Enjoying strong partnerships with the Government, development partners and civil society organizations, UNICEF Timor-Leste achieved significant programmatic progress and results in 2017. These were achieved through evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy, strong engagement and implementation at the community level and an emphasis on capacity building at the institution and individual level, to strengthen both systems and service delivery.

Presidential elections in March and parliamentary elections in July were conducted peacefully. Although issues exist around the long-term viability of the current minority Government, institutions have continued to function, and civil unrest was largely avoided, showing considerable progress in the establishment of strong democratic institutions in Timor-Leste.

Data from the Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey (DHS) showed progress in under-five mortality, with the rate dropping to 41 deaths per 1000 live births in 2016 from 61 in DHS 2009/10. The analysis of the Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards (2014) dataset showed that although the poverty rate declined from 50 per cent in 2007 to 42 per cent 2014, children remained the most affected by poverty, and that children aged up to eight years old living in rural areas had the highest poverty incidence at 55 per cent. While enrolment in pre-school and basic education (grades 1-9) continued to increase in 2017, only 20 per cent of children aged three to five years were enrolled in pre-school. In basic education, the net enrolment was 92 per cent (2017). However, the majority of students do not continue schooling after grade 4, with only half of the eligible children enrolled in grades 5-9. More girls were enrolled in school than boys.

Major achievements and milestones were reached in 2017 across programmes at national, subnational and community levels, including:
- Approval of the country’s first multisectoral National Action Plan for Children (2016-2020) by the Council of Ministers, developed in collaboration with development partners and the National Commission for the Rights of the Child. The President of Timor-Leste launched the National Action Plan at the President Palace, together with the Prime Minister, parliamentarians, development partners and children, on 1 June, National Children’s Day.

- Finalization of the European Union-supported Integrated Nutrition Project, initiated in 2014 and totalling US$5.9 million. The National Primary Health Care (PHC) network established the capacity of nutrition services delivery nationwide, with 1,459 primary health care workers trained to deliver specific nutrition intervention packages. An integrated behaviour change communication campaign was launched nationwide and rolled out in five municipalities. In addition, 319 administrators, finance officers and focal points in 13 municipalities were trained on results-based planning and budgeting for health and nutrition.

- Implementation of a holistic parenting education programme, in partnership between UNICEF Timor-Leste and the Ministry of Social Solidarity. The initiative reached 16,819 parents and benefitted 33,638 children aged up to eight years old. The parenting education programme was also broadcast on community radio, with 25 radio talk shows aired on 16
community radio stations. Four local youth theatre groups delivered key messages through drama performance, benefitting 2,600 parents and caregivers.

- Progress in creating an enabling environment and increasing access for early childhood development (ECD). A draft ECD policy was developed through the inter-Ministerial ECD Working Group and presented to the Council of Ministers in July. Community-based preschools benefitted 5,556 children, reaching 35 per cent of children in two supported municipalities and establishing a cost-effective means for expanding access to pre-school education and increasing community engagement in young children’s education.

Challenges arising from the elections and the change in Government, and related restructuring of some ministries and secretariats, lead to some delays in programme implementation. Final Government approval of the draft ECD policy was delayed, although support from relevant ministries remains strong. Some activities focused on adolescents, including life skills based education, training and an evaluation of the Youth Parliament, were delayed due to the restructuring of Secretary of State for Youth and Sport. However, 75 per cent of annual targets for life skills based education were achieved and an inception report was completed for the Youth Parliament evaluation.

To leverage resources and increase collaboration on children’s issues, UNICEF Timor-Leste expanded its partnerships. This included signing a partnership agreement with the National University of Timor-Leste and cooperation within a global partnership on ECD and Peace Building with Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. UNICEF Timor-Leste further strengthened its collaboration with the New Zealand Aid Programme-supported programme “Halimar, Aprende, no Deskobre; Suseso” (Play, Learn and Discover; Succeed), known as HANDS. UNICEF leveraged resources and advocated for an equity-based approach to pre-school education through community pre-schools, conducted joint field visits, shared monitoring tools and jointly planned activities.

### Humanitarian assistance

No humanitarian assistance was provided in 2017. However, UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to work with Government and partners through the Humanitarian Coordination Team, with findings from actions taken during the 2016 El Niño assessed and discussed. Policy dialogue and capacity building focused on improved preparation for and response to slow onset emergencies, including strengthening early warning systems. This was particularly in relation to recurring droughts experienced across the country and their impact on water, nutrition, health, education, protection and agriculture and livelihoods. Additionally, institutional capacity was developed on emergency preparedness, with UNICEF Timor-Leste supporting the Ministry of Education to update the education contingency plan and training representatives from all 13 municipalities on education in emergencies.

### Emerging areas of importance

**Integrated early childhood development (ECD).** UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the presentation of a draft Early Childhood Development Policy to the Council of Ministers for approval in July. The draft policy was developed with the engagement of various ministries and development partners through the inter-Ministerial ECD Working Group, established with the support of UNICEF Timor-Leste. The Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) also provided pro-bono technical support in developing the draft policy.
The policy emphasizes strengthening vertical and horizontal coordination at the national and local levels to provide integrated ECD services. Developed with economic and neuroscientific evidence and linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the draft policy called for increased investments in ECD services for children and their families, reflecting the work that UNICEF Timor-Leste is supporting in parenting education, mothers' support groups and community pre-schools. The UNICEF Timor-Leste ECD interventions also promote gender equality by addressing gender stereotypes in child rearing.

Early childhood development messaging and evidence were promoted in UNICEF Timor-Leste’s advocacy activities throughout 2017. Through a partnership with the Secretary of State for Communication, a 28-episode talk show on ECD was broadcast on national and community radios throughout the country. Working closely with local children, community radio stations in three municipalities produced ECD-related radio content as part of the weekly radio programme “Labarik Nia Lian” (Voices of Children). UNICEF Timor-Leste further promoted ECD in the country by linking with the global #EarlyMomentsMatter campaign and advocating for Government support to enhance programming.

At the grassroots level, UNICEF Timor-Leste organized two meetings with municipal local governments, bringing together elected officials and village leaders to increase awareness of ECD and early learning, and of the importance of parenting education. Following the meetings, local officials committed to work with communities to raise awareness of ECD and to ensure access to early childhood education in remote areas.

Given current political uncertainty following the 2017 elections, the ECD Policy has not advanced through the Council of Ministers. UNICEF Timor-Leste will continue its advocacy activities, including the development of additional advocacy materials and messages, and sustain outreach to key decision-makers at national, sub-national and community levels, until the policy is submitted for full Government approval.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

Note:
Suco - village

**Acronyms:**
- AMP – annual management plan
- C4D – communication for development
- CMT – country management team
- DCT – direct cash transfer
- DHS – Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey
- ECD – early childhood development
- GSSC – Global Shared Services Centre
- HACT – harmonized approach to cash transfers
- ICT – information and communication technology
- NGO – non-governmental organization
- SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
- UNCT – United Nations Country Team
- UNDSS – United Nations Department of Safety and Security Services
- UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
- WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene
During 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to support capacity building at national, subnational and community levels, to improve knowledge and skills for improved service delivery and to improve child care and development outcomes.

With support from the European Union and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for Health (INS), UNICEF Timor-Leste supported a range of critical trainings for primary health care workers. Among others, training was conducted on a Specific Nutrition Intervention Package (known as SNIP) covering: 1) infant and young child feeding; 2) nutritional care of pregnant and breastfeeding women and adolescent girls; 3) diarrhoea treatment; 4) deworming; 5) vitamin A supplementation; 6) prevention of iodine deficiencies; 7) integrated management of acute malnutrition; 8) nutrition in emergencies; 9) nutrition programme information systems; and 10) supportive supervision. Training workshops were held in all municipalities, with 1,459 primary health care workers nationwide trained, establishing nutrition service delivery capacity in all primary health care facilities in the country.

Building the capacity of the social sector workforce, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity to finalize a curriculum for social welfare workforce development and conducting training of 222 social welfare workers. UNICEF Timor-Leste also supported the Ministry to implement a parenting education programme in two municipalities, providing parents and caregivers with information on early stimulation, beneficial nutrition and health habits, positive discipline, hygiene and supporting children’s education. The programme was realised through face-to-face sessions, home visits and communication for development (C4D) interventions, including community radio and youth theatre.

With support from the UNICEF Regional Office, and in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the capacity development of 52 judicial actors and 25 prison guards on child rights, child development and child-friendly procedures. UNICEF Timor-Leste also supported the Government to conduct life skills based education training to 3,509 adolescents and youth in three municipalities.

Throughout 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the Government in evidence generation, evidence-informed policy dialogue, and advocacy for children. UNICEF Timor-Leste finalized several programme reviews, including the End of Project Review on Alternative Pre-School Programme and the Evaluation of Parenting Education and Community Pre-School Programme. Review findings were directly fed back into improving programme design and adjusting implementation modalities to overcome identified bottlenecks and constraints. Evidence generation activities, including a knowledge attitude practice baseline study on parenting practice, a public pre-school baseline study, an alternative pre-school baseline study, an out-of-school children study and a climate landscape analysis for children in Timor-Leste resulted in increased understanding of the current situation of children and in measuring changes achieved thorough supported programmes.

In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF supported the Government to develop the Education Monograph, a sectorial analysis based on Timor-Leste’s Population and Housing Census 2015 and its Education Sector Analysis, funded by the Global
Partnership for Education. This analysis is expected to be disseminated in early 2018, and will support evidence-based policy and planning, including the planned update of the education sector plan.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to analyse existing data and evidence related to children, creating linkages to the SDGs, and conducting further analysis on key child indicators from population surveys, including the Population and Housing Census 2015 and the Demographic Health Survey 2016. Secondary analysis of data from the Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards 2014 was used to generate child-related disaggregated data to identify critical gaps affecting children, especially the most vulnerable. In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste developed a SDG4 factsheet with the Ministry of Education and a SDG1 factsheet with multiple stakeholders, including the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, the General Directorate of Statistics and the World Bank. In addition, a SDG Child Databook, was developed and will be launched by the National Commission for the Rights of the Child in early 2018.

**Partnerships**

Building, strengthening and expanding partnerships remained a strong focus for UNICEF Timor-Leste in 2017. A strategic partnership agreement was signed with the National University of Timor-Leste, opening new opportunities for evidence generation and for promoting child rights. This partnership builds on the experiences from the successful collaboration on the Evaluation of Child Friendly School in Timor-Leste (2015) and the seminar on ECD and Sustainable Peace (2017). Joint activities in 2017 included presentations and discussions on SDGs and the situation of children in Timor-Leste for University staff and students. Additionally, the University and UNICEF jointly launched the State of the World Children's Report 2017, which included private sector participation from a local internet provider – creating opportunities for creating shared value and future cooperation. The State of the World Children's Report raised awareness about the importance of access to the internet by youth and how to overcome the digital divide.

In 2018, UNICEF Timor-Leste will work with the National University of Timor-Leste and other key partners to conduct activities including: 1) ethical review and partnership on child-related research; 2) student engagement with community radio programmes, and; 3) periodic issue-based workshops to increase youth interest, knowledge and engagement around children’s issues.

