

Timor-Leste

Executive Summary

Important achievements:

- The UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office () successfully advocated for the implementation of holistic early childhood development (ECD) interventions by using the country's results of the ECD Scale Survey (2014) and the Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey (TLFNS-2013). In late 2015, the Country Office and other partners supported the organization of a national ECD conference that established a holistic, cross-sectoral ECD coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs. Earlier, the Office, together also with Yale University, supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) to develop a five-year preschool costed action plan, plotting the way forward to scale up access to quality preschool education for children aged 3–5 years old by 2030. The Country Office, with support from the Government of New Zealand, supported the implementation of an innovative programme by MoE, bringing preschool learning opportunities to children aged 3–5 years and their parents living in very remote communities. With support from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office assisted the Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop a range of Nutrition Advocacy materials and intensified advocacy for multi-sectoral actions around the formal launch of the report of the TLFNS-2013, the National Nutrition Strategy 2014–2019 (NNS) and the report on the Study of Economic Consequences of Undernutrition in the country. Advocacy for multi-sectoral Nutrition Action was also done while supporting development of a costed operational plan for implementing the NNS. With the support of the European Union (EU), the Country Office successfully advocated for and assisted MoH to include nutrition functions, indicators, staff, supplies, equipment into the new Comprehensive Primary Health Care (PHC) Guidelines, thereby mainstreaming nutrition service delivery as a core function of PHC.
- The Country Office, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other partners supported MoH to implement a measles and rubella vaccination campaign, which reached 97 per cent of children 6 months to 15 years old. To prepare for the campaign and to upgrade storage capacity for new vaccine introduction, vaccine cold chain installation took place in 60 health posts, 13 municipality (formerly called districts) vaccine stores and 67 Community Health Centres, involving also a valuable contribution by GAVI health system Strengthening support.
- An external evaluation of the EU-funded water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project was successfully completed and showed that 90.3 per cent of the target communities now have access to clean water, compared with 45.5 per cent before the project, exceeding the project target by 11 per cent. The quality of the evaluation was rated as 'highly satisfactorily' by UNICEF headquarters. Key findings and lessons learned were disseminated in a full report version, as well as in a reader-friendly summary version in both English and in the local language, Tetum, which will be used for enhanced advocacy efforts in 2016.
- The UNICEF Country Office enhanced the visibility of its work by successfully launching its

website and Facebook page in 2015, which attracted a relative large number of views and likes within a few months, including the publishing fifteen stories, some of which were shared worldwide by a number of UNICEF National Committees.

Significant shortfalls:

- During this first year of its new Country Programme, the Office was faced, despite concerted and intensified fund-raising efforts, with rather bleak fund-raising possibilities, as overall fund-raising for Timor-Leste has become increasingly difficult, especially as a result of Timor-Leste's increased oil wealth, the reality of lower Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey designation, and the accordingly decreased attention from key development partners in the country. In view of this reality, the 2015–2019 Country Programme Management Plan will be revised in early 2016, and advocacy efforts for the Government's enhanced investment in fulfilling children's rights will be further intensified.
- The significant delay faced in the signing of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Country Programme Action Plan for 2015–2019 affected the signing of the Rolling Work Plans for 2015–2016, and thereby overall programme implementation.

Important collaborative partnerships:

- The Country Office and UNICEF's East Asia Pacific Regional Office participated in a joint review of the Expanded Programme on Immunization and Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) Surveillance together with MoH, WHO and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States. The review identified strengths and areas for improvement to achieve national and global immunization and VPD control and elimination targets.
- The Office, BESIK (Australian Aid-funded bilateral community WASH project), World Vision and other partners supported the Bobonaro municipality to implement a rapid scale-up model of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The model is instrumental in advocating for nationwide CLTS roll-out in 2016/2017.

Humanitarian Assistance

There was no humanitarian situation in the country in 2015 requiring Country Office support; however, the Office was actively involved in preparatory work. UNICEF supported sector partners in updating ToR and the inter-agency contingency plan for Education, Nutrition, Protection and WASH clusters for which UNICEF is the lead (or co-lead).

During 2015, the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT) collectively reviewed the Disaster Risk Management Decree Law (Draft).

In particular, the articles on mainstreaming disaster risk management in schools were strengthened with the help from UNICEF Regional Emergency Adviser.

The Country Office provided technical support to the inter-cluster simulation exercise (SIMEX) organized by UNHCT, which took place in February 2015. UNICEF, as cluster lead in WASH and Nutrition and as co-lead in Education and Child Protection, mobilized its own and partner staff to actively participate in the SIMEX. UNICEF's Regional Emergency Adviser co-facilitated the session with regional officials from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The Interagency Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Timor-

Leste was tested during the SIMEX, leading to its adaptation by UNHCT in June 2015.

In an effort to assess the impact of El Niño on lives and properties in Timor-Leste, a related inter-cluster rapid assessment took place late 2015, with early findings indicating that more than 100,000 people living in the northern part of the island are potentially at risk of facing a severe shortage of drinking water, especially those relying on small springs, dug wells and community managed water systems. Shortage of water may lead to the use of unprotected (or contaminated) sources and compromised sanitation and hygiene practices resulting exposure to higher risk of diarrhoeal diseases, one of the contributing factors for malnutrition. In addition, the late start of planting and possible crop failure may further affect the population living across all regions, leading possibly to a nutrition crisis.

The Government has so far primarily analysed the need in the water sector, where the top priority will be providing water, health and hygiene related messages, as well as trucking drinking water to areas where the population does not have alternative water sources. UNICEF Timor-Leste, together with partners concerned, is in the process of supporting strengthening the capacity of clusters (especially the WASH and Nutrition cluster) in order to put in place a preparedness and response plan to mitigate and respond to the El Niño effect among the affected population or the population at risk. This will focus on: assessing water resources and water supply systems; disseminating messages to local authorities and communities; augmenting alternate sources of water in the areas/communities identified with severe shortage; providing water jerry cans and water purifying tablets, when alternate sources are not feasible. It will also encourage people to collect water from distant sources; the reviewing of water trucking needs in schools and health facilities with critical shortage of water; and conducting assessments in the nutrition, education and child protection sectors, leading to immediate and medium/long term response plans based on identified needs.

The Country Office work on Early Warning Early Action was updated using the risk profile agreed by the UNHCT and the latest information available on likely effects of the EL Nino weather phenomenon for Timor-Leste.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

Explanations:

Aldeia – a hamlet or group of hamlets that lives in one natural boundary.

Suco – third and lowest administrative unit/socio-political structure.

Municipality – Second Administrative Level in Timor-Leste (formerly called District)

Acronyms:

BCP – Business Continuity Plan

BESIK – Bee, Saneamentu No Ijiene Iha Komunitade (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Community)

CFS – child-friendly school

CFW – Child and Family Welfare

CHC – Community Health Centre

CLTS – Community-Led Total Sanitation

CMT – Country Management Team

CPAP – Country Programme Action Plan

CPMP – Country Programme Management Plan

CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child

DCT – Direct Cash Transfer

DFAT – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRR – disaster risk reduction
DRSC - Desk Review Spot Check
DTP – diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus
EAPRO – East Asia Pacific Regional Office of UNICEF
ECD – early childhood development
EMIS – Education Management Information System
EU – European Union
GDS – General Directorate of Statistics
GMF – Groupu Managementu Facilidade (Community Water Group)
GPE - Global Partnership for Education
HACT – Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HMIS – Health Management Information System
ICT – information and communication technology
IFRC – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IPV – inactivated polio vaccine
KAP – Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
KPI – Key Performance Indicator
LAN – Local Area Network
LSBE – Life-Skills Based Education
LTAs – Long-Term Agreements
MDGs – Millennium Development Goals
MNCH - Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health
MoE – Ministry of Education
MoH – Ministry of Health
MoRES – Monitoring Results for Equity Systems
MOSS – Minimum Operational Security Standards
MRP – Management Response Plan
MSS – Ministry of Social Solidarity
NatCom – National Committee (UNICEF)
NGO – non-governmental organization
ODF – open defecation free
OIAI – Office of Internal Audit and Investigation
OPV – oral polio vaccine
PAS – Performance Appraisal System
PHC – Primary Health Care
SSYS – Secretary of State for Youth and Sports
SIMEX – Inter-Cluster Simulation Exercise
TLFNS – Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS – United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UNHCT – United Nations Humanitarian Country Team
VPD – vaccine preventable disease
VPN – Virtual Private Network
WASH – water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO – World Health Organization

Capacity Development

The UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office advocated and assisted the Ministry of Health (MoH) to mainstream nutrition functions, staff, supplies, equipment and nutrition indicators in the new Comprehensive Primary Health Care (PHC) Guidelines (launched in April 2015) institutionalizing nutrition services delivery as a core function of PHC and paving the way for capacity expansion for nutrition services delivery. The MoH capacity in communication was enhanced by providing support to the development and implementation of the Measles-Rubella Campaign Communication Strategy and development and implementation of the Communication Strategy to Introduce New Vaccines in Routine Immunization which will be launched in January 2016. Communication for Development initiatives focused on building the interpersonal communication skills of Health Workers.

