

Syrian Arab Republic

Executive Summary

After five years of protracted conflict, the deteriorating situation in Syria remains characterized by widespread violence, indiscriminate attacks on civilian populations, grave violations against human rights and mass displacement of people, almost half of them children. The destruction and degradation of schools, hospitals, electricity, water and sanitation systems continues to negatively impact the access of millions to basic services.

Humanitarian needs have increased by 45 per cent compared to 2013. By the end of 2015, more than 13.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance while 6.5 million had been internally displaced, many multiple times. In 2015 alone more than 1.5 million were displaced due to conflict and over 4 million people have left the country since the start of the crisis. Children have been particularly affected accounting for almost half of the total number of people in need, close to 6 million.

In 2015, UNICEF's humanitarian response was anchored in the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SRP). UNICEF's two pronged approach aimed to provide immediate life-saving support in health and nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, adolescent development and social inclusion to conflict-affected women and children while simultaneously supporting their longer-term resilience to withstand an increasingly protracted conflict.

UNICEF response in WASH was critical in averting a humanitarian disaster in Aleppo, Damascus, Idleb and Dara'a following extensive and deliberate water cuts during the year. As part of a two-pronged strategy to deliver immediate life-saving assistance in addition to supporting longer term solutions for enhanced resilience, UNICEF trucked water for 1.5 million people in addition to developing and equipping 270 groundwater wells benefitting 2.5 million people in affected areas with alternative water resources. Overall, 7.6 million were supported with access to clean water through the rehabilitation and maintenance of public infrastructure in Quamishly, Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Sueda.

UNICEF and partners were able to prevent the emergence of new cases of polio through successive polio campaigns which immunized close to 3 million children under 5 years. Full coverage was not possible in all campaigns as a result of access and security constraints in besieged and hard-to-reach locations. In addition, UNICEF supported almost 1.1 million children and women with access to primary health care through equipping, supplying and rehabilitating health centres as well as setting up mobile clinics to service marginalized communities.

In line with the No Lost Generation Initiative, UNICEF and partners reached one million children (distribution is ongoing for another one million children) with learning materials, including textbooks, as part of the 'Back to learning' Campaign for the 2015/16 school year. However, 2 million children are still out of school in Syria. UNICEF and its partners have initiated new approaches that aim to reach 700,000 out of school children through self-learning and accelerated learning programmes.

In 2015, UNICEF's support to the equitable rights of Palestinian adolescents remained a priority with 22,000 adolescents who were reached with life skills, summer and winter clubs, health awareness sessions and sports activities.

Access remained extremely challenging in 2015 due to the active conflict, insecurity, restricted movement, and bureaucratic and administrative procedures. Despite this, a total of 1.36 million people in 83 hard-to-reach sub-districts were reached with a multi-sectoral package of interventions (compared to 725,540 people in 2014). Among the most relevant breakthroughs in hard-to-reach and besieged areas was reaching 2 million people in Raqqa and 300,000 people in parts of Idlib with clean drinking water, through the provision of water treatment supplies and repairs of water pumping stations.

In order to mitigate the risk associated with access restrictions and reinforce programme monitoring, UNICEF employs programme management and monitoring through a large number of local third-party facilitators, deployed throughout the country including in Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zour.

Partnerships that strengthen local capacities and systems were prioritized during the year, including initiatives to support local procurement and production of water disinfectant, strengthening routine immunization services. Local procurement of supplies and services was scaled up significantly, totalling over US\$ 60 million.

2015 marked a shift in terms of bridging the humanitarian/development programme divide with a renewed focus on enhancing the resilience of communities and the local systems that support them, to withstand and recover from the stresses caused by this conflict. The No Lost Generation Initiative will be taken to scale as part of the new Country Programme Document in 2016/2017.

The continuous reinforcement of multi-year funding from the donor community is absolutely essential to ensure adequate funding not only for humanitarian/emergency but also recovery and resilience building interventions.

Humanitarian Assistance

Despite significant challenges in the programme environment, UNICEF continued to scale up its humanitarian programmes to achieve key results for children in health and nutrition, WASH, child protection, and adolescent development. Assistance is delivered through multiple channels including regular programmes, cross line interventions, and cross border programmes. In order to better coordinate and harmonise its humanitarian response in line with the complexity and scale of the crisis, the country office is working through the Whole of Syria Approach on joint operational planning with UNICEF hubs in Amman and Gaziantep.

In 2015, the country office increased its reach providing an average of 4.3 million people per month with multi-sectoral support, including water, sanitation and hygiene services and supplies. In 2015, UNICEF reached over 50 per cent of the 147 hard to reach locations supporting over 1.36 million (compared to 725, 540 people in 2014) with multi-sector interventions, however, access to these areas has not been continuous.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF provided routine immunizations, polio vaccines and health-care services to 4.18 million children and mothers despite a situation where nearly two thirds of hospitals have been destroyed or are only partially functioning. These interventions have

ensured that Syria has remained polio free for almost a year since the last outbreak. In addition, over 1.1 million children, pregnant and lactating mothers have received multi-micronutrient supplementation compared to 408,000 children and mothers in 2014.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene: the year witnessed increasing deliberate and devastating attacks on water and electricity systems cutting millions of people from water supply, sometimes for days and weeks at a time. In response, UNICEF launched the largest water trucking operation in the country, trucking water to 1.5 million people as a life-saving intervention. To promote more sustainable solutions, UNICEF also rehabilitated and equipped alternative water sources for 2.5 million people in Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Idleb, and Dar'a. Overall, UNICEF supported interventions have ensured that more 12 million people benefitted from access to safe water through the supply of water disinfectants throughout the country, including in Raqqa, as well as through the rehabilitation and maintenance of key water and sanitation infrastructure. Despite the high risk of the spread of the cholera through outbreaks in neighbouring countries, continuous treatment and rehabilitation of water supplies has so far prevented any outbreak in Syria.

Education: Despite the ongoing crisis, Syria's enrolment rate has increased from 67.5 per cent in the school year 2012/13 to 74.2 per cent in 2014/15 as a result of a sustained and consistent investment by Government and UNICEF and education sector partners. In September 2015, UNICEF and partners organized the 'Back-To-Learning' campaign for the current academic year 2015/16, reaching one million children with teaching learning materials (distribution is ongoing for additional one million children). In 2015, UNICEF Syria successfully rolled out two innovative approaches to providing out-of-school and previously out-of-school children to catch up on missed education.

Child Protection: Child Protection significantly scaled up its programming in 2015 reaching 379,000 children and adolescents with structured, sustained psychosocial support programmes compared to 170,000 children in 2014. In addition, 879,000 children received Explosive Remnant of War risk education in schools and communities compared to 270,000 children in 2014.

Adolescent Development: In 2015, more than 400,000 adolescent boys and girls (51 per cent female) in 13 governorates of Syria benefited from comprehensive package of services: 14,000 adolescents improved their knowledge on HIV/AIDS and STIs; 192,000 adolescents benefitted from improved access to development opportunities; 4,272 young volunteers improved their capacities in life skills based education and vocational training, including PSS, and in turn trained 197,525 adolescent girls and boys through both structured centres (in 10 governorates) and mobile outreach (in 11 governorates). The 2015 coverage was a threefold increase over 2014 (126,000), an achievement attributed to enhanced mobile outreach, which allows for broader coverage of marginalized adolescents and youth.

Non Food Items: In 2015, UNICEF scaled up its seasonal response plan reaching over 800,000 children through distribution of winter and summer clothes and blankets. In 2016, UNICEF and partners will launch the E-voucher programme to compliment the distribution of non-food items while at the same time support the process of revitalizing the markets.

Sector Coordination: UNICEF Syria leads the WASH, Education and Nutrition sectors as well as the Child Protection Working Group. In 2015 the sector coordination mechanisms were effective at national and sub national levels in bringing together all sector actors, partners and relevant

local and national government counterparts and providing strategic leadership, robust coordination and information management support for an effective response.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

AV- armoured vehicle
CBS- Central Bureau of Statistics
CMAM- Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
C4D- communication for development
CMT- Country Management Team
COHA- Cash on Hand
DCT- Direct Cash Transfer
GAPAR- General Administration for Palestinian Arab Refugees
HACT- Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HIM- Hostage Incident Management
IMEP- Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IP- International Personnel
IYCF- Infant and Young Child Feeding
MOE- Ministry of Education
NIE- Nutrition in Emergency
PBS- Palestinian Bureau of Statistics
PO- Purchasing order
SA- Staff Association
SMART- Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
SOP- Standard operating procedure
SSAFE- Safe and Secure Approaches in the Field Environment
WHO- World Health Organization

Capacity Development

UNICEF Syria prioritizes capacity development as a key strategy for expanding and strengthening partnerships as well as scaling up both the reach and quality of its response.

UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health and other partners to combat further breakouts of Polio which re-emerged in 2013. In addition to providing vaccines and cold chain support, UNICEF conducted trainings for health care workers on how to manage polio campaigns and achieve effective coverage through context specific modalities such as mobile vaccinations units. In 2015, over 500 health care workers have been trained. The training encompasses logistics, vaccine management and coordination between partners. There have been no new polio cases since 2014.

Malnutrition is another issue which has emerged in the context of the crisis. There exists little prior technical knowledge on how to screen, diagnose and treat cases of malnutrition in an emergency setting especially at a community level. It is now estimated that 4 million mothers and children are in need of preventative and curative nutrition services inside Syria. UNICEF is addressing this capacity gap by providing trainings in Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) in addition to Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Nutrition in Emergency (NIE) to all partners. So far UNICEF has trained 597 health workers through these trainings this includes trainings for all of UNICEF's 17 NGO partners working in nutrition.

In WASH, UNICEF extended a Technical Assistance to SARC for strengthening its technical capacity in programme management and implementation including a comprehensive capacity

mapping. Capacity strengthening covered several areas including assessments, preparedness, preparations of response plans and managing resilience building interventions. In education, teacher training is at the forefront of the education strategy, equipping teachers to manage overcrowded classrooms and screen students for psychosocial support.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

UNICEF Syria supported a number of comprehensive national assessments, generating an evidence base for future programmatic planning and strengthening the capacity of key partners. A nationwide Education Sector Assessment was conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) which will inform the Education Sector response for 2016. UNICEF also worked with the Ministry of Health (MoH), CBS and WHO to conduct a survey assessing the coverage of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and a comprehensive Nutrition Survey. UNICEF is also conducting a Situation Assessment of Palestinian Refugees living in Syria with a focus on children and women. This is a joint initiative of UNICEF, UNRWA, the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and the General Administration for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) in Syria. The results of these different surveys will be informing evidence-based decision-making and priority setting at various levels.

While the context doesn't allow for the development of a full upstream agenda, the dialogue with national institutions has continued - especially in view of the new country programme for 2016-17 - promoting, together with other UN agencies, a shift towards a stronger resilience-building approach. In this direction, UNICEF initiated the first steps to open a dialogue with national and local stakeholders on social inclusion and social protection, including a cross-sectoral dialogue to increase the attention for children with disabilities, one of the most vulnerable groups in need of support in Syria.

UNICEF worked on a comprehensive WoS advocacy strategy including critical protection concerns such as attacks on schools and hospitals by all parties to the armed conflict. The strategy will inform UNICEF engagement on key issues and concerns, and be the basis for public messaging, enabling UNICEF to strategically voice concerns on behalf and from the perspective of Syrian children.

Partnerships

Building and expanding partnerships, especially through capacity development, is one of the cornerstones of UNICEF's response in Syria. Given the protracted nature of the crisis, a longer term approach to partnerships is increasingly important, especially to reinforce local coping mechanisms.

Partnerships that strengthen local capacities and systems have been prioritized. For example, initiatives to support local production of water disinfectant, strengthening routine immunization services through institution building, and using local capacities to develop alternative water sources and rehabilitating schools for longer term resilience and sustainability. For school rehabilitation in Aleppo, UNICEF worked directly with private third party construction companies thereby cutting out one sub-contracting layer and improving cost effectiveness.

Although the number of organizations approved to work with the UN is limited (139 in 2015), UNICEF has increased its partners from 61 in 2014 to 71 in 2015. As part of UNICEF's roll out of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), UNICEF has trained 48 CSO/NGO partners on UNICEF's engagement policies, procedures and guidelines. The trainings also

includes developing capacity in programme management including preparation of work-plans, budgets, log frames, reporting and monitoring which will improve programme implementation and effectiveness.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

In Syria, UNICEF has made strategic use of its communication capacity, focusing its messaging around the situation of children, the protection and promotion of their rights, and the need to raise resources for programmes that respond to their needs.

A total of 18 news notes/statements were issued in 2015 covering issues around protection, human rights, and programmes. Given the nature of the conflict, UNICEF has used every opportunity to condemn violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law by parties to the conflict including targeting of civilians and civilian facilities. A notable example was the sustained communication and advocacy around recurrent and deliberate water cuts in Aleppo during the summer. Engagement with the media throughout the year has enabled UNICEF to take the lead in raising issues affecting children.

Communication has supported fundraising by showcasing UNICEF's comparative advantage in delivering results for children through innovative ways of sharing personal stories of children and how they were reached. A range of compelling digital communication products on water, nutrition, and education were broadcast on Reuters, Euro News and the Guardian. The materials were also featured on UNICEF global and regional platforms generating wider public engagement. Communication packages were produced and disseminated around key events including the back to school campaign; international day of the girl child and winter response; highlighting the issues children face and galvanized international support to UNICEF's emergency response.

The Office prepared a communication strategy based on the country programme priorities. The strategy harnesses synergies with communication for development (C4D) and is linked to the Global Communication and Advocacy strategy. Efforts were made to acknowledge UNICEF's partnership with key donors which resulted in enhanced donor visibility.

Identification and Promotion of Innovation

In 2015, UNICEF launched an innovative education program designed specifically to address education gaps in the Syrian context. With over 2 million children out of school as a result of a range of education barriers including insecurity, internal displacement and a shortage of schools and teachers, UNICEF has developed a "Self-Learning Programme" corresponding to the national curriculum which provides an alternative education opportunity to out of school children with no access to formal education. The programme is a self-study course that is designed to be completed under adult supervision in community spaces or at home and is geared towards reaching vulnerable and marginalized children in hard to reach locations.