With a focus on global partnerships, UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to play a key role in education sector coordination as the co-chair of the local education group and as the coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education. UNICEF Timor-Leste coordinated with a range of development partners, the Ministry of Education, the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education Secretariat in the preparation of the education sector analysis, with initial findings presented to the Council of Ministers in July 2017. Through this process, UNICEF advocated for the analysis to assess equity and gender equality issues in education, learning outcomes, linkages with the SDGs and public investments in education.

**External communication and public advocacy**

External relations and communication work in 2017 contributed to an environment enabling public advocacy. In line with the UNICEF Timor-Leste communication and advocacy strategies and the Global Cause Framework, advocacy initiatives during the year included the launch of the National Action Plan for Children, World Children's Day, ECD advocacy and the launch of the State of the World Children's Report 2017. The National Action Plan for Children was jointly
unveiled by the President and Prime Minister, demonstrating high-level government commitment for implementation. On World Children’s Day, a girl child took over the Presidential office, and at the launch of the State of the World Children’s Report 2017, issues of children and the digital world were discussed and debated. These and other events throughout the year received wide partner participation, promoted public discussion and garnered wide media coverage.

Media engagement raised public awareness on issues related to children’s lives through periodic briefings and various public events. Timor-Leste’s national radio station and 16 community radio stations broadcast a 48-episode drama series and 25-episode talk show on ECD, reaching nearly 80 per cent of the country’s population. Strategic engagement with the media also contributed to 133 reports published on issues related to children, where UNICEF was mentioned 81 times, reflecting UNICEF’s credibility and strong presence in Timor-Leste.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to build its digital engagement, strengthening the reach and impact of advocacy initiatives. Social media follower numbers dramatically increased from 12,000 in 2016 to 40,576 in 2017 across Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram platforms. UNICEF Timor-Leste also engaged with 120 adolescents and youth across the country, using strategies such as child reporters and listener groups, ensuring youth voices and opinions were heard on issues affecting their lives.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

UNICEF Timor-Leste engaged in a number of South-South initiatives in 2017, sharing and gaining valuable knowledge and experience from other countries. UNICEF Timor-Leste collaborated with UNICEF Mozambique on the Open Budget Initiative, participating with the National Director of Ministry of Planning and Finance in training in Mozambique, along with other delegations from Portuguese-speaking countries. This allowed Timor-Leste to update its Open Budget Index data, with follow-up support from UNICEF. A summary was presented to the members of Inter-Ministerial Coordination Monitoring Team and civil society members to share knowledge and facilitate dialogue on public budget monitoring mechanisms.

In partnership with the Secretary of Social Communication, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the Director of the Community Radio Centre to attend the Indonesian Community Radio Association Conference. The conference provided learning experiences and a platform to organize a Community Radio Congress in Timor-Leste, planned for 2018.

To promote cross-country learning, UNICEF Timor-Leste collaborated with UNICEF Indonesia to support the Ministry of Education to participate in an Indonesia ECD Workshop. As a result of the learning about the structures and coordination mechanisms in place for ECD in Indonesia, the Ministry established a working relationship with Indonesia’s Ministry of Education and Culture in early childhood development. A delegation from Timor-Leste also participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood Conference in Cambodia in March 2017, further promoting learning on good practices from other countries.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to promote a cross-sectoral approach in both programme design and implementation at national and local levels to address issues affecting children. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Solidarity with development partners designed Hamatin Familiar (Strengthening Families), a holistic parenting education programme, which included modules on early stimulation, positive discipline, health, nutrition,
education and adolescents to enhance parenting skills and child development outcomes. In 2017, the programme was implemented in two municipalities, reaching 16,819 parents and 33,638 children aged up to eight years. Parenting education sessions were also organized for the UNICEF-supported community pre-schools and piloted in select public pre-schools in Ermera municipality. The integration of parenting sessions in community pre-schools was documented and discussed with the Ministry of Education, which is considering the programme for other public pre-schools.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)-related interventions highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral programming, with various ministries, local governments and communities working closely together in programme design and implementation. UNICEF partnered with municipal governments to support communities that have achieved, or which are about to achieve, open defecation free status, to address issues with access to clean water. The Ministry of Public Works was engaged to build water storage facilities and community distribution points, and to establish water connections to community health centres and public schools, with six communities supported in 2017. Support for construction of school buildings ensured the availability of integrated WASH facilities and hygiene promotion, as well as accessibility for children with disabilities. Orientation was provided to parents and community leaders to ensure ownership of the new facilities. In December, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported a workshop to update the medium-term School Health Strategic Plan developed by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, further strengthening the collaboration between the two ministries to promote better health of school children.

**Service delivery**

Support to improved social service delivery remained a key component of the UNICEF Timor-Leste programme. Supporting Government’s investment in vaccinations for children and ensuring that vaccines remain safe and effective for children, UNICEF Timor-Leste assisted the Ministry of Health to develop practical standard operating procedures for managing vaccine procurement, storage and distribution. These were based on the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF Effective Vaccine Management Standards. With assistance from UNICEF Timor-Leste, the National Institute for Health successfully trained 307 vaccine handlers from health facilities in all 13 municipalities and at the national vaccine store, institutionalising the use of vaccine management standard operating procedures for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.

Community pre-schools in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities supported by UNICEF Timor-Leste reached 35 per cent of children aged from three to five years in these municipalities, with parents provided information and support to improve parenting practices. Funded through a partnership with the New Zealand Government and the H&M Foundation, the 120 community pre-schools are modelled to help Government establish a system that recognizes community pre-schools as an alternative delivery mode for reaching children in remote areas. Several communities have raised their own funds or have secured funding from the Government Village Development Fund, or both, to build community pre-schools, indicating a successful model of co-funding. Additionally, UNICEF Timor-Leste handed over five basic education and two pre-school buildings to the Ministry of Education. The buildings come with child-friendly, gender-appropriate and accessible WASH facilities and benefit approximately 2,000 children who are enrolled in these schools.

UNICEF Timor-Leste provided operational supplies to the Ministry of Justice to establish birth
registration posts in rural areas, including providing logbooks, to improve birth registration coverage in five municipalities.

**Human rights-based approach to cooperation**


UNICEF Timor-Leste provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice to draft a legal framework for the implementation of The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. The consultation process was completed and a first draft will be submitted in early 2018.

An Inclusive Education Policy, developed with UNICEF support, was approved in early 2017. The policy is anchored on the Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related human rights normative instruments. The policy outlines institutionalised interventions to make education more inclusive and equitable, and focuses on issues including disability, language of instruction, geographical remoteness, gender, child labour and poverty.

UNICEF Timor-Leste collaborated with other UN agencies to secure funding from the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2018-2020. This funding will be used to advocate for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to strengthen the capacity of service providers and disabled people’s organizations for the realisation of the rights of children and people with disabilities. UNICEF Timor-Leste also contributed to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) report on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and worked closely with the UNCT human right adviser to establish the UN informal working group on support to the judiciary in Timor-Leste.

**Gender equality**

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported efforts for great gender equality through its programmes and partnerships. Achievements in 2017 can be grouped under three categories: parenting, creating an enabling environment for women and girls, and partnerships.

Addressing gender dynamics in parenting norms and practices was an important element of the parenting education programme initiated in 2017. Increased male involvement in the education sessions was achieved through strong advocacy, especially by local leaders. Gender is mainstreamed across the different topical sessions, often with role-playing exercises where male and female parents and caretakers switch roles.

Creating an enabling environment for girls was a focus in education programming and school construction. New schools constructed included a room for menstrual hygiene management) and peer support groups established within student councils.
A key initiative for addressing undernutrition was the establishment of mother support groups which promote women’s important roles in families and communities, while actively including men. Mother support groups successfully enhanced the participation of women in community interventions and highlighted the key role that mothers play in nutrition.

UNICEF Timor-Leste supported partners in integrating gender in their policies and programmes, as well as stipulating greater mainstreaming of gender within programme cooperation agreements. UNICEF supported the integration of gender into the Social Welfare Workforce code of conduct, including the principles of non-discrimination, gender equality and equity focus. Training modules and materials on positive discipline to address violence against children, including school-related gender-based violence, were included in the in-service teacher training. Additionally, gender was incorporated into partnership agreements, requiring programming, analysis and reporting on gender.

Gender remains essential in the areas of data and evidence generation, with sex-disaggregated data a norm in data analysis. Gender was integrated into all terms of reference for studies, reviews and evaluations in 2017. In collaboration with the UNICEF Regional Office, an assessment of gender-responsive adolescent health was undertaken, with results available in 2018. Addressing gender issues, misconceptions and inequalities was a regular focus in communication and advocacy activities, materials and messages produced throughout the year.

**Environmental sustainability**

UNICEF Timor-Leste promoted environmental sustainability in 2017 through climate change analysis, Government collaboration and through “green initiatives” in the UN building in Dili.

A climate landscape analysis for children in Timor-Leste in 2017, providing evidence on the existing and potential impact of climate change on child well-being was completed by UNICEF. Areas of vulnerability of children identified were food security and nutrition, indoor air pollution, and access to clean and sustainable water. The analysis recommended increased UNICEF engagement in mainstreaming climate, environment and energy issues into existing programmes. It proposed a set of projects where UNICEF Timor-Leste could provide more direct support. The recommendations resulted in expanding the approach of water and sanitation programmes to include a greater focus on solid waste management, indoor air pollution and water conservation. Funding for these initiatives remains limited but will continue to be pursued to continue these activities.

UNICEF Timor-Leste collaborated with Government, other UN agencies and civil society organizations to address the negative impact of climate change, primarily through participation and contributions within the Humanitarian Coordination Team. Under joint UN and Government leadership, the Team reviewed existing early warning systems and discussed how a stronger early warning system could better prepare for and respond to emergencies, slow-onset emergencies such as drought. The findings contributed to a significant commitment for partnership and support to Government in adapting and responding to the impact of climate change on agriculture, health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation and social protection systems. These efforts will continue into 2018, and UNICEF Timor-Leste will continue to ensure children’s issues are addressed.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to benefit from investments in a solar energy system in the UN House compound in Dili. These demonstrate the UN’s commitment to combating climate change, promoting renewable energy and reducing costs. UNICEF established a green
committee that identified concrete actions for 2018 to reduce the office’s carbon footprint and impact on the environment. Actions will include use of sustainable products in procurement (such as bamboo) and reducing the carbon footprint by rationalising supplies and limiting local and international travel.

**Effective leadership**

The UNICEF Timor-Leste country management team (CMT) set clear priorities and targets for its 2017 Annual Management Plan, and selected key performance indicators for programmes and operations. Staff members’ performance plans were linked to these priorities and targets and monitored through ongoing performance discussions. Progress against the Annual Management Plan priorities were reported at each country management team meeting, using a traffic light system to track progress and identify areas requiring additional attention. A more complete review of progress, including against agreed indicators and targets, was conducted through mid-year and end-year reviews, which were attended by all staff.

Specific efforts through the country management team were made to strengthen operations and programme performance. The results included improved execution of an harmonized approach for cash transfers (HACT) assurance mechanisms and increased cross-sectoral programme planning and implementation, generated through improved knowledge and skills of staff through group training and completion of required online training courses by all staff.