Furthermore the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) in enhancing the capacity of its social welfare workforce to provide prevention, early intervention and response services to child victims of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The MSS developed a competency framework and appraisal process for its social welfare workforce. Capacity development in the form of in-service training commenced in the fourth quarter of 2015. Training is competency-based, incremental and delivered in different municipalities to ensure contextualization of practice. The social welfare workforce and members of the municipal Child and Family Welfare Policy roll-out teams received training, later reinforced through participation in an appraisal process and mentoring. Different monitoring forms were developed to form the basis for analysing learning and the workforce trained to use them.

Also in 2015 the Country Office continued capacity building of the Ministry of Education (MoE) Education Management Information System (EMIS) Department for evidence-based sector planning and management. The capacity of the EMIS Unit of MoE has been built for timely collection and analysis of key data for education indicators, and thus UNICEF phased out technical support at the end of 2015. Data by the key annual education indicators were made available and were used for MoE's 2016 planning.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

The results of the 2014 ECD Scale Survey were used for high-level advocacy, including with the Vice Prime Minister and the Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs and were presented during the national ECD conference held in December 2015. This conference was instrumental in laying out joint vision and core commitments by relevant sectoral ministries for implementation of holistic ECD under the leadership of the Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs. In partnership with MoE and the Yale University Child Study Center, a five-year costed action plan of the Preschool Policy Framework was developed, paving the way for scaled up access to quality preschool education for children aged 3–5 years old by 2030, starting from the low base of 10.7 per cent (2013). The action plan is being finalized by MoE and will be used by the Government for the preschool budget planning related exercises in the coming years. The evaluation of UNICEF-supported teacher training interventions in child-friendly schools (CFSs) has been conducted in 2015 and will be finalized in early 2016.

In 2015, the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office successfully advocated with the MSS to further improve the balance between prevention/early intervention and response services for child victims of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. The MSS agreed to roll out the implementation of the 2012 draft Child and Family Welfare Policy in 2015–2017 in three of the 13 municipalities. Municipal policy teams developed detailed policy implementation plans

outlining a range of activities to disseminate the policy and help to prevent harm to children at risk, as well as ongoing response care for child victims. The process purposely encouraged local stakeholders to identify local solutions, which will be documented and analysed by the national policy roll-out group to further inform the implementation of the policy on the ground.

Partnerships

Continued progress was made in strengthening salient partnerships. Guided by the MoH, WASH partners (Bee, Saneamentu No Ijiene Iha Komunitade (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Community, or BESIK, as well as UNICEF and World Vision) are jointly modelling and scaling up Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in Bobonaro municipality. Led by the municipality administrator, WASH partners supported the development and implementation of a road map for an open defecation free (ODF) Bobonaro by March 2016. A CLTS secretariat in the municipality coordinated and monitored activities and partners pulled their resources together to realize the road map. As a result of those joined efforts, all 50 sucos in Bobonaro Municipality (total population of 105,224 people) were triggered between March and December 2015 with 30 sucos ready to be declared ODF by December. This model of rapid CLTS scale-up (facilitated by strong leadership and ownership at municipal level) is being documented and will be used for advocacy for the nationwide roll-out of CLTS in 2016/2017.

UNICEF, in coordination with MoE, established new partnerships with two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (Alola Foundation and Mary Mackillop International) to implement the equity-focused alternative community-based preschool programmes funded by New Zealand Aid and the H&M Conscious Foundation. The programme aims to expand access to preschool education for children living in very remote communities in two municipalities. The partnerships brought together the community-based experiences and solid, context-relevant technical expertise of the NGOs and the capacity of UNICEF to use the evidence from the field to a national-level policy dialogue for scaling up. The partnerships also included focused-efforts for the capacity building of those NGOs, which has contributed to the enhanced acknowledgement by MoE on the importance of partnership with and coordination among different actors for the expansion of quality preschool education. UNICEF also acted as the Coordinating Agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the related critical link between MoE and external partners.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

Both the website and the Facebook page of UNICEF Timor-Leste were successfully launched in 2015 and the contents of both were updated on a regular basis. This has contributed to strengthening the fund-raising efforts of the Country Office in a fund-raising environment which has become very challenging. The UNICEF Timor-Leste Facebook page was launched in September and has already received a significant number of likes (4,402 as of end of December 2015), especially compared with Facebook pages of other development partners operating in Timor-Leste. The UNICEF Timor-Leste website was launched in April 2015 and received close to 2,500 page views by the end of 2015 (more than half of them returning visitors, spending an average of 3 minutes on the page). All key documents were made available on the website and a total of 15 stories were featured in 2015, with support provided by the UNICEF Regional Office. One story about girls' education was picked up and featured by the global website and various National Committees (NatComs). A number of key documents (including material in Tetun) were uploaded on the website and were downloaded by users.

As reflected above in the section on key results, major efforts and significant advocacy gains were made in the areas of early childhood development (ECD). In 2015, UNICEF continued its

high-level advocacy and technical support in advancing a holistic, cross-sectoral approach to ECD. The national ECD conference held in December 2015 involved participation by all relevant sectoral line ministries and resulted in the development of a joint declaration for holistic ECD under the leadership of the Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

Both South-South and Triangular Cooperation are very important modalities for Timor-Leste. A related example is the Out-of-School Children Study, where Timor-Leste is part of a series of country studies commissioned by the Out-of-School Children Global Initiative, sponsored by UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics. In design and conduct of the study in Timor-Leste, UNICEF's East Asia Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), the Country Office and the UNICEF/Institute for Statistics global team have been jointly providing technical and managerial support to the MoE in the related regional initiative undertaken, in which key MoE personnel have attended regional capacity-building workshops, contributing to their enhanced understanding of data collection methodologies, data analysis, use and related networking. The Director of Planning, Statistics and Technological Information, Director of Planning and EMIS Manager under MoE were instrumental in the provision of EMIS data and their related analysis.

Timor-Leste's MoE and Secretary of State for Equality Promotion, the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development, UNESCO, CARE and UNICEF reviewed and commented on the draft report as members of the national reference group for the Out-of-School Children study. During 2015 MoE and the Country Office also continued necessary follow-up with regional and global technical experts related to data processing and analysis, the development of profiles of out-of-school children, as well as in the identification and analysis of bottlenecks towards formulation of recommendation of policies, strategies and interventions for reducing the phenomenon of out-of-school children who are among the excluded and most marginalized in Timor-Leste. The draft final report for Timor-Leste was completed in 2015, and will be finalized in 2016. The Out-of-School Children study report is considered to be a key document feeding into both the upcoming education sector analysis exercise and revision of the education sector plan to address the important out-of-school children issue in Timor-Leste.

Identification and Promotion of Innovation

The Timor-Leste Country Office fully recognizes the importance of adding value, and a related example is provided below. In close coordination with MoE, the Office continued enhancing the equity focus approach through the use of innovative approaches to expand access to preschool education for children living in remote communities, including non-Tetun-speaking children. Based on the rapid mapping exercise which examined selected alternative preschool models existing both within and outside Timor-Leste, three community-based preschool model designs (centre-based; home-based and the individual family model) were finalized and cleared by MoE in early 2015. The three models adapted the MoE's curriculum to local contexts, including the promotion of mother-tongue usage in facilitation, to address the needs of the most disadvantaged children.

Implementation of a pilot initiative was initiated with community mobilization sessions in July 2015 in the 110 target communities in two municipalities. Preschool facilitators (mainly young persons from the communities) were mobilized from the target communities who were then trained by the selected implementing partner NGOs. During the community mobilization phase, which focussed on children's registration and the identification of facilitators from the communities, specific emphasis was placed on the engagement of fathers and male community

members as key actors to support children's learning and development. As a result, nearly 30 per cent of the identified facilitators turned out to be male, which is significant considering the social norms and local culture in which female members are traditionally considered the primary caregivers of young children.

The parenting programme, which is part of the pilot initiative, also targets both mothers and fathers, and especially facilitates the engagement of fathers. All of the 204 preschool centres and family-based sessions covering more than 6,000 children 3–5 years old started operating by early 2016. Evidence generation is part of the initiative for scaling up, including baseline and end-line surveys and an evaluation.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In 2015, the Country Office continued its support to the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) for the finalization of the design of a holistic parenting education programme, aimed at enhancing parenting skills and thereby child development outcomes and well-being. The programme targets the four parenting domains of caregiving, stimulation, responsiveness and protection. UNICEF Timor-Leste supported the implementation of a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study in two pilot locations and two comparative locations to partially fill the gap in quantitative and qualitative data regarding caregivers' levels of knowledge about, attitudes towards, and practices related to a wide range of topics, including: health and nutrition, education, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of violence, early marriage and transactional sex. This study will serve as a baseline to measure the success of the parenting education programme and to inform the development of a communication strategy.