In WASH, UNICEF provides most of the sodium hypochlorite required to treat Syria's public water supply. In 2015, over 2200 tonnes was imported. The intervention has been costly and logistically burdensome. As a result, UNICEF has been exploring local solutions for water treatment through saline electrolysis. In 2015, this technology was used to produce water disinfectant in-country using locally available raw materials (salt). UNICEF has installed 3 saline electrolysis units in Damascus catering for 13 per cent of the demand for water disinfectant in the city. This is improving cost effectiveness and reducing reliance on transportation of large quantities of supplies into Syria.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In line with the No Lost Generation Initiative's commitment to further enhance synergies between education, child protection and adolescent programming, UNICEF Syria has developed a platform for integrated programming through Community Learning Centers (CLCs) which will serve as a forum for alternative education, psycho social support, life-skills based education and adolescent led-initiatives for more effective and cost-efficient interventions on behalf of children and youth.

The social policy team is leading the Office's efforts on enhancing the social inclusion of child with disabilities. While universal design standards are promoted in the schools where rehabilitation work is conducted, the social inclusion and child protection sectors have been actively seeking for convergences in projects that promote the rights of children with disabilities. This work has set the foundations for dedicated programmes included in the new CPD and in the work plans for 2016-17, promoting an integrated response to the multiple vulnerabilities of children with disabilities and their families.

The WASH programme works hand-in-hand with both the Education and Health programmes in providing WASH services in schools and health facilities. Through this approach, WASH services are only provided in schools and health facilities that undergo Education and Health interventions, hence, building on complementarities and capitalizing on results across the other programmes. In addition, the strategies for provision of drinking water supply address protection issues including reducing exposure to risks of exploitation and gender based violence.

Service Delivery

In 2015, UNICEF focused on expanding service delivery to meet the needs of conflict affected communities including through the rehabilitation of schools and provision of extra classrooms, providing medicines and equipment to health clinics and strengthening child protection systems for increased access to child protection and psycho social support services.

These efforts were supplemented with carefully orchestrated communication for development (C4D) campaigns and capacity development of partners and civil society to encourage community empowerment and demand for these services. One example was through the Back to Learning Campaign where over 19 million text messages on school registration were disseminated in the first two weeks of the campaign. The C4D campaign also aimed at empowering youth to go door to door in support of the campaign. It is estimated that over 270,000 households were reached through such visits.

Similarly, as part of a push to re-activate routine immunization services. C4D launched an extensive media campaign reaching up to 2.4 million people through radio programming. In addition, 52 journalists were trained in reporting on immunization issues and behaviour change. The ADAP programme focused specifically on empowering youth as agents of campaign to raise awareness and build resilience in local communities.

Through the course of 2015, 50,000 adolescents and youth played an active role in 1000 adolescent-led social mobilization initiatives. In Aleppo, this included raising hygiene awareness in the context of water shortages and widespread unsanitary conditions. The capacity development of youth remains a critical component of UNICEF's commitment to the No Lost Generation strategy. UNICEF makes extensive use of third party facilitators and field visits to monitor programme implementation and triangulates data through an information management system.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

The crisis in Syria has had profound consequences on the rights of children, adversely affecting and weakening national institutions and social structures for the realization of children rights, including child survival and development - right to health, wellbeing and education, right to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation.

During 2015, UNICEF supported programmatic interventions including capacity development of child protection actors, the provision of services, as well as advocacy, including on highly sensitive issues. This has served to bring child rights and protection concerns to the forefront and to the attention of relevant actors and policy makers. UNICEF supported national institutions and I/NGOs to ensure the promotion and realization of children rights particularly on the right to education, healthcare, clean water and sanitation, protection and other services including psychosocial support, with a focus on equity. In its efforts to align national legislation with international standards and norms, UNICEF continued advocacy with the Government to withdraw its reservation to article 14 of the CRC.

UNICEF response and prevention interventions were designed and implemented with a particular focus on most marginalized and deprived children including in hard-to-reach areas. As guided by the CRC and other human rights instruments and conventions, UNICEF cooperation agreements and work plans were developed and implemented with a view to strengthening capacity of relevant stakeholders to fulfil their obligation to respect, fulfil and protect the rights of children based on key principles including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, accountability and respect for the voice of the child.

UNICEF provided age and gender appropriate services necessary for the survival and development of boys, girls and caregivers (male and female) particularly from IDP and host communities across the country and in besieged and hard-to-reach areas.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

UNICEF Syria has ensured that all programmatic interventions ensure a gender dimension, with gender-appropriate interventions and focus on reaching boys and girls equally – information is disaggregated according to gender where programmatic circumstances and data availability allow. Moreover, for specific concerns that impact one group more than another, i.e. child marriage or child recruitment – during advocacy interventions and in the design of evidence-based research and data gathering UNICEF Syria has ensured that the gender dimension is factored in through gender sensitive planning and operations – including for example in the provision of specialized psychosocial support. One example is in Child Protection where staff have attended trainings on gender-based violence. In addition MRM ensures that all incidents of conflict-related SGBV are adequately documented and followed-up, factoring in issues such as safety and security of the victim and the ‘do no harm’ principle. UNICEF also provides comprehensive input for the Secretary General’s annual report on sexual violence in conflict. For WASH, UNICEF ensures that gender-based standards are met in the construction of WASH facilities both in collective shelters and when school rehabilitation is conducted. For hygiene items, gender-specific dignity needs are taken into account through the distribution of sanitary pad kits. UNICEF also takes gender into consideration in the design of summer and winter clothes to ensure gender sensitivity and cultural appropriateness. Nutrition interventions include the supply of specific supplements that take the dietary needs of pregnant and lactating women into account as well as monitoring the availability of midwifery kits in health clinics. The Office has appointed a dedicated focal point for Gender to guide and advise of gender mainstreaming across programmes.

Environmental Sustainability

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment, UNICEF is supporting water quality monitoring in Al-Abrash River in Western Syria to monitor and ensure quality remains in a tolerable range. UNICEF is also supporting the preparation of protocols for water quality surveillance nationwide in addition to a laboratory for water quality in Tartous. In partnership with the Ministry of Local Administration, the WASH programme is helping to address the longstanding solid waste management crises across the country resulting from the ongoing crises which presents both an environmental and public health risk. In 2015, this support has included supply of solid waste containers, rehabilitation of sanitary landfills and removal of solid waste. UNICEF invested nearly US\$1 million on respective activities benefiting more than 500,000 people nationwide. As a result of climate change, Syria has been confronted by severe drought conditions for the past five years, which substantially affected its water resources, hence, constraining drinking water supply. As an emergency within the emergency, and in partnership with the Ministry of Water Resources, the WASH programme addressed this situation in Sweida and Damascus where alternative water sources have been explored. To date, more than 62 wells were rehabilitated in Damascus that added about 70 million litres a day to the system benefiting nearly 3 million people. Meanwhile, 15 and 10 wells are under development in Damascus and Sweida respectively.

Effective Leadership

The CMT continues to be an active and participatory forum to review and improve overall programme and operational performance. Major initiatives led by the CMT included roll out of the NLG Initiative in Syria, and enhancing efforts around prevention of childhood illnesses and WASH-related disease outbreaks. On operations, the focus has been on strengthening governance and oversight mechanisms and systems including the review and endorsement of various SOPs notably Processing PO and Non-PO, HACT Payments and Liquidations, Travel, Payments through a Third Party Cash Provider, Management of COHA, Local Procurement of Programme Supplies and services, and Allocation of non-earmarked funding.

Key programme and management performance indicators (dashboard) are also reviewed and monitored on a regular basis at CMT meetings with a focus on reducing unspent balances, increased programme implementation rates, substantially reduced number of uncertified trips and DCTs over 6 months.

The main risks to programme implementation relate to instability in areas of programme operations, including shifting frontlines, limited access to hard-to-reach populations, and general safety and security concerns. UNICEF continued to strengthen partnerships, reinforced inter-agency coordination mechanisms and strengthened due diligence measures, including field monitoring, beneficiary feedback and the use of national third-party/intermediate partners. As part of UNICEF Syria's risk mitigation efforts, the risk library was reviewed in July 2015 and updated to reflect the major risks and actions taken to address such risks which included HACT implementation, extensive use of facilitators and the establishment of an agreement with a Third party Cash Provider. To further mitigate risks, UNICEF made use of programmatic assessments, spot checks and the provision of technical capacity of partners. To improve mitigation of financial and programmatic risks the Syria country office is implementing the Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer (HACT) to ensure that cash transferred to partners are managed in a risk-responsive manner.

Financial Resources Management

The CMT continued to play a key role in the review of financial performance indicators and provision of clear guidance on areas requiring improvement. This included the review of the programme implementation status, funding gaps, balances against expiring grants, open requisitions and commitments requiring immediate action, outstanding DCTs, donor reporting status, recruitment status, value and age of warehouse supplies, implementation status and issues related to released SOPs, amongst others. Outstanding DCTs at year end were valued at 109,479 (0.71 per cent) over nine months and 23,970 (0.16 per cent) 6-9 months as of 23 December 2015. The amount over nine months is linked to disbursements made to two NGOs which were located in Idlib province which became besieged and whereby bank accounts were frozen. Impairment requests were submitted to DFAM while awaiting for refund or ultimately write off. Weekly follow-up is undertaken on all outstanding DCTs through the Dashboard indicators shared with all Sections and follow-up actions monitored through the CMT and bi monthly Programme/Operations meetings. As of 31 December 2015, the overall implementation rate was of 99 per cent (100 per cent RR, 100 per cent ORR, 99 per cent ORE and 100 per cent Institutional Budget), this compared with the implementation rates at the end of 2014 of 91 per cent (94.8 per cent RR, 89.2 per cent ORE and 94.8 per cent Institutional Budget). A peer review for ICT, Operations and Programme was conducted with the support of the Regional Office in preparation for the upcoming 2016 audit. The review reflected well developed mechanism and procedures with very positive recommendations which the office started addressing towards the year end in the areas of governance, operations support and programme management.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

In 2015, out of the total requirement of US\$ 230.9 million for the SRP appeal (US\$ 279.3 m WoS), UNICEF Syria received US\$ 140 million (61 per cent), out of US\$ 172.5 million received for WoS. The majority of funding for the response came from public sector donors, including traditional donors (the US, European Union, UK AID, Canada, Belgium, Germany and Japan) and non-traditional donors (Kuwait, UAE and Saudi Arabia). Natcoms contributed over US\$ 18.4 million in flexible thematic humanitarian funding.

As of 31 December 2015, 99 per cent of the funds allocated in 2015 were utilized. Funds utilization, Open Commitments, expiring grants, status of donor reports and fundraising activities are closely monitored through a set of office indicator reports which were prepared on a regular basis and reviewed during Programme Group Meetings and Country Management Team meetings. This mechanism helps to ensure both the quality and timeliness of grant expenditure and reporting as well as identifying priority areas for fundraising activities. UNICEF Syria continued to place significant importance on timely reporting to donors. A structured mechanism is in place for timely submission and quality assurance of donor reports, which includes a clear workflow process for submitting reports and a checklist for reviewing the quality of donor reports.

UNICEF Syria continues to maintain good donor relations and stewardship with current and new donors through monthly situation reports, visibility products (photos, videos, human interest stories etc.), social media channels, regular correspondence and high quality donor reporting. During the year UNICEF Syria organized over 40 meetings with key donors in Beirut, Amman and donor capitals. UNICEF Syria has expanded its human resources for resource mobilization and reporting is planning further outreach activities for 2016 including the introduction of an e-newsletter to provide regular updates to donors on the situation of children and key results achieved.

Evaluation

Approximately 80 per cent of the activities planned in the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) for 2015 were completed or at the final stages. Quarterly, mid-year and annual reviews were conducted and a 2016-17 Country Programme Document prepared based on available evidence and with inputs from key partners.

Final reports were produced of the 2015 Syria Education Needs Assessment, Quantitative Analysis of Education based on EMIS (Education Management Information System) data for 2010-2014, and a Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Education Sector: Economic Loss from School Drop-out due to the Syria Crisis. This was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).

Assessments were also completed in the area of adolescents health needs and on the situation of children in alternative care centres and juvenile justice centres. By the end of 2015 final reports were being translated from Arabic into English and awaiting final endorsement. Furthermore, data was collected for an EPI (Expanded Programme of Immunization) coverage survey with the Ministry of Health and the CBS. In December field work teams were trained for a comprehensive Nutrition Survey and a Situation Assessment of Palestinian Refugees living in Syria.

The actual data collection for the latter surveys will be done in early 2016; due to the extensive preparations required the implementation of these assessments was somewhat delayed but will be completed in 2016. All of the data collected is used to inform programme planning and priority setting in various sectors. While no evaluations were commissioned at Country Office level, throughout 2015 the office provided key support to facilitate the sub-regional evaluation of UNICEF's humanitarian response to the Syria crisis. This included facilitating the data collection process in Syria as well as reviewing and commenting on the inception report and several draft evaluation reports.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

During 2015, the main office in Damascus continued to operate out of the Four Seasons Hotel while waiting to finalize the rehabilitation works of the office in Mezzeh. The move to the new office in January 2016 will substantially contribute to reducing operation costs. The cost of maintaining the IP staff residing at the hotel in Damascus will still continue to be high. Efficiency gains include i) the significant increase number of established LTAs (44 in 2015 compared with just 9 for 2014) ii) UNICEF Syria has entered into an agreement with a Third Party Cash Provider which will substantially reduce the risks related to cash handling used by the office to replenish the zone office COHAs and process Direct Programme Implementation payments, but also to reduce the transaction costs associated with replenishing the COHA accounts, iii) Cost saving were attained through a substantial shift from off shore to local procurement (Local procurement of supplies increased drastically from 21 per cent of total procurement in 2014 to 77 per cent of total procurement in 2015) which in addition to supporting the local market development has reduced the costs associated with shipments and clearance and iv) reinforcement and streamlining of the use of facilitators to monitored programme implementation, including conducting programmatic spot checks, in hard to reach areas (36 facilitators in 2014 compared to 52 as of December 2015). The further consultation and completion of the recruitment process for UNICEF zone offices in Homs, Aleppo, Tartous and Qamishili has enhanced UNICEF Syria's ability to scale up the response while reducing operational costs.