The country management team worked to ensure all staff were informed and prepared for any contingency ahead of Timor-Leste’s 2017 elections, given the country’s past political unrest. Security awareness training was conducted by the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) and real-time information shared through an office WhatsApp group. The business continuity plan was reviewed and revised, and a simulation exercise was carried out in February, while regular radio checks and telephone tree testing were conducted throughout the year.

Enterprise risk management priorities and actions for 2017 were regularly monitored and progress reviewed at the end-year review. Actions undertaken were successful in addressing key risks identified, specifically in the areas of fundraising and partnerships, security during the elections, and partners’ capacities. Areas identified as needing greater attention to reduce risk include UNICEF Timor-Leste’s ability to influence and advocate with Government and partners and potential risks to security and programme implementation given the current climate and the possibility of political uncertainty to extend into 2018.

**Financial resources management**

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste processed payments totalling US$6.9 million, with 45 per cent comprising payments made to implementing partners. Regular monitoring with implementing partners receiving direct cash transfers (DCT) resulted in minimal outstanding DCTs of more than six months throughout the year. Expenditure of Regular Resources was 99.61 per cent and high utilisation rates were achieved on Other Resource grants, particularly those expiring during 2017.

UNICEF Timor-Leste achieved improved efficiency and effectiveness through increased capacity of staff and partners to manage HACT processes and the use of existing contractual arrangements to conduct assurance activities. The 2017 HACT assurance plan was regularly updated and all activities were carried out in compliance with guidelines. Targets were exceeded on financial spot checks and programmatic visits. Micro-assessments were
conducted for new implementing partners and audits carried out on two passing the US$350,000 DCT threshold. UNICEF Timor-Leste contracted an audit firm under the UNICEF long-term agreement to carry out assignments on micro-assessment and audits of implementing partners, while the financial spot checks and programmatic visits were conducted by staff members.

During the year, UNICEF Timor-Leste submitted 1,155 payments to the Global Shared Service Centre (GSSC) through “MyCase”. Due to close monitoring and follow up by the UNICEF Timor-Leste finance unit, all returned cases by GSSC were resolved within three working days and re-submitted. All bank reconciliations were submitted within deadlines and there were no open items of more than 60 days in bank reconciliations.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also successfully implemented the e-ZHACT module, which went live on 31 October 2017. In preparation for this improved module, two staff participated in regional training-of-trainers. They then conducted training of all relevant programme and operations staff within the office to ensure their familiarity with the changes before e-ZHACT became operational.

### Fundraising and donor relations

In 2017, annual targets for fundraising and fund utilisation on donor funded projects were met. Through the first three years of the current country programme, US$16.4 million of Other Resources has been utilised, including US$7.5 million in 2017. Partnership and fundraising efforts, timely utilisation of funds and achievement of planned results were regularly discussed, monitored and reported at country management team meetings.

UNICEF Timor-Leste receives a wide range of Other Resources, with a mix of large multi-year grants and smaller but multi-year support through UNICEF National Committees. There is a gradual shift from one-time donations, often for construction work and direct service delivery, toward more flexible multi-year grants for system strengthening and evidence generation. This has created greater predictability in funding programmes and allows for greater alignment with national priorities.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to pursue quality and timely donor reporting, with all 24 donor reports successfully completed on time. Additionally, more frequent updates were provided to donors on request, as well as information and materials to support fundraising efforts in their country. Training for staff on report writing and proposal development was conducted in December 2017 for all relevant staff, which will be followed up with a review and revision of current partnership and fundraising strategies in 2018.

Five donor visits were hosted in 2017, giving them the opportunity to see the results of their supported programmes and to facilitate ongoing fundraising activities, as well as building stronger relationships. Donor-supported projects were regularly highlighted through digital media, including UNICEF Timor-Leste’s website, Facebook page and blog.

### Evaluation and research

UNICEF Timor-Leste’s evaluation function was managed through the 2017 Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP). Progress against planned activities was reported and discussed regularly in monthly country management team meetings, and information updated on UNICEF’s online Planning, Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation System (PRIME). In 2017, 14 activities were listed in the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, with 11
completed by the end of 2017 and three to be completed in early 2018.

In 2017, an end-of-project evaluation on the Parenting Education and Community Pre-School Programme, funded by H&M Foundation, was completed. A technical reference group was established to ensure consistent quality assurance. The members, including the Government, the UNICEF Regional Office and UNICEF Timor-Leste focal points were engaged throughout the process; from terms of reference development to final reporting. As a result, a high-quality report was produced that has fed into Phase II implementation of the H&M-funded programme. A management response will be developed in early 2018 in consultation with relevant sections and stakeholders.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also commenced an evaluation of the National Youth Parliament Programme. As a quality assurance mechanism, UNICEF Timor-Leste coordinated closely with key stakeholders including the Regional Office, Government stakeholders, development partners, and present and alumni youth parliamentarians on the evaluation design. This evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

In 2018, UNICEF Timor-Leste will enhance its alignment with the Regional Evaluation Strategy 2018-2021 and other evaluation guidelines, through the development of terms of reference for a Research and Evaluation Hub, with clear standard operating procedures. This will be implemented after initial testing and adjustment undertaken with the ongoing National Youth Parliament Programme evaluation.

**Efficiency gains and cost savings**

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to benefit from investments in a solar energy system in the UN House compound, which was officially launched on 24 October 2016, supporting efforts to combat climate change, promote renewable energy and reduce electricity costs.

Additionally, the use of solar energy in the UN House contributes to the SDGs and sets an example on how renewable energy production can be achieved in Timor-Leste. For 2017, the solar panel system produced around 335,334 kWh of energy, which created savings of about US$80,480 for UN agencies, with UNICEF saving US$16,900 on annual electricity costs.

UNICEF Timor-Leste benefitted from cost savings gained through common services arrangements with other UN agencies in the areas of security guards, maintenance of premises, waste water treatment, pest control and maintenance of a standby generator.

The common services unit installed water dispensers in all common areas of UN House, including conference rooms, to reduce the use of plastic water bottles. In 2017 UNICEF used these rooms frequently for supported meetings and training sessions, avoiding the cost of using external facilities.

A paperless travel document system was implemented in last quarter of 2017, which resulted in some reduction of paper usage, with the expectation of larger savings in 2018.

**Supply management**

Total procurement by UNICEF Timor-Leste increased by nine per cent to US$2,985,399.26 in 2017 from US$2,738,324.02 in 2016. During the year, 146 purchase orders were issued, of which 122 for procurement were executed locally. To provide efficient support to programme
implementation and to reduce transaction time for commonly procured supplies and services, five long-term agreements were issued for 2017.

UNICEF Timor-Leste does not have any warehousing facility, with all programme supplies delivered directly to implementing partners. Total procurement services provided to the Government in 2017 amounted to US$392,832.63: of which US$110,812.87 were supplies channelled via GAVI, and the remaining US$282,019.76 channelled via regular procurement services. Procurement services provided to the Government were for vaccines including oral polio vaccine, inactivated polio vaccine, diphtheria tetanus, penta, bcg (tuberculosis), measles-rubella, tetanus toxoid, and for devices including cold chain equipment.

UNICEF also provided support to the Ministry of Health to enhance its capacity by sponsoring key personnel to participate in training and workshops on vaccine procurement, repair and maintenance of cold chain equipment and public health emergencies.

Construction of all five schools that started in late 2016 was successfully completed and the buildings handed over to the Ministry of Education.

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<th>UNICEF Timor-Leste Procurement 2017</th>
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Security for staff and premises

The security level system for Timor-Leste remained at moderate in 2017, due primarily to the threat of civil unrest and to continuing criminal activities linked to youth gang members in the country’s capital, Dili.

The March Presidential election and July parliamentary election proceeded smoothly and without major incident. In preparation for these elections, UNICEF Timor-Leste reviewed and updated its business continuity plan and ICT disaster recovery business continuity plan. A business continuity plan simulation exercise was carried out in February, while regular radio checks and telephone tree testing were conducted during the year. Security awareness training was conducted by UNDSS and all staff participated in security briefings before the elections. As part of the contingency plan, stocks of non-perishable food and drinking water were maintained.

Access to Dili remains challenging, with only two airlines flying to and from Dili authorized for official UN travel. One airline flies to Singapore and another to Darwin, Australia, and both
flights are more expensive than the restricted flights flying from Dili to Denpasar, Bali. In November, UNICEF Timor-Leste obtained approval to use an airline flying to Bali, reducing the cost of air travel and increasing the frequency of available flights.

Medical facilities in Timor-Leste continued to be a major challenge, as facilities are limited, with insufficient specialist services and medical equipment. During 2017, one staff member was medically evacuated to Singapore.

As Timor-Leste is situated near the ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’, close to Indonesia, earthquake tremors are sometimes felt. In 2017, no major damage was reported, and no tsunami warnings given. Volcanic eruptions in Indonesia at times affected the flight route between Dili and Denpasar.

**Human resources**

One of the 2017 Annual Management Plan priorities was to improve staff capacity for performance improvement and career development. Based on this, a human resources capacity gap assessment was carried out and the recommendations will be used as reference to design staff learning and development strategy for the next two years. UNICEF Timor-Leste also successfully piloted the performance management initiative carried out by UNICEF Division of Human Resources, and all group trainings in the learning and development plan were implemented (communication for development, donor proposal and report writing, assertiveness and team building). Additional group training on results-based management and photo taking techniques were conducted.

Two staff members participated as guest speakers in the online career campus, and one staff member was assigned to UNICEF Indonesia for learning and development. All staff completed the UNICEF mandatory e-learning courses and staff are now familiar with utilizing AGORA for their learning development. Two staff members participated in the programme emergency workshop organized by the UNICEF Regional Office.

UNICEF Timor-Leste achieved a performance appraisal system completion rate of 98 per cent, within the global deadline for 2016. Staff members were regularly reminded to carry out discussions on their performance planning and to provide and receive feedback on performance progress. From the piloted performance management workshop, staff more aware of how to use the two-way feedback mechanisms within the performance appraisal system.

Based on the results of 2017 Global Staff Survey, UNICEF Timor-Leste developed an action plan that was approved by the joint consultative committee and country management team meeting and was shared with all staff.

**Effective use of information and communication technology**

During 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste worked closely with UNICEF NY Headquarters to migrate laptops to Windows 10, in order to align with latest technology updates. The senior information and communication technology assistant completed the Windows 10 online training and UNICEF’s Emergency Telecommunications Training, which built capacity on preparedness and response using the latest emergency telecommunication systems.

Two staff members were trained as information and communication technology (ICT) focal points, with a focus on troubleshooting equipment, so they can act as backup to the Senior ICT Assistant.
During the year, the ICT unit was actively involved in assisting the programme sections to implement digital and social media tools for UNICEF Timor-Leste and UNICEF implementing partners. The ICT unit worked closely with Communication Section to support the updating of UNICEF Timor-Leste website (www.unicef.org/timorleste). UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to build its digital engagement platforms and saw the number of social media followers (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram) more than tripled during 2017 to 44,576, from 12,000 at the beginning of the year.

Another major achievement for the year was providing ICT-related support to the National Commission for the Rights of the Child in developing and managing their new website (https://www.cndc.tl), which aims to provide information on activities through internet. UNICEF will continue to provide support in managing and updating information to the website until the National Commission for the Rights of the Child recruits an ICT staff member to manage it.

