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and School Improvement Planning committee members. A total of 2,572 PTA members and headmasters strengthened their skills to facilitate community participation in school management, and 1,892 MoE staff acquired knowledge on data collection, analysis and reporting. A total of 1,809 teachers were trained on the use of the education information management system. Some 54,000 adolescent students (48 percent girls) strengthened their social and emotional life-skills through participation in life skills and citizenship education programmes.

Hygiene promotion campaigns were implemented as part of WASH assistance for SSRs and IDPs, resulting in strengthened participation of community leaders, women's groups and youth in the promotion of positive hygiene practices. The capacity of 445 hygiene promoters and 85 youth leaders from 13 IDP and refugee camps was strengthened to support effective hygiene promotion activities in the camps, enhancing positive engagement.

### **Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

In 2016, UNICEF Sudan conducted an education costing and financing study to generate evidence to inform the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) and budget for 2018-2022 and the UNICEF country programme. An early grade reading assessment was completed in 2016 and results indicated that nearly 40.2 per cent of grade 3 students were unable to read, with children in conflict affected states in Darfur and Kordofan among the poorest in performance. In line with SDG 4 targets, this evidence was used to support advocacy to push learning as a top priority in the ESSP during the annual review of the education sector.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Central Bureau of Statistics, undertook a child multi-dimensional poverty study. Findings revealed that 52.8 per cent of children under-five years were affected by child income poverty, with 74.7 per cent of children 5-17 years and 90 per cent of under-fives affected by at least two deprivations.

UNICEF also conducted an in-depth analytical study on female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage through secondary data analysis of data from existing nationwide household surveys. Findings of the FGM/C study revealed that the harmful practice is still very high in Sudan. However, there was a 21 per cent of reduction within the new generation of 0-14 year olds. This evidence was used by government and donors to refine the national strategy of fighting FGM/C and advocate in favour of the approval of the Child Marriage Act.

A capacity needs assessment of results based-management (RBM)/ monitoring & evaluation (M&E) practices covering 340 Implementing Partners (IPs) was completed. It revealed a lack of results focused planning, budgeting and reporting. Based on this finding, UNICEF conducted a capacity building training for 50 Government counterparts.

## Partnerships

UNICEF reviewed the existing Letter of Understanding (LOU) among six UN agencies to re-orient their support to the Government for scaling up nutrition (SUN). The LOU was signed by WFP, UNFPA, WHO, FAO and IFAD as well as the World Bank. UNICEF also supported initial steps to formulate a business network, a civil society network and a donors' network for sun.

In partnership with GAVI, WHO and UNICEF Sudan, the Ministry of Health (MOH) introduced the meningitis A vaccine into the routine immunization system. This added to the partnership, which had previously introduced rotavirus, pneumonia and polio vaccines, resulting in a robust system to boost immunization coverage. Through the Global Fund's 'Scaling-up Malaria Interventions' project, UNICEF facilitated the clearance and the house-to-house distribution of 2,673,119 long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs). An additional 118,594 were distributed through health clinics, contributing to efforts to reduce malaria cases in Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

UNICEF Sudan co-chaired the education partners group with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for joint dialogue on policy and sector reforms and supported the education coordination group chaired by the MOE. UNICEF advocated for a more sustainable financing mechanism for the education sector, together with World Bank, and contributed to the strategic direction of the new ESSP. Global Partnership for Education and Educate a Child continued to be key partners for the education sector in 2016.

In 2016 UNICEF Sudan developed partnerships with Ahfad University for Women for measuring and monitoring change in social norms on FGM/C and with the University of Khartoum for implementing a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study on WASH practices in Darfur.

UNICEF Sudan expanded partnerships with national NGOs in 2016, particularly in view of the withdrawal of key international NGOs. Thirty-five new agreements were signed and 18 partnerships were maintained with International NGOs. Of those, 42 were developed in response to emerging humanitarian needs.

## External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF Sudan's Advocacy Strategy 2016-2021 was developed to ensure a strategic approach to advocacy. It guided robust advocacy efforts at the global level, making the case for flexible funding (The Regular Resources Report 2015 with PPD); Education Cannot Wait (a campaign to make the case for the protection of schools and access to education for every child in a conflict environment); the '13-13-13 initiative' framed around 13 years of conflict in the Darfur and its impact on children; State of the World's Children's Report 2016; UNICEF Sudan global web page and UNICEF Sudan's Humanitarian Situation Reports.

A major milestone was the signing of the Action Plan for the non-recruitment and use of children in armed conflict by the Government of Sudan and by the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement – North in March and November, respectively, as well as the release and reintegration of 21 children formerly associated with armed groups. Mass media coverage was generated and coordinated in more than 30 national and international media outlets.

In-country social media public advocacy engagement was scaled up mainly through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. The UNICEF@70 campaign with 70 stories for 70 years in 70 days was a major public advocacy event in partnership with the private sector. A strategic shift towards more Arabic content, graphic production and short videos was prioritized during the second half of the year, mainly using social media platforms such as Facebook, which

resulted in 207,000 new 'likes', and on Twitter, which gained 4,845 new followers. This represented 206 per cent and 69.2 per cent increases, respectively, in followers from 2015.

### **South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

UNICEF Sudan and UNFPA organized capacity building and knowledge exchange opportunities between Sudan and Egypt in April 2016, focusing on monitoring and managing administrative data systems on female genital mutilation/cutting. The event was attended by the members of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, local NGOs and Ahfad University. Twelve participants were trained on systems to harmonize indicators used to track FGM/C programmes in the field and data reporting by the State Councils for Child Welfare in the 18 states of Sudan. UNICEF Sudan also supported one member of the National Council to attend the African Union training on child marriage in Cairo in April 2016. The outcome was an exchange of experiences in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region on efforts to abandon child marriage and to give visibility to Sudan's campaign to end child marriage, which was led by the First Lady.

In November 2015, UNICEF Sudan had hosted a delegation from Ministry of Education and UNICEF Kenya to learn from the experience of nomadic education programmes in Sudan. The visit was followed by an international conference on pastoralist education held in Kenya in March 2016. The visit provided an opportunity for the MoE to advocate for nomadic education issues with decision makers and communities. As a result, ALP classes were opened in 2016 for nomadic children in White Nile, North Kordofan, South Kordofan and Gedaref.

### **Identification and Promotion of Innovation**

In 2016, UNICEF Sudan organized two 'Hackathons', or innovation lab events, bringing together young Sudanese from different backgrounds to create innovative solutions for recurring programmatic issues through human-centred design to guide participants based on building empathy, brainstorming, prototyping and iteration. The focus of the first Hackathon was finding innovative design solutions to improve jerry cans in emergency response to overcome current design issues (inconvenient for users for cleaning and efficiently collecting water from water points). Participants were also asked to design handwashing facilities and develop innovative approaches to ensure they are user-friendly and sustainable.

Thirty students from academic institutions in Sudan were selected from different disciplines such as engineering, public health, rural development and art. The prototypes developed by the winning teams were continuously refined and reiterated, and strong points from each group will also be reflected in the final product. Following the design of the first prototype, the second prototypes of a jerry can and a handwashing facility will be tested in the same community students visited during the Hackathon. The iteration process will be continued until a satisfactory design is reached for local production and procurement.

The second Hackathon brought together some 28 child participants to develop a joint recreation kit for education and child protection. The objective was to ensure local adaptation of the recreational kits to make them more culturally and contextually sensitive and to make them a more effective tool to help restore a sense of normalcy, develop life skills and coping mechanisms for children in emergencies. The second workshop concluded with a matrix of the desirable recreational activities for four different age groups (3-5, 6-10, 11-14, and 15-18 years old) and required resources.

### **Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

As part of promoting integrated approaches between health, education and child protection sectors, the 'Born Saleema' (Arabic for 'intact') initiative for FGM, which provides counselling services for mothers to prevent them from cutting their daughters, was piloted in health facilities in Khartoum and Northern states. This resulted in 16,655 parents being counselled in health facilities, of whom 13,261 agreed to leave their daughters uncut. Additional health promotion activities resulted in 2,402 community members agreeing to keep their daughters uncut.

The integration of birth registration within the health centres facilitated a partnership between the MoH and the Civil Registration System of the Ministry of Interior at national and state levels, resulting in the registration of more than 170,500 newborns through the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) system in remote localities in Darfur.

Through the integration of mine risk education into the education system, 20,686 people, including children, were sensitized through skills sessions and community-based dialogue and awareness raising sessions with students' families on the risks of mines in North Darfur.

The DFID-supported Joint Resilience Project, a partnership between FAO, UNICEF and WFP, presented a holistic approach to increase resilience of drought and flood-affected communities in four localities in Kassala state. The nutritional status of the affected populations was improved through the implementation of evidence-based direct nutrition interventions that integrated health, WASH, agriculture and livelihood interventions.

An integrated approach to programming was piloted in the Kordofan region through a package of health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH services that were delivered at the household level, and in health facilities, CFS, and schools, with C4D, gender and equity as key strategic platforms. The results and the lessons learned from this approach will be reflected into the development of the new Country Programme Document (CPD), which will strengthen programme integration for service delivery.

## Service Delivery

Nutrition and health services were delivered through the existing MoH structures or directly at community level, with UNICEF support either through the state level MOH or through NGO implementing partners. The quality of nutrition interventions delivered was closely monitored at field level by technical and monitoring staff who carry out on-the-job supervision visits to improve quality of service delivery. UNICEF piloted the use of mobile technology based on KoBo, an e-book application, for the collection and monitoring of 'real time' data. In 2016, UNICEF also established a WASH sector-wide service delivery monitoring system at state and national levels in which achievements were captured on a monthly basis, with the delivery and quality of services monitored by WASH officers at state and national levels before, during and after the implementation of the targeted services.

To enhance timely and quality child protection and education services to children in inaccessible and remote areas with scarce presence of social welfare and justice professionals, UNICEF worked with partners from government and CSO partners to support community-based structures. Sixty five new community-based child protection networks were established in North, Central, South Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile to respond to emergency and humanitarian needs of children. The focus was on the quality of services and the roll-out of a national programme on integrated psychosocial support to provide services through child friendly spaces, mobile teams and learning settings through learning spaces and schools.

## Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

Strong advocacy, engagement in dialogue and technical support by UNICEF resulted in the recognition of several human rights obligations in Sudan. Sudan's Sixth and Seventh Progress Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child were finalized, with meaningful participation of relevant government institutions, civil society organizations and children at national and state levels.

For the first time, high-level political commitment and recommendations to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) were accepted by the Government. Some of the concluding observations and recommendations in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of May 2016 were considered by the Government. This was reflected in the call of National Council for Child Welfare to set a minimum age of marriage and of the Parliament Women Caucus to criminalize female genital mutilation/cutting. .

With UNICEF technical assistance and advocacy, the Criminal Law 1991 reached the adoption stage with strong provisions related to prohibition of the FGM/C, removal of death penalty on children, and positive changes to provisions related to sexual assaults and rape. Gains related to the definition of child and adultery were minimal. UNICEF facilitated the signature of two action plans to protect children in armed conflict between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, as per Security Council Resolution (1612).

Guided by the principles of a human rights-based approach to programming, UNICEF sought every opportunity for integrated service provisions to the most marginalized populations. More than 500,000 school children (51.8 per cent girls) in poor communities benefited from social assistance interventions that offset the cost of schooling. Without the timely intervention of UNICEF and partners, 8,854 children (46 per cent girls) displaced by conflict in Jebel Marra, Darfur, would not have been able to sit for the final examination and transition to secondary education. Children living with disabilities benefited from the training of 300 teachers on inclusive interactive teaching methodologies.

## Gender Equality

Concerted joint advocacy by UNICEF Sudan and other UN agencies, together with NCCW, culminated in the draft of the National Strategy on the Abandonment of Child Marriage, with emphasis on multi-sectoral responses and setting a minimum age of marriage in Sudan. Under the auspices of the First Lady's Office and in line with the African Union campaign to end child marriage, the National Campaign on Child Marriage Abandonment continued the scaling up of the social movement to approve the strategy. UNICEF also supported the '16 Days of Action on Gender-Based Violence', attended by key stakeholders and the international community.