Supply Management

The supply component of SCO covers both essential commodities to meet basic needs and critical services for water trucking and rehabilitation of public infrastructure. The total procurement of supplies and services for 2015 was US\$ 75 million - 81 per cent (US\$ 61.1 million) was through local procurement. Local procurement of supplies increased drastically from 21 per cent of total procurement in 2014 to 77 per cent in 2015. This enabled UNICEF Syria to reduce procurement and processing times and significantly reduce costs in addition to supporting local markets and enhancing resilience (e.g. procurement of clothing kits through a women's group in Qamishli). 44 local LTAs were established (compared with 9 in 2014) for improved quality, sustainability and speed. As a result of these shifts, 96 percent of supply plan implementation rate was achieved before the end of the year. Major supply commodities included blankets, clothing kits, Back to Learning materials, generators and hygiene supplies. On logistics, supplies worth a total of US\$ 62 million were distributed across the country from 8 strategically located warehouses in addition to direct deliveries through ports of entries in Latakia, Jdiedit Yabous, Nusaybin, Damascus airport, and Naseeb (closed since April 2015). In 2015 the emphasis was on improved warehouse services, better controls on inventory management and enhanced monitoring of supply. Multiple modes of transport were used including trucking and airlifting services depending on the context. Planning under the constantly changing dynamics of the situation in Syria is an ongoing challenge in terms of coordination with stakeholders and authorities, access, reliability of information flow, timely clearance of supplies at port of entries, security and limited staffing.

UNICEF 2015 Procurement	Value in US\$
Off shore procurement	14,014,360
Local Procurement	46,719,682
Consultant Contracts	187,657
Service Contracts	13,001,973
Asset POs	179,483
Asset POs	804,422
Pre-payment POs	209,423

Security for Staff and Premises

During 2015, UNICEF has been implementing/enhancing previously identified physical security measures for sub offices in Tartous and Qamishli, as well as the Country Office in Damascus. Upgrades were based on the conducted blast and security risk assessments in order to ensure safe working environment for staff. Simultaneously, sub offices in Aleppo and Homs were moved to more suitable locations with other UN agencies, on a cost-share basis. Five new armoured vehicles (AVs) were purchased to facilitate safe movement of staff while implementing programmes in high risk areas. Currently, UNICEF Syria has 14 operational and 1 non-operational (awaiting repair) AVs, while a 12-seater shuttle bus is expected to arrive for the Office in Damascus in the first quarter of 2016 to be used in Damascus for staff shuttling and in case of emergency/evacuation. Due to the increase of staff in UNICEF Syria, additional Personal Protective Equipment, communication equipment and First Aid kits were purchased to ensure the safety of staff operating in hazardous areas. As a response to the expansion of the CO, two additional Security Advisors and one Local Security Assistant were employed in Damascus and Qamishli to meet increasing security demands. All newly recruited staff are subject to the Safe and Secure Approaches in the Field Environment (SSAFE) training

conducted by UNDSS. To date, 66 per cent of staff have completed the training while remaining staff are awaiting upcoming trainings. In 2015, the Country Security Advisor completed the Hostage Incident Management (HIM) training. Despite all steps taken by the organization to implement UNICEF programmes, approvals from the authorities regarding certain areas and/or personnel (e.g., delays in MoFA approval for mission or staff, visas, security equipment, etc.) have negatively impacted the implementation process and support by security personnel.

Human Resources

Human resource management and staff wellbeing continued to be a priority for management. UNICEF Syria embarked on an extensive recruitment process as a result of the approved 2014 Programme Budget Review, taking into consideration results to be achieved, competencies required and appropriate mix of IP/National staff as well as mix of contractual modality. UNICEF Syria conducted a strategic review of its programme and staffing structure in a participatory manner with the involvement of all categories of staff in both the central and Field Offices to ensure full understanding, transparency and ownership of the outcome. Adequate support was provided to staff members on abolished positions in line with the directive from the office of the Executive Director. The office implemented the amended compressed work schedule for SCO which allows national staff to take two days off after cumulative 20 days physical presence in the office which had been endorsed by the Regional Director and Director DHR. The Staff Association played a critical role in improving staff morale by working closely with the management. Monitoring of Performance Appraisal System was done by HR and reported to CMT (61 per cent completion 2015 MYR). Emphasis was put on preparing SMART key assignments, linking training needs and the importance of PAS discussions. UNICEF Syria approved Training/Learning Plan for 2015 reflecting the office needs/priorities, individual staff members career development and aspirations. A total of 31 staff (both national and international) were trained in e-PPP (additional 30 staff will be trained in March 2016). A staff survey was conducted in December 2015 with results to be analysed and follow up action to be taken in January 2016. Gaps in staffing to support emergency programme response were quickly filled through arrangements with standby partners, consultant contract and mission assignments.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2015, the country office enhanced the use of cloud-based Office Automation tools (Office 365, Outlook, Lync, OneDrive, Sharepoint) by sharing with staff guidance tools/notes and promoting its use. It is to note the extended use of Lync as a primary means of inter office communication, meetings and presentation including between UNICEF main and zone offices. The participation and use of Lync by UNICEF zones offices has allowed the ability to provide closer support and ensure continuous interaction with field colleagues. The ICT infrastructure has been reinforced in both main and field offices through the establishment and increase of bandwidth of the lease line. Vsats available in Damascus, Tartous and Qamishli provide the necessary back facility and Vsats in Homs and Aleppo will be installed in January 2016. Due to the nature of the equipment, it takes a significant number of months (often up to six months especially for communication equipment such as vsat, HF, VHF, others) to obtain the authorization from MoFA to import and clear from customs any ICT equipment which significantly delays its setting up. This despite the efforts made by management who will continue to advocate to ease and accelerate the process.

One drive is now extensively used by staff as a source/media to back up their data and share documents. The use of SMS messaging has proven to be key and crucial for communication of security alerts and communication to staff in addition to outlook. ICT footprint was reduced by

streamlining IT operational services through the use of Apps, Telecommunication services, digital scanner and fax services. The communication sections makes extensive use of social media platforms to communicate humanitarian needs of children, issues relating to child rights and UNICEF Syria's response to conflict-affected communities.

Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Equitable Access to Quality Health and Nutrition Services Improved with focus on underserved areas and vulnerable groups

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The scale and scope of the crisis has severely damaged and strained services and infrastructure. Deteriorating health and public water and sanitation systems are placing children at increased risk of illnesses. More than one third of hospitals in Syria have been destroyed or badly damaged since 2012, with only 44 per cent of hospitals fully functional. Child vaccination rates have fallen from more than 90 per cent pre-crisis to 65 per cent in 2014, resulting in the re-emergence of poliomyelitis in 2013.

A Polio outbreak response plan was developed by WHO, UNICEF and ministries of Health that included Syria and all its neighbouring countries. The third phase of the response plan for controlling Polio was jointly implemented by UNICEF, WHO, and the Ministry of Health MoH. Four national and two sub-national immunization campaigns were implemented in 2015, covering all governorates including some areas under siege. In addition, over 8 million text messages encouraging vaccination were disseminated in 2015 as part of a supplementary communications for development campaign. No new polio cases have been reported since January 2014.

The polio outbreak response plans continued through 2015 reaching 2.9 million children under the age of five years. In 2015, UNICEF support focused on strengthening routine immunization through expansion in service delivery to hard-to-reach areas, provision of routine vaccines, strengthening of the cold chain and capacity building of immunization staff. By the end of 2015, 310,000 children under the age of one year received 3 doses of DTP-containing vaccines while 520,000 children received one dose of (Measles Mumps Rubella) MMR. A measles campaign including vitamin A supplementation was also conducted during the vaccination week and a total of 1,615,143 children in the age group 9 to 59 months were vaccinated. An EPI coverage survey was conducted by the MoH with UNICEF's support and the results are awaited.

UNICEF supported NGOs to run medical mobile teams and health centres in 11 governorates to increase access to primary health care for internally displaced children and mother and vulnerable host communities

UNICEF expanded its partnership with local NGOs to 20 partners in 2015, compared to 12 in 2014, who were able to work in all governorates except Raqqa, Deir Ezzor and Idlib through establishing 56 mobile medical teams and 51 health centres, reaching also some non-government controlled areas such as Al-Mshatiyeh and Al-Fardous, in the eastern part of Aleppo city.

A combination of widespread extreme poverty, displacement and a shortage of food items is placing children at increased risk of malnutrition. It is estimated that 4 million children, pregnant

and lactating women are in need of preventative and curative nutrition services inside Syria. Under the leadership of UNICEF and in close partnership with the Ministry of Health and collaboration with national and international NGOs, 113 fully operational outpatient and inpatient nutrition centres were established; the centres have been equipped with the necessary nutrition supplies and equipment provide treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, counselling services to pregnant women and lactating mother on feeding practices, promotion and screening, while the staff capacity and technical knowledge was upgraded for more than 500 staff of MoH, NGOs and volunteers to identify and treat malnutrition and provide preventative services for chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency.

A total of 565,093 children under five were screened for acute malnutrition in health facilities and communities in 11 governorates - including Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Dara, Homs, Hama, Sweida, Lattakia, Tartous and Deir-Ez-zor. As a result:

- 13,046 children were treated for acute malnutrition;
- 513,074 (51 per cent of the target) children under at the age of five and pregnant and lactating women were provided with multiple micronutrients;
- 652,256 (176 per cent of the target) children from 6 months to five years where provided with Lipid based supplements in all governorates of Syria, due to the expansion of partnership with NGOs, exception to Deir Ezzor and Idleb.
- over 125,567 pregnant and lactating women were provided with critical nutrition counselling on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, hygiene promotion and optimal feeding practices for mothers and children.

The limited technical capacity of health workers providing counselling is among the principal reasons for the limited outreach of the target population. A SMART nutrition assessment funded by UNICEF with technical support was conducted in accessible areas 11 governorates - except Raqqa, Deir Ezzor and Idleb, assessing the level of Global Acute Malnutrition status, infant and young child feeding practices and the use of iodized salt at the household level in addition to anaemia prevalence among children and women of child bearing age. The outcomes of the assessment are expected be available in the first quarter of 2016 and will be essential to identifying priority locations for immediate intervention against Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM).

OUTPUT 1 National Health System and policies enhanced to ensure quality of services particularly in underserved areas.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In collaboration with MoH, UNICEF supported 4 national immunization days (NIDs) and 2 sub-national immunization days (SNIDs) reaching 2.98 million children under 5 years in all governorates except Raqqa and other inaccessible districts. Despite this achievement, over 560,000 children were not reached due to access constraints. No polio cases were recorded since January 2014.

Routine immunization has been strengthened through the development of acceleration plans, training, monitoring and supervision, outreach immunizations, mobile teams and extensive rehabilitation of the cold chain. To overcome the shortage of electricity, UNICEF procured 1,396 solar refrigerators to cover the needs of all accessible health centres. Of these, 862 were installed as were 41 cold rooms and 3 freezer rooms in the main vaccine stores in different governorates. The remaining solar refrigerators will be installed in 2016. Cold stores were rehabilitated in Lattakia and Aleppo. 133 generators were procured to maintain the cold chain at different administrative levels. UNICEF provided MoH with 1,098 cold boxes, 2,050 vaccine carriers, 195 compression vaccine refrigerators, 164 icepack freezers, and 1.8 million syringes

to be distributed to health centres.

Routine vaccination programme reached 310,000 children under 1 with 3 doses of DTP-containing vaccine, and 520,000 children under 1 were reached with MMR. In April, to celebrate global vaccination week, UNICEF supported a measles vaccination campaign, including vitamin A supplementation, reaching 1,615,143 children (9- 59 months). UNICEF provided the vaccine, syringes, vaccination cards, and cold chain equipment.

An EPI coverage survey was conducted in all governorates except Raqqa and DeirEz-Zour due to the security situation and inaccessibility. Results will be available in the first quarter of 2016. UNICEF supported MOH to address the shortage of vaccines through the procurement of 7 million doses of trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV), 0.5 million doses of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV), 1.8 million doses of Hepatitis B, 1.06 million doses of BCG, 0.6 million doses of Pentavalent vaccine, 130,000 doses of MMR and 190,000 doses of injectable polio vaccine IPV.

10,350 immunization staff were trained in different disciplines such as disease surveillance, measles campaign implementation, C4D and coverage survey. C4D activities included a massive community engagement campaign. A total of 8 million mobile messages have encouraged vaccine utilization, 600 health awareness workers and volunteers were trained and engaged in mobilizing communities. A total of 1.6 million people are estimated to have listened or watched TV and radio messages explaining the parental responsibility, vaccine safety and reasons for conducting multiple rounds of vaccination.

OUTPUT 2 Humanitarian primary health needs of affected Syrian population and IDPs met

Analytical Statement of Progress:

To ensure access to primary health care for IDP children and mothers, UNICEF supported NGOs to run mobile medical teams and health centres providing maternal and child health care to vulnerable IDPs and host communities, especially where health centres are not functioning. Around 1.1 million (84 per cent of the target) internally displaced children and mothers have been reached with paediatric and maternal health care services out of the targeted 1.3 million. Kits for Emergency Health, midwifery interventions, diarrhoea, new born, first aid, resuscitation, paediatric interventions, were distributed together with oral rehydration salt, scabies solution, and hair lice shampoo, to support primary health care services to the targeted population.

Some 1.2 million IDPs and vulnerable community's members were provided with access to primary health care through the distribution of medical items out of the targeted 1 million. UNICEF sent medical kits sufficient for around 200,000 beneficiaries to hard-to-reach locations such as Yalda, Babbila, Beit-Sahem and Quadsaya through inter-agency convoys, despite the challenges continuously faced in relation to access restrictions and security concerns. UNICEF also delivered medical and nutrition items sufficient for around 75,000 beneficiaries to Zabadani, Madaya, Fou'a and Kefraya as part of the agreement between parties to the conflict.