One major challenge faced by UNICEF is the high cost for internet services. Timor-Leste has low broadband penetration due to sharing of bandwidth between its three major internet providers. UNICEF Timor-Leste is working closely with other UN agencies to obtain a common internet service provider, which will result in higher bandwidth and lower overall costs.

Programme components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

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

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Timor-Leste programmes and operations were managed through the establishment of clear priorities and targets in its 2017 Annual Management Plan, with specific key performance indicators established. Staff members’ performance plans were linked to these priorities areas and used in ongoing performance discussions. Progress against Annual Management Plan priorities was reported at each CMT, using a traffic light system to track progress and identify areas requiring additional attention. A more complete review of progress, including against agreed indicator targets, was conducted through mid-year and end-year reviews, attended by all staff. For 2017, 26 of 27 Annual Management Plan targets were achieved over seven priorities.

Specific efforts to advance operation and programme performance through the CMT saw full completion of HACT assurance activities, increased knowledge and skills of staff through group trainings and all staff completing required online training courses, and enhanced cross-sectoral programme planning and implementation, with strong cooperation with operations.

UNICEF Timor-Leste experienced increased efficiency and effectiveness in its assurance activities. This was seen through the increased capacity of staff and partners to manage HACT processes and the use of existing contractual arrangements to conduct assurance activities. The 2017 HACT assurance plan was regularly updated and activities were carried out in compliance with guidelines, with targets exceeded on financial spot checks and programmatic visits. UNICEF Timor-Leste contracted an audit firm under UNICEF’s long-term agreement to carry out assignments on micro-assessment and audits of implementing partners. The financial spot checks and programmatic visits were conducted by UNICEF Timor-Leste staff members.
Enterprise Risk Management priorities and actions for 2017 were regularly monitored and progress reviewed at the end-year review. Actions undertaken were viewed as successful in addressing many of the key risks identified, specifically in the areas of fundraising and partnerships, security during the elections and partners’ capacities. Areas identified as needing additional risk management interventions include UNICEF Timor-Leste’s ability to influence and advocate with Government and partners and the potential risks to security and programme implementation under the current uncertain political climate and possible new elections in 2018.

UNICEF Timor-Leste achieved cost savings through common services arrangements with other UN agencies in the areas of security guards, maintenance of premises in the UN House, waste water treatment, pest control and maintenance of a standby generator. A paperless travel documents system was implemented in last quarter of the year, resulting in a reduction of paper usage.

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

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, all statutory committees, including the country management team, joint consultative team, contracts review committee, partnership review committee and property survey board were in place and carried out relevant functions. Membership was reviewed regularly to ensure full participation of relevant staff.

Enterprise risk management priorities and actions for 2017 were regularly monitored and progress reviewed at the end-year review. Actions undertaken were viewed as successful in addressing key risks identified, specifically in the areas of fundraising and partnerships, security during the elections and partners’ capacities.

In the second year of HACT implementation, UNICEF Timor-Leste saw increased efficiency and effectiveness, through increased capacity of staff and partners to manage HACT processes and the use of existing contractual arrangements to conduct HACT assurance activities. The 2017 HACT assurance plan was regularly updated and assurance activities were carried out in compliance with HACT guidelines. Micro-assessments were conducted for new implementing partners and audits carried out on two who pass the US$350,000 DCT threshold. UNICEF Timor-Leste contracted an audit firm under UNICEF’s long-term agreement to carry out assignments on micro-assessment and audits of implementing partners. Financial spot checks and programmatic visits were conducted by UNICEF Timor-Leste staff members.

With Government elections held in 2017, and a history of past unrest in Timor-Leste, UNICEF was well-prepared and staff were regularly informed and prepared for any contingency. Security Awareness Training was conducted by UNDSS before the elections. A business continuity plan simulation exercise was carried out in February, and regular radio checks and telephone tree testing conducted during the year.

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

Analytical statement of progress
UNICEF Timor-Leste processed payments in 2017 totalling US$6.9 million, of which 45 per cent were made to implementing partners. Regular monitoring of implementing partners receiving DCTs resulted in minimal outstanding liquidations of more than six months throughout the year.

Expenditure of Regular Resources was 99.61 per cent, and high utilisation rates were attained on Other Resources, particularly for expiring grants. There were no open Travel Authorizations of more than 15 days as of 31 December 2017.

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste submitted 1,155 payments to Global Shared Service Centre through “MyCase”. Due to close monitoring and follow up by the UNICEF Timor-Leste Finance unit, all cases returned by GSSC were resolved within three working days and re-submitted. All bank reconciliations were submitted within established deadlines and there were no open items of more than 60 days in the reconciliations.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to benefit from a solar power system installed in the UN House compound in 2016. The system produced around 335,334 kWh of energy, which created savings of approximately US$80,480 for UN agencies. From this, UNICEF Timor-Leste made savings of US$16,900 on electricity costs. UNICEF Timor-Leste also continued to benefit from cost savings made from Common Services arrangements with other UN agencies in the areas of security guards, maintenance of premises in the UN House, waste water treatment, pest control and maintenance of standby generator. A paperless travel document system was implemented in last quarter of 2017, which resulted in reduction of paper usage, with increased benefits expected in 2018.

**OUTPUT 3** Human Resources have the capacity, skills, morale and motivation to support country operations.

**Analytical statement of progress**
A priority of the 2017 Annual Management Plan was to improve staff capacity for performance improvement and career development. Based on this, a human resources capacity gap assessment was carried out, and its recommendations will be used as reference to design staff learning and development strategy for the next two years.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also successfully piloted a performance management initiative, carried out by the UNICEF Division of Human Resources. All group training in the learning and development plan were implemented (communication for development, donor proposal and report writing, assertiveness and team building). Additional group trainings on results-based management and photo taking techniques were also conducted.

Two staff members participated as guest speakers in the online career campus, and one staff member was assigned to UNICEF Indonesia for learning and development. Two staff members participated in an emergency programme workshop, organised by the UNICEF Regional Office.

All staff completed UNICEF mandatory e-learning courses (ethics, basic security in the field, advance security in the field, funding authorization and certificate of expenditures, HACT, results-based management and prevention of sexual harassment and abuse of authority) and staff are now familiar with utilising AGORA for their learning development.
Based on the results of 2017 Global Staff Survey, UNICEF Timor-Leste developed an action plan, which was approved by the joint consultative committee and country management team and shared with all staff.

**OUTCOME 2** Country programmes are efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Timor-Leste’s programmes, fundraising, budget management and partnerships were managed in a coordinated and structured manner. This enhanced the quality of programmes, and coordination and convergence of programme activities was improved through multi-sectoral programme design, proposal development, cooperation agreements and community-level implementation.

Monthly senior management team meetings, chaired by the Representative, reviewed progress on and management priorities and annual targets agreed in the annual management plan. Weekly heads of section meetings, chaired by the Representative, were held to share information and improve coordination and programme performance, and regular all-staff meetings updated staff and discussed important issues that impacted staff and programmes. Ad hoc information sessions were conducted to improve awareness and performance. These included sessions on financial management, effective use of UNICEF Timor-Leste online systems and databases, and performance reporting, as well as on programmatic topical issues, such as public finance for children and gender.

UNICEF continued to play an active role in the United Nations Country Team, and in UN Timor-Leste results groups, including communications (Chair), results monitoring and evaluation (Chair), programme coordination team (Co-Chair), humanitarian coordination team, gender theme group, youth results group (Co-Chair) and bi-monthly meetings on human rights development. UNICEF Timor-Leste participated in several successful joint UN funding applications focusing on gender, disability, innovation and adolescents and youth.

In line with the UNICEF Timor-Leste communication and advocacy strategies and the Global Cause Framework, major advocacy initiatives were undertaken during the year, including the launch of the National Action Plan for Children, World Children’s Day activities, early childhood development and the launch of the State of the World Children’s Report 2017.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to build its digital engagement as an important tool for awareness raising and advocacy on children’s issues. Social media followers across Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram more than tripled during the year to 44,576 followers, from 12,000 at the beginning of 2017.

Significant progress was made in mainstreaming gender equality throughout programmes and partnerships. This included interventions to create an enabling environment for girls within education programming and school construction, and the establishment of mother support groups to promote women’s important roles in families and communities. Within partnerships, gender was integrated into policies and programmes and integrated into all terms of reference for studies, reviews and evaluations in 2017. A gender-responsive adolescent health assessment was undertaken, led by the UNICEF Regional Office, with results expected in 2018.

Communication for development elements were also embedded in UNICEF Timor-Leste
programme communication activities and advocacy initiatives. These specifically targeted populations living in remote rural areas that lack access to many traditional sources of information. Results were achieved in the areas of children's education, water, sanitation and hygiene, the promotion of care-seeking behaviour on nutrition, positive parenting and protection of children. A training for all UNICEF Timor-Leste staff on communication for development was conducted, greatly improving awareness and knowledge, identifying strategic areas for its application within programmes and establishing a commitment to continued learning and application of principles and approaches.

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste established a green committee that identified concrete actions to reduce the office’s carbon footprint and impact on the environment, such as the use of sustainable products such as bamboo in procurement, the reduction of supply use and the rationalisation of local and international travel.

**OUTPUT 1** Programmes are effectively and efficiently managed for achievement of results.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Timor-Leste's programmes, fundraising and budget management and partnerships were managed in a coordinated and structured manner, enhancing the quality of programmes and improving coordination and convergence of programme activities through multisectoral programme design, proposal development, cooperation agreements and community-level implementation.

Monthly country management meetings were held, chaired by the Representative. They reviewed progress and results in office operations and management priorities, as well as on specific indicators and targets related to programme integration, gender, 2017 Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan implementation, fundraising, donor reporting and staffing and human resource issues.

Weekly heads of section meetings, chaired by the Representative, were held to share information and improve coordination and programme performance. Regular all-staff meetings were convened to update staff members, to share information, to discuss important issues or initiatives from the country management and regional management teams and to share new programmatic guidance and human resource issues that impacted staff and programmes. Several ad hoc information sessions were conducted to improve awareness and performance in the areas of financial management, use of UNICEF Timor-Leste online systems and databases, performance reporting, and on topical issues, such as public finance for children and gender.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to play an active role in the UNCT and in results groups, including monitoring and evaluation, programme coordination team, humanitarian coordination team, gender theme group, youth results group and bi-monthly meetings on human rights development. UNICEF Timor-Leste participated in several successful joint UN funding applications focusing on gender, disability, innovation and adolescents and youth.

**OUTPUT 2** UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders.

**Analytical statement of progress**
In 2017, external relations and communication actions and initiatives enhanced the enabling environment for policy dialogue and advocacy, at the national, subnational and community levels.

In line with the UNICEF Timor-Leste communication and advocacy strategies and Global Cause Framework, the major advocacy initiatives undertaken during the year included the launch of the National Action Plan for Children, World Children’s Day activities, early childhood development initiatives and the launch of the State of the World Children’s Report 2017. The National Action Plan for Children was jointly unveiled by the Prime Minister and the President of the Timor-Leste, highlighting the commitment of Government for the Plan’s implementation. During World Children’s Day in November, a young girl took over of the Presidential office, which together with the launch of the State of the World Children’s Report 2017, received media high visibility and public interest.