UNICEF supported the provision of education and vocational training for 90,000 youth and adolescents (against the initial target of 56,000), 40 per cent of whom were girls. UNICEF also provided support to the enrolment of out-of-school adolescents with a focus on girls in the ALP, reaching 30 schools in Khartoum state and 20 ALP centres. UNICEF supported a review workshop for the Ministry of Education and the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) partners to review and reflect on the status of girls' education in Sudan at the end of the current Girls Education Strategy (2014-2016). As a result, a mapping of existing programmes targeting girls was conducted that identified successful and scalable initiatives advancing girls' education. This evidence will inform the development of a new national girls' education strategy and key priorities to be addressed in the upcoming Education Sector Strategy 2018-2022.

UNICEF invested in capacity building of midwives. More than seventy per cent of live births were attended by skilled health personnel and 500 pregnant women were reached with outreach services.

UNICEF also supported the establishment of two Women's Departments within the Family and Child Protection Unit (FCPU) at the state level to reinforce and integrate gender-sensitive services and referral mechanisms within the existing structure.

## Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF Sudan continued to implement key environmentally sustainable initiatives in 2016 through the Headquarters set-aside fund by replacing diesel-operated generators with solar panels for lighting, operation of water pumps and powering refrigerators in four immunization delivery sites. This not only contributed to promoting environmental sustainability through reducing the environmental footprint, but also ensured regular immunization services for 158,383 people in El Girba Locality in Kassala as well as the provision of sustainable water supply to the community. The ongoing construction of environmentally friendly incinerators, expected to be completed in early 2017, will also minimize the risk posed to the environment by medical waste in these locations by reducing the carbon footprint.

The ongoing partnership between UNICEF, UNEP and the Ground Water and Wadis Directorate and State Water Corporations on Integrated Water Resources Management contributed to environmental sustainability through the sustainable utilization of groundwater resources in the five states of Darfur. The Joint Resilience Project (JRP), a multi-sectoral initiative of FAO, UNICEF and WFP, funded by UKAid/DFID, made progress on the key indicators of resilience within Kassala state. This was complemented by additional interventions to address the impact of El Niño, focusing on the provision of improved drinking water sources and elimination of open defecation, which further contributed to reducing the ecosystem footprint. The localities targeted by the JRP were also found to be able to respond better to, and contain, the outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea.

The country management team (CMT) discussed how to create a greener office environment, and explored measures of how to improve this. An all-staff meeting on greening the office took place, following which staff members were asked to submit ideas. The country management team established a task force in which all sections and field offices were represented, which will validate and prioritize the ideas submitted by staff members, and will come up with a methodology of how to measure the possible impact of these ideas.

## Effective Leadership

The country management team met monthly in 2016, in addition to a cross-sectoral retreat in May and a Strategic Moment of Reflection in November as part of the CPD 2018-2021 process. The team meetings were divided into four sections. The introduction by the representative and security update provided a briefing on recent developments, situation analysis, and addressed outstanding CMT action points. Items for decision making included a review of proposals to address areas of weakness and a review of office documents (such as PBR submissions, AMP priorities, CPD) and management accountabilities. Monitoring of performance management indicators (including the scorecard), at country-level and for a selected section and field office, was done on a rotational basis. Items for discussion and information included updates on UN coherence, staff association, field support, UNICEF items pending customs clearance, work processes, governance bodies, and learning and development.

CMT Action Points were monitored monthly, and the strengthened governance of the CMT enhanced UNICEF Sudan's senior management's ability to make risk-informed decisions. In October, the CMT membership was expanded to include programme section chiefs and chiefs of field offices. A CMT orientation session was organized to inform all new CMT members of the purpose, procedures and accountabilities of the CMT.

The enterprise risk management (ERM) library and mitigation measures were monitored and updated. The business continuity plan (BCP) was updated during the year, and planning assumptions were tested in the various offices while continuing day-to-day work.

Daily emergency meetings were held to share updates on emergency related activities and risks and to determine appropriate measures. Beginning in August these were held three times a week.

## **Financial Resources Management**

The management of funds allocation/utilization was a main agenda item in the monthly CMT and bi-weekly programme meetings. Weekly reports on grants utilization/expiration were monitored and followed up for immediate action. Grant utilization as of 15 December 2016 stood at 99 per cent for RR, 77 per cent for ORR, and 84 per cent for ORE.

The CMT adopted a cap on cash forecasts by section to improve cash management and maintain end-of-the-month balance within the benchmark, set as management indicators whose performance was reviewed by cost centre each month.

Bank reconciliations were uploaded in a timely manner within deadlines, and open items were monitored and cleared. Starting from September 2016 UNICEF Sudan moved to Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC). Bank reconciliations were processed by GSSC as per the standard operating procedures. The office reported no open items in the bank reconciliation over two months.

UNICEF Sudan worked effectively on clearing open items and Master Data Management (MDM) maintenance as part of GSSC go-live. Payment transactions were reviewed by the Finance team centrally in Khartoum through the Operations Service Centre (OSC) before submission to GSSC for processing to ensure quality submissions of documents as per rules and regulations. As of mid-November, the office had zero rejection of cases submitted in MyCase.

Operations officers in field offices continued to conduct financial spot checks in line with the HACT assurance plans. An institutional contractor was engaged to conduct spot-checks for Khartoum-based IPs. As of 15 December, direct cash transfers (DCTs) outstanding over 9 months accounted to 0.1 per cent of the entire amount of DCTs. Of the outstanding DCTs, US\$489,847, or 2.3 percent, was between 6-9 months.

## **Fundraising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF Sudan continued mobilizing resources in line with its Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy 2015-2016 and the related Action Plan. A majority of funding for Sudan comes from a limited number of 'traditional' bilateral government donors (members of the OECD-DAC), with the EU, the UK and US as long-standing top donors along with Japan, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as the humanitarian pooled funds. The domestic political developments in the UK - notably the post-Brexit devaluation of the British pound - impacted the revenue from DFID, resulting in UNICEF Sudan receiving 10 per cent less than the projected income in the tranches paid in 2016.

Bilateral donors that recently increased their cooperation with UNICEF Sudan included Germany, which provided multi-year funding for migration, and Korea, which provided two-year funding for WASH.

UNICEF continued to leverage and expand partnerships for children. In the education sector, UNICEF Sudan, in coordination with Ministry of Education, coordinated with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)'s secretariat and partners (World Bank, EU and DFID) to advocate for a one year extension of the Sudan Basic Education Recovery Project to allow completion of ongoing project activities and to provide a framework for the sector until the new the Education Sector Strategic Plans (2017-2022) are ready. UNICEF Sudan also started to engage more systematically with national private sector partners, such as the DAL Group and Zain.

Despite these efforts, the overall funding landscape for Sudan remained limited – notably for development cooperation. There was obvious 'donor fatigue' due to the protracted emergency where the humanitarian needs did not significantly decrease after years of intervention in the country. The lack of flexible funding also continued to pose operational challenges for programme planning and implementation.

## Evaluation and Research

The country management team was the platform of decision-making regarding the strategic prioritization and funding of studies and evaluations as well as the management response of recommendations. Overall performance of IMEP implementation in 2016 was 88 per cent. Out of eight planned studies, surveys and evaluations, one activity (the Nutrition Survey) was postponed to 2017 by the Ministry of Health. The rest were implemented as planned.

In 2016, UNICEF Sudan conducted an independent Evaluation of Humanitarian Action (EHA) in North Darfur, in partnership with the Humanitarian Affairs Commission, the Central Bureau of Statistics and the International Red Crescent. The final, validated evaluation report is expected in January 2017. The scope of the evaluation focused on UNICEF's performance in improving child survival in humanitarian response by assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of UNICEF's interventions during the period 2010 to 2015 for health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene. The preliminary findings of the EHA revealed UNICEF's strengths of rapid supplies-based responses and the effective achievement of outputs (75 per cent of planned targets). However, the evaluation also found that the management and monitoring of effective distribution of supplies to beneficiaries needs to be strengthened, especially for therapeutic foods, bed nets, jerry cans and soaps, and the cold chain systems need to be improved for effective delivery.

UNICEF also completed, in partnership with the Ministry of International Cooperation (MoIC), Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) and WFP, the survey-assessment of practices of RBM and M&E among 340 counterparts and NGOs in all states, using a comprehensive questionnaire. The survey revealed significant capacity gaps regarding results-based planning, budgeting and accountability for results. UNICEF subsequently conducted a comprehensive training of 50 Government Counterparts and 100 UNICEF staff members on RBM.

## Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Measures were taken by UNICEF Sudan in 2016 to increase efficiency and effectiveness and ensure value-for-money in reducing operating expenses by US\$344,000 by prioritizing essential expenditures wherever possible. Capital investments were put on hold, such as purchase of vehicles, computers and furniture. Simultaneously, UNICEF Sudan re-negotiated the price of contracts with local contractors in US dollars to mitigate loss against

currency devaluation, lowering internet providers' bills and negotiating for lower costs for inter-agency common services and supporting greener office initiatives.

A UNICEF Guest House was established in Damazine following those established in Nyala and El Geneina in 2015 to support the 'pink initiative' for accommodating female staff. Revenue was used to subsidize office rent in these three locations.

## Supply Management

Procurement Services	In-Kind Assistance	Local Procurement	Off-shore Procurement	Direct Order	Sub-Total	Total
US\$40,520,488	US\$2,530,000	US\$7,571,591	US\$13,906,568	US\$141,196	<b>US\$21,619,354</b>	<b>US\$64,669,843</b>
63%	4%	Main Commodities	Main Commodities	Main Commodities	<b>33%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Vaccines, Bed-nets, RUTF, RUSF & injection safety	RUTF	RUTF, Education & Recreation kits, plastic mats & containers, soap, tents, printing, hand-pumps, generators, m/cycles & vehicles	Vaccines, medicines, RUTF, ECD, Health, Hygiene, Recreation & School-in-a-Box Kits, WASH, Shelter	Cold chain & ICT equipment	Institutional Contracts	Assets & Consumables
					<b>\$3,660,876</b>	<b>\$187,212</b>

Of the US\$43.1million planned for 2016 in the UNICEF Sudan Supply Plan, a total of US\$21.6 million was requisitioned, mainly due to higher projections for supply needs and funding shortfalls. Procurement Services and in-kind assistance contributed to US\$ 40.5 million and US\$ 2.5 million worth of supplies, respectively. US\$ 7.3 million worth of supplies were delivered to implementing partners and beneficiaries, US\$ 2.2 million was in the pipeline and US\$ 3.5 million were goods in transit.

Fifteen new long-term agreements for local procurement were established for the previously imported emergency shelter, education and child protection kits, saving 25 per cent in costs and cutting delivery time by three months.

Pre-delivery quality assurance of supplies worth US\$ 20,000 was enhanced, along with delivery time and visibility compliance. Three Sudan-specific integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI), primary health care (PHC) and village midwifery kits were established to improve logistics for supply of pre-packaged health supplies. Negotiations yielded a 16 per cent price reduction of local Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), saving a total of \$1.1million. Advocacy resulted in 50 per cent of USAID/Food for Peace RUTF being locally procured and through procurement services, the Government procured US\$11.4 million worth of bed-nets, US\$5.2 million worth of nutrition supplies and US\$528,000 worth of WASH supplies. Responding to the requirement set by the pharmaceutical regulator National Medicines and Poisons Board, a long-term arrangement

was under negotiation with a semi-governmental entity to provide temperature-controlled trucks.

Of the US\$ 20.1 million construction planned in 2016, projects worth US\$ 8.9 million were undertaken: US\$ 2.2 million (24 per cent) through partners with UNICEF quality assurance, and US\$ 6.8 million (76 per cent) directly with an engineering consultancy.

## Security for Staff and Premises

UNICEF Sudan reviewed all security Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) requirements across the field offices and implemented enhanced measures across the field offices located in the Darfur states, where all offices were guarded by armed local police.

In Darfur, upgrades for guest houses were completed in West and East Darfur. Both guest houses were MOSS compliant and international staff resided there with no security concerns.

To enable staff to reside in safe accommodations, all international staff in North Darfur moved into the UNAMID super camp.

The impact of recent increase in prices in Sudan was monitored in relation to potential civil unrest and criminality. Staff and dependency profiles were updated and regular radio checks were conducted. In response to reports on increased house break-ins in Khartoum, a fresh MOSS assessment was conducted for staff residences, and measures were taken to ensure compliance. A zone warden system was activated.