To improve the quality of services in the public health care centres, UNICEF supported the capacity development of more than 10,000 health workers through training on different maternal and child health care programs, including acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea control, neonatal care, antenatal care and early detection of high-risk pregnancy, in addition to training on newly emerging communicable diseases in the region like Cholera and H1N1 influenza. UNICEF also supported the rehabilitation (including fixing the doors and windows, painting, WASH facilities, renewal of electricity plugs, water tank..)of 11 primary health care centres in Aleppo, Hassakeh, Deir Ezzor, Homs, and Latakia.

OUTPUT 3 Nutrition interventions to improve knowledge management and monitoring in support of preparation of a national nutrition strategy.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Developing adequate technical nutrition capacity among Ministry of Health (MoH) staff and other sector members including national and international NGOs and UN agencies was critical to achieving nutrition targets in 2015. With UNICEF's extensive capacity building initiatives, 863 front line health workers from MoH and partners received training on screening and referral, infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF) and community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM). UNICEF built the capacity of 110 health workers on SMART nutrition assessment methodology and equipped them with knowledge and skills in conducting nutrition assessments. The trained personnel were from 11 governorates (out of 14) where the nutrition assessment is being carried out. Technical support and on-the-job training was provided to the senior staff at the department on nutrition management programming.

The promotion of the appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices is one of the key areas of work of the nutrition programme. Facility and community-based counselling and awareness raising on breastfeeding and complementary feeding were implemented with the involvement of MoH, national and international NGOs. These interventions benefited 125,567 people.

OUTCOME 2 Equitable access to quality basic education improved and drop out mitigated, particularly for vulnerable children affected by the crisis (3-19 years old) affected by the crisis.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With the crisis now in its fifth year, access to formal education remains disrupted due to complex barriers, such as insecurity, displacement and overburdened capacity of school systems in safer areas. The 2015 education sector analysis, led by the Ministry of Education, the Central Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, shows that Syria's enrolment in pre-school, basic and secondary education decreased from 5.5 million children in the academic year 2010/11 to 3.2 million in 2014/15. Accordingly, Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in basic education dropped from 104 per cent in 2010/11 to 74.2 per cent in 2014/15. The current enrolment is lower than the recorded GER of 1996, indicating that over two decades of educational progress have been lost. As a result, an estimated 2.1 million children (5-17 years old) remain out of school and nearly half a million are at risk of dropping out from school in Syria. Moreover, the costing study, designed to quantify the impact of the crisis on the education sector, reveals that the economic loss due to dropout accounts for USD 10.7 billion, equivalent to around 17.6 per cent of Syria GDP of 2011.

According to the sector analysis, out of the estimated 5.4 million children (5-17 years old) in Syria, 2.6 million (48 per cent) reside in areas under the control of the Government, 1.4 million (25 per cent) reside in areas under the control of non-state actors, 0.9 million (16 per cent) in areas under the control of ISIL, 0.4 million (7 per cent) in areas under the control of Kurdish forces, while the remaining 0.2 million (4 per cent) live in contested areas. In reality, the demographic status is more dynamic and shifting, with crisis-affected families and children moving from one place to another based on the unfolding unpredictable situation. Frequent displacement, coupled with a limited humanitarian space and access, makes it increasingly difficult to trace internally displaced children and deliver education services and supplies to them, especially those living in the hard to reach areas. Over 6,000 schools – one in four – have been destroyed, damaged or are being used as shelter. Incidents of attacks on schools continue in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs and Idleb, hampering access to education. The lack of protective and inclusive learning environments, combined with a shortage of gender-sensitive WASH facilities, are serious barriers to schooling for children.

Syria's enrolment rate has increased from 67.5 per cent in the school year 2012/13 to 74.2 per cent in 2014/15. This is attributed to the collective efforts of the education sector partners in addressing multiple barriers to education across the country. As the education sector lead, UNICEF has contributed to the improved access to education for vulnerable and marginalized children, regardless of their living conditions. In early 2015, UNICEF successfully completed the 'Back-To-Learning' campaign for the last academic year 2014/15, through which 2.5 million children were provided with essential teaching learning materials including textbooks in 11 governorates. In September 2015, UNICEF and partners organized the 'Back-To-Learning' campaign for the current academic year 2015/16, reaching one million children with teaching and learning materials. The accompanying media campaign, supported by C4D, reached 6.2 million people with education messages through radio, TV spots, as well as door-to-door community mobilization activities. An estimated 750 volunteers including youth informed community members, parents, caregivers, teachers and children on school registration procedures and encouraged them to support children to return to and learn in school. Noteworthy, UNICEF collaborated with WFP to ensure that 315,000 children were provided with on-site snacks as well as teaching learning materials including textbooks in 550 primary schools across the country.

UNICEF and partners developed and rolled out new and innovative approaches to reaching out-of-school children such as the self-learning programme and accelerated learning programme using 'Curriculum B' textbooks. Both programmes provided learning opportunities to both current and former out-of-school children and allowed them to prepare for national exams and catch up to their peers. These interventions helped to address equity gaps in access to learning opportunities for the most marginalized and conflict-affected children. UNICEF continued to advocate for the accreditation and facilitate the children attending the self-learning programme to take the national exams for certification within the education system.

To strengthen its evidence base and equity-focus, UNICEF undertook the first nationwide education sector analysis in Syria since the beginning of the crisis. The quantitative and qualitative data analysis generated new insights into enrolment trends over time and also informed the national education response planning. The findings of the analysis were disseminated to the sector partners and donors, enabling UNICEF and partners to obtain an in-depth understanding of the education needs and gaps in planning and designing programmes. The results of the education sector analysis has helped key institutions and aid organizations to lay a foundation for evidence-informed education planning in Syria. Due to the nature of multiple displacement and insecurity, it is not straightforward to disaggregate the number of out-of-school children by location and sex and to identify the implementing partners who can provide them with contextually relevant education interventions. UNICEF continues to work with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF hubs in updating the EMIS data disaggregated by district to identify the priority locations with high population of out-of-school children and the ones where NGOs and SARC operate.

OUTPUT 1 Access to Education

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Overall, UNICEF reached one million in-school children and the limited number of out-of-school children under this Output in 2015.

In 2015, UNICEF completed light rehabilitation of 327 schools in 11 governorates resulting in over 252,989 children accessing an improved and inclusive learning environment. In addition,

UNICEF established 245 prefabricated classrooms in 10 governorates benefiting a total of 19,297 students. On average, the pupil-classroom ratio of the supported schools has reduced from 60 children per classroom to 40, after the provision of additional classrooms and rehabilitation.

In September 2015, UNICEF and partners organized the 'Back-To-Learning' campaign for the academic year 2015/16 which reached one million children with teaching learning materials including textbooks, school bags, and stationary. Learning supplies for an additional 1 million children are in the process of being distributed to schools. The accompanying media campaign, supported by C4D, reached 6.2 million people with education messages (i.e. free registration, non-requirement for certification and uniform) through radio, TV spots, as well as door-to-door community mobilization activities. This campaign has addressed some significant demand-side barriers by covering the hidden cost of schooling. Such costs are a burden for many families in Syria where almost 80 per cent of the population are now living beneath the poverty line.

In 2015, UNICEF introduced innovative approaches to reaching the most marginalised children including a self-learning programme targeting out-of-school children with an alternative education opportunity as well as an accelerated learning programme using 'Curriculum B' for children in school who have missed out on education and struggling to catch up to their peers.

So far, the self-learning programme has benefitted 1,294 out-of-school children in Aleppo and Hama. Ahead of the rollout in 2016, 51 master trainers were trained on teaching methodologies on Curriculum B which enables children to catch up on two academic years within a single year.

They have been oriented for the training of 990 school teachers in the second semester of the 2015/16 academic year. In addition, UNICEF has provided remedial education to 387,102 children in 600 school clubs in 2015. Around 20 per cent of the children who benefitted from these 'catch-up' classes live in hard to reach areas of Aleppo, Homs, Deir ez Zour, Hassakeh and Dara'a. UNICEF's implementing partner undertook pre- and post-tests to assess the improvement of academic performance for 940 children who attended remedial classes in Damascus and Rural Damascus. The assessment showed increased scores of Arabic, English and Math in all grades for the children.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2015, quality education improved with material development and systematic monitoring.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In Syria, multiple displacements, coupled with weak Education Management Information System (EMIS), has made it difficult to keep accurate count of school teachers on duty. Nevertheless, the education sector analysis conducted by UNICEF and partners shows that a large number of teachers have left schools since the beginning of the crisis. In Aleppo, for instance, an estimated 6,800 teachers have fled to safe areas within the country or have gone abroad. A lack of qualified teachers is a significant obstacle to quality of education in existing schools. In addition, most of the teachers on duty in schools lack knowledge and skills to manage overcrowded classrooms and handle affected children in need of psychosocial support.

In response, the Ministry of Education, with support from UNICEF, has organized Training of Trainers (TOT) in professional development of teachers to handle the new circumstances.

Around 130 master trainers were inducted on active learning methodology and school management in the context of the crisis. The cascading training for teachers has been planned in coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Directorates of Education and will be implemented in the second semester of the 2015/16 school year. Moreover, the TOT was organized on accelerated learning programme using Curriculum B in Damascus, facilitated by

senior instructors from the Ministry of Education. A total of 51 master trainers (34 male and 17 female) were equipped with training knowledge and skills as master trainers for Curriculum B. The trained master trainers were composed of the Head of the Educational Guidance Department from each governorate, instructors who are specialized in English language and Arabic language subjects, and education supervisors. UNICEF completed the development of a total of 50 self-learning materials covering the four subjects of English, Arabic, Math and Science for Grade 1 - 9. The self-learning books were locally printed for 15,000 out-of-school children (Grade 9) and were delivered to the implementing partners in Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Rural Damascus. Additional 190,000 out-of-school children will benefit once the locally printed books become available in early 2016. An additional 300,000 books were printed abroad, of which 30 per cent are currently available in Syria. The Ministry of Education and partners have been oriented on how to operationalize the self-learning programme aimed at reaching 500,000 out-of-school children in grades 1-9 by late 2016. The national implementation guideline and the end-user guide have been developed with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF MENARO

OUTPUT 3 Provide 200 education sector participants with capacity development support in INEE minimum standards and information management.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In Syria, EMIS is not fully functioning due to the crisis and inaccessibility of areas, such as Idleb, Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zour. The Ministry of Education works continuously to acquire accurate and timely school-level data across the country despite the challenges. An education sector analysis conducted by UNICEF and sector partners has helped stakeholders to assess and grasp the overall education situation in Syria, the scale of enrolment and data on out-of-school children, as well as allowing for evidence-informed planning and equity-focused programming.

A set of quantitative and qualitative data analysis have been completed with the actualized data, which has supported UNICEF and partners in preparing the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan.

UNICEF was engaged in formulating the Country Programme Document and the UN Strategic Framework for 2016 and 2017. The education strategic directions for the next two years were designed with a focus on resilience building and institutional capacity development at the national and governorate levels. UNICEF had internal reflections on the capacity gaps and bottlenecks in the education sector in view of the new country programme. In these frameworks, support will be provided to the Ministry of Education and the Directorates of Education to strengthen evidence-informed planning and generate policy recommendations to formulate the national strategies and guidelines for equitable access to inclusive quality education. System enhancement is a critical component of UNICEF's interventions in 2016 and beyond, including support to EMIS, school-based management, as well as the development of emergency preparedness and response plan at national and governorate levels.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) plays a critical role in enhancing children's readiness for school and capacity for life-long learning even during the crisis. It is widely acknowledge that early learning and playing would help in regaining a sense of normalcy and recovery from psychosocial distress. In response to the education needs for pre-school children (3-5 age group), UNICEF supported 5 NGOs to undertake ECE activities in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Hama governorates, providing over 24,892 pre-school children with an early learning opportunity. ECE centres served to equip children with basic alphabet knowledge in Arabic and, English, and numeracy maths; and recreational activities including games, sports and music in a supervised environment.

OUTPUT 4 Sector Coordination

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The education sector in Damascus maintains coordination and communication with two other hubs in Amman and Gaziantep to avoid duplication and overlap of responses in a Whole of Syria approach. UNICEF as the education sector lead and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education has maintained its coordination and facilitation function in Damascus, Homs, Tartous and Qamishly. Notably, UNICEF organised the national education sector workshop in October with the participation of 160 representatives from local institutions, NGOs, UN agencies and UNICEF from all governorates (except Raqqa). The achievements and challenges of education programme activities were discussed, as well as the preliminary education sector analysis findings were shared to inform planning and identify needs and gaps. In December 2015, a TOT on INEE (Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies) minimum standards took place in Beirut as part of capacity development of 42 MoE officials, UNICEF and NGO staff members.

Attacks on schools and violence against students, teachers and other educational personnel remains a serious concern, especially in besieged and hard to reach areas. The lack of safe and protective learning spaces in some areas, coupled with a shortage of teachers, textbooks, as well as adequate WASH facilities, are major obstacles to children's access to education.

Families are repeatedly reporting that they are too scared to send their children to school. To take their exam in May and June 2015, the Education Sector advocated with MoE to facilitate children from the ninth and twelfth grades living in hard-to-reach areas to take exams in Hama and Aleppo. In late 2015, opportunities arose to enable 329,000 children to return to school or safe learning spaces in former besieged or hard to reach areas. UNICEF continues to coordinate with the Ministry of Education and key stakeholders to prepare and for immediate resumption of education services when humanitarian access is secured in hard to reach and besieged areas

OUTCOME 3 Adolescent girls and boys' awareness on prevention of HIV/AIDS, access to skill-building, support and meaningful participation in society on issues affecting their lives, enhanced.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Despite the complex political and security conditions in the country, UNICEF has continued to maintain a strong focus on programmes promoting the active participation and development of adolescents and young people, in the awareness of their central role in the future developments of the country. The UNICEF Syria Country Office, in collaboration with local partners on the ground, strives to improve the access to a quality package of services that responds to the needs of adolescents and youth in Syria, while at the same time recognizing that participation opportunities for adolescents and youth remain limited in the current context. Support provided contributed to facilitate access to a comprehensive package of services, including life skills-based education (LSBE); vocational and technical training; psychosocial support; access to safe recreation spaces and sport for development; and meaningful opportunities for adolescent boys and girls to develop and lead social and business entrepreneurship initiatives.