Geographic convergence between nutrition and WASH programmes is currently under way in three of the European Union (EU)-supported nutrition priority districts, with CLTS leading the behaviour change initiative. Agreement has been reached with partner NGOs to implement nutrition behaviour change activities once the communities achieve ODF status.

Among the many concept notes developed during the year, in particular noteworthy is the concept note drafted on Family Friendly Communities through multi-sectoral convergence of key interventions, involving the identification of key interventions to be implemented and related indicators to be jointly monitored.

The Country Office initiated engagement of suco doctors in CLTS triggering sessions, and ODF progress monitoring is expected to have greater impact on sustainability of ODF and child nutrition. This is in line with the Government's newly adopted comprehensive health-care package that gives greater responsibility of promoting sanitation to suco doctors.

Service Delivery

A measles and rubella vaccination campaign reaching 97 per cent of children 6 months to 15 years was conducted in partnership with MoH, the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) locally and with support of the Global Measles and Rubella Initiative. New vaccine cold chain equipment was installed in all 160 health posts having electricity nationwide and the vaccine cold chain capacity of 13 municipality vaccine stores and 67 Community Health Centres (CHC) nationwide was enhanced jointly with UNICEF's and GAVI health system strengthening support. This has established adequate vaccine cold chain capacity in the country for the next five years, including for new vaccine (inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), measles-rubella, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DTP) booster, diphtheria and tetanus toxoids (DT), pneumococcal and rotavirus)

introduction.

With funding support from the EU, UNICEF Timor-Leste provided nutrition supplies for treatment of an estimated 3,463 severely malnourished children under 5 years old; vitamin A and deworming medicine for an estimated 182,240 children under 5, and iron folic acid for an estimated 160,003 pregnant and lactating women countrywide. Anthropometric equipment was provided to all health facilities of 16 sub-municipalities of three municipalities, benefiting 50,931 children under 5 years old and 36,545 pregnant and lactating women. According to MoH Health Management Information System (HMIS) report for January–June 2015, 566 children with severe malnutrition were treated and, converting the HMIS reported percentage coverage to numbers, 94,166 children received deworming, 105,984 received vitamin A supplements, and 26,158 pregnant and lactating women received iron folic acid.

Education thematic funding partly supported the construction of eight model preschools with child-friendly amenities, directly benefiting 480 toddlers. In addition the learning environment was enhanced through the construction of child-friendly WASH facilities in 25 basic schools, benefiting 8,741 children. UNICEF also supported installation of a demonstration model of Group Handwashing Facilities in two schools in Dili, benefiting 1,320 children. One single facility allows 48 children at a time to wash their hands with soap, and 600 children can wash in 15 minutes.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

Throughout 2015 the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office's programming benefited from the 2014 Situation Analysis of Children, which followed a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) while assessing the situation of children in Timor-Leste involving an analysis of the immediate, underlying and structural causes of shortfalls and disparities.

The Country Office participated in the 70th Pre-Sessional Working Group of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, in Geneva in February 2015, as well as observed the 70th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child held in September 2015. Furthermore, the Office provided support to the delegation of the Government of Timor-Leste in preparation prior to attending the Government's session with the Committee. UNICEF the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office made use of the Concluding Observations, which were published in October 2015, while advocating with the Commission of the Rights of the Child in Timor-Leste (which is now positioned under the Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs) for policy dialogue to increase synergies and coordination across all sectors. The Concluding Observations were presented by the Commission of the Rights of the Child in Timor-Leste during the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) anniversary in November 2015, while linking it the global theme of the day, 'For Every Child, A Fair Chance'. The Concluding Observation presentation preceded and informed the budget discussion in parliament for 2016. To facilitate the wider dissemination of the Concluding Observations, the same were translated into Tetum and Portuguese and summarized in a reader-friendly two-page version. In 2016, the Country Office will continue to support the Commission on the Rights of the Child in Timor-Leste to develop an actionable plan related to the Concluding Observations.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

An important gender-focused initiative by the Country Office relates to the initiation of a comprehensive gender audit in 2015 to garner updated information on the status of gender equality in its office, to obtain a baseline for collective discussion and analysis and to build organizational ownership for proposed gender equality initiatives and ongoing gender action

planning. The audit process uses a framework and theory of change called the Gender Integration Framework, which suggests that transformation can only occur when four organizational dimensions are ready for gender integration: political will, technical capacity, accountability and organizational culture.

Late in 2015, the Country Office conducted a staff survey to serve as a baseline of staff perceptions on the status of gender equality in UNICEF's programmes and processes. Survey findings were presented and further discussed in focus groups during the Office's Annual Review Meeting to inform the development of a Gender Action Plan for UNICEF in Timor-Leste. Data analysis included a mix of univariate, composite measure and bivariate analysis. Overall, findings indicate that the majority of staff believe the organizational culture to be gender sensitive and that there is good political will to support gender integration. Accountability and technical capacity received more moderate scores, indicating the need to improve accountability mechanisms and to enhance capacity on gender equality programming.

Programmatically, an important initiative has been the CLTS approach that UNICEF and partners are supporting encouraging participation of women, men, girls and boys alike. Pre-triggering events focus on mobilizing the mothers' groups of the communities to increase the participation of women in triggering events. Involvement of boys and girls is ascertained by organizing triggering sessions during the school holidays or weekends. Children in particular have shown great enthusiasm and have inspired many families to respond quickly on the call to build and use latrines.

Environmental Sustainability

The UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office, in partnership with MoE and Plan International, implemented a project in 2014 in 15 CFSs in Aileu Municipality to enhance the resilience of students, teachers and their communities through capacity building around disaster risk reduction (DRR). The project enhanced the capacities of the School Disaster Management Committee in the 15 schools and impacted the lives of more than 3,000 students and 150 teachers, according to a related assessment conducted in 2015 which showed that the project had enhanced the knowledge, attitude and perceptions of all key actors, including children. It has also led to MoE's renewed commitment to integrate DRR components into the basic education curriculum and teacher training programmes.

All construction activities supported by the Country Office in 2015 were in line with national guidelines and standards. The environmental audit was applied to all infrastructure projects supported by the Office to reduce and, where possible, eliminate negative impacts, if any. Environmental issues were also discussed during the Community Action Plan process, where community members were reminded of reduction in water flows in springs and streams over the years due to depleting forest and communities were encouraged to protect the forest in and around the water catchments. While choosing the water supply technological options, environment friendly gravity-fed systems were the preferred options. Site selection of school buildings, toilets, water tanks and other structures were carefully done to avoid damage by flood and landslides. Surface run-off drains around the structures were built where needed to avoid flood intrusion.

Effective Leadership

Beginning in 2015, the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office shifted from earlier quarterly to monthly Country Management Team (CMT) meetings, while also adopting as standard CMT agenda items the review of key programme and management performance indicators (using a

newly developed standardized format), key programme/operation issues including Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT); Annual Management Plan status; Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) review; fund-raising; and staff issues (including follow-up on the Global Staff Survey-related Action Plan for the Country Office).

As follow-up to the audit exercise conducted by UNICEF's Internal Office of Audit and Investigation (OIAI) in the third quarter of 2015, a the Country Office's Response Action Plan was developed. The Plan includes focus on the following high-priority areas: advocacy strategy refinement; acceleration of HACT implementation; construction related risk assessment and review of lessons learned; improvement of field monitoring system; and further enhancement of the procurement processes. Implementation of audit follow-up actions will be monitored as standing item in the agenda of the CMT (until all recommendations are closed).

Regarding implementation of HACT, the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office completed micro-assessments of four implementing partners in 2015, while in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a contract was signed using the global HACT Long-Term Agreement (LTA) to conduct a macro-assessment and to micro-assess 12 additional implementing partners. This work will be further continued in 2016.

Mainly in view of the Country Office's challenging fund-raising situation a revision involving both a financial and structural review of the current 2015–2019 Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) has been decided to take place in early 2016. With support from EAPRO, the Country Office updated its Enterprise Risk Assessment in late 2015 and identified further risk-related mitigation measures and reviewed related risk drivers. The refined risk assessment will also be included as an integral part of the 2016 AMP. The Timor-Leste Business Continuity Plan (BCP) was updated mid-2015.

Financial Resources Management

There were no long-outstanding Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs) as of the end of 2015. In 2015, the total amount of payments processed by the Country Office was US\$6,578,897, with a volume of 1,274 transactions, while DCT liquidations amounted to US\$1,471,020, with 145 liquidation transactions. In early 2015, authorization was obtained to conduct desk spot-check reviews for the year 2015 and, accordingly, staff were trained in use of the HACT desk spot reviews for DCT liquidation. Subsequent to the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) signing in September 2015, the Country Office engaged an audit company to undertake a macro-assessment for the new Country Programme cycle and micro-assessments of 16 implementing partners receiving more than US\$100,000 of DCTs per annum. The Country Office also updated guidance document on procedures for payment and liquidation of cash assistance in both the English and Tetum languages.