Media engagement continued through periodic briefings and public events, resulting in increased public awareness on issues related to children’s lives. The national radio station and 16 community radio stations broadcast a 48-episode drama series and a 25-episode talk show on ECD, reaching nearly 80 per cent of the country’s population. Strategic engagement with the media contributed to the publishing of 1,404 reports on issues related to children across various media. UNICEF Timor-Leste was mentioned in 90 of these reports, reflecting credibility and strong presence as a child rights organization.

UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to build its digital engagement as an important tool for awareness raising and advocacy on children’s issues. Social media followers across Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram more than tripled during the year to 44,576 followers, from 12,000 at the beginning of 2017.

Visits from four UNICEF National Committees were organised, and generated important visibility with donor countries and funding support to programmes reaching the most disadvantaged children and families in Timor-Leste. UNICEF also continued as chair the UN Communications Group, working closely with other communication focal points in agencies to guide UN-wide communication initiatives and events.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also engaged with 120 adolescents and youth, child reporters and listener groups, ensuring their voices and opinions were heard on issues affecting their lives. Child reporters and listener group members produced 148 audio-visual products and reached around 80 per cent of the country’s population, including people living in the remote districts of Ermera, Viqueque and Bobonaro. A comprehensive Nutrition Communication for Development Strategy and associated products were finalised in 2017, demonstrating UNICEF Timor-Leste’s leadership.

**OUTPUT 3** Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to prioritize a cross-sectoral approach in both programme design and implementation at the national and local levels to address issues affecting children. Cross-sectoral issues were also a focus of staff learning and development.

Significant progress was made in mainstreaming gender equality throughout programmes and
partnerships. Creating an enabling environment for girls was a focus in education programming, school construction and in nutrition and health through the establishment of mother support groups. Within partnerships, UNICEF Timor-Leste both assisted partners in integrating gender in their policies and programmes and required greater mainstreaming of gender within supported programmes and in reporting.

Gender remained essential in the areas of data and evidence generation, with sex-disaggregated data a norm in data analysis and gender was integrated into all terms of reference for studies, reviews and evaluations in 2017. In collaboration with the UNICEF Regional Office, an assessment of gender-responsive adolescent health was undertaken. Gender issues, misconceptions and inequalities were a regular focus in communication and advocacy activities, materials and messages produced throughout the year.

Communication for development elements were embedded in UNICEF Timor-Leste programme communication activities and advocacy initiatives, specifically targeting populations living in remote rural areas that lack access to many traditional sources of information. The results achieved in 2017 cover community engagement and raising awareness on the importance of children’s education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and promoted care-seeking behaviours on nutrition, positive parenting and protection of children. A training for all UNICEF Timor-Leste staff on communication for development was conducted, greatly improving awareness and knowledge, identifying strategic areas for its application within programmes and establishing a commitment to continued learning and application of principles and approaches.

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste established a reen committee that identified concrete actions to reduce the office’s carbon footprint and impact on the environment, including the use of sustainable products such as bamboo in procurement, the reduction of supply use and a rationalisation of local and international travel.

OUTCOME 3 By 2019, reduced child mortality and under-nutrition through improved and equitable use of high impact health, nutrition and WASH interventions.

Analytical statement of progress
The under-five mortality rate in Timor-Leste dropped to 41 deaths per 1000 live births (DHS 2016), a reduction from 61 deaths per 1000 live births reported by the DHS of 2009/10. The “Demographic and Health Survey 2016 Key Indicators Report,” released by the General Directorate of Statistics in the Ministry of Finance, acknowledged issues with some of the findings and advises caution with use of the mortality data. However, the United Nations child mortality estimate for 2016 also showed lowering of child mortality to 50 deaths per 1,000 live births, so together these reports show important progress in reducing child mortality in Timor-Leste.

In addition to improved child survival rates, there are also significant reductions in fertility and improvements in measures of care of mothers and newborns. Fertility in Timor-Leste declined from 7.8 children per woman in 2003 to 4.2 children per woman in 2016. The DHS 2016 reported that 77 per cent of women who gave birth in the five years preceding the survey received four or more antenatal visits, as compared to 55.1 per cent in 2009/10 DHS. About six in 10 (57 per cent) of live births in the five years preceding the survey were delivered by a skilled provider, a significant increase compared to 29.9 per cent in the 2009/10 DHS.

In 2017, all nine indicators and targets under the two priority areas covering child health and
nutrition identified in the UNICEF Timor-Leste Annual Management Plan were achieved. Nutrition services delivery capacity was established within the national primary health care network nationwide, with 1,300 primary health care workers trained to deliver an integrated package of nutrition interventions. Integrated behaviour change communication interventions, addressing the determinants of undernutrition, were launched nationwide and implemented through the primary health care network. Mother support groups were established to lead behaviour change communication at the community level in five out of 13 municipalities.

Knowledge and skills on nutrition and health-related programme planning and budgeting at sub-national level was enhanced through the training of 319 people, including administrators, finance officers and focal points of health and nutrition in related sectors in 13 municipalities. This initiative was supported by the European Union and implemented in partnership by UNICEF Timor-Leste, the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Health.

Vaccine management practices were improved nationwide, with the development and launching of National Effective Vaccine Management Standard Operating Procedures, and the training of 307 health workers and vaccine handlers from health facilities nationwide on their application. This initiative was supported by GAVI and jointly executed by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF Timor-Leste and the World Health Organization. UNICEF Timor-Leste also assisted the Ministry of Health and the National Vaccine Store to forecast, procure, distribute and manage vaccines.

With UNICEF Timor-Leste assistance in 2017, 55,806 people in 7,174 households benefitted from achievement of open defecation free status in 29 Sucos, and 130,063 community members received messages on good sanitation and hygiene practices. Six new water systems were constructed and handed over to the communities, providing improved water supply to 1,554 community members, 2,369 students and 120 teachers. Water user groups were established for all six water supply systems, with all members trained to sustainably manage and maintain the water supply schemes.

While much progress has been achieved in child survival and development, some challenges remain. As evident from DHS 2016, the under-five mortality rate declined significantly, but the neonatal mortality rate had a marginal reduction, from 22 per 1000 live birth to 19 per 1,000 live births, requiring renewed focus on improving care practices of newborns. The rural-urban differences in access to and use of critical services remained a major challenge. The DHS 2016 key indicator report showed that 87 per cent of births to urban mothers were assisted by a skilled provider, compared to only 45 per cent of births to rural mothers. Similarly, a higher proportion of mothers and newborns received a postnatal check during the first two days after delivery in urban areas, compared to mothers and newborn in rural areas (56 versus 26 percent). In seeking care for childhood illnesses, 86 per cent of urban children sought care during acute respiratory infection, fever and diarrhoea, but only 60.6 per cent of rural children did the same. This calls for higher prioritization and greater investment in capacity building of health care workers in rural areas.

The priorities for UNICEF Timor-Leste in 2018 and beyond, will be on addressing the major determinants of undernutrition. These include poor maternal health, high burden of childhood illnesses and low coverage of improved water and sanitation facilities, especially in rural areas where malnutrition is most prevalent. In addition, efforts will focus on reducing newborn mortality and the low access to and use of critical services for mothers and newborns around delivery. Strategies will include building capacity of the primary health care workers in rural areas in the provision of care for mothers and newborns in and around the delivery and post-partum period,
and improved treatment and prevention of childhood illnesses.

**OUTPUT 1** By the end of 2019, over 500,000 people in the UNICEF-supported five focus districts have improved availability of and increased demand for high impact nutrition interventions.

**Analytical statement of progress**
Nutrition services delivery capacity was enhanced nationwide by leveraging the strength of the national primary health care network. With support of the European Union, and working closely with the Ministry of Health and the National Institute for Health, UNICEF supported the development and implementation of new National Nutrition Guidelines and training materials.

Training focused on the nutrition functions of primary health care workers, covering a full range of nutrition functions, namely: 1) infant and young child feeding; 2) nutritional care of pregnant and breastfeeding women, and adolescent girls; 3) zinc and ORS for diarrhoea treatment; 4) deworming of children, pregnant women and population helminth control; 5) vitamin A supplementation; 6) prevention of iodine deficiencies; 7) integrated management of acute malnutrition; 8) nutrition in emergencies; 9) nutrition programme information systems; and 10) supportive supervision. Customized National Nutrition Guidelines and a training curriculum were developed, covering a package of nutrition interventions and related job-functions of primary health care workers.

Previously, standard nutrition training, covering all nutrition functions, took three weeks, at a cost of UD$1,050 per person trained. By focusing on training the specific functions of primary health care workers, the training duration was reduced to six days and the cost lowered to US$350 per person, making it feasible to train a total of 1,300 workers.

Capacity of nutrition services delivery was further enhanced by assisting the Ministry of Health to recruit, train and deploy 52 additional public health technician-nutrition staff members, improving access to nutrition services in all 68 community health centres in Timor-Leste. A total of 328 health facilities were provided with nutrition measurement equipment and therapeutic foods, and micronutrients and deworming supplies procured by UNICEF for health facilities nationwide.

Behaviour change communication capacity of the primary health care network to address determinants of undernutrition was enhanced through the training of 465 primary health care workers in five municipalities on interpersonal communication and the development and launch of an integrated package of communication products and approaches. These cover key care practices for nutrition, maternal, newborn and child health, and water, hygiene and sanitation. The package includes guidelines, curriculum, training manuals, job-aids, flip-charts and videos for use by health workers and mother support groups for behaviour change communication activities with individuals and communities. Materials to inform the general population include a recipe book using nutritious local food, information billboards, a video series, storybooks, posters, flyers, stickers and a floor game. Mother support groups were established in all 190 villages in the five programme municipalities, with members trained to effectively engage with communities and to promote desired nutrition, health and WASH practices, following national guidelines.

Knowledge and skills for effective and efficient nutrition programme planning and budgeting at sub-national level was enhanced through the training of 319 administrators, finance officers and
health and nutrition focal points in 13 municipalities on results-based planning and budgeting.

To support expanded access to nutrition services, future programming will focus on addressing the determinants of malnutrition, specifically on poor maternal health, the high burden of childhood illnesses and the low sanitation coverage.

OUTPUT 2 By the end of 2019, over 500,000 people in the five UNICEF-supported focus districts have improved availability of and increased demand for high impact maternal, new-born and child health interventions.

Analytical statement of progress
Access to quality health services improved countrywide, with the national primary health care network expanding the number of health posts from 227 in 2014 to 313 in 2017 and community health centres to 67 in 2013 to 69 in 2017. UNICEF Timor-Leste achieved all five targets in the 2017 Annual Management Plan on maternal, neonatal and child health.

UNICEF Timor-Leste assisted the Ministry of Health and the National Vaccine Store to forecast, procure (through UNICEF procurement service), distribute and manage vaccines, ensuring that there was no stock out of vaccine in 2017.

National Effective Vaccine Management Standard Operating Procedures were developed with the assistance of UNICEF Timor-Leste and were endorsed by the Ministry of Health. Working with the National Expanded Programme on Immunization, the National Institute of Health and WHO, 307 health workers and vaccine handlers from health facilities in all 13 municipalities were trained on the Procedures. The Procedures and tools were distributed nationwide.