To enable programme delivery, the security unit engaged with stakeholders in Darfur and at Khartoum level for granting access to areas in Darfur, which resulted in conducting assessment missions in Golo, Sortoni and other parts of Darfur.

Within the global threat of terrorism, the security unit coordinated with the local security apparatus and the diplomatic community in monitoring the threat in Sudan. Monthly meetings took place with other security units, in addition to coordination and information sharing on a daily basis.

## Human Resources

Staff learning and development continued to be a priority, and group training sessions included RBM, HACT, e-Tools, new HR systems and a refresher on Prevention of Harassment and Abuse of Authority. A UN Cares session was conducted as part of the World AIDS Day event in December. The office was at 82 per cent completion rate of the mandatory Ethics and Integrity UNICEF E-Course.

The Official Status File project was successfully completed. Recruitment for established vacant posts in addition to filling temporary appointments and consultancies were completed for 41 per cent of the posts against the benchmark. Recruitment of 33 fixed term posts, 10 temporary appointments and 39 individual contractors and consultants were managed in 2016. Due to funding constraints, recruitment of key positions remained a challenge, including the post of P4 HR Manager, which has been vacant since May 2016.

Ninety-three per cent of the 2015 Performance Evaluation Reports were completed and transitioned into 'ACHIEVE' with a 98 per cent performance-planning completion rate for 2016.

The gender balance of the office continued to be a challenge, with female staff accounting for 28 per cent of the staff (71), and male staff accounting for 72 per cent (180). The ratio by staff category was as follows: international professionals – 40 per cent female/60 per cent male; national officers – 34 per cent female/66 per cent male; general service – 16 per cent female/84 per cent male. UNICEF Sudan actively promoted a policy to seek out and prioritize

female candidates to address gender imbalance among staff positions.

The office improvement plan was duly monitored and key activities were carried out. The regional staff counsellor visited UNICEF Sudan in November, including a visit to one field office to assess the current needs of the country office as part of a plan to improve staff wellbeing.

### Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

Negotiations and strong partnerships with service providers resulted in increasing connectivity capacity across country offices by 50 per cent, while reducing the recurring cost by US\$ 45,000. Dedicated internet links were extended to new offices and wireless services were enhanced to maximize the utilization of 'Office 365' collaboration features and productivity, including Skype and One Drive for Business. Compared to 2015, team site utilization rates were increased by more than 30 per cent. Recruitment of new ICT staff and access to global resources and systems enabled the network operation to expand to two field offices, which led to cost-savings of US\$ 25,000 in comparison to outsourcing the service.

The Helpdesk function was established as a single point of contact to provide effective and efficient support, including the updating of the service level agreement and the development of a Helpdesk application on a Sharepoint platform. More than 1,000 registered tickets (100 per cent) were resolved in a timely manner.

The ICT team played a leading role in facilitating and conducting training sessions for 200 users for the new E-tools platform for managing results for children. A success story on how Sudan E-Tools core team (including staff members from various sections) collaborated to succeed was published on the ICON.

The GIS operation was strengthened and new pages on Teamsite for information management and partnerships were created. The upcoming S3M Survey using open-source and mobile tools with partners was technically supported for digital data collection. Limited operations funding and lengthy processes of procurement represented major bottlenecks to coping with the global standards and equipment life cycles.

### Programme Components from RAM

## ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

**OUTCOME 1** At least 3.8 million of the most vulnerable children (girls and boys) including children affected by humanitarian crisis have access and use scaled-up proven sustainable, high impact, integrated quality services for life saving, learning, development and protection in the most deprived localities in Sudan.

### Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2016 progress was made in the equitable provision of basic social services for vulnerable populations in spite of a complex operating environment. A strategic partnership with the Government, international and national NGOs helped ensure delivery of equitable high quality services in health, nutrition, WASH, education, and protection for vulnerable populations despite the limited budgetary provisions. A substantial portion of programme funds (63 per cent of the available funds) were dedicated to the realization of the outcome, with approximately 76 per cent (US\$ 45 million) of the total expenditure being disbursed to government and partners for procurement of programme supplies.

A total of 215,078 children received treatment for severe acute malnutrition. This was 86 per cent of the annual target and an increase of 30 per cent over 2015. More children affected by humanitarian crisis had access to and used quality lifesaving immunization and maternal and newborn services. The national annualized coverage of routine measles vaccination of children under 1 year was on track at 84 per cent by the end of November, indicating the target of 90 per cent should be reached by December. Eighty-eight per cent of live births (annual target 90 per cent) were attended by skilled health personnel (doctor, nurse, midwife, or auxiliary midwife). This was achieved by increasing geographic coverage of feeding centres from 893 to 1,172, enhancing the capacity building of health service providers (doctor, nurse, midwife, or auxiliary midwife) and providing essential nutrition and reproductive health supplies at health facilities and to community midwives.

UNICEF's assistance contributed to the provision of safe drinking water to approximately 2.2 million vulnerable people (half of them children) in emergency and unserved rural areas. The increased access and use of improved drinking water sources significantly contributed to the reduction of children with diarrhoea. MoH reports showed the South Sudanese Refugees under 5 children diarrhoea cases were reduced by 66 per cent in association with the operation of four new UNICEF supported improved water sources for approximately 70,000 SSRs. Massive interventions, mainly water disinfection, against the Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) epidemics that affected seven states (with a total case load of 5,054 cases and 138 deaths as of November 2016) contributed to a dramatic reduction in reported cases, with no new reported cases in six of seven affected states.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Federal and State Ministries of Education and NGOs and partners enabled 276,091 rural, nomadic, and emergency affected previously out of school children (48 per cent girls) to enrol in basic education. The number of out of school children was reduced from the baseline of 1,286,265 in 2014 to 326,551 in 2016, representing a 78.9 per cent reduction in out of school children in UNICEF targeted localities. Enrolment increased from 5,229,455 children (48.2 per cent girls) to 5,618,103 (52.6 per cent girls) between 2014/15 and 2015/16 academic years. Gender parity index (GPI) registered significant progress and increased from 0.93 in 2014/15 to 0.98 in 2015/16, indicating that more girls are enrolling.

In child protection, more than 303,702 children (150,123 girls, 153,579 boys) at risk and victims of violence, abuse and exploitation were reached and benefited from preventive and responsive child protection services. Despite the significant constraints facing the Justice and Child welfare systems in Sudan, the number of children in detention was substantially reduced, by 40 per cent (238 per 100,000 child population). This was achieved through application of the diversion outside the justice system and changing the mindset to more child victim centred judicial decisions. Twenty-one detained children associated with armed groups were formally released and pardoned by the president. As part of de-institutionalization and promoting family based alternative care to children without parental care, a total of 4,474 children (2,466 girls, 2,008 boys) were reunified or placed in family-based alternative care services.

Given the need for improved results-based management (RBM) as well as UNICEF's greater focus on management for results in line with global managing for results initiatives, skills and capacities of 102 UNICEF staff were strengthened in results based planning and management. This contributed to improving the quality of the strategic programme planning (new CPD 2018-2021) and results focused reporting. UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of International Cooperation and a local private firm, enhanced skills and knowledge of 49 Government counterparts in RBM. In 2017, a total of 250 partners are expected to be empowered in good practices and culture of managing for results for children across the 18 states.

Despite the progress made, wide disparities in service coverage by geographic, rural-urban, gender and wealth quintile dimensions still existed. This was worsened by the restriction of access to conflict areas, limited funding, high training cost and high turn-over of staff at local level requiring repeated service provider training and close follow up of services to ensure quality of care delivered. To mitigate some of these constraints in nutrition, through the joint Ministry of Health/UNICEF/WFP national CMAM scale-up plan, progress was made on integrating nutrition into health delivery platforms to reach and treat more children in the most deprived households in the country. Likewise, UNICEF partnered with WHO and FMOH to introduce innovative ways of providing pre-service training through distance learning. Continuous advocacy at all levels was undertaken with the MOH to allocate budget for traditional vaccines in 2017.

**OUTPUT 1** At least 250,000 of severely malnourished children in the most high-prevalence and high burden localities are reached with CMAM services (including national wide interventions)

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF and partners continued to implement the joint national CMAM scale-up plan (MOH/UNICEF/WFP), opening 279 new treatment sites for SAM in 2016 (21 in-patient and 258 out-patient), with services available in 71 of UNICEF's 75 high-priority localities and camps. As of the end of October 2016, there were 1,172 health clinics offering functional SAM treatment services, increasing the proportion of health facilities with SAM treatment to 46 per cent (from 35 per cent at the end of 2015). With this increase, the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and partners treated a record number of 215,078 children (103,237 females, 111,841 males) with SAM in the last 12 months in both emergency and non-emergency settings. This is slightly below the annual target of 250,000 children, but represents 86 per cent achievement against the target and the largest annual increase in the number of children reached since CMAM started as a national program. Timely emergency response was ensured through pre-positioning of nutrition supplies and rapid response by state Ministries of Health and partners with UNICEF support.

Quality of CMAM services was assessed through the internationally agreed SPHERE minimum standards for proportion of children cured, defaulted and died. At national level, the program achieved a cure rate of 86 per cent, a defaulter rate of 11 per cent and a death rate of 1 per cent, all exceeding minimum standards. Performance indicators were also monitored at centre level, and in 2016 87 per cent of the out-patient feeding centres were reported as having reached SPHERE standards. In 2016, quality was monitored through five dedicated nutrition mentors whose role is to visit nutrition services, with a focus on the poor performing and new centres, to carry out on-the-job mentoring while assessing program performance using a standardized checklist.

UNICEF support for CMAM services covered 13 states through technical support and the maintenance of the national nutrition pipeline (including RUTF). With a contribution from the Ministry of Health and generous donations from the nutrition donors in Sudan, UNICEF procured 244,000 cartons of RUTF and was able to maintain the supply pipeline without any breaks during the year for 13 states. The Ministry of Health provided RUTF for the remaining five states.

During 2016 UNICEF placed increased emphasis on active case finding through community based MUAC screening to reach and treat more severely malnourished children earlier in their illness. UNICEF supported two mass screening exercises, in March and September, screening a total 4,891,238 children aged between 6 months and 5 years. Of them, 38,098 new children suffering from SAM were referred for treatment, contributing significantly to reaching the annual target. UNICEF support to active case finding will continue in 2017

through a combination of approaches adapted to suit the local context and working more closely with mothers and caregivers. This will contribute to addressing the main constraints to increased coverage, which were lack of caregiver's knowledge of malnutrition as an illness and treatment services available.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of 2016, at least 80% of under five years children and 50% of newborns in targeted localities are benefiting from integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI), essential newborn care, postnatal care and immunization services at health facility and community level (including Nationwide interventions).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The delivery of quality life-saving interventions for maternal and newborn health was improved through the strengthening of the capacity of 903 health service providers (doctors, medical assistants and midwives) and the provision of essential reproductive health supplies to 46 health facilities and 470 community midwives. Two hundred fifty-three of these completed basic midwifery training, with increased skills to perform safe delivery in communities. This resulted in increased coverage of essential newborn care services to 56,255 newborns (37.8 per cent of the annual target of 50 per cent). Through the training of 45 prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) health care providers, PMTCT services were established in seven new health facilities, including clinics providing services to South Sudanese refugees in the White Nile state. An additional 384 health care providers were trained and supervised on-the-job on the application of the new PMTCT guidelines. Uptake of services was increased by providing 24 mobile PMTCT services in ANC centres with no PMTCT services.

As part of the Polio Endgame strategy, UNICEF supported two rounds of Polio Sub National Immunization Days, reaching approximately 4.2 million children under five years (101 per cent) including South Sudanese refugees in each round. During 2016, more than 4 million children (4,383,506) representing 100 per cent of children aged 6 months to 15 years in the six target states were vaccinated against measles as part of the 2015 outbreak response, as verified by a post campaign survey. UNICEF also supported emergency Measles and Polio vaccination for 560,000 children under 15 among the newly arrived South Sudanese refugees and Internally Displaced Persons from Jabal Mara. UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and GAVI, supported the introduction of Meningitis A vaccine into the routine programme. A phased nationwide meningitis vaccination campaign was undertaken, reaching approximately 4 million children under 4 four years in seven states.