Payments to implementing partners, vendors and suppliers, as well as DCT liquidations, were adequately supported with documentation, while also bank accounts were reconciled and submitted in timely manner. Bank and cash balances were regularly monitored, maintaining the balances under the threshold throughout the year. Utilization of Regular Resources (RR) funds reached 93 per cent and Other Resources (OR) almost 60 per cent at the end of 2015. The relative low utilization rate is partly due to the late signing of the CPAP and 2015/2016 Rolling Work Plans.

The audit conducted by the OIAI in the third quarter of 2015 recommended actions of both

medium and high priority. High priorities included actions related to intensified advocacy, implementation of HACT, monitoring of construction projects, programme monitoring and procurement processes. The Country Office has put in place an audit follow-up action plan and started work to close the audit observations from the fourth quarter of 2015 onward.

Fund-Raising and Donor Relations

In early 2015, the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office's fund-raising strategy was finalized, including a related work plan which is monthly monitored by the CMT given the challenging fund-raising context faced. Concurrently, the Country Office also established a regularly meeting Fund-Raising Task Force. In late 2015, the Office's OR funding gap was 66 per cent of the approved OR ceiling (US\$55 million).

During 2015, the Country Office's website and Facebook page were launched, supporting the intensified fund-raising efforts. During the year, a number of fund-raising concepts notes/proposals were finalized, including a large number of succinct fund-raising concepts notes, an Education Toolkit, a Child Protection Mini Toolkit, a Grand Challenge Proposal, as well as several specific funding proposals for the EU, the Government of Norway and the Japanese, Korean and New Zealand NatComs. Initial discussions also took place with the EU on possible future nutrition programme funding for Timor-Leste under the 11th European Development Fund. During the year, visits were paid to various donors and NatComs, and hosted in-country. Noteworthy is also that in 2015 a sample of the Country Office's donor reports were reviewed by EAPRO, providing valuable guidance for further improved donor reporting in the future.

While recognizing the importance of enhanced advocacy given the country context and especially the dwindling donor interest, the Country Office also intensified the conduct of evidence-based advocacy jointly with other development partners. For instance, concerted efforts were made for promoting, together with New Zealand and Australia, that the revised education sector plan and next GPE-funded programme are most effectively addressing bottlenecks to achieve quality early learning and basic education for all.

Noteworthy is also that, in line with UNICEF's global communications and public advocacy initiative, the Country Office drafted a Communication/Advocacy Strategy, while using the slogan and logo 'Joining Hands for Children's Best Start in Life' ('Hamatuk Ba Labarik Sira Nia Moris Diak' in the Tetum language).

Evaluation

The evaluation of the EU-funded WASH project was successfully completed with quality assurance provided through the establishment of a technical group with representatives from line ministries, the EU and UNICEF Timor-Leste. Support was also provided by staff in EAPRO and headquarters, especially on the development of the Terms of Reference, feedback on inception and final evaluation reports, as well as the development of the Management Response Plan (MRP). Key findings and lessons learned were disseminated in a full report version as well as in a reader-friendly summary version in both English and in the local language, Tetum.

The results of the evaluation provided solid evidence of the project which has directly benefited more than 18,000 people living in rural areas. The evaluation showed that 90.3 per cent of the target communities now have access to clean water, compared with 45.5 per cent before the project. This figure exceeds the project target by 11 per cent and Millennium Development Goal

(MDG) target by 12.3 per cent. Furthermore, more than 5,000 schoolchildren benefited from improved access to WASH facilities through the project interventions in 28 schools in the rural area. These schools also showed improved school attendance, especially for girls.

These results were formally shared with key stakeholders through various means such as during the official closing ceremony of the EU-UNICEF Timor-Leste project, as well as on the Facebook page and website of UNICEF Timor-Leste, and the EU website. The recommendations of the evaluation were further specified and translated into an MRP for systematic follow up and improvement of WASH interventions in the country. The evidence and recommendations generated by the evaluation were utilized to provide additional capacity building on facilitation and monitoring to CLTS facilitators and to strengthen the role of the water users committees (Groupu Managementu Facilidade, or GMFs) in the maintenance of school water infrastructure.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

During 2015 the Country Office benefited from cost savings through the use of common procurement arrangements with other United Nations agencies for security guards, waste water treatment, pest control and the operation and maintenance of the standby generator. United Nations agency heads also proactively encouraged the efficient use of electricity in the common premises buildings, which contributed to a cost saving of approximately US\$40,000 for the entire United Nations compound. Furthermore, as Timor-Leste is in a sub-tropical area with ample sun hours per day for solar energy production, the United Nations Country Team also reviewed the possibility of a joint solar power project for the United Nations compound, for which the Country Office also received valuable advice and support by UNICEF headquarters and EAPRO. The proposed solar panel system is expected to benefit the United Nations by reducing the energy bills of all agencies concerned with approximately with 40 per cent in grid consumption and generator usage, and contribute to a considerable decrease in pollution and greenhouse gases. Once the solar power supply is fully operational, the Country Office can expect significant cost savings. Overall, this can be considered as an important step taken by the United Nations agencies in Timor-Leste towards the global 'greening' effort.

The Office also made substantial savings by increasingly utilizing the United Nations common conference room facilities for many of the large UNICEF-supported meetings and trainings in 2015.

The Country Office reduced the bandwidth of the Internet link by EMC (offshore) while continuing to monitor the usage of bandwidth of the primary link with a local telecommunication company, resulting in a cost reduction of about US\$20,000 for 2015. In cooperation with the local telecommunication provider and other United Nations agencies, the Office implemented a Virtual Private Network (VPN) group, which reduced costs for calls and text messages within the group.

Supply Management

UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office procurement for 2015

UNICEF Timor Leste 2015	Value in US\$
Programme supplies	998,721
Operation supplies	135,495
Services	1,146,072
Sub Total	2,280,288
Procurement services	273,406
GAVI	215,144
Sub Total	488,550
Total	2,768,838

Local procurement remained a challenge, as the market is still weak, and largely dominated by retailers with limited expertise and manufacturing base. A total of 53 Purchase Orders were issued, of which 73 per cent of procurement was carried out locally, while 27 per cent was done off-shore. During the year, a total of 26 service contracts were signed. Procurement services provided to the Government were for Expanded Programme on Immunization vaccines such as oral polio vaccine (OPV), DTP, BCG, tetanus toxoid vaccines and devices. Total procurement services for 2015 amounted to US\$488,550, of which US\$215,144 were for supplies channelled via GAVI, and US\$273,406 were for supplies channelled via regular procurement services. As the national capacity to manage vaccines is still developing, the Country Office also provided assistance to do vaccine, forecasting, vaccine clearance on arrival, storage and distribution.

For the year, 10 LTAs were in place, supporting the Office in securing favourable prices and reducing transaction times for commonly procured supplies and services.

A Market Survey was successfully conducted with the support from the Indonesia Country Office, in order to carry out vendors' assessments for key commodities, as well as to identify more potential suppliers.

A number of key actions, identified by the OIAI audit of the Country Office in 2015 focused on further augmentation of procurement processes, and this will be further addressed and monitored by CMT in 2016.

Security for Staff and Premises

The current Timor-Leste Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) were approved by the Timor-Leste United Nations Security Management Team in April 2015. The security threats to United Nations staff in Timor-Leste predominantly included crime assaults, attacks on vehicles, robbery, road traffic accidents and some possibility of civil unrest. The security situation in Timor-Leste became better since September 2015 after the demise of a fugitive who had been clashing with the security forces, together with his supporters, from the beginning of the year. Considering the improved security situation, it has been decided to reduce the relative large number of security guards in the United Nations common premises compound as of beginning 2016.

A number of earthquakes were felt in Timor-Leste in 2015, but no major damages were reported and no Tsunami warnings were given.

One airline flying the Dili-Bali route was categorized for restricted use during 2015, causing inconveniences and higher costs to the office.

Medical facilities continue to be a major challenge in the country as facilities are limited with no adequate services available in the areas of cardiology, urology, ophthalmology, gynaecology, paediatrics, etc. Dentistry and several types of laboratory tests also pose challenges. United Nations staff and dependants continued to be medically evacuated to Darwin or Singapore in case of medical conditions that could not be treated or diagnosed in Timor-Leste. In December 2015, the Country Office had to medically evacuate one staff member by air ambulance to Singapore. In 2016, a further review and update of the United Nation's medical evacuation procedures in Timor-Leste is expected to take place.