An Effective Vaccine Management self-assessment was conducted in the national vaccine store. It found a certification level score of five out of seven domains of vaccine management, an increase from three out of seven in 2014. This self-assessment, and the improvements achieved in vaccine management, inspired the national vaccine store to develop an improvement plan to achieve full certification. Vaccine management was also supported with an electronic continuous temperature monitoring system, installed in cold chain equipment at the national vaccine store and in 13 municipalities and 68 community health centres.

Integrated maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene communication products were developed and launched, with 490 primary health workers from five municipalities trained on interpersonal communication. Mother support groups to promote community dialogue and behaviour change on maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene were established in 190 Sucos in five municipalities.

The capacity of health workers to manage childhood illnesses was enhanced through training of 109 primary health care workers on safe and clean delivery, 120 on essential newborn care and 89 on the integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses approach. In addition, (16 health facilities in one municipality were equipped with essential maternal, newborn and child health equipment and supplies. UNICEF Timor-Leste worked closely with other partners addressing maternal, newborn and child health, with the Korean International Cooperation Agency in Ainaro, World Vision in Bacau and John Snow International in Covalima training additional health workers.

The healthcare network of Timor-Leste has placed a doctor in every village, covering 313 health
posts and 68 community health centres and reaching over 82 percent of Sucos. The expanding health care network provides an opportunity to improve coverage of all maternal, newborn and child health services. This will require building the skills of primary health care workers, specifically on the care of mothers and newborns during pregnancy (childbirth and post-partum), immunization and management of childhood illnesses, as well as investment in a health care quality improvement process. In 2018, UNICEF Timor-Leste will support development of health workers’ skills in these areas, and on developing and implementing a continuous quality improvement process.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2019, people living in five target districts have access to improved water and sanitation services and are practicing safe hygiene behaviours (Target - 15,000 rural people with access to water, 90,000 with access to sanitation and 15 Health Posts with WASH facilities)

**Analytical statement of progress**
With UNICEF’s assistance in 2017, 51,919 people in 6,564 household benefited from achieving open defecation free status in 31 Sucos. Messages on improved health and hygiene behaviours were received by 130,063 people (60,342 male, 58,409 female), supporting the uptake and sustainability of good health and hygiene practices at homes, schools and in communities.

In close collaboration, UNICEF Timor-Leste, the Ministry of Health, municipality administrations, municipality health and WASH sectors and three local NGOs conducted community-led total sanitation triggering (and re-triggering in some cases) in 43 Sucos. Post-triggering follow-up ensured the continuation of the community-led transformation process, resulting in 31 sucos (11 in Ermera, 17 in Ainaro, one in Bobonaro and two in Oecusse) achieving open defecation free status. In 2017, open defecation free status was achieved across the whole of Ermera Municipality, with a Declaration Celebration Ceremony planned for January 2018, with high level officials from national, subnational and community levels celebrating the achievement.

Six new water systems were constructed in 2017 and handed over to the communities. These provided access to improved water supply to 1,554 community members (746 male, 808 female), 2,369 students (1,278 male, 1091 female) and 120 teachers (57 male, 63 female). Six Water user groups were established and the members (49 male and 36 female) were trained to sustainably manage the water supply schemes.

Nationally, WASH coverage remained inadequate with limited resources available. Through the community-led total sanitation initiative, the need for new water supply schemes was identified in 26 open defecation free communities in Ermera municipality. Due to the resources gap, UNICEF has only been able to commit to support the survey and design of water supply schemes, assisting communities to use the designs to negotiate resources to construct water-supply schemes with the local government.

An open defecation free sustainability study of community-led total sanitation initiatives, supported by the Australian Government-funded Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, Plan International, UNICEF Timor-Leste and WaterAid showed that 20 per cent of households with open defecation free certified villages had slipped back into open defecation. The majority of those who had reverted to open defecation reported that their simple pit latrines fell into disrepair and they lacked capacity to build or repair them. While the community-led total sanitation approach will continue relying on community resources and simple technology to build toilets, UNICEF Timor-Leste will use these findings to develop a formal post-open defecation free follow-up mechanism that focuses on repair and maintenance of household
OUTCOME 4 By 2019, children, especially the most disadvantaged children, benefit from inclusive, quality early learning and basic education with improved learning outcomes attained.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, Timor-Leste continued its trajectory towards universal access to primary education, with net enrolment rate for Grades 1-6 reaching 91 per cent (girls: 96 per cent; boys: 87 per cent), based on the latest Ministry of Education data. This was slightly higher than the 90 per cent primary education net enrolment rate in 2016. The net enrolment rate also increased for lower secondary education to 50 per cent in 2017 (girls: 56 per cent; boys: 45 per cent) from 47 per cent in 2016. The reverse gender gap trend, with more girls enrolled, also continued in 2017 in the primary and lower secondary levels.

Significant progress was made in the development of education policies, standards, evidence and in the implementation of models aimed at making quality education accessible, especially for marginalized children. The inclusive education policy, covering pre-school to tertiary education, was approved in early 2017. A regulation on teaching and school management staff discipline was also passed, which will help ensure the rights of children are upheld in schools. A draft ECD Policy was developed, with broad Government and stakeholder involvement.

As the Global Partnership for Education coordinating agency, UNICEF Timor-Leste contributed to drafting the Education Sector Analysis, as well as an Education Monograph based on the 2015 census. Both reports are expected to be finalized in early 2018. They will be used as reference for updating the 2011-2030 Education Sector Plan and providing evidence and policy recommendations to support Timor-Leste to meet SDG 4 targets. Additionally, licensing and accreditation standards for pre-school and basic education are being tested and the education emergency contingency plan was updated with the engagement of key stakeholders.

Evidence from the continued modelling of community pre-schools, as an alternative model to reach children in remote areas, generated concrete commitments from national and local government to support sustainability. While pre-school net enrolment rate increased to 20 per cent in 2017 (girls: 21 per cent; boys: 20 per cent) from 18 per cent in 2016, this remains low. The government recognizes community pre-schools as a viable approach to expand access to early learning and to reduce repetition in Grade 1, which stood at 26 per cent in 2016 (girls: 24 per cent, boys: 28 per cent), slightly down from 28 per cent in 2015. A documentation of good practices in Church-run and other private schools completed in December will be used by the Ministry of Education to facilitate cross-learning between public and private schools in the areas of school governance, parental engagement, and teaching-learning approaches.

With support from UNICEF Timor-Leste, positive discipline was integrated into the national in-service teacher training, and rolled out in late 2017. To strengthen the Ministry of Education’s capacity to measure student’s learning outcomes, a capacity needs analysis was initiated, a first in the country. Expected to be completed in mid-2018, the analysis will help the Ministry of Education and development partners to better target capacity development support and to undertake learning assessments. It will also support the Ministry of Education in using student learning data to improve education quality, and also to report on SDG4.7.

Community pre-schools facilitators were trained on child-friendly teaching-learning approaches. Local leaders, who serve as school management committee members of the community pre-
schools, received information and developed skills for improved parenting and child developmental outcomes and management of pre-schools. Student councils were re-established in 53 schools as part of efforts to empower students and to increase engagement in school activities. Student council members, parent-teacher associations members, and school management representatives in selected schools were trained on child rights and the importance of education. These were all a part of efforts to raise awareness that education is everybody’s business. They were also trained on WASH in Schools Guidelines, developed with UNICEF Timor-Leste support, as well as hygiene promotion. WASH clubs were formed in seven schools to serve as a model for replication in other schools.

In the area of service delivery, community pre-schools, supported by UNICEF Timor-Leste in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities, reached 35 per cent of children aged three to five who do not have access to pre-schools within a two kilometre radius. Parents of children attending the community pre-schools received information and support to improve parenting practices. A March 2017 project review noted that setting up of community pre-schools was highly effective in providing access to early learning for children in remote areas. Several communities raised their own funds and/or secured funding from the government Village Development Fund to build community pre-schools, indicating a successful model of co-funding.

In December 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste handed over basic education and pre-school buildings in five schools in remote parts of the country to the Ministry of Education. The buildings come with child-friendly, gender-appropriate and accessible WASH facilities. The Ministry of Education Infrastructure Unit was involved in the quality assurance of the construction, supporting their capacity development in construction monitoring. Teachers, parents and students were mobilized to support the maintenance of the new school buildings. Student councils and WASH clubs were re-established in these schools as part of hygiene promotion.

The continued political uncertainty following the July 2017 parliamentary elections slowed down programme implementation and could affect 2018 programming. Even with these challenges, UNICEF Timor-Leste will continue to support the Ministry of Education and work with development partners to expand access to pre-school education through community pre-schools, improve the quality of pre-school and basic education and support the implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2019, 7,200 children aged 3-5 years in the five target districts, especially in remote areas, benefit from quality early learning programmes.

**Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported community-based pre-schools benefitted 5,556 children, reaching 35 per cent of children aged three to five years in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities. This is higher than the coverage of public pre-schools in the same municipalities (six per cent in Ermera, 22 per cent in Viqueque). Children learn using the Ministry of Education curriculum, making them less likely to repeat Grade 1. UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the training of 300 facilitators for the community pre-schools on the Ministry of Education curriculum using a learning-through-play approach.

Parenting education sessions for 1,100 parents (60 per cent female) were conducted, sharing information and building skills on early stimulation, health, nutrition, positive discipline, and the importance of education. Sessions also promoted engagement of fathers in parenting, challenging gender stereotypes in child rearing. Communication for development activities
included community and national radio broadcast of drama serials on parenting were produced with UNICEF Timor-Leste support. Evidence generated, including a formative evaluation completed in March, and continued advocacy led to increased Government commitment to community pre-schools as a model for remote areas. Implemented in partnership with the New Zealand Government, The Morgan Foundation, The New Zealand National Committee for UNICEF and H&M Foundation, the focus for 2018 will be further institutionalizing the model and its sustainability.

For 2016-2017, 480 children were enrolled in eight public pre-schools directly supported by UNICEF Timor-Leste, bringing the total number of children reached to 6,036. Parenting sessions were organized in four of the eight public pre-schools, to be expanded to other pre-schools in 2018. UNICEF Timor-Leste also supported the Ministry of Education to develop the accreditation system for pre-schools, including facilitating discussions with the early childhood education working group.

With UNICEF Timor-Leste support, a draft ECD Policy was presented to the Council of Ministers in July 2017. The draft Policy was developed with various Ministries and development partners through the inter-Ministerial ECD Working Group, set up with UNICEF Timor-Leste support, and the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood provided pro-bono technical inputs. The draft Policy was presented by then outgoing Minister of Education and Coordinator of Social Affairs to the President of Timor-Leste elected in May 2017, briefing him about the importance of ECD. However, following the national elections in July, there have been delays in the Policy’s approval.

UNICEF Timor-Leste organized advocacy meetings with municipal governments, bringing together elected officials and village leaders to raise awareness on ECD and early learning. Following the meetings, local officials committed to work with communities to ensure access to pre-school education in remote areas. UNICEF Timor-Leste linked up with the global #EarlyMomentsMatter campaign to promote ECD and collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Australia’s Deakin University on research and advocacy around early learning. Additionally, UNICEF Timor-Leste facilitated increased understanding of Government officials on early childhood development through participation in the Asia-Pacific ECD Conference in March, and the Indonesia ECD Policy Workshop in July.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of 2019, 25,000 children in five districts access and complete quality basic education with improved learning outcomes.