With the addition of 123 new health facilities, the proportion of health facilities implementing the IMCI strategy nationwide increased from 50 per cent to 65 per cent (out of the annual target of 80 per cent) reaching 2.6 million children under-five years in the catchment areas. In order to tackle the major obstacles of high staff turnover, high cost of training, lack of motivation and sustainability facing IMCI implementation in Sudan, UNICEF, WHO and FMOH introduced an innovative computer-based pre-service training through distance learning. The high turnover was also addressed through the enrolment of 1,432 medical assistants and 2,747 community health workers (CHWs) as part of the PHC expansion plan. The referral system was strengthened through training 214 medical doctors from 214 rural hospitals on Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment.

The proportion of communities in the targeted 72 localities with integrated Community Case Management of Childhood Illness increased to 35 per cent (annual target 40 per cent) with 600 hard to reach communities and an estimated 600,000 children under-five being reached by CHWs trained on ICCM. With financial support from the Global Fund, UNICEF contributed to the prevention of malaria in the high-risk states of Darfur, Blue Nile and South

Kordofan through the distribution of 2,673,119 LLINs by house-to-house campaigns and 118,594 LLINs through antenatal care clinics.

**OUTPUT 3** Annually, at least 1.4 million most vulnerable population in emergency affected and underserved areas have equitable, sustainable and gender sensitive access to new and rehabilitated improved drinking water sources.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF provided lifesaving safe drinking water supply to 2,179,875 vulnerable people (1,078,105 males, 1,101,770 females) in emergency and unserved rural settings (156 per cent of the targeted 1,400,000 people). Within these overall achievements, 92,000 vulnerable rural people and 85,339 emergency affected people gained access to new or rehabilitated water sources, and 2,002,536 IDPs, South Sudanese Refugees, and people affected by Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) were provided with improved water supply through operation, maintenance and disinfection services for their water sources and at household levels.

UNICEF and implementing partners responded in a timely manner to the influx of 20,000 IDPs in the Sortony area of North Darfur State. The IDPs were obliged to travel 7 kilometres to fetch water in an insecure environment. Lifesaving safe drinking water supply was trucked to the camp at approximately 15 litres per person per day as per the sector agreed standards. This was done in an insecure environment that required daily UNAMID escort protection. Subsequently, UNICEF and implementing partners made progress in constructing sustainable water supply sources for the IDPs.

UNICEF and implementing partners contributed to the reduction in the reported cases of 2016 AWD epidemic that affected 6,553 people (with 173 deaths as of December 2016). WASH interventions progressed well with reasonable caseload reduction during 2016; however, new outbreaks were reported in three states in early 2017, requiring sustained action to contain the disease. UNICEF deployed experienced staff to the key affected states and supported massive water disinfection campaigns benefiting 2.5 million affected people in seven states at the source and household levels as well as rehabilitation of the dysfunctional water sources.

Transitioning from emergency to development for the protracted emergency areas was prioritized by UNICEF. Two major IDP camps around El Fasher and Zalingei were transitioning from emergency to sustainable management of their WASH facilities. Socio-economic studies were conducted and sustainable WASH infrastructure and community sensitization were provided. Thirty-six communities were supported to manage the operation and maintenance of their WASH services (36 per cent of the targeted 100 communities). Key constraints for 2016 were the lack of development funding for the WASH sector (in contrast to humanitarian funding).

These results were achieved in 73 priority deprived targeted localities within 14 states, (namely North, South, East, West and Central Darfur, South and West Kordofan, White Nile, Kassala, Red Sea, Gedarif, Sennar and Khartoum States) in partnership with State Water Corporations, Ministry of Health, UN agencies and NGOs.

The main challenges UNICEF faced were insufficient and unpredictable funding; unavailability of equity focused M&E systems; inadequate institutional management capacity; inadequate motivation for the sector competent staff to stay; and limited private sector involvement. Government, UNICEF, African Development Bank and sector partners supported WASH sector reform to identify the main sector components, roles and responsibilities. UNICEF also strengthened equity-based M&E systems; advocated for

sufficient and equitable and predictable sector funding; built sector partners' capacity and motivated the private sector to participate.

**OUTPUT 4** At least 50% of out-of-school vulnerable girls and boys in selected localities have access to formal and non-formal inclusive and equitable education opportunities

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF support to Out-of-School-Children was guided by the finding of the Out of School study that identified that exclusion from school prevailed in rural settings among disadvantaged groups, including nomads, war-affected populations and internally displaced persons. In close collaboration with strategic partners, including EAC and EU Delegation, the technical and financial support provided by UNICEF and implementing partners enabled 276,091 previously out-of-school children (48 per cent girls) from rural areas, nomadic, and emergency affected communities to access basic and alternative learning opportunities (ALPs) through construction or rehabilitation of 478 classrooms and 268 gender sensitive toilets and water facilities to improve teaching-learning environment and promote student retention and completion of full cycle. A total of 156,978 (out of 310,000 annual target) internally displaced, refugee, and host community children (50 per cent girls) were able to access formal or non-formal basic education and learning in child-friendly environments through provision of essential teaching-learning and recreational materials. Construction or rehabilitation of 438 classrooms with teacher offices and 109 units of gender-sensitive toilets allowed 68,323 school children (49 per cent girls) to study in improved learning facilities.

This represented 51 per cent of the annual target due to limited donor funding for Education in Emergency. The Education humanitarian sector was only 38 per cent funded, of which the vast majority of the funds were earmarked for school feeding programmes. Of the US\$16.8 million received, the school feeding programme received US\$13 million, with only a small portion for the education in emergencies initiatives.

A total of 508,340 school children (51.8 per cent girls) in poor communities received social assistance through distribution of teaching and learning materials and school supplies to offset the cost of schooling for poor households. Some 82,508 older age children in non-formal Alternative Learning programmes received textbooks and 10,265 (9,807 girls) received a full package of social assistance that included school uniforms and dignity kits for girls, which increased their chances to complete the basic education cycle.

A total of 8,854 grade eight conflict affected internally displaced children (46 per cent girls) took the grade eight examination as a prerequisite for completion of the Basic Education level and transition to secondary education. Children received support in five examination centres in Nertiti and Rokero of Central Darfur; Kabkabeya in North Darfur, and Kass, and Mershing in South Darfur States. Without this timely intervention the children displaced by the Jebel Marra crisis could not have graduated on time.

This achievement was made possible in close collaboration with UNICEF's partners, such as Ministries of Education at federal and state levels as well as with NGO partners including War Child Canada, ADRA, ZOA, Students Organization for Literacy, Muzan and Catholic Relief Services, to enrol out-of-school children and to respond to the education needs of the children in humanitarian situations.

The ongoing conflict, population displacement and flood damages in different parts of the country affected some school buildings and interrupted education of many children. The insecurity and restriction of movements adversely affected timely assessment and

emergency response by humanitarian partners.

**OUTPUT 5** At- risk boys and girls including adolescents have improved access and benefit from age specific integrated psycho-social support, and child friendly policy, legal, diversion and alternative measures to detention and alternative care.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Through its strategic partnership with the Councils of Child Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Judiciary, Prosecution, Family and Child Protection Units (FCPUs), and civil society organizations, UNICEF scaled up its quality support of child protection services. A total of 31,528 (18,518 boys, 13,010 girls) child victims of violence, including sexual violence, and children in conflict with the law in 18 states benefited from child-friendly protection services and referral provided by FCPUs. Application of diversion outside the judicial system measures increased, with 2,661 child offenders (1,981 boys and 680 girls), more than 35 per cent of the total number of child offenders (7,507), diverted outside the judicial system.

While UNICEF was committed to providing life-saving humanitarian responses to 139,430 children in 2016, funds received covered only 38 per cent of the total needs. Despite the human and financial limitations, UNICEF was able to access difficult to reach areas, including Jabal Marra and Nuba mountain, serving a total of 94,282 newly affected children (45,142 boys, 49,175 girls) with quality and integrated psychosocial support in 51 localities (out of 72 targeted localities) in 12 states through Child Friendly Spaces, education settings and community-based services. This represented 67.6 per cent of the 2016 targeted newly affected 139,430 children in Darfur, Kordofan and Blue Nile states. More than 20,686 people, including children, were provided with mine risk education in North Darfur. The number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) significantly increased due to continued influx of South Sudanese refugees and armed conflict. A total of 4,474 UASC (2,466 girls, 2,008 boys) in the five Darfur, Blue Nile, White Nile, North and South Kordofan States were reunified, placed with relatives or placed in family-based alternative care services. This doubled the overall target of 2,200 children for 2016. Special needs of adolescent UASC in foster care settings and the situation of abandoned babies born out of wedlock and placed in institutions remained issues of concern. An assessment of gaps on service provision for adolescents in refugee camps in White Nile was completed, with full engagement of the adolescents, and guided the pilot in White Nile and North Darfur states.

The Judicial and Legal Sciences Institute and UNICEF finalized the Training Manual that will be integrated into the curriculum of the Institute in 2017. The announcement by the Chief Justice of the non-transfer of child judges for at least two years and the issuing of the Criminal Circular No. 2/2016 directing judges to use the Beijing's Rules and the procedures to be followed by all child courts paved the way for more sustainable child friendly due process in the child courts.

As part of promoting integrated approaches, piloting Born Saleema in health facilities in Khartoum and Northern states resulted in 16,655 parents being counselled in health facilities, of which 13,261 agreed to leave their daughters uncut. Health promotion resulted in 2,402 community members agreeing to keep their daughters uncut. More than 170,500 newborns were registered through Extended Programme on Immunization (EPI) system.

**OUTPUT 6** Strengthened national capacities and systems for results based planning, coordination and performance management including Emergency Preparedness & Response at national level and in 12 targeted States

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF strengthened its internal capacity and the skills of country programme partners in line with the global agenda of Managing for Results Initiatives. Subsequently, 102 UNICEF staff from all programme sections, field offices, and operations and 50 Government counterparts from different line Ministries were trained on Results Based Management (RBM). This investment was specifically timed to the strategic planning phase of the new Country Programme 2018-2021. It is expected to improve results for children, considering that the weak culture of high quality results-focused planning and accountability for children in the protracted emergency context of Sudan represented a bottleneck. It also provided responses to the key recommendations of the Capacity Gap Assessment conducted this year by UNICEF and WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of international cooperation, which revealed the weak practices of RBM in Sudan.

A one year extension of the UNICEF programme of cooperation with the Government was approved by the Executive Board following the extension of UNDAF to 2017. UNICEF influenced children's priorities within the joint UN programming by participating actively in the CCA and the development of the new UNDAF 2018-2021. New strategic priorities of UNICEF's agenda for children in Sudan were defined and well-articulated through the organization of a Strategic Moment of Reflection for the new CPD 2018-2021 involving donors, UN agencies, civil society and the Regional Office.

Government and UNICEF enhanced their mutual responsibility for better coordination, planning and management focused on results for children through the organization of regular multi-sector advisory committee meetings, sector strategic planning and reviews, mid-year reviews and annual reviews, at federal level and in 13 target states, led by the MoIC and state departments of planning, respectively.

In partnership with the State departments of planning, a mapping of existing services, identified needs/gaps, and UNICEF interventions and implementing partners was ongoing. It provided key information for better prioritization and evidence-based planning and implementation. This mapping revealed that UNICEF programmes had geographical convergence in all the localities; however, integration of UNICEF programmes for high impact results needs to be strengthened. Due to financial and logistical challenges, difficulties in access in the flood affected areas and conflict affected areas, 3 of 12 states completed their mapping exercise.

In social policy, a strategic paper for the introduction of multipurpose Cash Transfer within the country programme was developed and two concept notes for fund raising were elaborated. These efforts will be capitalized in leveraging partnerships and resources to deliver the Cash Transfer Programme aiming to facilitate access of deprived children to water and basic services in North Darfur and White Nile. UNICEF influenced the social protection system in Sudan within the Social Protection Sector coordination working group led by the World Bank for better targeting of the Government Safety Nets Programme and also through UNICEF support to the ongoing development of the first Sudan Social Policy Framework.