Human Resources

During this first year of the Country Programme 2015–2019, the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office had a total of 54 staffing positions, with 50 positions filled at the end of 2015. Based on the priorities of the new Country Programme, a staff learning and development plan was developed to respond to capacity-building needs and competency gaps of staff. This plan enhanced staff ability to adopt to organizational changes more efficiently. The Country Office conducted several training sessions for staff, including training on emergency preparedness; Monitoring Results for Equity Systems (MoRES); results-based management; planning, policies and procedures; and first aid.

Staff completed online training courses on HACT and ethics, while some staff members also followed English- and Tetum-language courses. As follow-up to the Country Office's results for the Global Staff Survey, a related Action Plan was reviewed during the May 2015 all-staff retreat, and the same is closely monitored by the CMT. As part of this plan, the Country Office organized a Career Development training. The Office has five Peer Support Volunteers who provide support to all staff, when required.

In 2015, recruitment of staff posts and individual consultants was completed in a transparent and competitive manner, in compliance with policies. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of staff recruitment stood at 83 per cent for 2015.

The office achieved a Performance Appraisal System (PAS) completion rate of 72 per cent within the global deadline for 2014 PAS, and will work towards improving this rate for the 2015 PAS completion. The Country Office will also ensure that the 2016 PAS for individual work plan outputs and performance indicators are aligned with staff member's expected contribution to the 2016 AMP.

As described in the Overview Section of this report, mainly in view of the Country Office's challenging funding situation, a revision involving both a financial and structural review of the current 2015–2019 CPMP is planned to take place early 2016.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2015, the Country Office undertook an exercise to optimize the network and internet bandwidth upgrade. The migration to cloud-based office automation in 2014 has increased the demand of internet connectivity. However, slow Internet service is still a major challenge in Timor-Leste and affects the access to the cloud services. The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) unit is currently working with Information Technology Support Services Headquarters on how to better manage the failure of Internet connections. Despite the

challenges faced, the benefits of cloud-based automation outweighed the challenges as the cost of replacing, managing and maintaining email servers has been significantly reduced, and there is much improvement on remote access to email and other online applications, information sharing through OneDrive and Skype for Business.

The Country Office also redesigned and updated LAN/Voice diagrams to facilitate easy troubleshooting, and a second office firewall was installed to offer back-up towards securing LAN. In cooperation with the local telecommunication provider and other United Nations agencies, the Office implemented a VPN group which reduced costs for calls and text messages within the group. The Office continued to monitor the usage of bandwidth of the primary link with a local telecommunication company, while at the same time reducing the bandwidth of office Internet link with EMC, an international telecommunication company.

This led to a substantial cost reduction during the year. The ICT unit has also started the process of implementing HP MSA iSCSI appliance technology to cluster all the virtual machine and host servers, and this activity is still ongoing.

During the year, the BCP was reviewed and updated and a simulation exercise was conducted.

The ICT national officer post was frozen in the year 2015, and as part of the initiative of 'working differently' the UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Office started to obtain ICT support from the Indonesia Country Office and overall guidance from EAPRO.

Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

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:

1. Effective and efficient governance and systems. Representation and advancement of core mandate. 2. Effective and efficient management and stewardship of financial resources. 3. Effective and efficient management of human capacity.

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

Analytical statement of progress:

A remote internal audit was conducted by the OIAI from July to September 2015. The audit defined a total of 17 agreed actions, out of which 12 agreed actions were of medium priority and 5 were of high priority. The high priorities included actions around enhanced advocacy to leverage resources; the implementation of HACT; the implementation and monitoring of construction projects; programme monitoring and procurement. The Office put in place an auditee response action plan and has started work to close the audit observations. As an immediate follow-up to the audit findings, the Country Office updated its Enterprise Risk Assessment (with support from the Regional Office).

Important progress was made on the implementation of HACT in 2015. The Country Office completed the micro-assessment of 4 implementing partners in 2015 and in collaboration with UNFPA and UNDP, a contract has been signed (using the global HACT LTA) to conduct a

macro-assessment and to micro-assess 12 additional implementing partners. This work will commence in early 2016.

In addition to the weekly Head of Section meetings, 10 CMT and 5 Joint Consultative Committee meetings were held, contributing to effective and efficient governance. The composition of internal mandatory office committees was regularly updated and approved to support effective programme implementation.

On 16 February 2015, the Enterprise Risk Management profile was finalized. As an immediate follow up to the audit findings, the country office updated its Enterprise Risk Assessment (with support from the Regional Office) in November 2015. The office BCP was reviewed and updated in 2015.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2015, 1,274 transactions were raised for a total amount of US\$ 6,578,897. DCT liquidations were completed for a total amount of US\$1,471,020 through 145 liquidation transactions. Bank reconciliations, monthly & year-end closure activities were performed within the UNICEF headquarters deadlines. Bank balances maintained under the threshold through the year.

Exception Authorization for Timor-Leste Country Office was granted by the Comptroller on the use of Desk Review Spot Check (DRSC) for 2015. One orientation and refresher training was organized for UNICEF staff on 17 April 2015 on the new modality of DRSC.

The Country Office contracted Moore Stephens, an audit company, to carry out micro-assessments for 16 implementing partners. Two orientation sessions were provided by Moore Stephens, on 3 October and 19 November 2015.

Office guidance on 'Summary of procedures for payment and liquidation of cash assistance guidelines' in both English and Tetum languages was updated in April 2015 and shared with staff and Implementing partners.

An EU verification mission was conducted in April 2015 and extensive reports and analysis were shared. The preparation for a remote internal audit between July–September 2015 was well organized in advance.

Office assets were regularly counted, and the physical count conducted in July–August 2015 involved assets inventoried with corresponding values, periodically updated in VISION and reported to the Division of Financial and Administrative Management/Asset Management on time. Adequate tools are in place to ensure proper and efficient management of low-value items. During the current year, the Country Office undertook two Property Survey Board meetings and completed all recommendations.

With regard to administration, a total of 427 travel authorizations were raised as of 31 December, covering international travel and field trips. The air-ticket cost for the same period totalled US\$77,668. Vehicle maintenance cost was US\$13,906, while the fuel cost amounted to US\$12,252. All field vehicles continued to be MOSS-compliant.

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

Analytical statement of progress:

The year 2015 was the first year of the new Country Programme 2015–2019, with a total of 54 positions. Based on priorities of the new Country Programme, a learning plan was developed to respond to the capacity-building needs of staff required, particularly for the portfolio of the new programme cycle. Some mandatory online trainings (HACT, ethics) announced globally have been also accomplished. A number of group training sessions were organized for all staff on MoRES and on Career Development – ‘Taking the Next Steps’. During the year, Human Resources also organized briefings to all staff on topics of medical evacuation, dependency allowances and new performance management system. The Country Office contributed to staff online learning on English courses as well as organized Tetum-language sessions for implementing partner staff.

Recruitment of staff posts and individual consultants have been done in a transparent and competitive manner in compliance with policies. The KPI of staff recruitment was 83 per cent, which was within the global target.

With regard to PAS of staff, the Country Office achieved a completion rate of 72 per cent within the global deadline for 2014 PAS. The individual development outputs of each of the staff members were consolidated and discussed by the Human Resources Development Team and integrated into the learning plan for 2015.

The Joint Consultative Committee meetings in 2015 focused on staff well-being issues, staff development and office operating procedures. Transparent communication with the Staff Association helped ensure a healthy, productive and enabling environment. An Action Plan based on findings of Global Staff Survey for the Country Office was developed, approved by CMT, shared with all staff and systematically followed up upon. There are five Peer Support Volunteers in the Office who provided support to all staff when required.

As described in the Country Office Annual Report, mainly in view of the Timor-Leste Country Office’s challenging funding situation, a revision involving both a financial and structural review of the current 2015–2019 CPMP is planned to take place in 2016.

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:

The provision of effective and efficient programme management and operations support to programme delivery.

OUTPUT 1: Premises and security.

Analytical statement of progress:

Quarterly programme coordination meetings were conducted in 2015, during which key bottlenecks for programme implementation were identified. The sections worked on the finalization of a concept note to enhance the convergence of the implementation of UNICEF supported programmes at community level.

As a follow-up to the audit findings, the Country Office started to create a new system to help

with the planning and implementation of field monitoring trips and the follow-up on key bottlenecks identified during field monitoring trips.

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:

UNICEF staff attended advocacy events in Aileu, Covalima and Hera, along with Government counterparts, as part of the celebration of the International Children's Day and Communication for Development activities.

The Country Office's Communication and Advocacy Strategy is being finalized, and a related Rolling Work Plan is being implemented. A Visibility Strategy for the EU-funded Nutrition project was developed and is being implemented according to the work plan. The Office's website and Facebook were launched in 2015, and act as tools for strengthening external relations activities by providing updated information on Country Office activities to the external audiences.

Several visits by donors and NatComs were facilitated in country, and visits were paid to various donors and NatComs.

Country Office staff attended the Regional Network Meeting of the Communication Officers organized by the Regional Office. The meeting was instrumental to build capacity around global communication and advocacy priorities and its implication at the country level.