**Analytical statement of progress**

The inclusive education policy was approved in early 2017, resulting in increased Government action to address barriers to education faced by children with disabilities, related to gender or language, or other issues resulting in lack of access to education. Inclusive Education Resource Centres were established in four municipalities and teacher training on inclusive education conducted.

As the Global Partnership for Education coordinating agency, UNICEF Timor-Leste contributed to drafting the education sector analysis, expected to be completed in 2018, which will serve as the basis for updating the 2011-2030 education sector plan. The National Statistic Office, with support of UNICEF Timor-Leste, drafted an Education Monograph, analysing 2015 Census data on out-of-school children, gender, disabilities, and other equity issues.
With UNICEF Regional Office support, UNICEF Timor-Leste initiated a needs analysis on the country’s capacity to undertake internationally comparable learning assessments. This will provide vital evidence to the Ministry of Education and its partners to better target technical assistance and to develop capacity in undertaking learning assessments - including adopting the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics tools. The analysis, to be completed in 2018, also supports the Ministry of Education to use student learning data to improve education quality, and to report on SDG4.7.

UNICEF Timor-Leste commissioned a documentation of good practices in Church-run and private basic education schools, providing opportunities for learning between public and private schools in the areas of school governance, parental engagement, and teaching-learning approaches. The 2017 Education Management Information System data, collected with UNICEF Timor-Leste support, are available online, marking the first time that education data are made available in the same calendar year as collected.

Basic Education Licensing and Accreditation Standards were pre-tested in selected schools. Expected to be finalized in 2018, they are based on the National Quality School Standards and aims to strengthen the regulatory functions and quality of education. The Education Emergency Contingency Plan was updated with the Ministry of Education and a national Education in Emergencies training was conducted with representation from all municipalities.

Given the high prevalence of violence against children, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the integration of positive discipline into the national in-service teacher training. A regulation on teaching and school management and staff discipline was passed, covering pre-school to tertiary education, establishing procedural rules to ensure the rights of children are upheld in education settings.

School construction activities resulted in the finalisation of basic education and pre-school buildings in five schools, benefitting 1,941 children, with community mobilization and orientation on maintenance of new facilities. Accessibility for children with disabilities is included in the design, as part of support to the Ministry of Education to develop standard designs for school buildings. Age-appropriate furniture was installed, with furniture procured from the National Bamboo Institute, promoting a more sustainable environmental approach.

To empower schools, student and parents, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the re-establishment of Student Councils, with strong engagement of students and Parent-Teacher Associations. To date, 53 schools with 36,485 students were engaged. School governance and community ownership of public schools was facilitated through social mobilization, engaging teachers, Parent-Teacher Associations and Student Councils, reaching 1,101 children.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2019, 20,000 boys and 20,000 girls from 200 schools benefit from improved, child-friendly, gender appropriate and inclusive WASH facilities.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF Timor-Leste continued its support in provision of child-friendly, gender appropriate and inclusive WASH in schools facilities, reaching 74 schools in 2017. This included five schools provided with new school buildings and toilets, and one school supported with water connection. WASH clubs have been set-up in seven schools, including two schools supported with construction.
An assessment of the status of the facilities, supported by UNICEF Timor-Leste, was carried out in 13 schools. Adolescent girls in schools with WASH clubs were mobilized to form menstrual hygiene management peer groups, a first in Timor-Leste. Training materials for students and parent-teacher associations on hygiene promotion and menstrual hygiene management were developed, complementing existing Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education materials.

The medium-term National School Health Strategic Plan, prepared by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education was updated in December 2017, following a workshop on school health supported by UNICEF Timor-Leste. The WASH in School Guidelines, and draft child and adolescent-friendly advocacy materials on health, nutrition and WASH, both developed with UNICEF Timor-Leste support, were shared at the workshop. A hygiene promotion campaign for selected schools is in place for rollout in 2018, with UNICEF Timor-Leste facilitating stronger coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

As part of an integrated approach, the Ministry of Education is encouraging student councils to be re-established with UNICEF Timor-Leste support in select schools, to organize hygiene promotion activities and to assist in WASH facilities maintenance. Student councils, school management and parent-teacher associations were trained on operation and maintenance of WASH facilities and on the WASH in Schools Guidelines. Student councils were established, with support of youth parliamentarian alumni, who themselves became change agents for positive hygiene practices.

UNICEF Timor-Leste used a community-led approach in installing water connections, with communities taking the lead in building the community water supply and its connection to the school and health post. The school and parent-teacher associations were facilitated to work with the community water committee, allowing for a sustainable approach. Group handwashing facilities will be set-up in early 2018 in the five schools where UNICEF supported the construction of new school buildings. Lessons from the documentation of the group handwashing facilities piloted in two schools in 2015 were used as reference.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also supported the Ministry of Education’s participation in the 2017 WASH in Schools International Learning Exchange in Myanmar in November. The Ministry’s returned with concrete commitments for 2018, including reviewing and endorsing the WASH in School Costed Action Plan developed with UNICEF Timor-Leste support, and expanding data collection.

OUTCOME 5 Improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children and participation of adolescents.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, progress in the development and implementation of child protection and participation policies, standards, guidelines and protocols in Timor-Leste strengthened child protection systems and increased human and institutional capacities in both prevention and response to child violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

Implementation of the child and family welfare policy saw the establishment of coordination and oversight functions at the national level and roll out in three municipalities (Dili, Viqueque and the special Economic Zone of Oecusse). At the national level, a National Policy Implementation Group was established, headed by a high-level Ministry of Social Solidarity official who played
and important advocacy roll in the policy roll-out. At municipal level, social welfare teams were established, led by local ministry officials. This team played a vital role in coordination and mobilisation of local resources, including conducting outreach activities and responses to children welfare cases. This team was trained on the defined curriculum modules before performing their role.

A technical working group was formed under Ministry of Social Solidarity, providing expertise and experience for the development of the Social Welfare Workforce competencies framework. They were able to articulate the competencies into curriculum modules, as well as providing input into and contextualization of the curriculum modules. This team also provided mentorship to the municipal level social welfare team on how to apply skills learned during training.

Institutional and human resources capacities were improved, with the finalisation of a competencies framework for the social welfare workforce, and advocacy for its endorsement by Government and approval as standard competencies for social welfare workers. The core training material for social welfare workforce development was finalised, printed and piloted in selected municipalities and sub-municipalities, contributing to the Ministry of Social Solidarity’s long-term strategy plan (2011-2030) on human capital development.

Evidence from the modelling of the child and family welfare policy in piloted municipalities documented the need for further improvement in its efficiency and effectiveness to be able to serve as a future reference for expansion of the social welfare workforce capacity. The Government demonstrated strong commitment throughout the year to this initiative, assigning dedicated staff and leading in all aspects of the social sector workforce systems strengthening, coordination and capacity building.

UNICEF Timor-Leste, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and development partners designed Hamatin Familiar (Strengthening Families), a holistic parenting education programme. It includes modules on early stimulation, positive discipline, health, nutrition, education, and adolescence to enhance parenting skills and child development outcomes. The programme reached 16,819 parents, and 33,638 children aged up to eight years in 87 communities in two municipalities (Ermera and Viqueque). Local youth were engaged in their communities through the establishment of four youth theatre groups, sharing important messages through drama, in an engaging and entertaining manner.

In 2017, the National Youth Action Plan was drafted, outlining concrete actions and investments needed to implement the national youth policy, with strong leadership from Government and the participation of a broad range of UN and development partners. The daft Action Plan will be finalised in 2018. A new Youth Parliament was elected and inaugurated in 2017, continuing Government’s commitment on adolescent and youth participation, and providing an opportunity for youth to speak on issues that affect them.

**OUTPUT 1** Enhanced support and increased capacities of children, adolescents, and families to protect themselves and to eliminate practices and behaviours harmful to children and adolescents.

**Analytical Statement of Progress**

UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity in implementing a holistic parenting education programme (Hamatin Familiar, or Strengthening Families), aimed at enhancing parenting skills and promoting non-violent discipline. In 2017, the programme was
piloted in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities and covered 10 essential modules: general parenting, health, nutrition, early stimulation, education, early learning, positive discipline, birth registration, child protection, and youth issues. Training of trainers on the 10 modules was completed in 114 communities. In 2017, the parenting programme benefitted 16,819 parents (male: 5,887; female: 10,932) and 33,638 children aged up to eight years.

The parenting education programme was also broadcast on community radio in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities. Twenty-five 25 radio talk shows were aired on 16 community radio stations, covering all 10 parenting modules. Four local youth theatre groups were established in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities, delivering key messages through drama performances and reaching 2,600 parents and caregivers (male: 1,040; female: 1,560).

A Study on Violence against Children in and around Educational Settings, supported by UNICEF Timor-Leste, was approved and launched by the Ministry of Education. Additionally, the Ministry of Education developed the Government Decree Law on teacher discipline, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in early 2017.

In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste partnered with UN agencies and development partners in the development of the National Youth Action Plan, outlining concrete actions and investments needed to implement the National Youth Policy, planned to be finalised in 2018. The capacity of children and adolescents were enhanced through UNICEF support to the Secretary of State of Youth and Sports, with 4,506 young people (male: 2,553; female: 1,953) trained in life skills based education in the five targeted municipalities of Ermera, Dili, Aileu, Viqueque and Ainaro.

**OUTPUT 2** Increased equitable access to and utilization of child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in programme districts.

**Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Timor-Leste, in collaboration with Government counterparts, achieved significant results in enhancing capacities of parents, caregivers and staff of the Ministry of Social Solidarity to prevent violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children and in providing a protective environment for children.

Support continued to be provided to the implementation of the child and family welfare policy. The policy has a holistic approach, encompassing proactive and preventative child and family welfare services, rather than only reactive interventions after violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect of a child have occurred. The policy was rolled out in two municipalities (Dili and Viqueque), as well as in the special Economic Zone of Oecusse, benefitting 3,600 parents and their children.

In 2017, the competency-based framework for the social sector workforce was finalised and six curriculum modules were approved, printed and tested. Additionally, a concept note for a training unit was developed and finalised, a learning assessment of the policy implementation was completed and shared with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and a code of ethics for social service workers and guidelines and protocols were drafted, which will be finalized in 2018.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity to strengthen the child protection data collection, encompassing a review of case management tools and the printing and distribution of the guideline for crime categorization to municipal-level child protection officers.
To improve access to birth registration services in rural areas, and to enable children to receive birth certificates, UNICEF Timor-Leste, collaborated with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health to established five birth registration posts in five municipalities, Aileu, Ainaro, Ermera, Manatuto and Manufahi.

UNICEF Timor-Leste provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice to draft a legal framework for the implementation of The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, which also outlines alternative care options outside formal adoption. The consultation process was completed and a first draft will be submitted in early 2018. With support from UNICEF Regional Office and the Ministry of Justice, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the capacity development of 52 judicial actors and 25 prison guards in areas including child rights, child development and child-friendly procedures.

OUTCOME 6 By 2019, high quality data and analytical evidence are available and used to support equity-sensitive and child-centred policy discussion, planning and implementation.