In 2015, 426,285 adolescent boys and girls (51 per cent female) in 13 governorates of Syria benefited from comprehensive package of services provided by UNICEF and partners. 1,719 young volunteers improved their training and technical capacities in LSBE and vocational training, including PSS, and in turn trained 225,130 adolescent girls and boys through both structured centres (in 13 governorates) and mobile outreach (in 11 governorates). 199,436

adolescents and young people received issue-based life skills, basic psychosocial support (PSS) and access to recreation through static and mobile modalities. The coverage reached in 2015 exceeded threefold the coverage of the previous year (126,000), an achievement attributed to enhanced mobile outreach, which allows for broader coverage of marginalized adolescents and youth. More than 50,000 adolescent girls and boys participated in no less than 1,000 adolescent-led initiatives on various issues at community level, and as a result broadened their engagement with other peers. Through adolescent-led initiatives, which took place across the country, and the active participation of adolescents and community members, a conducive environment for adolescent participation and development in Syria has been nurtured in a promising way. Also, 14,000 adolescents improved their knowledge on HIV/AIDS and STIs; 3,840 adolescents were trained and empowered to support the reduction of HIV/AIDS vulnerability under a conducive environment.

Progress towards the achievement of planned results under ADAPs programming was very satisfactory. Routine collection of the 4W (Who, Where, When and How) monitoring system provided evidence on progress of interventions on a monthly basis. This collection is coupled with improved documentation of human interest stories, where adolescents were given opportunity to give UNICEF feedback on the value of interventions provided.

Throughout the year, the ADAP program delivered interventions in line with the No Lost Generation Initiative (NLGI) and the Syria Response Plan 2015 (SRP). The NLGI serves as a conceptual platform for the investment of technical and financial resources in education, child protection and adolescent development. Specifically, the NLG responds to key priorities of adolescents and youth through the scaling up of access to non-formal education, including life skills, technical and vocational training, but also child protection and psychosocial support. More so, girls and boys and youth need to be empowered to inspire and lead change in their communities, and must be given opportunities to develop their full potential and participate in processes that influence their lives. This explains why amplifying the voices of adolescents and young people, and establishing mechanisms for them to engage at local level, remain a UNICEF priority inside Syria. Among other interventions, the Community Learning Centre (CLCs) approach and asset-based approach contributed to broaden the operationalization of the NLG concept in Syria; it allowed Education, CP and ADAP to leverage resources and expertise and integrate programming through a common platform where vulnerable children, adolescents and youth benefit from multiple services and activities.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2015, information and counselling services with special focus on prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs among MARA is increased and a protective environment for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) is strengthened.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, through the solid partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), 2,490 young volunteers and staff of Women Union and Youth Union were trained on HIV/AIDS and STIs prevention; their improved knowledge helped to strengthen a protective environment for Most at Risk Adolescents (MARA). Young people reached and served improved significantly in the second half of 2015, despite remaining challenges including partner capacity and the identification and/or tracking of people living with HIV/AIDS and MARA across the country, due in part to internal displacements and social stigma. The weak referral system continues to hamper provision of appropriate services that respond to identified needs of girls and boys.

The action plan aimed at revitalizing the mobile outreach of MARA and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) is being developed by partners. The plan is built on feedback received from

adolescent girls and boys in terms of ensuring that trained health workers are fully sensitized on adolescent-friendly service principles, and can provide services respecting full confidentiality and tailored to the needs of girls and boys.

Capacity development sessions on HIV/AIDS prevention, issue-based LSBE and awareness raising were provided to 244 health workers, including youth volunteers,. Furthermore, awareness initiatives focusing specifically on the prevention of HIV/AIDS, STIs and social stigma were conducted for 14,000 adolescents and young people in IDP shelters, public health centres and clinics in 11 governorates across Syria. Increased fund allocations and support from the regional office will be required to scale up these initiatives, based on the positive outcomes of 2015 – feedback from young people provided with needed services also attest to a strong demand

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2015, adolescent girls and boys reached with correct health messages, access to friendly-services and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS is reduced within a conducive environment

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Progress towards reaching adolescent girls and boys with correct health messages to reduce their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS was achieved in the second half of 2015. This includes having provided equitable access to adolescent friendly-health-services, aimed at providing a conducive environment for girls and boys to access health information and services. In the second half of the year, UNICEF proactively worked to strengthen the coordination with the Adolescent Health Directorate of MoH, thus ensuring that planned interventions, including capacity building of health workers, awareness raising sessions for families and community leaders and dissemination of adolescent-friendly awareness materials were implemented according to agreed plans. Given the sensitivity of awareness raising with young people on HIV/AIDS, gender based violence (GBV), STIs and reproductive health, UNICEF sought in every opportunity to package these issues with correct and sensitive messages, order to garner support from families and community leaders.

In the second half of 2015, an assessment on adolescent health, conducted in cooperation with MoH, was finalised after extensive review and discussions. The assessment includes the analysis on the feedback from 1,200 adolescent girls and boys on issues related to needs of specialized health services. It is expected to serve as an evidence base to guide future programming. Reaching the most vulnerable boys and girls in hard to reach (HTR) and besieged areas remains a challenge, given the ongoing limitations of access and safety concerns. 1,200 health workers and 140 counsellors were trained on adolescent friendly health services to ensure that even in these areas correct messages on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS can be disseminated in a holistic manner. At the same time, UNICEF and partners trained more than 2,500 young people on adolescent health and hygiene promotion

OUTPUT 3 By the end of 2015, 165,000 adolescent boys and girls have access to development opportunities through vocational training and life skills.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF achieved significant progress in the promotion of non-formal education with 225,130 adolescent girls and boys (52 per cent females) having accessed a comprehensive package of services, including life skills basic education (LSBE) and vocational training. This is 150 per cent of the target, achieved in large part due to the outreach and implementation model adopted by the Ministry of Environment (MoEn). Among them, more than 22,000 adolescent live in HTR

areas in seven governorates such as Al-Waer in Homs, Tleisiyeh in Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, and At Tall, Qudsiya, Madamiyet in Rural Damascus. Young people were equipped with 21st century 4Cs (critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity); competencies that are essential to young people's transition to adulthood. 1,719 young volunteers improved their training and technical capacities in LSBE and vocational training, including PSS.

Human Interest Stories, post-training surveys and focus group discussions conducted with more than 1,000 adolescents and young people showed the great value and importance for girls and boys receiving to be involved in these programmes. Vocational training is seen by beneficiaries as a tool to enhancing their employability and economic strengthening. UNICEF and partners further advocated for the enhancement of civic engagement opportunities nationwide. UNICEF's achievements can be attributed to: the expansion of partnerships; the acceleration of Training of Trainers (ToT) on LSBE and vocational training and the support and effective implementation of the mobile outreach modalities. More than 1,350 young volunteer strengthened their capacity in providing life skills and vocational skills training to identify adolescents at local level in 13 governorates. The significant contribution to capacity building laid the cornerstone for the ongoing efforts that began in 2015 to institutionalizing LSBE into the Syrian formal education curriculum. The dialogue with the Ministry of Education will continue in 2016, and will also focus on strengthening adolescent-friendly principles in the Syrian formal education curriculum. In 2015, 30 educators from Damascus and Rural Damascus received ToT on life skills. Furthermore, through adopting the multiservice Community Learning Centre (CLC) approach, it is expected that skill-building programs, psychosocial support and alternative education will be accelerated in a more holistic and cross-sectoral manner; 5 NGOs were identified to pilot the CLC approach in 2015, which allows Education, Child protection and ADAP to invest and leverage resources and expertise in a common platform where vulnerable children and adolescents benefit from multiple, cross-sectorial activities.

OUTPUT 4 By the end of 2015, 150,000 adolescent boys and girls have been empowered as agents of positive change within a safe and enabling environment. Gender-based violence reduced.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, 199,436 adolescent boys and girls and young people (47 per cent female) received life skills and basic psychosocial support (PSS) through both static and mobile modalities. This represents 133 per cent of the target (150,000). In addition to wider participation in adolescent-led initiatives, girls' and boys' access to Adolescent Friendly Spaces (AFS), contributed to empower young people as agents of positive change. AFS' provided a safe physical space where adolescents benefitted from a variety of services, including peer to peer support, issue-based life skills and basic PSS in the form of interactive sessions on issues like child protection, gender and child rights. UNICEF and its partners trained 2,875 young volunteer and facilitators (42 per cent female) on basic PSS, peer to peer support and issue-based life skills. The results exceeded the original target of 260 young volunteer and facilitators by almost 11 times. This result was possible due to substantial investment in the capacity of Partners and their staff and young volunteers. The high number of young volunteers and facilitators trained is also a mitigation measure against the high turnover rate of staff in partnering organisation. Further to this, 50,000 adolescent and youth are empowered as positive agents of change through their active participation in 1,000 adolescent-led initiatives conducted throughout 2015, which also nurtured the conducive environment for adolescent participation and development in Syria. Launched in May 2015, the Sport for Development (S4D) program achieved good progress. Building on the partnership with the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs and Population (SCFA), the General Sport Union and Scouts of Syria, the results achieved exceeded the target

set by almost 100 per cent. Through organised sport and physical recreation, which took place in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Latakia, close to 30,000 adolescent boys and girls were provided with opportunities for self-expression, while exercising their right to play. In 2016, it is expected that adolescent and young people will continue to be trained to deliver training to their peers on the principles of right to play, sports as a mean to development and will organise sport activities in their respective governorates.

Due to the evolving situation in the country, the work of some implementing partners with strong capacity and access was suspended which subsequently affected the coverage of the program.

OUTCOME 4 Legal /administrative framework, system and capacity to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence strengthened

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Syria crises has exposed many children to violence, abuse and exploitation, exacerbating child protection concerns and challenges. Grave child rights violations, particularly recruitment of children by armed groups, killing and maiming, abduction and sexual and gender-based violence against children have been widely perpetrated. Vulnerability of children and families, including due to including internal displacement, has led to an increase in child marriage, trafficking, labour and separation of children from families. As a result of escalating violence and deteriorating humanitarian conditions, children continue to experience profound psychological distress and hardship and are in need of psycho-social and mental health support. The risk of unexploded remnants is especially high for children living in active zones of conflict.

UNICEF supported programmatic interventions and advocacy, including on highly sensitive issues, have brought child protection issues to the forefront and to the attention of relevant actors, despite challenges such as limited access to affected populations and limited capacities of child protection actors.

In this context, UNICEF supported initiatives to facilitate a greater understanding of the situation of children in Syria, to promote evidence-based advocacy and mobilisation of resources for effective child protection programming. An assessment of the situation of children with disabilities, commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and supported by UNICEF, has also been completed and the report is under review for finalisation. Findings of the assessment are expected to support programmatic interventions aimed at addressing the protection concerns of children with disabilities.

In response to aggravated displacement and to promote family preservation and prevent separation of children from families, UNICEF supported MoSA to develop awareness messages aimed at children, families and local communities. As a result, 97 separated and unaccompanied children were identified, 48 of whom were reunified with their families through a UNICEF supported family tracing and reunification pilot project in Homs. Based on lessons learned from the pilot project. UNICEF will continue to support MoSA to expand family tracing and reunification programmes in other governorates

In 2015, UNICEF expanded the provision of child protection and psychosocial support services to children and caregivers through enhanced capacity of partners, increased partnership with NGOs (from 13 in 2014 to 23 in 2015) and an increase in the number of child friendly spaces. As a result, 267,999 children (53 per cent girls) and 16,667 caregivers (96 per cent females) reached through structured psychosocial support across the country, of which, around 115,504 children were located in 41 hard-to-reach areas. The annual target was to reach 250,000

children and care givers. In addition, 141,674 children (51 per cent girls) and 14,760 (77 per cent females) care-givers benefited from outreach and child protection awareness programmes, (2015 target was 100,000) while 9,144 children were referred for specialised services. UNICEF contributed to local capacity building – 2,071 (63 per cent female) staff of national NGOs were trained on child protection (770) and psychosocial support (1,301).

In order to mitigate risks associated with explosive remnants of war, UNICEF supported development and finalization of the National Risk Education Strategy and as well local capacity building initiatives in partnership and close collaboration with Ministry of Education (MoE) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC). 879,123 children in nine governorates have been sensitized on risks of explosive remnants of war through school based risk education programme.. More than 4,145 school teachers have been trained on risk education by 71 trained master trainers). In order to reach children particularly out of school boys and girls in hard to reach areas, UNICEF produced a self-learning DVD on risk education. The DVD has been endorsed by the Ministry of Education and is ready for printing and subsequent distribution to the beneficiaries.

UNICEF continued to provide technical and leadership support to the Child Protection sub-sector which advocated with key actors to address major child protection concerns and needs. As a result of UNICEF-led advocacy and efforts, child protection and psychosocial support coordination groups have been established at sub-national level in order to address child protection concerns and issues at governorate level and to coordinate with the sub-sector at national level. In the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan, of 21 child protection projects submitted by NGOs, 19 targeting children in 140 sub-districts in 11 governorates were approved. Pursuant to a UN Security Council mandate and as co-chair and secretariat of the UN-led Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on grave child rights violations, UNICEF provided leadership and technical support and facilitated coordination amongst members of the Task Force. Reporting requirements, including Syria inputs to the Secretary-General's Annual Report on children and armed conflict, four quarterly Global Horizontal Notes and inputs to the Secretary-General's Report on Sexual Violence in Conflict, were duly met and submitted. Despite challenges, 55 per cent of documented grave child rights violations were verified and key UN stakeholders were oriented and trained on MRM/CAAC. Advocacy to prevent and respond to violations was focused on accountability for grave violations of child rights, system building and strengthening coordination and engagement with the Government including on the development and implementation of an action plan to address grave violations. Critical concerns related to child rights were also fed into UN system-wide advocacy and messaging, including the Inter Agency Task Force on Protection. Preliminary discussions on the development of a policy framework and response mechanism to address the issue of children associated with armed groups has been initiated.