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

Analytical statement of progress:

Required operational support is provided to all programmes to ensure smooth and effective implementation.

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

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF, with support of the EU and in collaboration with the Nutrition Department of the MoH and other development partners, made notable gains in advocating for investment for Nutrition Programming and strengthening of the National Nutrition programme.

The report of the Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2013 (conducted with support from UNICEF and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) was reviewed and endorsed by the Council of Ministers and launched in September 2015. The report was subsequently disseminated at national level and in all 13 municipalities (formerly districts), together with the report of the UNICEF-supported study of Economic Burden of Undernutrition in Timor-Leste and the Nutrition Strategy 2014–2019. A comprehensive set of advocacy materials, including a summary report for lay readers, nutrition profiles for all 13 municipalities, a series of policy briefs and information materials promoting multi-sectoral actions and a focus on the first 1,000 days window of opportunity to improve maternal and child undernutrition were prepared and used for advocacy.

UNICEF, with support of the EU and in collaboration with other nutrition partners, assisted the

MoH in drafting a Costed Operational Plan for implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy 2014–2019 and assisted three target municipalities to conduct consultations on municipality budgeting for Nutrition interventions. The lessons learned from these initiatives will be used in 2016 to influence the budgeting processes and allocations (both at municipal and national level) for 2017 and beyond.

UNICEF advocated for and provided technical assistance to MoH to institutionalize nutrition services delivery as a core function of the Ministry of Health's Comprehensive PHC package (launched in 2015) by including nutrition staffing, equipment, and supply and information management into the Comprehensive PHC guidelines.

In the area of maternal, newborn and child health, UNICEF supported augmenting the capacity of MoH's health-care network by improving skills of 112 health workers on Essential Newborn Care, 76 health workers on community-based newborn care, 46 health workers on Managing Newborn Problems in health facilities, and 105 health workers on immunization practice and immunization programme management.

The overall vaccine cold chain installation was undertaken with GAVI and UNICEF support for the first time in 160 out of the 227 health posts (given the current electricity availability nationwide). The upgrading of the vaccine cold chain capacity of 13 municipality vaccine stores and 67 CHCs nationwide significantly contributed to further health system strengthening.

WHO, UNICEF and IFRC, together with other partners, supported MoH's Measles and Rubella and Polio vaccination campaign, which reached 97 per cent of children aged 6 months to 15 years; and helped the country prepare for the introduction of measles rubella, IPV, DTP3 booster dose at 18 months, and for diphtheria and pertussis booster dose at school entry.

As of 2015, access to water stands at 72 per cent (WHO JPM for WASH, 2015 report), which means that Timor-Leste missed the MDG target of 78 per cent people accessing improved water source by 2015. Timor-Leste also missed the MDG target of 60 per cent people accessing improved sanitation. As of 2015, access to improved sanitation stands only at 41 per cent.

UNICEF, in collaboration with key WASH partners supported the municipality of Bobonaro in producing a road map for an ODF Bobonaro in early 2015. Subsequently, all 50 sucos in Bobonaro were triggered with support from UNICEF and other WASH partners, using CLTS and, as of late 2015, 10 out of 50 sucos have now achieved ODF status and 20 sucos are close to 100 per cent sanitation coverage. The model of rapid scale-up is being documented and will be subsequently used for advocacy for nationwide roll-out in 2016–2017. During 2015, with UNICEF support, a total of 3,611 additional families built latrines, 20 aldeias achieved 100 per cent latrine coverage and 53 were verified as ODF areas.

An external evaluation of the EU-UNICEF jointly funded WASH project 2011–2015 acknowledged good progress in strengthening community capacity (e.g., all 13 communities visited had management committees and water systems were found to be well functioning). The evaluation report became an advocacy tool for promoting successful approaches (e.g., community water management groups) and was well received by partners (ministries, NGOs and the donor community).

Overall, undernutrition and high prevalence of childhood illnesses, inadequate care practices, specifically complementary feeding practices and inadequate care during childhood illnesses, remain serious threats to the survival, growth and development of children in Timor-Leste.

Besides the challenges encountered in 2015 in relation to the delays in signing of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, CPAP and the Rolling Work Plan 2015–2016, other implementation challenges were linked to changes in leadership in the government, high turnover of key functionaries and inadequate absorption capacity resulting in long-outstanding DCT. Addressing these challenges requires continued advocacy and sustained and quality technical and operational assistance to MoH.

Limited availability of government funding for key nutrition and sanitation services and capacity building also remained challenges. The funding from MoH for promoting CLTS is predominantly restricted to staff cost. The Ministry of Public Works demonstrated its commitment by establishing a separate sanitation department in each municipality and staffing them. The newly recruited staff need training on CLTS.

OUTPUT 1: By the end of 2019, more than 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:

Advocacy and awareness creation at national and municipality level around key nutrition issues and cost effective solutions was intensified through support to MoH to disseminate the report of the Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2013, the National Nutrition Strategy 2014–2019 and the report on the study of Economic Burden of Undernutrition in Timor-Leste. A draft costed operational plan for implementing the national nutrition strategy was developed and is expected to be reviewed and endorsed by the MoH in the first quarter of 2016.

Availability of high impact nutrition interventions was improved in the three target municipalities (Ainaro, Bobonaro and Ermera) with financial support from the EU. UNICEF assisted the Human Resource Department of MoH to recruit nutrition coordinators for all 16 sub-municipalities of these three municipalities. These individuals were trained to deliver essential nutrition interventions (infant and young child feeding and care, community-based management of acute malnutrition, multiple-micronutrient supplementation, vitamin A supplementation, deworming and maternal nutrition promotion) and provided with transport, equipment, supplies and supervision, thereby improving access and quality of nutrition services in these municipalities. Nutrition services delivery job aids were developed and disseminated nationwide in form of wall charts and easy-to-carry laminated paper booklets thereby aiding reinforcement of good practices.

Overall, major gains were made in advocacy and system improvement but under-nutrition remain a serious threat to the survival, growth and development of children in Timor-Leste. Significant shortfalls were the delay in District Health Information System -2 linked Nutrition Surveillance system establishment as the District Health Information System -2 website and user manuals translation was completed only by the end of the year. Nutrition behavioural change communication plan, material and capacity development was also delayed due to the need to align to the new PHC package launched 2015. This alignment was done and process of developing integrated Nutrition, maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH), and PHC communication plan and materials was initiated.

Other challenges included changes in government leadership, turnover of key functionaries and slow absorption of assistance and outstanding DCTs. Addressing these challenges requires

continued advocacy and sustained technical and operational assistance to MoH. The key adjustment UNICEF needed to make was to focus more on advocacy for nutrition financing from government using the momentum created by the nutrition strategy endorsement and costed operational plan development and assisting government to improve Nutrition System to optimize the opportunity created by mainstreaming Nutrition Interventions in the comprehensive PHC package.

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

Analytical statement of progress:

With UNICEF support, the capacity of health workers was enhanced on essential newborn care, community-based newborn care and management of newborn problems. The training enhanced the skills of 42 per cent of midwives of UNICEF-targeted municipalities to provide essential newborn care and enhanced provider skills of all six hospitals on Management of Newborn Problems. In collaboration with Timorese Medical Association, Timorese doctors from 12 municipalities were oriented on newborn care and post-natal care was reinforced during the orientation. HMIS data show that post-natal care within first two days of delivery has gone up, from 45 per cent in 2014 to 52 per cent in the first half of 2015.

Revision of Maternal and Child Health Handbook, an integrated home-based record and family information and education tool reported to have 85.8 per cent retention (Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2013) was completed in collaboration with all health partners.

A review of the Immunization and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance was conducted jointly by MoH, WHO, UNICEF and the Centres of Disease Control and Prevention of the United States. The review recommended measures to improve routine immunization and diseases eradication/elimination efforts.

Vaccine cold chain equipment was installed in 160 health posts, and equipment was replaced and additional installed in all 13 municipality and 67 CHCs nationwide jointly with UNICEF's and GAVI health system strengthening support, making storage capacity adequate for the next five years, including for planned new vaccine introduction.

Capacity to provide immunization services was enhanced by training health-care providers on Immunization in Practice and Mid-level Management. According to MoH HMIS, 5 out of 13 municipalities reported more than 80 per cent routine measles vaccination coverage. MoH conducted a Measles and Rubella vaccination campaign supported by UNICEF, WHO and IFRC, which reached 97 per cent of children 6 months to 15 years old. The intensive efforts put behind this campaign enabled all 13 municipalities to achieve more than 90 per cent coverage (9 out of 13 achieved more than 95 per cent coverage) and paved the way for measles and rubella vaccine introduction.

UNICEF supported MoH to develop communication plan and communication material for the introduction of new vaccines and on routine immunization and assisted training of Health Promotion and Immunization focal points of all municipalities enabling them to train and enhance immunization communication skills of health care providers.