Analytical statement of progress
In 2017, a range of quality evidence and advocacy materials were completed, with contextual analysis on the situation of children in Timor-Leste. Results were broadly disseminated to support child-centred policy dialogue and programme implementation with key national stakeholders, including Ministry of Planning and Finance, General Directorate of Statistics, National Radio and Television, the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, the Ministry of State Administration and the National University of Timor-Leste, among others.

The disseminated documents include the National Action Plan for Children 2016-2020, Violence against Children Study in and around School Settings, End-of-Project Evaluation on Parenting Education and Community Pre-School Education Programme, Project Review on Alternative Pre-Schools, Baseline Study on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of Parenting in Timor-Leste and Out-of-School Children Study. Reader-friendly summary briefs were developed for all these products, in both English and Tetum language, to enhance the utility of findings. Equity dimensions were highlighted with analysis on disaggregated data on sex and geographic areas (urban/rural).

Analysis on the situation of children was achieved through secondary analysis of existing data and databases from completed surveys, such as the Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards 2014 and the Population and Housing Census 2015. An Education Monograph was finalized based on Census 2015 to support evidence-based planning in collaboration between UNICEF Timor-Leste, the General Directorate of Statistics and UNFPA. The report will be disseminated in early 2018, together with other Census 2015 Thematic Reports.

In collaboration with the World Bank, the General Directorate of Statistics and the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, child poverty data with age, sex and geographic disaggregation, was analysed using the Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards 2014 data. It included contextual analysis on the scale of impact considering the large proportion of children in the total population.

Evidence-based advocacy, conducted in collaboration with other development partners and the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, contributed to the Government’s decision to approve the country’s first multi-sectorial National Action Plan for Children (2016-2020).
Government issued Resolution No. 27 of 24th May 2017 for implementation of the Plan, which followed the Council of Minister’s approval on 31st January 2017. Throughout Presidential elections in March 2017 and Parliament election in July 2017, the Government maintained its strong commitment to the National Action Plan for Children at the highest levels. It was launched by the newly-elected President of Timor-Leste at the President Palace, together with the former Prime Minister, Members of Parliament, development partners and children on the 1st June 2017, the commemoration of National Children’s Day.

Throughout the year, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported a number of capacity building initiatives for key stakeholders. These included public finance for children training for Government and civil society organizations, a SDG lecture at the National University of Timor-Leste, community radio programmes, and decentralized evidence-based budge planning using a results-based management approach.

To support the Government’s commitment to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the development of a public website for the National Commission for the Rights of the Child. The website serves as a knowledge-sharing platform to disseminate child rights-related documents and child-related policy papers and initiatives. The website will also support the strategic positioning of the National Commission for the Rights of the Child towards achieving increased autonomy in the coming years.

The Government developed Timor-Leste’s roadmap to achieving sustainable development, framed within the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, with UNICEF contribution. UNICEF also advocated for the need to integrate more child-related indicators into national surveys and to strengthen existing country information management systems and data gathering to collect quality data at all levels of the country for evidence-based planning and monitoring. These efforts resulted in the integration of key child development indicators into Census 2015 and Demographic Health Survey 2016 and the development of a SDGs Child Databook to be launched in 2018.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also took a lead in two main UN Working Groups and joint UN efforts supported several key initiatives including UNDAF Mid-Term Review, a SDG lecture series for the National University of Timor-Leste and the Open UN Day, among others.

Lack of ownership by Government line ministries in research and studies remained a challenge for both UNICEF Timor-Leste and the General Directorate of Statistics. Considering existing evidence and the under-utilization of existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, more efforts will be made in 2018 to optimise use of existing data and to strengthen national capacity, rather than conducting project-specific studies or reviews.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2019, improved national data collection and monitoring system to support planning, budgeting and monitoring of the situation of children and women, in particular the most disadvantaged groups.

**Analytical statement of progress**
In 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste provided support to the General Directorate of Statistics to further strengthen capacity for data collection and data processing. Based on the inclusion of Child Development Indicators in the Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey 2016, the Public Preschool Baseline Study, the Population and Housing Census 2015, the Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards 2014 and Census 2015, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the General
Directorate of Statistics in the development and finalisation of priority tables, formally launched by Government.

In collaboration with other UN agencies, comprehensive feedback was provided on the initial results from the DHS 2016, with a preliminary report released in 2017 and a full report expected in early 2018. When the full results are available, UNICEF will update its current Situation Analysis of Children and Families in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste DevInfo v4.0 was updated with 2013 Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2013 and Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standard 2014 data. UNICEF also provided technical support to GDS in updating the Timor-Leste CensusInfo database with 2015 data, using DevInfo technology. This allowed the General Directorate of Statistics to develop 442 village (Suco) reports called “Sensus Fo Fila Fali” (Giving Back the Census) to support budgeting and planning at national and subnational levels. In addition, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported a dissemination event in two municipalities (Oecusse and Ermera), led by Ministry of Planning and Finance and Ministry of State Administration, to support evidence-based planning.

As part of UNDAF coordination, UNICEF Timor-Leste continued to chair the UN Results Monitoring and Evaluation working group. Under this, contributions were made to the UNDAF Mid-Term Review including updating the UNDAF Results Matrix, and in coordinating joint UN efforts to enhance national capacity for monitoring and evaluation. UNICEF Timor-Leste, working closely with other UN partners and Government ministries, continued support to improved national data collection and monitoring systems to support planning, budgeting and monitoring of the situation of children and women, in particular the most disadvantaged groups, and will continue its strong support in 2018.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2019, improved institutional capacity on effective and child-sensitive evidence-based planning and budgeting supported by policy analysis and recommendations, and an enhanced social protection system.

**Analytical statement of progress**
UNICEF supported the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of State Administration MSA and the Ministry of Health to expand local capacity building on budget planning, using results-based management and a focus on child malnutrition. Training was completed in eight municipalities in 2017, with all municipalities now covered following the successful training in 2016.

UNICEF Timor-Leste also supported the Ministry of Health’s initiative to develop a performance based budgeting framework to address on-going public financial reform, including decentralized budget planning and enhancing linkages between budgets, plans and results.

Timor-Leste’s first multi-sectorial National Action Plan for Children (2016-2020) was approved by the Council of Ministers in January. Subsequently, the Council of Ministers dispatched Government Resolution No. 27 for the implementation of the Plan, which is used as a basis of annual budget allocation by respective line ministries. Despite two major elections (Presidential and Parliament), the Government maintained its high commitment to the National Action Plan for Children, and it was officially launched by the newly-elected President on June 1st, the commemoration of National Children’s Day. Attendees included the Prime Minister, Parliamentarians, members of the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, Government social sector ministries, the private sector, civil society organizations, children, and development
As a part of the inter-ministerial monitoring mechanism, the National Commission for the Rights of the Child organized capacity building workshops for the Coordination Monitoring Team, composed of national directors and general directors from line ministries, on public finance for children in September and October. The first workshop was led by the National Commission for the Rights of the Child, UNICEF Timor-Leste and the Ministry of Planning and Finance and covered key principles and the Open Budget Initiative. The second workshop was facilitated by a Social Policy Specialist from the UNICEF Regional Office, guiding a more in-depth dialogue on public finance and its relation to line ministry plans and budgets.

During 2017, UNICEF Timor-Leste supported Ministry of Planning and Finance staff to attend the Open Budget Survey Initiative meeting in Mozambique, as part of South-South cooperation, to review and validate the result of the Timor-Leste Open Budget Survey 2016. The results of Open Budget Index 2016 indicated that the Government of Timor-Leste shared limited budget information sharing with the public, there were insufficient opportunities for their participation in the budget discussion process, and limited budget oversight by the legislature. It also found that there were adequate levels of budget oversight by the supreme audit institution. The Ministry of Planning and Finance UNICEF Timor-Leste presented the results of the survey and an overview of the Open Budget Index mechanisms to civil society organizations and line ministry focal points within the Coordination Monitoring Team.

Leveraging resources and partnerships for children, UNICEF Timor-Leste expanded its partnerships in cross-sectoral research and communication. These included the National University of Timor-Leste within a global partnership on ECD, Peace Building with Queens University in Belfast, with the International Labour Organization on social protection, and with the World Bank, National Commission for the Rights of the Child, and General Directorate of Statistics on child poverty data analysis. These partnerships resulted in the official signing of a partnership agreement with the National University of Timor-Leste and UNICEF for research collaboration on children, an in-country ECD and Sustainable Peace seminar, a draft national social protection strategy with a strong child focus and a policy brief on SDG1, using a child rights lens.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2019, policy makers, opinion leaders, the general public and children with increased awareness and capacities to identify and respond to children’s rights and equity dimensions of social inclusion.

**Analytical statement of progress**
Throughout 2017, communication for development strategies and approaches were embedded in all communication and public advocacy activities, with a focus on reaching populations in remote rural areas. Community engagement raised awareness on the importance of children’s education, WASH, care seeking behaviours around health and nutrition and positive parenting and protection of children.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, communities in selected villages of Ermera, Aileu and Ainaro municipalities were mobilised to take ownership and accountability for the maintenance of newly constructed or rehabilitated school buildings and WASH facilities. The WASH in schools initiative provided communities and families with the knowledge to sustain sound life-long health and hygiene practices and promoted responsible use of facilities, with 14 consultation meetings organised and attended by around 600 community members (65 per cent...
Communication for development activities in support of the community-based pre-schools and parenting education programme increased awareness of positive parenting practices and ECD. This was through community dialogue and the broadcast of a 48-segment radio drama on parenting and a 28-episode talk show on “Building Better Brains: New Frontiers in Early Childhood Development.” The radio programmes, developed by the Secretary of State for Social Communication in partnership with UNICEF Timor-Leste, aired on national and community radio stations and were complemented by drama performances by youth groups in targeted sub-districts, reaching around 1,300 people in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities.

As part of the “Listeners Group” initiative, 65 youth were engaged in community radio programming, while three Children’s Editorial Teams produced 120 programmes on key issues related to positive parenting, education, violence against children, nutrition and water and hygiene. These programmes were broadcast by community radios and reached approximate 24,975 people in Ermera, Viqueque and Bobonaro municipalities.

UNICEF Timor-Leste support strengthened the capacity of the Health Promotion Department of the Ministry of Health on behaviour change communication. In partnership with the Ministry, UN agencies and development partners, an integrated package of communication materials was developed to assist health workers and mother support group members to effectively promote care seeking behaviours and communicate positive care practices on nutrition, maternal, newborn and child health and WASH. A total of 532 health service providers in seven municipalities received training on interpersonal communication, building their knowledge, skills and confidence in effectively communicating health and nutrition messages. Videos on “Saude na Familia” (family health) and mother support groups were screened in public forums, including on the national television station, reaching approximately 80 per cent population of the country with key messages.

UNICEF Timor-Leste supported sanitation and hygiene promotion campaigns, reaching 130,063 people (50 per cent female) in 43 villages of Ainaro, Ermera, Bobonaro and Oecusse municipalities. These supported community-led total sanitation initiatives that resulted in 29 villages being declared open defecation free in 2017, benefitting 56,299 people.

A total of 122 community leaders (45 per cent women) and service providers in four sub-districts in Oecusse municipality were equipped with knowledge on the Child and Family Welfare Policy, through participatory learning and dialogue, strengthening partnership and cooperation among key stakeholders in child protection.

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**Evaluation and research**

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