OUTPUT 1 Child Protection Systems Strengthened

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With child protection concerns exacerbated by the ongoing crisis, UNICEF continues to support emergency response as well as initiatives aimed at enhancing the capacity of national institutions to ensure the survival and protection of the most vulnerable children. UNICEF continued to support assessments on the situation of children for evidence-based planning, programming and advocacy. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to conduct an assessment of children with disabilities - a draft assessment report, soon to be finalised, will inform evidence-based advocacy and programming to address concerns related to children with disabilities. In addition, UNICEF continued to advocate with the Government for finalization and enactment of the Child Rights Law and Alternative Care Law as well as the withdrawal of

Syria's reservation on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The assessment of existing monitoring and referral mechanisms has provided vital information to support ongoing discussions related to the establishment of case management system for child protection. UNICEF continued to advocate with key UN and Government stakeholders and partners for the establishment of a comprehensive case management and referral mechanism. Preliminary discussions on UNICEF support to address child labour and trafficking have also been initiated with national counterparts.

UNICEF supported MoSA to pilot a family tracing and reunification (FTR) project in Homs governorate. Through the pilot project, 97 separated and unaccompanied children were identified, with 47 children successfully reunified with their families. Awareness messages targeting children, families, and local communities, designed to promote family preservation and prevent child separation have been developed. The FTR project is expected to be expanded to other governorates. Capacity building initiatives also resulted in the strengthening of child protection capacities of 716 actors.

UNICEF continued to provide technical and leadership support to the Child Protection Sub-Sector, including through coordination and advocacy with the key actors to address major child protection concerns and needs such as psychosocial support. Moreover, sub-national child protection and psychosocial support coordination groups have been established to address child protection issues at the governorate level and to coordinate with the sub-sector at national level. Through its leadership of the sub-sector, UNICEF facilitated, and contributed to the development and finalization of the Humanitarian Needs Overview and mapping of governorates with prioritized child protection risks and identified key child protection concerns. In 2015, of 21 submitted child protection projects. 19 targeting children in 140 sub-districts in 11 governorates were approved

OUTPUT 2: Enhanced protection for children through increased awareness on child rights and child protection, and systematic monitoring

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In Syria the protracted conflict has exposed many children to increased risks associated with explosive remnants and unexploded ordinance. UNICEF, in close collaboration with its partners including the Ministry of Education, continued the implementation of its risk education programme aimed at mitigating the risks associated with explosive remnants and their impact on children. In 2015, UNICEF supported the finalization and endorsement of the national strategy for risk education focussed on strengthening local capacities to ensure more systematic responses.

Despite challenges, including limited access to affected communities due to prevailing insecurity, UNICEF managed to reach a large number of children at schools. Data received from five governorates reflect that 879,123 children (42 per cent girls) were reached and received raise awareness on risks of explosive remnants and unexploded ordinance through a school-based risk education programme. In addition, risk education interventions were implemented in through targeting more than 500,000 children and caregivers in Quneitara, Tartus and Lattakia governorates – thus, the target for 2015 has been achieved. UNICEF will receive detailed data including number of children and caregivers reached by risk education interventions which will be added accordingly.

At least 71 master trainers participated in a UNICEF supported capacity-building intervention. More than 4,145 school teachers from nine governorates (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, Tartous, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, and Sweida) have been trained on risk education. Through a strategic partnership with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), 150 teachers were trained on risk education to reach and sensitise at least 45,000 children on the risks of explosive remnants in education facilities located in hard-to-reach areas of Aleppo, Deir-er-zour, Raqqa, Hassakeh, and Idleb.

UNICEF also supported the development of a training package for school-based risk education and the publication and dissemination of over 500,000 copies of children's magazines to facilitate implementation of school-based risk education programmes. In order to reach out of school boys and girls in hard to reach areas, UNICEF produced a self-learning DVD on risk education. The DVD has been endorsed by the Ministry of Education and is ready for distribution.

OUTPUT 3 Protection and MHPSS services for children and women strengthened at national and community levels

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF supported child protection and psychosocial support initiatives aimed at alleviating the impact of the crisis on children in Syria by ensuring access of vulnerable children and care-givers to psychosocial support, enhancing the capacities of for psychosocial support and care, and through the protection of children exposed to or at risk of violence, exploitation or abuse. In 2015, UNICEF expanded partnerships with government and non-government actors in order to ensure increased access to psychosocial support to affected children, increasing partnership with NGOs from 13 in 2014 to 23 in 2015. In 2015, UNICEF exceeded targets by reaching 267,999 children (53 per cent girls) and 16,667 caregivers (96 per cent females) with structured psychosocial support across the country. Around 115,504 children were located in 41 hard-to-reach areas. In addition, 141,674 children (51 per cent girls) and 14,760 (77 per cent females) care-givers benefited from awareness programmes, while 9,144 children were referred for specialised services. As part of its capacity building initiatives, UNICEF trained 770 staffs (60 per cent female) on psychosocial, 1,301 (65 per cent female) staffs on child protection.

To ensure minimum standards for psychosocial interventions for children, UNICEF supported MoSA and the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs in developing national guidelines for psychosocial interventions. The guidelines, which have been finalised, are expected to be used to train relevant government and non-government actors during 2016.

To facilitate mainstreaming of psychosocial support in the education and health sectors, UNICEF has been working closely with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health organised trainings for 253 staff nurses, enhancing their skill to provide first-aid psychosocial support to children in need. The Ministry of Education is currently developing a curriculum to train school counsellors on psychosocial support.

Worked was also undertaken with the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs to develop a psychosocial support manual to provide psychosocial training to university graduates from hard-to-reach areas. Once trained, the graduates are expected to be supported by the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs to provide psychosocial support to affected children in their respective areas. The programme faced various implementation challenges during the year. Access to some programme areas, such as Aleppo, Rural Homs and Dier-er-Zour and Raqqa was challenging due to the ongoing conflict. Moreover, capacity of local partners and limitation

of specialised child protection services for children at-risk posed additional challenge in ensuring a continuum of services to vulnerable children.

OUTPUT 4 Enhanced protection for children through increased awareness on child rights and child protection, and systematic monitoring

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The protracted conflict in Syria has been characterised by grave child rights violations, including killing, maiming, recruitment and abduction of children, and attacks on schools and hospitals by all parties to the armed conflict. Pursuant to a UN Security Council mandate and as co-chair and secretariat of the UN-led Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting on grave child rights violations, UNICEF provided leadership and technical support and facilitated coordination amongst members of the Task Force.

Advocacy to prevent and respond to grave violations focused on accountability for grave violations of child rights, system building and strengthening engagement with the Government. UNICEF advocated with the Government - a party listed in the S-G's annual Report on children and armed conflict, for the killing and maiming of children, sexual violence and attacks on schools and hospitals - to develop and implement an action plan to address these violations. During 2015, the UNICEF Representative in Syria issued public statements condemning ongoing indiscriminate attacks in civilian populated areas which resulted in attacks on schools and the killing and maiming of children. Critical concerns related to child rights were also fed into UN system-wide advocacy and messaging, including the Protection Sector.

MRM/CAAC reporting requirements, included Syria inputs to the Secretary-General's Annual Report on CAAC, four quarterly Global Horizontal Notes and inputs to the Secretary-General's Report on Sexual Violence in Conflict were fully met and submitted. Despite challenges, including a highly sensitive and politicised environment, lack of access to affected populations and areas due to insecurity, administrative restrictions and as well the inability to conduct independent monitoring, 77 per cent (target was 50 per cent, 966 of 1249 reported violations were verified) of documented grave child rights violations were verified, and key UN stakeholders were oriented and trained on MRM/CAAC. It was not possible, or advisable, to conduct trainings and orientations for local partners at the sub-national level for reasons including high sensitivity of issues and safety considerations. Key relevant child protection actors have, however, participated in orientation sessions in Damascus and specialised trainings in Beirut which resulted in an increase in documentation and verification of the grave violations. Preliminary discussions on the development of a policy framework and response mechanism to address the issue of children associated with armed groups has been initiated; further detailed and in-depth discussion will be facilitated in early 2016.

OUTCOME 5: Policy, Advocacy and Partnership for Child Rights advanced

Analytical Statement of Progress:

As part of the country office revision, stemming from the re-definition of results in 2014, the Social Policy and Monitoring and Evaluation section, responsible for this area of work, has considerably increased its professional expertise through the recruitment of national and international staff. In view of the preparation for a new programme cycle, the section has consolidated its work in 2015 towards specific knowledge management, policy and advocacy initiatives, taking in consideration the specific context of Syria, and lessons learned from the past.

In close coordination with the emergency unit, advocacy initiatives have continued throughout 2015 for the expansion of UNICEF Syria's humanitarian operations especially in hard to reach areas, where the population mostly affected by the conflict cannot be regularly reached, and supported with life-saving interventions. The continuous advocacy efforts have focused, with the involvement of the Representative, to ensure more frequent and smooth cross-line distribution of humanitarian aid, and to increase the number of authorizations for UNICEF's convoys.

At the same time, a stronger attention to Information Management – with the strengthening of IM presence in each programme – has allowed to improve the production of regular information feeding into the corporate reporting mechanisms, and producing the necessary evidence (including new infographics, Facts and Figures and maps) for more effective communication and advocacy on the urgent need to protect all the rights of all children in every corner of Syria.

The preparation of a UNICEF Joint Operational Plan (JOP) related to the Whole of Syria operation, shared with the other two locations involved (in Turkey and Jordan), has allowed to increase the capacity of UNICEF to coordinate interventions, identify gaps, and rationalise the allocation and utilisation of resources in response to identified needs of the population. The JOP will also serve as a solid baseline for UNICEF's requests in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016.

In cooperation with other sections, a strong effort to further streamline results-based programme monitoring has been pursued with the introduction of a new field trip report template, linked to the introduction of HACT procedures; and with the revision of regular reports from Field Offices, aimed at highlighting the strong link to the achievement of programme results. These reports will help the office to ensure a more efficient production of knowledge related to the monitoring of programme implementation, essential for the achievement of planned results, and very useful for reporting and accountability purposes.

Tailor-made data collection tools were developed and/or updated for situation monitoring and field monitoring by UNICEF staff and third-party monitors ('facilitators') in areas where access is difficult or restricted. Throughout the year regular field visits were conducted in the various governorates by UNICEF staff, partners and facilitators, assessing the implementation of programmes and verification of supplies delivered. In addition, online post-distribution monitoring tools were developed and rolled out to obtain direct feedback from households in terms of quality, timeliness and relevance of the different supplies delivered. This feedback enabled UNICEF - for example - to further improve the procurement and distribution of higher quality, tailor-made winter clothes. Through regular training and exchanges of lessons learned UNICEF staff, implementing partners and third-party monitors significantly enhanced their capacities in monitoring, reporting and information management. This resulted in higher quality reports and a smoother flow of information and follow-up on key action points. While the conditions of the country don't allow for the development of a full upstream agenda, the dialogue with national institutions has continued – especially in view of the new country programme document – promoting, together with all the other UN agencies, a shift of focus towards a stronger resilience-building approach. In this direction, the programme has contributed to an increased attention towards livelihood opportunities for the local population (through the support to local procurement), and initiated the first steps to open a dialogue with national and local stakeholders on social protection and social inclusion needs. During 2015, the section has initiated a cross-sectoral dialogue to increase the attention towards one of the most vulnerable groups of children in need of support in Syria: children with disabilities

OUTPUT 1 Cash Transfer

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In consideration of the sensitivities related to the distribution of cash in conflict-affected areas - raising concerns both from the donor community and from national counterparts; and in consideration of the experiences of other UN agencies - it was decided to further assess the conditions for the launching of cash-assistance based initiatives.

Within the dialogue initiated by the UN system with national counterparts in relation to the strengthened resilience-building approach promoted for the next years, considerations have been exchanged with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Departments at Governorate levels, and national NGOs, on the possibility to map specific vulnerabilities affecting children, that would benefit from the distribution of cash assistance to parents, with the objective of responding to the specific needs identified.

In this direction, while preparing for the distribution of winter clothes, the identification of beneficiaries among the most vulnerable groups includes a mapping of children with disabilities, as a starting point for the assessment of their specific needs.

Likewise, in dialogue with the Education section, preliminary assessments were conducted to consider the possibility to respond to the risk of drop-out from school, while improving school inclusion, through the distribution of cash to identified families. The feasibility analysis for the implementation of an e-voucher programme for the distribution of winter clothes has been completed; this programme will be implemented in early 2016, and will constitute the first opportunity to test different modalities to reach vulnerable families, with the aim of increasing their autonomy in making choices for the benefit of their children.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2015, 500,000 vulnerable and displaced children received non food items, including winter clothes and blanket and summer clothes.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, UNICEF reached over 701,346 children with winter and summer response against a target of 500,000 children. A total of 115,535 beneficiaries (16 per cent) were children living in hard-to-reach areas. A total of 377,000 children received a set of winter clothes, while 220,000 children benefitted from the distribution of thermal blankets. Overall, 70,000 children received summer clothes and 40,000 children were kept warm during the school day as a result of UNICEF-provided school heaters. This is a significant increase compared to 2014 when in total 150,000 children were reached.

According to post-distribution monitoring of the winter clothes programme, over 80 per cent of beneficiaries were very satisfied with the quality of materials. Content and sizes of the winter and summer clothes packages were reviewed based on beneficiaries' feedback from the post-distribution monitoring conducted.

The distribution of winter and summer clothes coincided with a fresh wave of displacement with over 1 million people forced to flee their homes across the country. Displaced families in particular had limited resources to procure adequate winter and summer clothes to protect their children from the effects of harsh weather. Consequently, the needs for both summer and winter clothes increased threefold as families fled for safety with minimal resources. According to beneficiaries' feedback, most families reported they "could not afford to purchase winter clothes for their children because these clothes were very expensive. The distribution helped us to

protect our children from the cold". It is worth noting that during the previous winter at least 16 children died of cold-related illnesses. Similarly, field reports indicate that the distribution of winter and summer clothes helped children to go back to school and continue with their learning process. In 2015 UNICEF procured all of the winter and summer materials from the local market. Apart from being 30 per cent cheaper compared to off-shore procurement, timely and cost-effective delivery, local procurement of winter clothes also indirectly enhanced people's resilience and livelihoods, providing support to the local economy through the multiplier effect of any cash injected in the economy. UNICEF supported women association groups in Qamishli to produce winter and summer clothes, thereby providing employment opportunities to these women. This case was highlighted by OCHA as one of the best practices for building resilience among affected communities.