Through support of UNICEF EAPRO, technical assistance was provided to conduct an Effective Vaccine Management Assessment and to develop a related improvement plan. UNICEF

provided vaccine procurement services to MoH, including support on vaccine forecasting, storage and distribution, including for measles and rubella, IPV and DPT and DT introduction.

Major challenges faced included sub-optimal capacity, inadequately equipped health facilities, inadequate home care practices, changes in leadership in the government and slow absorption of assistance. Key UNICEF post responsible for this output remained vacant due to funding shortage constraining UNICEF's capacity to assist. Addressing these challenges require continued advocacy, sustained technical and operational assistance to MoH, and sustained behaviour change communication.

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 financial and technical support (involving funding contributions from the EU and Sida WASH Thematic) an additional 739 people accessed improved water through two gravity-fed systems and two protected wells in 2015. In addition, community action plans and water system designs were finalized and construction started for seven gravity-fed systems, which will benefit 2,869 people once they are completed in 2016.

Progress on sanitation is gradually accelerating in Timor-Leste. With UNICEF support in 2015, 84 additional aldeias were triggered on sanitation and hygiene practices using CLTS, resulting in 3,611 families building and using latrines. Out of this, 20 aldeias (1,531 families) have achieved 100 per cent sanitation coverage and 14 of them verified as ODF areas. In addition, 49 aldeias with 28,408 people that were triggered in 2014 were also verified and declared ODF in the first quarter of 2015.

The 2015 evaluation of the EU and UNICEF jointly funded WASH project 2011–2015 confirmed that all 13 GMFs visited showed a high level of ownership of their systems and adequate knowledge of their roles and responsibilities. Most of the water systems were functioning well, with adequate funds for maintenance having been collected by GMFs. The project promoted greater representation of women on GMFs, as all 44 GMFs established have two or three women members each. Evaluation also highlighted the need for further strengthening the support system for GMFs with increased frequency of visits by municipality water technicians for mentoring and support. UNICEF plans to continue to support national partners in this area in 2016 and beyond.

The end-line KAP survey completed in Feb 2015 found 87 per cent households maintaining ODF practice across 53 aldeias that were declared ODF before 2014. The evaluation found a correlation between skills of CLTS facilitators and the ODF retention rate as the municipalities with skilled facilitators have a retention rate of up to 95 percent. Underlining this, BESIK, UNICEF, and other WASH partners enhanced the CLTS facilitation skills of 50 additional facilitators, which represents a 25 per cent increase of the total CLTS facilitation capacity available in the country.

Under the leadership of the municipality administrator, WASH partners (BESK, UNICEF and World Vision) jointly designed and implemented an ODF road map for the Bobonaro Municipality. The progress so far is promising, as all 50 sucos (covering 105,224 person) were triggered within a few months. Ten out of 50 sucos have now achieved ODF status and 20

sucos are close to 100 per cent sanitation coverage. A CLTS secretariat has been established in the Bobonaro municipality administrator's office which is coordinating and monitoring the progress. The model is being documented and will be used for advocating a nationwide roll-out in 2016/2017.

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:

According to the latest published EMIS data, between 2013 and 2014, the preschool net enrolment rate (NER, in per cent), both formal and non-formal included, increased from 9.2 to 12.6 (boys 12.8; girls 12.5) for age 5 only and from 10.7 to 12.9 (boys 12.4; girls 13.3) for age 3–5 years old, respectively. While there was no consistent trend marked in the increase across gender and age group during the same period, significant disparities were noted by municipality. These very low preschool net enrolment ratios indicate accelerated efforts continue to be needed. Whereas there is a high demand perceived, severe shortage of preschool services remain a critical bottleneck, which could explain the high proportion of under-age students in Grade 1 (33.9 per cent: EMIS 2015). There is a downward trend of the Grade 1 Net Intake Rate during the period 2013–2015 (from 35.6 to 32.7: EMIS), which is concerning.

Primary net enrolment ratio (Grades 1–6; age 6–11 years old) has declined from 97.2 per cent in 2011 (EMIS) to 88.0 per cent in 2015 (EMIS). The net enrolment ratio for pre-secondary (Grades 7–9) stayed as low as 43.7 per cent in 2015 (EMIS). Further examination is required to identify the major causes of the negative trend in the primary net enrolment ratio. Moreover, there remained a persistent, considerable gap between net enrolment ratio and the gross enrolment rate in both primary and pre-secondary levels (net enrolment ratio primary 88.0; pre-secondary 43.7/gross enrolment ratio primary 122.3; pre-secondary 88.2: EMIS 2015), which indicate that there are many under-age and/or over-age students throughout the basic education system.

Primary repetition rate declined between 2013 and 2014 from 17.6 to 14.7 with the rate of boys remaining higher than that of girls. However, the repetition rate especially for the early grades continued to be among the highest [Grade 1: 25.7 per cent (boys 26.8; girls 24.5)]. The pre-secondary repetition rate continued its increase from 2.0 (boys 2.8; girls 1.2) in 2013 to 2.9 (boys 3.2; girls 1.6) in 2014, at a generally equal pace for both sexes.

Serious challenges remain in ensuring that children enter Grade 1 at the right age (6 years old) and complete their basic education without repeating. Poor learning outcomes remained as a key concern. The key bottlenecks, among others, are lack of school readiness and poor quality of education, including especially poor teaching-learning practices and teachers' ethics. There is also a pressing need of establishing a functional learning assessment system. According to EMIS data from 2013, access to water and sanitation facilities in schools remains an issue, with only 34.3 per cent of the schools at basic education level having functioning latrines with water available.

During the year, a five-year costed action plan of the Preschool Policy Framework was developed by MoE with UNICEF support, which will be instrumental in the ongoing review towards increasing the budget allocation to the preschool subsector. The development of a national preschool accreditation system, including minimum quality standards, helped assure preschool quality. With support from UNICEF and the Government of New Zealand, three community-based alternative preschool models, namely, Individual Family Model, Centre-Based

Preschool and Home-Based Preschool models were implemented in remote communities. This has advanced equitable access to preschool learning for more than 6,100 children 3–5 year-olds in most disadvantaged communities. A 2015 baseline survey of the public preschool and the alternative preschools collected essential data, including information regarding learning outcomes.

UNICEF continued the high-level advocacy efforts focusing on ECD in 2015. In December 2015, UNICEF, together with other partners, supported the Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs to convene a national conference on holistic ECD, which enhanced knowledge and awareness of sectoral ministries around ECD and produced a joint declaration for multi-sectoral collaboration.

UNICEF, in partnership with the University of York, supported the MoE in conducting an evaluation on the CFS teacher training interventions implemented since 2009 in basic education. The study generated critical evidence on teaching-learning quality, which will inform the policy and actions to be taken for advanced CFS mainstreaming.

As a result of the focused capacity building efforts by UNICEF for evidence-based sector planning and management, including EMIS system strengthening, the data by key annual education indicators were made available in a timely manner which has been used for MoE's 2016 planning. Sector coordination was enhanced through the Local Education Group, which was co-chaired by UNICEF jointly with MoE. UNICEF also acted as the Coordinating Agency for the GPE.

Children's exposure to an enabling learning environment in preschools, including access to WASH facilities and safe playgrounds contribute to their physical health and cognitive development. UNICEF supported the construction of eight model preschools with child-friendly amenities, directly benefiting 480 toddlers. In addition the learning environment was enhanced through the construction of child-friendly WASH facilities in 25 basic schools benefiting 8,741 children from Grades 1–9. Construction of new classrooms and provision of appropriate and sufficient numbers of furniture also benefiting 1,478 schoolchildren).

Scaling up of WASH in schools would benefit from a fund set aside by the Government for WASH infrastructure and services including operation and maintenance. Urgent endorsement of the WASH in School guidelines, which were drafted in 2013/2014, is required to clarify the responsibility among different line agencies and establishment of an operation and maintenance system. This will also support the creation of a nationally owned costed action plan for universal access to WASH in Schools for Timor-Leste.

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

Analytical statement of progress:

UNICEF contracted the Yale University Child Study Center to support Moe in the development of, a 5-year costed action plan of the Preschool Policy Framework, thereby addressing a key bottleneck for resource mobilization and allocation for preschool education. As a result of high-level policy dialogue and advocacy by UNICEF, MoE is finalising the action plan which will be used to inform the required budget allocation for the preschool education subsector.

With UNICEF's support, the national preschool accreditation system including the minimum quality standards were developed and implemented. This has contributed to enhancing

mainstreaming of CFS principles into preschool education.

Using a modelling approach, UNICEF supported the construction of eight public preschools with WASH facilities and furniture, benefitting 480 students. These preschools are attached to existing UNICEF-supported primary CFSs and will serve as model schools where the smooth transition of the preschool graduates to primary level can be effectively demonstrated. Continued, enhanced support will be provided to these eight preschools in 2016 for quality improvement through a holistic CFS approach, including mentoring support for teachers and capacity building of school management committees.