**OUTCOME 2** Children, especially adolescents (both boys and girls), families and communities in the most deprived localities are resilient and adopt appropriate practices to reduce their vulnerability.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF continued to support resilience building and strengthen the utilization of social services by the communities through sensitization of the poorest and the most

vulnerable households. The DFID-funded joint UNICEF/WFP/FAO Nutrition-Resilience project in eastern Sudan delivered an integrated package of services to improve households and communities' resilience to droughts and floods, with a focus on improving maternal and child nutrition status. A total of 96,038 children (48,499 boys and 47,539 girls) and their families living in the 75 most deprived villages in four localities benefited from an integrated package of health, WASH, nutrition, food security and livelihood interventions. As a result, during the first year of its implementation, stunting among children under two years decreased from a baseline of 66.9 per cent to 57.5 per cent. and the percentage of households with improved drinking water sources increased considerably, from 43.7 per cent to 70.5 per cent.

For prevention of malnutrition, UNICEF support focused on community-level interventions in 22 deprived localities through a network of 1,480 Mother Support Groups, which provided individual counselling, support and information to mothers to promote breast feeding and complementary feeding practices to address one of the major known causes of child malnutrition.

UNICEF facilitated demand creation through the roll-out of the Alshuffa'a Alsoghar communication Initiative to promote six essential family practices in 27 target localities of seven states. The six family practices included use of bed nets, breastfeeding, and correct use of ORS, handwashing, taking children for vaccination and promoting antenatal care. Some 700,000 individuals acquired comprehensive knowledge on the six essential practices through the Alshuffa'a events. In addition to the Alshuffa'a communication initiative, the trained personnel undertook social mobilization campaigns and encouraged women to attend antenatal care services as well as promoted the other essential family practices in Sudan. As a result, 79 per cent of the targeted pregnant women attended antenatal care at least four times during their pregnancies by October 2016.

To increase access to improved sanitation services, UNICEF supported the construction of sanitation facilities in emergency-affected areas and the promotion of improved sanitation practices in the underserved rural areas. A total of 386,688 people affected by emergencies and those in vulnerable rural areas (178,219 males, 208,469 females) gained access to improved sanitation facilities. However, sanitation coverage fell short of the planned target, achieving only 28 per cent of the annual target. The main constraints were inadequate financial access by households to construct, use and maintain their own improved latrines along with the low allocation of overseas development aid and government funds to support promotion of improved sanitation and hygiene activities at scale.

In the education sector, the proportion of children surviving to grade 8 increased by 2 per cent between the 2013/14 and 2014/15 academic years, indicating an improvement in resilience among children to stay longer in basic schooling. Girls registered a considerable increase in the basic education completion rate, from 55 per cent in the in the 2010-2011 academic year to 74.3 per cent in 2014-2015, according to the MICS data. UNICEF supported children in marginalized communities through the capacity building of School Improvement Committees in developing, implementing, financing and monitoring of school improvement plans (SIP) to enhance quality and inclusive education and contributed to the long term goals of improved learning outcomes, retention and completion rates among students. A total of 3,171 SIP grants were provided in 18 states, of which 212 were provided by UNICEF.

To expand knowledge on child protection and reduce children's risk of being subjected to harmful practices, UNICEF, in partnerships with Government, civil society organizations and donors, scaled up community engagement programmes, which resulted in 42 communities (cumulative: 951) declaring the abandonment of FGM/C. The secondary analysis of 2014

MICS showed a 21 per cent decline in the prevalence of the practice of FGM/C.

In spite of the progress made in 2016, financial barriers, quality and affordability of services remained the main bottlenecks of use of basic services in Sudan. For instance, low sanitation coverage increased the vulnerability of communities to infectious diseases. As of December 2016, a total of 6,533 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) were reported from seven states, with 173 reported deaths. With UNICEF assistance, 2,100,600 emergency-affected and vulnerable rural people (1,009,140 males, 1,091,460 females) were reached with hygiene promotion and distribution of soap for adapting good hygiene practices, which contributed to reduction of diarrhoea. UNICEF also supported initial steps to link the curative and preventive arms of the nutrition programme, namely the mother support groups and the nutrition centres, which will greatly increase the reach of the CMAM program and address the two major barriers to uptake of CMAM services of lack of recognition of malnutrition as an illness and lack of knowledge of available treatment options.

**OUTPUT 1** Enhanced knowledge in 80% of targeted communities for improved IYCF practices for children under-2 years in prioritized localities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Although rates of exclusive breastfeeding in Sudan surpassed global targets, almost half of children (45 per cent, according to MICS 2014) were still not exclusively breastfed for their first 6 months of life, 60 per cent of children aged less than 2 years did not receive the recommended number of meals per day, and 70 per cent did not receive the recommended diet diversity (MICS 2014). To address this, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and partners to roll-out the national Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) strategy at community level with the network of mother support groups (MSGs). Interventions under this strategy aim to improve how young children are fed from birth up to 2 years of age.

In 2016, with UNICEF support, 475,436 mothers and primary caregivers received counselling and support for improving infant and young child feeding through the 1,480 MSGs as well as through individual counselling at health centre level. Ownership of the community counselling approach by the MOH and Sudanese civil society groups led to establishment of more groups than planned in the initial phase and subsequent counselling of a higher number of caregivers. Implementation of the IYCF strategy was started in 2015 with establishment of 660 MSGs in 22 high-priority localities in 11 states. Work in 2016 focused on expanding the network of MSGs while consolidating existing MSGs as well as piloting a monitoring and reporting system. The monitoring and reporting system is due to be reviewed and adjusted based on the pilot findings, then rolled out in all states. The MSGs are developing as a platform for integrated nutrition and health action. The inclusion of MUAC measurement for identification and referral of SAM children was a starting point for integration, as an integral part of the work of the MSG members. Counselling through the MSGs was designed to support mothers to overcome difficulties to exclusively breastfeed for 6 months and continue breastfeeding for up to 2 years, and to teach mothers on nutritious foods to give their babies from 6 months onwards. Poor feeding for children from birth up to two years is a major underlying cause of childhood malnutrition, which community-based counselling aims to improve. The strategy is still new in Sudan and UNICEF worked with partners to ensure a standardized approach.

**OUTPUT 2** At least 80% of mothers including pregnant women in selected communities in targeted localities have comprehensive knowledge and capacity to seek appropriate neonatal, child, and maternal health care, including HIV/AIDS (including nationwide interventions).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016 the Alshuffa'a Alsoghar Communication Initiative to promote six essential household practices was successfully launched in seven states and in 27 localities, following the national launch in 2015. Orientation sessions helped to sensitize 1,175 community and religious leaders in those states on the six practices. Those leaders helped to create an enabling environment for community engagement and discourse on the key household actions. To support community engagement for social and behaviour change, the Alshuffa Initiative strengthened the knowledge and skills of 1,793 key frontline staff, including health promoters, community mobilizers and volunteers, in interpersonal communication, community dialogue and the six essential family practices. These trained resources engaged households through house-to-house visits, drama, group discussions, school events and mobile cinema in one state. Nearly 700,000 individuals acquired comprehensive knowledge on the six key practices through direct engagement in Alshuffa'a events and activities. Of this 24% were boys and 23% girls.

The full rollout of the radio drama series and the establishment of Habouba Clubs – support groups that enable in-depth dialogue on the practices -- will further strengthen the knowledge of individuals and households.

Increased capacity of community health promoters to disseminate essential reproductive health messages and conduct social mobilization sessions in their communities through training resulted in improvement in health seeking behaviour of mothers towards antenatal care. It also helped to increase the uptake of PMTCT services, reaching 500 pregnant women with outreach PMTCT services. Due to the stock-out of test kits for nearly half of the year, only 40 per cent of the 45 per cent targeted pregnant women receiving HIV testing for 2016 were reached. After receiving the kits, this gap was closed by implementing an acceleration plan of mobile PMTCT activities. A total of 1,017 Community Health Promoters, who are frontline staff of the Ministry of Health, were also equipped through the IMCI programme with comprehensive knowledge and skills to deliver community IMCI (C-IMCI) services, mainly to disseminate essential family practices (EFPs) for an average of 11,000 new households. The extensive social mobilization activities linked with the last polio SNIDs in April 2016 helped to increase the total population reached with health messages from 15 per cent to 58 per cent, exceeding the target of 50 per cent. The strategic communication plan developed for the April 2016 SNID included more than 100 participants representing government, development and civil society partners who reviewed the plans and committed to support the SNID.

With GAVI support, a dedicated communication consultant based at the FMoH will help strengthen national capacity for strategic communication for routine and supplementary immunization activities at the state and locality levels.

**OUTPUT 3** 1.4 million most vulnerable population in emergency affected and underserved areas use sustainable, equitable and gender sensitive improved sanitation facilities and practice proper hygiene.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

A total of 386,688 (28 per cent of the 2016 target) emergency affected and vulnerable rural people were ensured access to improved sanitation facilities, which contributed to reducing their vulnerability to infectious diseases and ensured the privacy and safety of women and girls. Eighty-four percent (324,777 people and 55 percent females) of these were IDPs and refugees in Darfur, Kordofan, Blue Nile, and White Nile States. A total of 223,464 people in humanitarian situations (101,644 males, 121,820 females) were provided with access to

improved sanitation through the construction of new sanitation facilities suitable for everyone. Through Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS), UNICEF and implementing partners enabled 64,764 people (51 percent females) in the rural areas, especially in priority localities in Kassala and Blue Nile states, to gain access to improved sanitation facilities, Twenty nine communities were declared Open Defection Free (ODF).

The main reason behind the low (28 per cent) sanitation achievements was the shortage of development fund allocations for sanitation promotion through participatory approaches targeting 74% of the annual (780,000 people). Of the total US\$ 7,112,993 budget allocated for sanitation and hygiene interventions, 78 per cent of the funding was from emergency grants. Low sanitation coverage increased the vulnerability of communities to infectious diseases. As of mid-November 2016, a total of 5,054 cases of AWD were reported from Seven States, with 138 reported deaths. Forty localities were affected in Kassala, Blue Nile, River Nile, Gezaira, Sennar, Gadaref, and Khartoum state. Sudan's MICS Survey 2014 showed that only 4 per cent of Gadarif, 17.5 per cent of Sennar, 24.8 per cent of Kassala, 36.5 per cent of Blue Nile, and 37.7 per cent of the Gezira populations had access to improved sanitation and water sources.

A total of 2,634,158 emergency-affected and vulnerable rural people (53 per cent females) were reached with hygiene promotion interventions focused on hand washing with soap (150 per cent of the 2016 target). The hygiene promoters and social mobilizers from IDP's, host communities and refugees' communities were trained on different participatory approaches to facilitate community discussion and disseminate messages on personal hygiene and sanitation facilities management. Community volunteers played a major role to facilitate community discussion and dissemination of key information in localities affected by AWD.

With UNICEF support, 58 schools (39 per cent of the 2016 target) were provided with access to improved sanitation facilities. A total of 37,081 students (17,530 boys and 19,551 girls) gained access to gender sensitive and child-friendly latrines. A major challenge was lack of funding, which was linked to limited evidence-based advocacy on the impact of the WASH service on school attendance and enrolment.

These results were achieved in 52 priority, deprived, UNICEF-targeted localities and major IDP settlements in 11 states (North Darfur: 06; South Darfur: 05; East Darfur: 06; West Darfur: 02; Central Darfur: 05; South Kordofan: 08; West Kordofan: 04; Blue Nile: 05; White Nile: 02; Kassala: 06; Red Sea: 04) in partnership with the Ministry of Health and international and national NGOs.

**OUTPUT 4** Schools in deprived localities are empowered to enhance quality and inclusive education.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) on institutional and individual capacity building for adaptation and roll out of child friendly school standards using school self-assessment and improvement plans. In 2016, 3,373 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and School Improvement Planning (SIP) committee members (40 per cent females) from 950 schools (129 per cent achievement against target of 736 PTA committees) increased their capacity for development, implementation, financing, and monitoring of school improvement plans. A total of 212 schools (106 per cent achievement against target of 200 schools) from seven states (five Darfurs, Kassala and Gadaref states) developed school improvement plans (SIPs) and received school grants to implement their SIPs. The capacity of 240 PTA members (36 per cent female) was enhanced through training on education-in-emergencies,

psychosocial support to manage schools and to enhance resilience of 128,834 conflict affected children (49 per cent girls) to cope with displacement and adverse effects of violence.

Through training on various life skills and citizenship education topics, 34,500 adolescent students (48 per cent girls) increased social and emotional life-skills (SELS) to promote self-control, negotiation skills, reconciliation, joint problem solving, and leadership skills. Training of another 19,600 students was ongoing and was expected to be completed by December. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to revise the child club training manual to incorporate life skills education. The target of 78,292 was not reached because the revision of the training manual to incorporate life skills education took longer than anticipated to complete, in order to ensure that the manual was pre-tested before use.