OUTCOME 6 Conflict affected populations in Syria, especially women and children have adequate, equitable and sustainable access to safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF response in WASH in Syria employs a two pronged approach to addressing both the immediate and longer-term WASH needs in conflict torn Syria. The first strategy aims at delivering life-saving services in emergency situations such as deliberate water cuts by parties to the conflict whereas the second strategy aims to build resilience and sustainable water and sanitation services through rehabilitation of networks, development of alternative water sources and capacity development of local institutions and communities to withstand and adapt to the conflict. Through this approach, UNICEF has been able to respond effectively to immediate needs while simultaneously promoting longer term resilience. Results have been achieved through close collaboration and cooperation with a diverse range of partners including Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Ministry of Local Affairs (MoLA), Water Authorities at Governorate level, the private sector, other UN agencies, SARC, and national and international NGOs. An indicator of the impact of WASH interventions has been the absence of major disease outbreaks such as cholera at a time when neighbouring countries are suffering outbreaks.

As part of its emergency response, UNICEF reached over 2 million people – almost half of them children- with life-saving interventions such as water trucking and distribution of WASH NFIs such as aqua tabs and hygiene kits. This represents about 110 per cent of the planned target for 2015. Where relevant, the emergency response has been complimented with resilience building activities such as the rehabilitation of key water and sanitation infrastructure. As part of this effort, UNICEF has provided improved access to drinking water and sanitation to over 7.4 million people (2 million women, 3.3 million children, 2.1 million men) through infrastructure interventions representing 186 per cent of the target.

Of the total 12.18 million people in need (PIN), UNICEF and partners were able to reach 20 per cent through emergency WASH interventions and 62 per cent with improved sustainable access to water and sanitation. Moreover, UNICEF's results in WASH represent 83 per cent of the Damascus WASH sector's target for emergency interventions and 65 per cent of the Damascus WASH sector target for rehabilitation.

UNICEF's work throughout 2015 covered both accessible and hard to reach (HTR) locations including Eastern Aleppo, Idlib, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor., Of those beneficiaries reached across the country with lifesaving WASH assistance, 1.2 million people or 51 per cent were in hard to reach areas . Similarly, of those reached with rehabilitation and alternative water sources, 2.6 million people or 35 per cent were in HTR areas.

OUTPUT 1 By the end of 2015, additional population (14 Million through chemical treatment, 4 Million through O and M services and 1.5 Million through sanitation) will have increased access to the improved water and sanitation services by developing, rehabilitating and maintaining the Public Infrastructures.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Throughout 2015, the country witnessed increasing water cuts both as the result of a deliberate strategy by parties of the conflict and due to wide-spread power outages and fuel shortages. In response, UNICEF is working with partners in developing alternative water sources to reduce population dependency on fragile single sources of water. The initiative covered the rehabilitation and equipping of 270 groundwater wells that benefited about 2.5 million people in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a and Aleppo Governorates.

UNICEF replaced critical equipment for existing water facilities, power generation sets and fuel for augmenting power supply benefiting approximately 2 million people in 8 governorates, 37 per cent of whom are located in HTR areas. Moreover, over 75 km of water networks were rehabilitated in 3 governorates (Aleppo, Al Hassakeh and Rural Damascus), serving 1.3 million people.

UNICEF ensured access to safe drinking water supplies to over 12 million people, 25 per cent of whom live in HTR areas, through provision of the critical water disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite), which contributed to preventing waterborne diseases outbreaks such as cholera. This intervention had a wide geographic footprint across Syria including HTR areas in Ar-Raqqa, Eastern Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor.

UNICEF provides most of the sodium hypochlorite required to treat Syria's public water supply. In 2015, over 2200 tonnes was imported. The intervention has been costly and logistically burdensome. As a result, UNICEF has been exploring local solutions for water treatment through saline electrolysis. In 2015, this technology was used to produce water disinfectant in-country using locally available raw materials (salt). UNICEF has supported MoWR to install 3 saline electrolysis units in Damascus catering for 13 per cent of the demand for water disinfectant in the city. This is improving cost effectiveness and reducing reliance on transportation of large quantities of supplies into Syria.

UNICEF is working to ensue access to safe water in hard to reach areas of Syria. In 2015, several breakthroughs were achieved in this regard. UNICEF delivered 220,000 tons of Sodium Hypochlorite to the water directorate in Raqqa. This is sufficient to ensure five months of water treatment, and access to safe water for 2 million people. In addition, UNICEF supported the cleaning and sterilization of 96 water storage tanks with a total volume capacity of nearly 120 million litres.

UNICEF has rehabilitated sewage networks in 7 governorates (As Sweida, Dara, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama and Tartous) and provided critical equipment for the maintenance of existing wastewater pumping stations as well as providing generators sets and fuel to ensure their continuous operation, benefiting 1.6 million people (4 per cent in HTR areas). In addition, UNICEF provided over 50,000 solid wastes containers in 4 Governorates benefiting 0.5 million people

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2015, additional IDPs (1.5 Millions) will have increased access to the improved WASH services in the collective shelters and in host communities settlements in the targeted districts of Nine Governorates.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF provided more than 1.25 billion litres of safe drinking water through water trucking to host communities, benefiting nearly 1.5 million people out of which an estimated 450,000 are IDPs. To address the recurrent cuts in drinking water supply in Aleppo, a multi-pronged strategy was adopted for providing this life-saving commodity. As an immediate emergency response, UNICEF scaled up its water trucking operation in Aleppo to 10 million litres per day for a period of five months. This was coupled with fuel assistance of 1.1 million litres for operating both pumping stations in Aleppo at a time when the main power transmission line was damaged due to crises. The intervention benefitted 2 million people. For a mid-term strategy UNICEF is developing 100 underground water wells.

Moreover, about 98,598 family and baby hygiene kits in addition to more than 1 million bars of soap were distributed to more than 500,000 people. UNICEF has implemented hygiene promotion as an integral component of WASH interventions in all governorates. Key interventions included awareness on use of WASH supplies, aquatabs, and management of solid and liquid wastes. UNICEF also promoted mass handwashing awareness raising campaign in schools for reinforcing hygiene messages and distribution of soap bars during “global handwashing day (GHD)” campaign as to ensure sustained hygiene behaviour of children and most vulnerable IDP families by reaching about 120,000 children. While these interventions were underway also contributed in the KAP study being coordinated by C4D for establishing the baseline for better positioning the future hygiene programme interventions.

In situations where there is a risk of affected populations drinking from contaminated sources, UNICEF ensured people have access to safe drinking water through the distribution of water treatment chemicals (aquatabs). In this relation, UNICEF distributed nearly 100 million aquatabs capable of treating nearly 500 million litres of water across Syria for benefiting approximately 1 million for a month.

UNICEF continued to address critical needs of IDPs in collective shelters and camps through provision of 51 mobile toilets and bathing cubicles benefiting 7,500 people, provision/rehabilitation of permanent and temporary water supply systems benefiting 30,000 people, provision of water heaters, emergency water supply through water trucking benefiting 1.5 million people, distribution of WASH NFIs benefiting more than 758,000 people, delivery of hygiene awareness raising sessions reaching 200,000 people, and solid wastes management.

OUTPUT 3: Additional 700 Public Institutions (Schools, Child Friendly Spaces and Health Centers) provided with improved WASH services in the targeted district of Nine Governorates by the end of 2015.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The crisis has had a devastating impact on the education sector with 1 in 4 schools damaged, destroyed or used as shelters to host internally displaced people. In addition severe cuts to the education budget continues to impact the quality of existing facilities. As a result many WASH facilities in schools have been rendered dysfunctional or are inadequate to accommodate the influx of additional IDP children.

In order to address these issues and ensure that schools provide the appropriate learning environment to children in addition to supporting enrolment and reducing school dropouts the WASH and Education sections worked jointly to provide a comprehensive schools package, composed of the rehabilitation/development of water and sanitation facilities and comprehensive hygiene awareness raising campaigns with the distribution of critical hygiene supplies (such as

soaps, toilet cleaning kits and IEC materials on awareness). In the course of 2015, UNICEF has rehabilitated/developed gender responsive WASH facilities in 448 schools benefiting 325,682 children including children with disabilities. Hygiene awareness and hygiene supplies were delivered in 88 schools, benefiting 87,000 children. This represents 89 per cent of the result by reaching 536 schools against planned 600. The result was not fully achieved due to delay in assessment and adopting a uniform strategy with the Ministry of Education, hence, commencement of implementation.

Furthermore, UNICEF's supported WASH in 13 health facilities (Homs and Al Hassakeh) benefiting 402,000 people. Though the number of facilities rehabilitated is relatively small, the impact is high due to the large numbers of patients covered

OUTPUT 4 Strengthening of the sector coordination at national and sub-national level and enhancing capacities of humanitarian actors on emergency preparedness.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The primary purpose of the WASH sector is the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion assistance to affected populations through improved coordination of the response at all levels. It seeks to strengthen the humanitarian response by demanding high standards of predictability, accountability and partnership. To date, the sector has established sub national coordination platforms in Tartous (covering Tartous, Idleb and Lattakia), Aleppo, while Quamishli and Homs coordination forums are run based on needs. Coordination promoted the achievement of more strategic responses through better utilization of available resources by clarifying the division of labour among sector partners, better defining the roles and responsibilities and prioritization of interventions. In addition the sector maintains active contacts with key donors and regularly provides updates and issues of concern especially on the state of service delivery. The Sector also maintains a robust information system that supports the decision making process and helps identify gaps.

On hygiene front, working group was chaired by UNICEF and supported the sector partners on harmonizing the training modules, awareness campaigns and capacity building initiatives. The working group supported the partners on the awareness campaigns undertaken during the global handwashing day.

UNICEF is co-leading the WASH Sector with the Ministry of Water Resources and has been effective in coordinating the emergency response among all partners. The Sector provided leadership in planning and coordination for responding to emerging needs to ensure a predictable response is achieved. Partners such as ICRC and IFRC largely contribute an active role through national and sub national coordination forums to ensure gaps are filled while overlaps are minimized throughout.

Within the Whole of Syria approach, the sector is distributed among three distinct hubs, namely; Syria (Damascus); Turkey (Gaziantep), and Jordan (Amman). This approach has facilitated and assisted implementing partners (within Syria and cross border) to agree on common strategic objectives and response plans to ensure complementarity to project activities are achieved while eliminating overlaps. This entailed development of joint operational plan, periodic review and management of information and analysis for informed decision making process across the three locations. Some of the key functions of the WOS are enabling partners to ensure coverage is maximized and people in need are reached within acceptable timelines within often unpredictable and highly insecure operational environments

OUTCOME 7 46,660 vulnerable Palestinian children benefit from improved access to learning opportunities from preschool to completion of basic education by end of 2016.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The protracted crisis has adversely affected the education situation of Palestinian refugee children inside Syria. Due to the intensified violence, many Palestinian refugee families and children in Al Yarmouk camp, a hard to reach area heavily affected by the conflict, left their homes for other areas in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Lattakia and Hama. Armed conflict led to many UNRWA schools closing down, and multiple internal displacements coupled with economic poverty further deteriorating Palestinian children's access to education.

The education sector analysis drawing on EMIS excluding ECD shows that, prior to the crisis in the school year 2011/12, approximately 66,000 Palestinian children were enrolled in basic education (Grades 1-9) at UNRWA schools. However it is found that the enrolment dropped significantly to 26,000 (-40,000) in 2013/14. Most heavily affected areas were Damascus and Rural Damascus, with 22,000 children (-71.4 per cent) and 11,000 children (-53.9 per cent) dropped out of UNRWA schools. The reason for this decline is mainly considered to be a consequence of the proliferation of school closures in Damascus, especially in Al Moukhaïam and Rural Damascus. The number of UNRWA schools reduced from 119 schools in 2011/12 to only 59 schools in 2013/14. The crisis has impacted teaching staff. The total number of education personnel available for 119 UNRWA schools in 2011-12 was 2,183 persons. However, the number decreased to 1,015 persons for 59 schools in 2013-14. In response, UNICEF has sustained a partnership with UNRWA and the General Administration for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) to improve education access for Palestinian children in host communities. Education situation for Palestinian children is part of the education sector analysis which allows UNICEF and partners to better understand education needs and gaps for effective programming. UNICEF also supported UNRWA and GAPAR with education emergency supplies and services in pre-school and basic education. Education access for Palestinian children is to be further enhanced in 2016, with provision of education supplies under the Back to Learning campaign, as well as support to early learning and school readiness for pre-school children. UNICEF will also continue professional development of teachers in active learning, positive discipline, prevention of corporal punishment, and how to care for children with learning difficulties

OUTPUT 1. Palestinian pre-school boys and girls have access to the community-based ECD services

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, UNICEF provided support to UNRWA and GAPAR in promoting equitable access to quality learning for Palestinian refugee children in Syria. As the enrolment data of Palestinian children is not available in the latest school year 2014/15, it is difficult to examine and demonstrate the outcome-level achievements made in 2015. However, UNICEF made the following effort and investment in promoting access to quality education for Palestinian refugee children in 2015.

UNICEF supported UNRWA in setting up 20 prefabricated classrooms equipped with desks and chairs to address overcrowded schools in Jaramana of Rural Damascus. This enabled 1,300 children to access protective learning environments. UNICEF also provided 15,000 Palestinian children with school bags, stationery and teaching learning materials as part of the Back to Learning campaign. In addition, UNICEF supported GAPAR by providing 6 prefabricated classrooms, school bags and essential stationery for 5,000 Palestinian children. This enabled

them to study using pencils and notebooks for learning at GAPAR institutes and shelters in Damascus. Moreover, 128 teachers were trained on different education subjects: active learning, positive discipline, prevention of corporal punishment, and how to care for children with learning difficulties.

UNICEF also provided UNRWA with self-learning books for 2,000 children (Grade 9), enabling them to continue learning at home as supplementary materials. This collaboration will be scaled up once the self-learning books for Grades 1-9 are available in 2016.