Through various in-service teacher trainings supported by UNICEF, 6,257 primary teachers (47.7 per cent females, representing more than 100 per cent achievement against the target of 5,855 teachers) were equipped with knowledge and skills to implement child friendly inclusive learner centred methodologies. A total of 1,892 MoE staff increased their knowledge and skills through training on data collection, analysis and reporting on EMIS at school, locality and national levels. Another 1,809 teachers increased their knowledge and competencies on subject matter teaching and promotion of hygiene and safe learning environments in schools, which will contribute to improvement of quality of teaching and learning in schools.

UNICEF Sudan, in partnership with World Bank Basic Education Recovery Project (BERP) under the Global Partnerships for Education (GPE) project, used the lessons learned and supported the Ministry of Education to develop guidelines for national rollout of SIP utilizing the CFS framework. The SIP guidelines for national rollout were expected to be approved by the end of December. Financial support from EU, German KfW and other partners contributed significantly to the achievement of results. Information shared by partners on results monitoring during coordination meetings at the Ministry of Education forums shaped programming and contributed to the achieved results.

The ongoing conflict, weak capacity among government partners and inadequate availability of flexible funds affected implementation.

**OUTPUT 5** Communities, families and children including adolescent equipped with knowledge and life skills to protect them from separation, violence and traditional harmful practices

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

As part of the joint programme ‘Sudan Free of Female Genital Cutting’ (FGC), UNICEF, with UNFPA and WHO, invested in equipping children, women, youth families and communities with the appropriate knowledge on *Saleema* through community dialogues to promote social change toward declaring abandonment of FGM/C and Child Marriage. A total of 42 new communities declared keeping their girls *Saleema*/uncut in North Kordofan, South Kordofan, South Darfur, Northern States, River Nile and Blue Nile states, bringing the total to 951 communities, exceeding the 2016 target of 900. This brings the cumulative number of communities that have declared collective abandonment of FGM/C to 995 communities. Targeting the household level, a total of 10,437 parents declared to leave their daughters uncut in Khartoum and Northern states and Blue Nile. Since 2008, community dialogues have reached some 4 million families and children in 2,357 communities in 18 states.

Through multiple partnerships with the Councils of Child Welfare (S/NCCW), Ahfad University, GRACE research institute and NGOs, community engagement and systematic community dialogue was scaled up in 90 per cent of 400 selected communities through trained 720 facilitators in 9 targeted states reaching 70 % of 26 targeted localities. Female catalysts accounted for 50 per cent of the community facilitators. Comprehensive baseline data on the community structure, including tribes and ethnic groups, social services and organizations, FGM/C practices and knowledge on Saleema, was generated as part of the process in Sennar, Northern State, River Nile, Gedarif, Red Sea, Gezira states.

Under the leadership of NCCW and with support from UNICEF and Al Alag Media Centre, the social movement for FGM/C abandonment was scaled up and the feasibility of Saleema initiative was enhanced through facilitation of 155 events in the 18 states. Through UNICEF support, with NGOs and SCCW and MoSW, 65 new community-based child protection networks (CBCPN) in the States of North, Central and South Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile were active and able to respond to emergency and humanitarian needs of children.

UNICEF, with S/NCCW and the Ministry of Education, put additional programmatic emphasis on empowering adolescents and engaging them as agents for change. Eighteen adolescent and 14 youth medical students (50 per cent female) in Northern state were trained on undertaking quality data collection involving 144 adolescents in 8 communities in Northern State informing adolescent and communities perceptions on young people engagement in addressing harmful traditional practices with particular focus on FGM/C and Child Marriage. Through the innovation laboratory, 28 adolescents created UNICEF's age and gender sensitive Recreation Kit, which will be used for psychosocial support in development and humanitarian contexts. A total of 28 adolescents from 8 states (50 per cent female), representing different contexts in Sudan, detailed their perspective of the root causes of child deprivations and suggested solutions and priorities for the National Childhood Strategy and UNICEF new programme 2018-2021.

The Child Marriage Strategy was awaiting endorsement. The turnover in NCCW staff contributed to the delay on the implementation and follow-up of the prerequisite actions for the endorsement of the Strategy.

**OUTCOME 3** Evidence and coordination enables government, communities and partners to improve capacity and systems for equity-focused funding, advocacy , policies & legislation, strategies, planning & supply chain management to scale up results for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF Sudan continued to strengthen its leadership role in generating knowledge for children in Sudan to inform policies and strategies and leverage partnerships in favour of vulnerable children in Sudan. New evidence generated and disseminated included the publication of the final report of MICS 2014, findings of the child multidimensional and inequality study, the in-depth Study on FGM and child marriage, independent evaluation of the Humanitarian Action in North Darfur, and the Capacity Gap Assessment of Government and CSO partners related to the practices of RBM and M&E in all 18 states. This new evidence was used for programming, advocacy and strategic prioritization of children's issues in Sudan, including for the development of the Situation Analysis and the new country programme document.

While nutrition was not an agenda that was prioritized by the Government in the past, the development and the launch of the nutrition investment case, which was supported by UNICEF and other UN agencies (principally WFP), successfully contributed to policy advocacy in bringing the subject to the highest national agenda, and underscoring its

importance to human and economic development of the country. As a result, the leadership role of the Government of Sudan in the multi-sector planning to tackle malnutrition was strengthened, as evidenced by the fact that Sudan officially joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in October 2015 as its 57th member and operationalized the network in 2016.

UNICEF and partners supported the Ministry of Health in the development of the new National Health Sector Strategic plan (NHSP 2017-2021), which will guide the implementation of health sector interventions in the next five years. A new five year strategy for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescents (RMNCAH 2017-2021) was launched in August 2016.

Advocacy efforts and capacity development contributed to the key national institutional focal points for WASH, namely the Ministry of Water Resources and Electricity (MoWRE) and the Ministry of Health, in government's allocation of US\$ 1,448,230 for the promotion of sanitation at national and state levels, in addition to a national water atlas to monitor the water supply sources in Sudan. In partnership with the African Development Bank and the government, UNICEF supported WASH sector reform, including stronger sector coordination, the development of 2017-2021 sector strategic plans, national policy, and institutional capacity development.

In the education sector, UNICEF and development partners supported the Ministry of Education to develop a five-year Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) for the period of 2017- 2021. The Education Sector Analysis and costing and financing studies were commissioned to generate evidence to inform the development of the ESSP and the reports will have become available by end of December 2016. A national system for monitoring student learning outcomes was developed and the first National Learning Assessment (NLA) report was completed. Findings from the NLA report showed poor learning outcomes for early grade reading and early grade mathematics, with more than 40 per cent of grade 3 students unable to read. The results from the NLA report were used to inform the design of the national school grant rollout plan, which will target localities with worst learning outcomes during the 2017 cycle of the school grants.

Stronger commitments to end grave violations against children, including child recruitment by armed forces in Sudan, were ensured through the signing of the Action Plan on Protection of Children in Armed Conflict by the Government of Sudan in March 2016, after five years of technical advice, negotiation and joint advocacy of UNICEF, UN and UNAMID. Signing of the Action Plan was a critical step in responding to grave violations against children, in line with the Security Council resolutions and International Humanitarian Law. It also paved the way to further expedite the negotiation with other parties to the conflict, including the Sudan people Liberation Movement (SPLM) and Justice and Equality Movements (JEM), to commit to the protection of children in the armed conflict and sign similar action plans. The alliance to end child recruitment and enhance protection of children in armed conflict in Sudan was expanded through the facilitation of the Governments of Sweden and Canada to convene a 'Group of Friends' to support protection in armed conflict with the other 18 member states.

Government contributions to social budgets increased for some sectors, including education, which increased from 7 per cent in 2014 to 11.3 per cent in 2016, but contributions were still low in many of the child-focused sectors. For example, there was a significant gap between the targeted 0.03 per cent and the 0.002 per cent actual funding for sanitation.

**OUTPUT 1** Strengthened national capacity to advocate, legislate and plan for scaling up nutrition (SUN).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2016, UNICEF led an extensive review the previous UN agency Letter of Understanding (LOU), whose objectives were re-oriented to support the Government to scale up nutrition. The new LOU was signed by five other UN agencies (WFP, UNFPA, WHO, FAO and IFAD) and the World Bank joined as a new signatory. With technical support from UNICEF, the UN Network for SUN in Sudan was formed. UNICEF supported initial steps to formulate the SUN Business Network, the SUN Civil Society Network and the SUN Donors Network, all requirements of the SUN agenda. Potential conveners were nominated and communication with the SUN Secretariat counterpart for each network was taking place.

In August 2016, the Nutrition Investment Case for Sudan was officially launched by the Government of Sudan, with UNICEF and WFP support. The Nutrition Investment Case is a costed advocacy tool developed by the Federal Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WFP that demonstrates the benefits of implementing an evidence-based package of multi-sectoral interventions at scale in terms of lives saved and cases of child malnutrition (both wasting and stunting) averted. The launch of the Nutrition Investment Case was a concrete foundation for multi-sectoral fundraising and demonstrated Sudan's strategic shift in focus on nutrition through a multi-sectoral lens. Since the launch, a plan for multi-sectoral implementation was developed by the Federal Ministry of International Cooperation and the Federal Ministry of Health. A Maternal and Child Health strategy and a Hygiene and Sanitation framework containing a strong nutrition component were also launched. For the second year, the Government of Sudan allocated US\$ 5 million for nutrition, for the procurement of RUTF through UNICEF Procurement Services.

UNICEF continued to support the Nutrition Information System with technical support and regular quality-checks of the CMAM database at state and Federal level. The CMAM database is functional and complete for all of Sudan's 18 states. Work on the National IYCF database was underway and further adjustments will be made following the pilot testing of the monitoring and reporting formats. The community nutrition surveillance data continued to be collected in six states (the five Darfur states and Blue Nile), and further training was carried out to improve report quality. Two years of trend data for nutrition status and program monitoring indicators is now available.

The Sudan-wide national multi-sector survey (S3M-II) planned in 2016 to provide locality and sub-locality level information on a wide range of indicators, including health, nutrition and WASH, was postponed. The locality level data from previous S3M-I 2013 survey were useful in planning and prioritizing focus on most needy and disadvantaged locations and for equitable distribution of services and interventions.

**OUTPUT 2** The DHSS approach is scaled to targeted localities to improve coverage of child survival interventions in the most disadvantaged localities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2016, a bottleneck analysis exercise for the decentralized Health Systems Strengthening Approach was carried out in Kassala state with the state health team and 11 locality health teams. The exercise resulted in the identification of bottlenecks limiting the delivery of EPI, ANC, skilled delivery and treatment of diarrhoea interventions as well as solutions to overcome the bottlenecks. The low performing localities were mapped for each intervention thereby providing better insight for both the state and the locality health teams for re-directing the corrective solutions. An orientation workshop on bottleneck analysis was

undertaken at Federal level involving eight states (Kassala, Gedarif, Sinnar, River Nile, Blue Nile, North Darfur, South Darfur and Red Sea). The outcome of the workshop was a better understanding of the DHSS approach and how it works to support increased coverage of health interventions at locality level. The approach will be scaled up to the eight states in 2017.

UNICEF continued to improvements in the cold chain functionality in Darfur states, Kordofan states, Red Sea, Kassala and Blue Nile states. The national cold chain functionality was 88 per cent by the end of June 2016. UNICEF also supported a nationwide cold chain inventory for evidence-based planning for cold chain rehabilitation and expansion within the new country multi-year plan.

The 10 in 5 Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent health (RMNCAH) strategy was launched by the Ministry of Health in 2016, with support from UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. The strategy spells out the key priorities to be addressed in the delivery of maternal and child health programmes in the next five years (2017-2020), with clear goals and targets.