OUTPUT 2. Palestinian pre-school boys and girls have access to the community-based ECD services

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF supported GAPAR and UNRWA in training 100 pre-school teachers and 100 community members with 5 training courses for on the ECD manuals in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs. This has benefitted Palestinian children with child-centred and age-specific teaching and learning. Around 8,000 pre-school children benefited from 160 ECD kits (i.e. toys, story books) through GAPAR and UNRWA. This has facilitated early learning and school readiness. Further, a total of 6 prefabricated classrooms were established for ECD centres in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Lattakia, Hama and Aleppo. This enabled 480 preschool children and adults to engage in ECD-related activities.

OUTCOME 8 Girls and boys increasingly benefit from improved child protection systems for prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, UNICEF fostered partnership with General Administration for Palestinian Arab Refugees in Syria (GAPAR), to enhance protection of Palestinian children and women in Syria. Partnership focused on capacity building, awareness activities on protection and rights of women and children, psychosocial support, including provision of services such as such family counselling, legal advice and support for documentation of marriage and birth. Activities supported by UNICEF benefited around 1,848 children and women, while capacity of 80 front-line workers were enhanced on child protection issues. Implementation of planned activities faced various challenges, such as obstacles arising from security concerns, and limited capacity of implementing partners.

OUTPUT 1 Increased capacity of civil society, child protection and sectoral key actors to provide PSS to targeted children and women

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2015, UNICEF worked closely with General Administration for Palestinian Arab Refugees in Syria (GAPAR). UNICEF supported provision of psychosocial care to Palestinian children and female care-givers through related activities organised in Palestinian camps. A total of 854 children and 524 women care givers in Damascus, rural Damascus and Lattakia benefited from the psychosocial activities supported by UNICEF and organised by GAPAR. In 2016, UNICEF's collaboration with GAPAR will focus on training of front line social workers to provide psychosocial support to Palestine children and care givers through structured and sustained PSS activities.

OUTPUT 2: Increased community capacity and awareness to protect children from, and address violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF's engagement with GAPAR in 2015 also focused on ensuring the rights and protection of Palestinian children, through capacity enhancement of front-line workers, raising awareness on protection issues, including provision of services such as family counselling, legal advice and documentation support for marriage and birth registration. In 2015, GAPAR reached 479 women in Damascus, rural Damascus, Lattakia and Hama through awareness raising activities and provided family counselling and legal support on issues related to marriage and birth registration. In addition, 80 social workers, working with children and women, were trained on protection issues and information management.

OUTCOME 9: Adolescent girls and boys are enabled to contribute to community and national development and make a productive transition to adulthood.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF is fully committed to addressing the rights of Palestinian adolescents and youth, girls and boys alike, inside Syria. With the evolving instability in Syria, more families have been forced to flee their homes, hampering access of girls and boys to education, protection and participation in society on issues affecting their lives. UNICEF, through its strong field partners General Administration for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR) and UNRWA, supported the creation of a protective environment by providing access for girls and boys to 14 Adolescent Friendly Spaces (AFS) (12 under the supervision of UNRWA and the remaining two under GAPAR) in seven governorates and six IDP shelters. As a result, the AFS provided not only a safe space, and opportunities to enhance peer-to-peer initiatives at local level.

Specifically, 22,000 young people participated in life skills sessions, received correct information on adolescent health, benefitted from basic PSS, music and arts services in seven governorates (including Damascus, Rural Damascus, Daraa, Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Aleppo). Through UNRWA-supported schools, more than 5,500 adolescent boys and girls participated in 11 and 14 UNICEF-supported summer and winter clubs respectively. These clubs took place during the school holidays and provided opportunity for adolescents and youth to practise their life and vocational skills through initiatives at local level. Feedback from girls and boys show that these interventions contributed to enhance social inclusion and provided an arena for local partners to enhance skills and capacities of otherwise neglected girls and boys. More than 100 adolescent-led initiatives were conducted in Palestinian refugee camps, IDP shelters and collective gatherings, with main focus on tackling day-to-day needs and challenges of Palestinian refugee adolescents. These initiatives also focused on allowing young people to model positive behaviour and truly lead by example, thus strengthening their contribution to community development.

The progress and achievement of this outcome are considered satisfactory; planned results were achieved, however, challenges and room for improvement have also been identified. The high turnover rate of staff in partner organisations created minor delay in programme implementation and required frequent follow-up. In addition, while a rapid scale-up of ADAP programmes for Syrian adolescents took place, support to Palestinian adolescent youth are equally important. However, with the constraint of budget allocated and access to Palestinian camps, shelters and gathering areas, the potential scale-up and expansion of needed services require greater support and investment.

OUTPUT 1: Capacities of partners are enhanced to provide life skills programming to adolescents and promote adolescent participation

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF provided continuous support to the establishment and capacity building of 10 mobile outreach teams, consisting of seven young volunteers each, and 70 young volunteers in total. These mobile outreach teams were formed in 20 Palestinian refugee camps and IDP collective shelters in seven governorates. Under the solid partnership with UNRWA and GAPAR, the Section supported adolescents and young people with life skills programming and promoted adolescent participation in some hot spots, for example Khan al-Shih Camp. The mobile outreach teams were valued as an effective means of providing a timely response to the needs of adolescents, particularly for those who have experienced multiple displacements. Mobile outreach facilitated UNICEF's ability to support community outreach on Life Skills, PSS and further promoted the active participation of marginalised girls and boys in IDP shelters. Despite challenges and access constraints, 10 mobile teams reached more than 3,500 adolescent girls and boys. These results can be attributed to: long-established partnerships with UNRWA and GAPAR, support from Palestinian communities, availability of community spaces, and the continuous investment in capacity building of partners. To fully maximise the potential and strength of the mobile teams, specialized training on facilitation, leadership and planning for mobile outreach team are planned to be conducted at the end of 2015.

The 2015-16 AWP aims to target 300 social service providers and youth volunteers, to build their capacities on life skills, basic PSS and adolescent participation principles. In 2015, 94 social workers and young volunteers were trained. The under-achievement is due to the completing priorities and heavy workload of social service providers and youth volunteers at the front-line; the safety and security concerns over their mission to Damascus to receive training; and in some cases reported, safe passage to leave and return to their respective camps can be a big obstacle. In 2016, the Programme and its partners will strive to ensure that training needs are met and capacity building exercise will be conducted as soon as the security condition permits.

Lastly, the lack of well-equipped and appropriate physical spaces in IDP shelter posed a moderate restriction on the achievement of planned results. The Programme and its partners continues to utilise facilities of UNRWA, including 12 schools and 12 community development centres / women programme centres, to deliver services to Palestinian adolescent boys and girls.

OUTPUT 2: Palestinians youth have capacity to deliver youth-lead initiatives and are actively participating in civic engagement programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:

More than 22,000 Palestinian adolescent girls and boys in seven governorates enhanced their life and vocational training skills, which contributed to improve their capacity to organise youth-led activities at community level. Adolescent girls and boys improved their engagement in community issues and adolescent-led initiative in both AFS and IDP shelters; active outreach (mobile and static) took place in seven governorates. Participants viewed the sessions as effective in building their self-confidence and self-efficacy to develop and conduct their own initiatives to respond to issues in their own communities. Those sessions covered principles around collaboration, teamwork and communication. Furthermore, vocational training was highlighted separately by young people as a vital tool to address issues associated with economic strengthening and a source of livelihoods. More than 5,500 adolescent boys and girls participated in 11 and 14 UNICEF-supported summer and winter club respectively. The clubs conducted during school holiday supported adolescent to feel more confident when the next school terms begin and organised activities on arts, culture and session on adolescent

participation, as the way to provide them psychosocial support needed. Although the achievement is considered to be satisfactory and targets set were met, moderate constraints remain, including the lack of appropriate spaces in IDPs shelters for activities to take place. The signing of the Annual Work Plan was also delayed.

OUTCOME 10: Women and children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, increasingly use improved maternal, child health and nutrition services, and apply improved health practices.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The scale and scope of the crisis have severely impacted on the services and infrastructure for the Palestinian refugees in Syria that are living in some of the most affected areas. Deteriorating health and public water and sanitation systems are placing children at increased risk of illnesses which contribute to acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. The conflict has placed further restrictions to services for Palestinian refugees in Yarmouk, Aleppo and other areas resulting children and women lacking essential nutrition services among other social services. A combination of widespread extreme poverty, displacement and a shortage of food items in Syria is placing children at increased risk of malnutrition.

UNICEF supported the Palestinian partners (GAPAR, UNRWA and Palestinian Red Crescent) to provide health and nutrition services to the Palestinian refugees who are still living in Syria with special focus on those who live in the high-risk areas like Yalda, Babbila, Beit Sahem, and Yarmouk in Damascus and Rural Damascus in addition to Al- Neirab district in Rural Aleppo.

To sustain resilience among the Palestinian refugees; UNICEF supported the health centres of UNRWA with H and N supplies (including supplies for the routine immunization services) and trained community volunteers from PLS NGOs to sustain the provision of health care services to the needy Palestinian population.

Capacity building initiatives for GAPPAR, Palestinian Red Crescent and UNRWA played a key role in the provision of preventive and treatment nutrition services for Palestinian refugees in Syria. The capacity development focused on identification and management of acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding practices, screening and awareness raising. As a result, UNICEF continued its support to Palestinian Red Crescent in establishing nutrition facilities in rural Aleppo and to UNRWA for supporting refugees in Yarmouk camp.

As part of the multi-sectoral assessment GAPAR is planning carrying out among Palestinian refugees with UNICEF support in early 2016, a significant nutrition component is included to assess level of acute malnutrition among children under five years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers and assessing level of iodine in salts used at household level. This assessment is expected to help shade more light on nutrition status of Palestinian refugee children and women and help in designing appropriate interventions

OUTPUT 1: Capacity of partners is enhanced to provide emergency health services to cover the affected Palestinian children and women

Analytical Statement of Progress:

To enable Palestinian partners to provide primary health care services; UNICEF provided PLS SARC and UNRWA with 90 IEHK that is sufficient for 225,000 beneficiaries for one year, in addition to 11 midwifery kit (for 550 normal deliveries), 5 sets of diarrhoea kit (for treating 3000 diarrhoea cases), and 74,000 sachets of ORS (for around 5000 children). This includes the

support for the high-risk areas in Yarmouk, Yalda, Beit Sahem, and Babbila as part of the inter-agency convoys to those areas in 2015.

As part of enhancing vaccination services; UNICEF provided all UNRWA health centres with 30 solar refrigerators and 15 ice-liners to ensure sustainability of cold chain for effective vaccination. UNICEF also provided UNRWA with 40,000 auto-destruct syringes and 16 safety boxes to ensure safe injections and safe disposal of syringes.

UNICEF supported the training of 70 community volunteers on maternal health (high-risk pregnancy), neonatal care, helping baby breathe (HBB), and danger signs for sick infants to ensure proper referring of sever cases from IDP shelters to the health centres and hospitals. UNICEF also provided PLS partners with 404 newborn kits (that include cloths and necessary items for the newborn).

UNICEF supported Aleppo branch of Palestinian Red Crescent to establish a health point and a mobile health team in Al-Neirab district of Rural Aleppo through a project cooperation agreement PCA to provide paediatric and maternal health care to 46,000 beneficiaries in this high-risk area and the surrounding villages. At the end of 2015 this NGO was able to provide the services to 50,000 children and women.

UNICEF supported capacity development for partners providing nutrition services to the Palestinian refugees including GAPAR, Palestinian Red Crescent, UNWRA, IMC and community volunteers in IDP shelters. During the capacity building initiative, 100 health workers from GAPAR and UNRWA were trained on nutrition in emergencies, identification and treatment of acute malnutrition through the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) model, breastfeeding counselling and awareness raising on complementary feeding for pregnant women and lactating mothers and screening of acute malnutrition for early detection and treatment.

In efforts to increasing technical capacity of GAPAR, UNICEF developed a training of trainers capacity on C4D for 4 GAPAR staff with a focus on community mobilization and sensitization on optimal practices while providing information, education and communication (IEC) tools. UNICEF built the capacity of 40 people on nutrition assessment as part of the survey teams that will carry out the multi-sectoral assessment among Palestinian refugees. The training included measurement of malnutrition and checking levels of iodine in salt.

UNICEF trained 5 PLS trainers on communication for development (C4D) to enhance the skills and capacity of PLS partners in health and nutrition promotion, and training other health workers and community volunteers in IDP shelters on the main health and nutrition messages to prevent diseases among children and women and to improve hygienic practices. UNICEF also distributed 5000 copies of "Facts for Life" booklet to the PLS partners to raise awareness among PLS IDPs on the main health and nutrition messages.

OUTPUT 2: Boys and girls in targeted IDP camps benefit from improved MAM and SAM services

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Palestinian Refugee children and women in Syria are benefiting nutrition preventive and treatment programmes provided by NGOs, UNRWA and MoH. In rural Aleppo (Al Neyrab camp, Saqlaya, Tall Shegheib and Thabiyeh), a dedicated nutrition programme for the Palestinian

refugees is implemented by Palestinian Red Crescent providing nutrition treatment and counselling services on optimal child feeding practices. In this programme alone, over 60,000 mothers and children benefited from the nutrition services including screening for acute malnutrition, provision of nutrient supplements, multiple micronutrients and treatment of acute malnutrition. Of these, nearly 20,900 children (11,000 boys and 9,850 girls) were screened for acute malnutrition with 130 (80 boys and 50 girls) being treated for moderate and severe malnutrition with Plumpy Nut and essential medicines. Palestinian refugees in Yarmouk camp, Geramana camp and other partners of the country benefited from the nutrition services rendered by other partners such as IMC, and SFPA providing both preventive nutrition services and treatment of acute malnutrition

OUTPUT 3: Mothers have increased knowledge and are practising proper IYCF including exclusive breastfeeding

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Pregnant women, lactating mothers and other women of child bearing age have benefited from the counselling services on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding and awareness raising sessions on optimal child feeding services provided by Palestinian Red Crescent, UNWRA, IMC and other partners. In rural Aleppo, over 3,000 mothers received counselling on appropriate IYCF services to better care for their children and on awareness of importance of optimal nutrition for children and mothers.