**OUTPUT 3** A Compact on the Sudan Sanitation and Water for All commitments is established and operationalized to scale up improved sanitation and water services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF contributed to the realization of Sudan's five commitments towards Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) through sanitation promotion, establishing overall WASH and sanitation coordination mechanisms and enhancing sector monitoring systems. Through effective advocacy, support and follow-up with federal Ministries of MWRE and MoH, US\$ 1,448,230 was availed in 2016, as reported by MoH, as separate funding for sanitation promotion at national and state levels. A national water atlas to monitor the water supply sources in Sudan was developed as the result of a Minister of MOWRE initiative. Thirteen national and state WASH sector coordination forums were marinated by MOWRE (100 per cent of the target) and 11 national and state sanitation high councils/committees were maintained by MoH. Although the targeted Compact on SWA Sudan five commitments was not established due to some disagreement in roles and responsibilities, the realization of all of its components were effectively addressed by MoWRE, MoH, with UNICEF support.

With full in-depth strategic leadership and funding from UNICEF, the first Sudan National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategic Framework (SNSHSF) was developed. The SNSHSF is of critical importance to paving the road for a holistic national programme for scaling up access to sanitation in Sudan.

Targeting the enhancement of the sector enabling environment, UNICEF WASH established a strategic partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), a key development partner directly supporting MWRE and MoH in the processes of overall sector reform. The partnership focused on the main WASH sector reform components, including overall sector coordination, 2017-2021 Strategic Plans, national policy, investment plans and capacity development.

UNICEF also supported the strengthening of WASH equity-focused monitoring and information systems at federal and state levels to facilitate informed decision making. There were six UNICEF-supported states with active monitoring and database systems (100 per cent of the target).

UNICEF contributed to the enhancement of WASH sector partners' capacity. A total of 509

WASH sector partners (286 males, 223 females) were trained on key WASH technical issues, mainly Community Approaches for Total Sanitation (CATS) and M&E. At community level, communities' capacities were strengthened through the training of 5,424 community members (2,815 males, 2,609 females) in operations and management of WASH facilities, water disinfection, and hygiene promotion.

One of the main challenges that affected the sector enabling environment was the inadequate institutional and human resources capacities to manage and lead WASH sector within the government and nongovernment organizations. This was manifested in the less active sector management and institutional structures and lack of up-to-date information management and monitoring systems. UNICEF, in partnership with AfDB, supported overall sector reform that includes sector coordination, 2017-2021 Strategic Plans, national policy, investment plans and capacity development. UNICEF also contributed to the enhancement of WASH sector institutions and personnel capacities in terms of training and establishing monitoring and information management systems.

**OUTPUT 4** Sound evidence-based education plans are developed, implemented and monitored at sub-national level in synchronization with national level.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

A total of 1,892 MoE staff have increased their knowledge and skills through training on data collection, analysis and reporting on EMIS at school, locality and national levels. UNICEF provided IT equipment (computers and other required computer accessories) to enhance IT infrastructure of EMIS labs for 10 out of 18 targeted states to support data entry, analysis and reporting. Data entry for the 2015-2016 was almost complete for 10 states that UNICEF targeted and the report is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2017. The strengthened EMIS will ensure quality and timely data to ensure evidence-based planning for equitable quality education. Timely quality data was one of the main challenges affecting the education system in Sudan. With UNICEF technical and financial support, the 2012-2013 EMIS Annual statistics book was published. The 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 year books were expected to be published by December 2016.

The application for the GPE funding submitted by the Sudan Federal Ministry of Education was successful and funds were awarded by GPE to support the Ministry of Education to develop the education sector strategic plan (2017-2021). With the funding, the Federal Ministry of Education conducted the Education Sector Analysis (ESA), with significant support and involvement from UNICEF. The draft report of the ESA was under review and the final report will be available during the first quarter of 2017.

The first draft report of the education cost and finance study was produced and was expected to be finalized by end of December 2017. The study will provide information on the level of government budget spending on General Education at the national, state and locality level, as well as the education-related costs provided by families. The study will be used to assist the government in effective financial planning for General Education to ensure equitable access for all children through enabling a costed ESSP (2017-21).

In 2016 UNICEF successfully organized three Education Partners Group meetings to discuss the overall Education sector performance and the Basic Education Recovery Project (BERP). This resulted in improved coordination for education sector results. The coordinated advocacy through the Education Partners Group resulted in successful no cost extension of the BERP Project for an additional year. In 2016, the Federal Ministry of Education, with UNICEF support, conducted an advocacy campaign with development partners and GPE Board to reconsider the GPE position on not including Sudan in 2017-2018 budgeting

cycle. The main constraint for supporting Sudan with GPE funds is Sudan's World Bank ranking as a lower middle income country. This remained as unsolved issue.

**OUTPUT 5** Evidence and enabling environment for child protection is available and used to sharpen the child protection system and legislative framework.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF invested significant advocacy, financial and technical support to generate evidence and ensure quality data and information on various child protection violations. The National child protection information management system was established at the National Council of Child Welfare (NCCW) with trained focal points in 18 states. Data on 92 indicators was refined and compiled, including on FGM/C, child marriage and sexual violence, with the aim to be integrated into the National Inter-sectoral Monitoring and Evaluation System. Routine data collection within the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice and Civil Registration integrated the main justice for children indicators. As part of Saleema Initiative monitoring and evaluation system, the first and the second rounds of data collection in 18 states were completed to measure social norm change and public declaration on FGM/C Abandonment. The National framework to improve the accuracy and efficiency of the existing child protection information management system (CPIMS) on family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children was developed with the participation of S/NCCW, relevant government institutions and NGOs. Further efforts need to be exerted to ensure mechanisms on inter-states and inter-countries FTR information systems are enhanced. A participatory qualitative assessment of community engagement on promoting positive social change toward abandonment of FGM/C was completed, with recommendations that informed the programme direction on promoting community engagement.

For the first time, the views of 250 adolescents (50 per cent females) effected by armed conflict and displacement from eight refugees camps and three host communities in White Nile were documented within the participatory assessment. The assessment was used for effective programming and guided the emergency responses and ensured meaningful engagement of adolescents with appropriate life skills. Senior representatives of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), Police, National Intelligence, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (DDR), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Council for Child Welfare became part of the Technical Committee and High Level Committee that were established to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan on child protection in armed conflict.

Advocacy efforts on the National Law banning FGM/C with the National Assembly committees, and on prominent child protection issues with the Parliament, women Parliamentarians and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Endowment, resulted in endorsement of the law and positive signs for its ratification. More than 50 staff from the UN, including UNAMID, and International Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in West and Central Darfur were actively involved in Monitoring and Reporting (MRM) of grave child rights violations as a result of two capacity building workshops. These workshops increased contributions and commitment to the MRM based on each agency's or NGO's mandate and enhanced the quality of the MRM reporting.

Delays on policies and legislation adoption, and limited budget allocation for child protection programmes represented major bottlenecks, which resulted in poor provision of services across the states. UNICEF advocated to scale up the use of Zakat funds and increase the local component to support children and families at risk of or victims of violence.

**OUTPUT 6** Evidence on the situation of the most vulnerable children is generated and utilized to increase the child-equity focus policies, strategies and scaling up social sectors systems and investments.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF, in a partnership with Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), DFID, and CSOs, completed the first independent evaluation of the Humanitarian Action in North Darfur, which revealed that UNICEF achieved at least 75 per cent of outputs. The evaluation also was used to inform Sudan Humanitarian Response strategy and Plan (HRP) for 2017/2018.

The full MICS 2014 final report containing disaggregated data by state, wealth quintile and gender was printed for the dissemination workshop planned to be conducted by the Government and UNICEF. This report will be used as a baseline for PRSP, SDG and UNDAF, as well as all humanitarian and development partners.

Further to the official launch of MICS 2014 findings and the printed final report, in 2016 UNICEF undertook, in partnership with the Central Bureau of Statistics, the child multi-dimensional poverty and inequality study and the in-depth analytical study on Female Genital Cutting and Child Marriage. Findings from the child multi-dimensional estimation revealed that 52.8 per cent of children under five years were affected by child income poverty, higher than adults (40 per cent) and the overall population (45.6 per cent). The measurement of child multi-dimensional poverty using seven dimensions of child rights revealed that 74.7 per cent of children 5-17 years and 90.5 per cent of under-five year's children were affected by at least two deprivations. The overlapping deprivations affected 22 per cent of children who are deprived both of child malnutrition, health and WASH. UNICEF engaged the CBS to establish a regular system of tracking inflation rate and the social impact of the new economic policy of removal of fuel subsidies established in 2016 by Government. Findings of FGM/CM study revealed that the harmful practices of FGM were still very high in Sudan. However, there was a 25 per cent reduction within the cohort of the new generation of 0-14 years and the elimination of FGM in Sudan could happen in 2040 (25 years).

In 2016, UNICEF Sudan, in partnership with WFP and Ministry of international Cooperation, implemented a capacity Gap survey-assessment of RBM/M&E practices covering 340 Implementing Partners in all states, using a comprehensive questionnaire. This evidence generation revealed that 68 per cent of government partners were never trained on RBM and the country lacked the practice of results focus planning, budgeting and reporting. Consequently, the Ministry of International Cooperation, with financial and technical assistance from UNICEF, identified the most critical and top priority areas for capacity building, and the training of 50 government counterparts on RBM was underway, with a plan to roll-out the training to all States in 2017. This evidence-based capacity building on RBM will have a greater return of investment for children's well-being in Sudan through high quality planning, responsibility and accountability of results.

**OUTPUT 7** Gender sensitive Information, Management & Performance Monitoring and National Reporting Systems are in place.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF Sudan was one of the 12 pilot countries to roll out e-Tools as an institutionally-supported platform to reinforce planning, monitoring, and better managing results for children. A total of 190 staff members at Khartoum and field level were trained on

e-Tools and now have appropriate knowledge to use the system. The roll-out of e-Tools will further enhance the online monitoring of results, reporting effectiveness of partnerships and programmatic field monitoring and follow up actions as part of managing for results.

To support the availability of sound evidence-based information for planning and leveraging partnerships for children, CBS at state level completed, printed and disseminated the socio-economic profiles for the two remaining states (Elfashir and Gedarif). The socio-economic profile improved the easy access of information. Wider dissemination and effective use of the profiles assisted in increasing the use of evidence-based information for decision making. The planning phase began to scale up state socio-economic profiles to other states. CBS, in collaboration with UNICEF and with support from DevInfo Support Group, managed to update the Sudan Info database with Simple Spatial Surveying Method (S3M) data at locality level and developed an interactive dashboard for Sudan Info database. Launching of the Interactive dashboard served as an evidence-based tool to monitor progress of children's situation in Sudan. National fact sheets, state profiles, a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey report and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey advocacy materials were developed and disseminated.

Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) indicators were part of and informed on progress in all 2016 humanitarian partnership agreements, and supported reporting of Sector (Cluster) and Section achievements on results for children under the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2016 as well as the Refugee Multi-Sector framework. Third Party Monitoring (TPM) assisted programmes to re-evaluate partnerships in the Darfur and Nile States by providing an impartial perspective on achievements with regard to deliverables as well as conducting sampled household surveys on beneficiary feedback for the effectiveness of the approach. The upcoming TPM strategy will focus on a cross sectoral perspective with trend analysis concentrating on hotspot areas addressing the quality of the HPM results.

In 2016, UNICEF strengthened its capacity of programme field monitoring through the recruitment and deployment of 24 United Nations Volunteer (UNV) M&E officers and 6 national M&E staff, which resulted to the first establishment of M&E function at 8 field offices. The field-based M&E staff contributed to enhancing UNICEF accountability for effective results for children on the ground and reinforced the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring. To strengthen UNICEF's internal planning, analytical and monitoring capacity, UNICEF created a GIS Database that includes situation and programmatic data to enable analysis beyond states or five sectoral programmes. UNICEF participated in Inter-Agency Information Management Working Groups (UNDP/OCHA, RMS, and RRR) to support efficient data and knowledge sharing among UN partners.

## **OUTPUT 8** Strengthened alliance and partnerships with traditional and non-traditional

### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2016, UNICEF Sudan targeted 65 per cent ORR and 50 per cent ORE raised against the annual Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). ORR funding received was US\$24,565,017, representing 42 per cent of the planned US\$58,219,250. ORE funding received was US\$53,370,035, representing 46 per cent of the planned US\$116,921,577. This was an improvement compared to the same period last year, when funding was just over 15 per cent for both ORR and ORE. The increase could partly be attributed the migrant agenda in which Sudan was uniquely placed as a source, transit point and destination hub.

The broader funding landscape remained restrictive, limited and highly competitive. Against this backdrop and an increased demand for due diligence, value for money with clear results for children, protracted emergencies such as Sudan's increasingly depend on flexible

catalytic funding in order to dynamically and timely address the critical needs of children, especially in the conflict affected and Eastern states of Sudan where multiple child deprivation is high. UNICEF Sudan's Resource Mobilization Strategy and Action Plan for 2016 were updated accordingly, with a strong emphasis on partnership. One case in point was the UNICEF/WFP jointly supported Nutrition Investment Case. Engagement with the private sector was also scaled up, including with Unilever, MTN, Haggard Trading and SAMIL Factory. Developing a comprehensive partnership strategy and action plan will be a priority in the development of the new country programme 2018 -2021 (advocacy, research and service delivery).

**OUTPUT 9** Increased engagement with media at federal, state and community levels and other public platforms to facilitate behaviour and social change and promote the rights of children in Sudan

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In terms of public advocacy, a UNICEF Sudan Advocacy Strategy 2016-2021 was put in place and approved by the Country Management Team. This was crucial in ensuring a strategic approach to advocacy and to ensuring consistency in messaging, including statements, facts sheets, information briefs and audio visual products. This strategy guided robust advocacy efforts at the global level. Key advocacy efforts included 'Making the case for flexible funding' (RR Report 2015 with PPD), 'Education Cannot Wait' (making the case for the protection of schools and access to education for every child, in a conflict environment around the World Humanitarian Summit), '13-13-13 initiative' (framed around 13 years of conflict in the Darfur region), 'A generation of childhood at risk', and the State of the World's Children's Report (SOWCR) 2016.

Advocacy articles were covered on ICON and the UNICEF global web page. The UNICEF Sudan global web page was updated with the latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) data as well as advocacy briefs on An Overview of UNICEF in Sudan and the situation of children and programme briefs in education, health, nutrition, child protection and WASH.

The UNICEF Sudan Humanitarian Situation Report and Quarterly Sector Bulletins, contributions to UNCHR's bi-monthly bulletins and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) weekly all continued to be shared on key web platforms such as Relief Web, in addition to regional and UNICEF Sudan social media platforms.

In-country social media scale engagement, especially on Facebook and Twitter and to a lesser extent on Youtube, was scaled up, especially around the UNICEF@70 campaign, with 70 stories for 70 years in 70 days. A strategic shift towards more Arabic content, graphic production and short videos was prioritized during the second half of the year.

**OUTCOME 4** PCR 4: Cross-sectoral programme support

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2015 management set out to achieve tangible results in strengthening Operations Management, systems and governance and in attaining improved efficiency and effectiveness. The operations budget was carefully scrutinized during the year to ensure value for money and increased efficiency/effectiveness and cost savings.

In continuous efforts to comply with financial rules and regulations, UNICEF Sudan maintained optimum cash balances and consistently kept the end of month balance within the established threshold. Bank reconciliations were uploaded in a timely manner within

deadlines set by Headquarters and open items were monitored and cleared in a timely manner. Throughout 2015, the office maintained zero outstanding balance for over 9 months DCTs.

Supply constituted a critical component of the delivery of the country programme, accounting for US\$23.1 million, of which 23 per cent were locally sourced, and 77 per cent were from offshore.

Better management of transportation from Khartoum warehouse led to overall reduction in delivery time from Khartoum warehouse to end-users. This also led to reduction in warehouse stocks from an average US\$5.6 million at the start of the year to US\$2.7 million by year-end. No stock-outs were reported during the year, mainly due to the increased use of LTAs and on-time delivery by local suppliers. Eighty-six per cent of the US\$5.3 million of local purchases were done using LTAs.

UNICEF was entrusted to handle the US\$6.5 million Global Fund/UNDP clearance and distribution of 2.9 million bed-nets. A US\$1.7 million USAID/Food for Peace donation of 46,000 cartons of RUTF was in process of being cleared for pre-positioning in field warehouses and direct distribution.

Supply Chain management and the warehousing of supplies in the field were identified as an area of priority for implementation. However, the challenge of access restrictions to some emergency programme locations continued to hinder the delivery of supplies.

The UNICEF Sudan office in Khartoum relocated to new and more spacious office premises, which will yield an annual savings of US\$ 264,000 in rent, in addition to an estimated savings of US \$90,000 in cost of meetings and conferences now held in the office. Human resources dedicated half of 2015 to the implementation of the new CPMP. There are 84 new and upgraded positions in the process to fill. Professional and soft skills training was provided to staff whose posts were affected, to retool them for new jobs. The process will be concluded by an important orientation session in early 2016.

Decentralization was one of the strategic goals of the CPMP, resulting in an increase of 22 posts in the field and a reduction to 16 posts in Khartoum, increasing the capacity in the field to deliver for children. Initiatives to bring and keep qualified young people and females on board continued. Twenty three young UNVs were under recruitment; 11 interns and volunteers were accepted this year.

**OUTPUT 1** Strengthened Governance, Supply & logistics capacity in support to services delivery to children

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The US\$43.1 million Supply Plan was 56 per cent accomplished, amounting to US\$24.3.6 million supply requisitions (56 per cent programme budget); of which orders worth US\$18.3million (76 per cent of requisitions) were obligated. US\$14.5 million supplies (60 per cent of requisitions) were delivered to partners/beneficiaries, US\$3.3 million was in warehouses pending distribution and US\$2.9 million were goods in transit.

Procurement Services contributed US\$48,880,380.96 million (50 per cent more than programme requisitions and 38 per cent of total country supply throughput), and in-kind assistance (USAID/FFP) was US\$2.5 million in RUTF. Another US\$117,130 in WASH supplies comprising squatting plates, collapsible tanks and chlorine tablets was also donated by UNICEF Lebanon office to UNICEF Sudan.

The largest supply component, US\$15,584,039.34 million (64 per cent) was from offshore, comprising RUTF and therapeutic milk, pharmaceuticals and health kits, vaccines and cold chain equipment, ECD, recreation and school-in-a-box kits, tents and collapsible water tanks. From local suppliers, US\$7.6million (36 per cent) supplies were procured, comprising RUTF, Education & Recreation kits, plastic mats & tarpaulins, water containers, soap, chlorine powder, printing, hand-pumps, generators and vehicles. Through direct ordering are \$141,196 (<1%) supplies comprising cold-chain equipment, motorcycles and bicycles.

Offshore procurement offered quality supplies but regulations restricting imports created delays in customs clearance, incurring US\$709,858 demurrage charges (27 per cent of in-country logistics costs), delaying emergency response and programme implementation. Thirty shipments worth US\$2.6 million remained un-cleared at entry ports for – four to six months. Twenty-six shipments were being cleared by MOF and were waiting for custom clearance, and two newly-arrived shipments required clearance by MOF, MOFA and custom clearance.

Of the US\$15.2 million supplies received, US\$14,585,285 (96 per cent) was distributed to partners and beneficiaries and US\$646,641.10 (4 per cent) was in warehouses. In-country logistics operations amounted to US\$3.4 million (23 per cent of received supplies and 22 per cent of total supplies). This was 56 per cent higher than offshore freight costs of US\$1.3million, constituting 10 per cent of offshore supplies and only 6 per cent of total supplies requisitioned.

Despite funding constraints for market survey, 15 new LTAs were signed with suppliers for local procurement of previously imported emergency shelter, education and child protection kits, saving 25 per cent in costs and three months delivery time. These acceptable quality supplies were socio-culturally more appropriate and enhanced visibility. Three Sudan-specific IMCI, PHC and village midwifery kits to greatly improve logistics and delivery of pre-packaged health supplies. Negotiations resulted in 16 per cent price reduction of local RUTF, saving US\$1.1 million. Advocacy resulted in 50 per cent of USAID/FFP RUTF being locally procured, and through Procurement Services, the government procured US\$11.4 million in bed-nets, US\$5.2 million in nutrition and US\$528,000 in WASH supplies to complement programme input. Pre-delivery quality assurance of supplies worth US\$20,000 was enhanced, including delivery time and visibility compliance.

Of the US\$20.1 million construction plan, projects worth US\$10.4 million were undertaken, of which US\$2.6 million (25 per cent) were through partners with quality assurance by UNICEF construction engineer, and US\$7.8 million (75 per cent) were directly implemented with quality assurance by a consultant construction company on LTA. A one-stop-shop child-friendly space design was developed and standardized for structural integrity and more conducive environment to children, which will reduce procurement lead-time.

## **OUTPUT 2 Financial Management**

### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

As part of cash management, a close monitoring system was in place as to narrow the gap between the cash forecasting and cash utilization. CAP was considered as a tool to look at forecasting trends for all sections and field offices.

The final aim was to request just enough fund transfers just in time from New York Headquarters throughout the month in order to avoid getting funds while keeping them unspent. The cut-off date for submission of payments was introduced to mitigate the risk of uncertainty of the last month fund transfer request to Headquarters. The Finance team

summed up the total of valid payment requests right after the cut-off date and concurrently requested the last fund transfer from Headquarters, taking into account the adherence to the benchmark level of keeping not more than US\$500,000 in the cashbook the end of every month.

Data was generated on a monthly basis to reflect UNICEF Sudan management indicators. The bank optimization data generated by the Regional Office also quoted similar information on the benchmarks indicators, which were yielded from monthly differences between the cash projection and cash utilization.

All the payments transaction were consolidated in Khartoum through the Operations Service Centre (OSC), which serviced six Field Offices in Khartoum. All bank Accounts in Field Offices were closed as per Audit recommendations. The purpose of the OSC is consolidate the financial transactions in Khartoum in order to streamline the processes in line with UNICEF rules and regulations. UNICEF Sudan moved to GSSC on 19 September 2016, whereby 555 requests were submitted to GSSC as of 31 December 2016. Since all in-scope GSSC transactions were processed remotely by GSSC, the Finance team focused on assurance of submission of quality documents.

As of 31 December 2016, US\$ 27,758,421.13 DCTs were liquidated within 6 months from the disbursement date, which was 82 per cent of total DCTs liquidated in 2016 (US\$ 31,613,621.28) taking into account that some DCTs liquidated in 2016 were disbursed in 2015. Out of US\$18,253,650.00 outstanding DCTs in 2016, 69.3 per cent were 0-3 months, 27.6 per cent were 3-6 months, 2.6 % were 6-9 months and 0.5 per cent were more than 9 months.

A total of US\$10,406,548.83 (28.5 per cent) was transferred to IPs against approved PCAs within the deadline of payments processing, a total of US\$26,726.50 (0.1 per cent) was transferred to IPs against approved SSFA, and a total of US\$25,992,733.69 (71.4 per cent) was transferred to government IPs.

### **OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity**

#### **Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During the period January to November 2016, UNICEF Sudan completed 43 recruitments, including 33 fixed-term and 10 temporary appointments. A total of 39 individual contractors and consultancy contracts were issued. Twenty three internship applications were processed and interns were already on board.

UNICEF HR Global initiatives were successfully implemented, including the Talent Management System, Achieve (the new performance appraisal system), MyCase, and the OSF digitalization of all 230 national staff official status files files).

A one-week comprehensive induction and orientation for newly appointed staff (45 SM/UNVs) was conducted in January 2016. The office also conducted refresher training/orientation on Prevention of Harassment and Abuse of Authority in the workplace for all staff, joined by participants from WHO, WFP and UNHCR.

UNICEF's HR team worked through the one UN HR Group. UNICEF organized and facilitated a one day retreat for all UN HR staff and organized and facilitated an orientation session on UNJSPF for all UN Staff in Sudan presented by PF Chief Client Services.

**Evaluation and Research**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sequence Number</b>	<b>Type of Report</b>
Capacity Needs Assessment of Partners on Practices of Results Based Management and Monitoring & Evaluation in Sudan – Final Report	2016/003	Review
Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) and Child Marriage in Sudan	2016/002	Study
Knowledge Attitudes and Practices towards WASH in El Fasher and Zalingei, Darfur – Sudan 2016	2016/004	Survey
Child Multi-Dimensional Poverty and Inequalities in Sudan	2016/005	Study
Evaluation of Humanitarian Action: Child Survival in North Darfur in Sudan 2010-2015	2016/001	Evaluation

**Other Publication**

**Title**

**Lessons Learned**

<b>Document Type/Category</b>	<b>Title</b>
Innovation	Kobo toolbox: an innovative tool for monitoring nutrition activities

**Programme Documents**

**Document Type|Title|Name**