In June 2015, UNICEF in coordination with MoE, started the piloting of three alternative preschool models (centre-based; home-based; individual family model) in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities with support from the Government of New Zealand and H&M Conscious Foundation and through partnerships with two NGOs. This innovative pilot builds on strong community engagement and commitment and reached a total of 6,178 children (50 per cent girls) of 3–5 years old in 130 remote and least-served communities (63 Viqueque/67 Ermera), including non-Tetun speaking ones. The three models were adapted in line with MoE's curriculum and were made to fit for local contexts, including promotion of mother-tongue usage.

In partnership with the GDS and MoE, the public preschool baseline survey, including learning outcomes, was undertaken in late 2015 covering seven municipalities (Aileu, Ainaro, Covalima, Ermera, Manatuto, Oecusse and Viqueque), including the earlier-mentioned eight model preschools. The baseline survey for the alternative preschool pilot in two target municipalities currently under way. Both of the baseline data, including comparative analyses, will be available by mid-2016.

In 2015 significant progress was made in advancing a holistic, cross-sectoral approach to ECD. The ECD Scale Survey finalized in late 2014 in partnership with MoE and GDS established the country's first-ever comprehensive baseline on children's development. The study results were used for high-level advocacy with the Vice Prime Minister and the Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs. As a result, ECD was identified as one of the Government's top priorities under the social development sector. Consequently, with the support from UNICEF and other partners, the national ECD conference was held in December 2015, which was participated by relevant sectoral ministries and resulted in developing a joint vision and national commitment around holistic ECD for Timor-Leste under the leadership of the Coordinating Minister of Social Affairs.

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:

With support from Australia (DFAT), UNICEF supported the MoE to conduct a formative evaluation of the CFS/Eskola Foun teacher training interventions, in partnership with the University of York and the University of Timor-Leste. The preliminary findings of the evaluation provide evidence from the schools and classrooms on the impact of the CFS on pedagogic processes. It indicates positive findings on the effectiveness of the CFS interventions and the efficiency of implementation, sustainability and potential scale-up of the interventions. It also pointed out a critical need for establishing a functional system for learning assessment. The final report will be ready by early 2016.

The delay of the publication of the results of the evaluation (as a result of the delayed signing of the CPAP and Rolling Work Plans for 2015/2016) caused a postponement of many planned

activities to 2016. This included the finalization and implementation of the National Quality School Standards, a baseline survey for continuous monitoring of the compliance, as well as school-based support for quality assurance.

UNICEF, in partnership with MoE and Plan International, completed an assessment on the one-year pilot project implemented in 2014 in 15 schools in Aileu municipality to enhance the resilience of students, teachers and their communities, benefiting 3,750 students. The results of the assessment indicated that in general the project had brought about positive changes in knowledge, attitude and perceptions of all key actors, including children. The assessment report was finalized in November 2015 and will be used for joint advocacy for integration of DRR in the MoE's key strategies and capacity-building activities, such as strengthening related basic education curriculum and teacher training.

UNICEF continued its focused efforts in strengthening evidence-based sector planning and management, through evidence generation as well as capacity building of the MoE's EMIS department. The Statistical Year Book for 2012 and 2013 were finalized and published online. The databook for 2014 is under finalization. All of the EMIS annual key indicators up to 2015 were made available online. Further, based on a comprehensive analysis on the EMIS system which UNICEF supported in late 2014, joint advocacy was made with Australia (DFAT) to agree with MoE on the priority actions for EMIS enhancement. The Out-of-School Children study experienced delays due to the external challenges in obtaining required official data. The report will be finalized by mid-2016.

UNICEF continued to play a key role in supporting MoE in enhancing sector coordination as the Co-Chair of the Local Education Group as well as the Coordinating Agency for the GPE. Due to the changes in MoE's leadership, only two Local Education Group meetings were held in 2015. Joint review missions were conducted with MoE and World Bank (Supervising Entity) to monitor and evaluate the three-year GPE-funded project (Management Strengthening Project), which came to an end in July 2015. UNICEF will continue supporting MoE for further enhancement of Local Education Group in 2016, including preparation for the Government's application for the next GPE grant.

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:

Only 59.9 per cent of basic education schools (Grades 1–9) have access to an improved water source, 70.2 per cent have toilets and a significant percentage of these facilities (29.9 per cent) are partially functioning or not functioning. In 2015, UNICEF enhanced access to and use of gender appropriate and inclusive WASH facilities by installing WASH facilities in 25 basic schools, benefiting 8,741 children and preschools (benefitting 480 children).

Hygiene promotion in preschools and schools enhanced the utilization WASH facilities by children and safe hygiene behaviours in children from an early age. In 2015, schoolchildren were also involved in sanitation campaigns (e.g., CLTS triggering) with the aim of instigating parents and communities to build latrines to provide open defecation free environment for children.

In order to encourage hand washing with soap by children, UNICEF supported the implementation of a demonstration model of Group Handwashing Facilities in two schools in Dili, benefiting 1,320 children. One single facility allows 48 children to wash their hands with

soap at the same time (600 children can wash their hands in 12–15 minutes).

UNICEF made significant contributions to the creation of a safe and friendly learning environment through the construction of 13 school buildings (5 basic and 8 preschools, reaching 2,678 children). In this process, capacities and national and sub-national education offices were enhanced to plan, implement and monitor the ongoing use and management of facilities by schools and communities.

Limited funding from national budget for WASH in Schools is a key challenge. In absence of national guidelines mainstreaming of WASH minimum standard is also proving difficult. Despite continuous and concerted efforts, the WASH in Schools guidelines drafted in 2013/2014 have not been endorsed by the government yet. A Terms of Reference was drafted in consultation with sector partners to develop a WASH in Schools costed action plan, which will be a priority for 2016.

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:

UNICEF, in collaboration with government counterparts and partners from NGOs and civil society, took significant steps in 2015 to further enhance the protective environment for children in Timor-Leste.

In 2015 (January–November) a total of 339 children (139 boys and 200 girls) benefited from protective services provided by the MSS, of which according to MSS statistics 173 were criminal cases (70 boys and 103 girls), 83 civil cases (29 boys and 54 girls) and 83 other cases (40 boys and 43 girls). The criminal cases comprised 44 cases of physical abuse (24 boys and 20 girls), 73 cases of sexual abuse (0 boys and 73 girls), 13 cases of abandonment/neglect (5 boys and 8 girls), 42 children in conflict with the law (41 boys and 1 girl) and 1 case of trafficking (1 girl). Overall, there has been a significant reduction in cases handled by MSS, compared with in 2014, with likely reasons being the delay in Government budget allocation to MSS (June 2015 only) and the reduction of budget allocation for child protection; 75 per cent less budget allocated than in 2013 and 25 per cent less budget allocated than in 2014. A total of 98 children (87 girls and 11 boys) received legal assistance from ALFeLa (Women’s and Children’s Legal Aid), with the support of UNICEF, UNFPA and the Asia Foundation, of which most were victims of sexual abuse. The Vulnerable Persons Unit of the National Police of Timor-Leste reported that it handled 33 (7 boys and 26 girls) cases of child abuse, violence and exploitation.

Good progress was made in further developing the Child and Family Welfare (CFW) system. With financial support from the Government of Norway, UNICEF supported the MSS in rolling out the implementation of the 2012 draft CFW Policy in the two municipalities of Dili and Viqueque and in the Special Economic Zone of Oecusse. This included the establishment of national and municipal level policy implementation teams and the development of detailed municipal implementation plans, outlining a range of activities to socialize the policy and to help prevent harm to children at risk, as well as including ongoing response care for children who have experienced violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect. Development of the capacity of MSS’ social welfare workforce in order to gradually fulfil the provisions of the draft CFW Policy commenced in the fourth quarter. The MSS, with the support of UNICEF, Child Frontiers and the Asia Foundation, developed a competency framework and appraisal process for its social welfare workforce, aiming to assess progress on core skills and values measurable over the longer term.

To further inform the development of policies and programmes to address violence against children, UNICEF in collaboration with the MoE and the Commission on the Rights of the Child commissioned a study on violence against children in and around educational settings. Research was undertaken in 35 different schools in the Special Zone Oecusse and five municipalities of Timor-Leste. The study's purpose was to assess the nature of the violence in and around educational settings and propose recommendations for strengthening child protection in educational settings. The preliminary findings of the report were discussed during the celebration of the anniversary of the CRC in Dili on 20 November. The report is expected to be finalized in February 2016.

The Country Office provided technical and financial support to the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS) supported Youth Parliament and Youth Centres to ensure that Youth Parliamentarians actively represented and served their peers, and that Life-Skills Based Education (LSBE) and training on reproductive health was conducted in Youth Centres. In total, around 455 adolescents participated in Youth Parliament activities and 250 youth participated in LSBE training in two Youth Centres in Dili. Implementation of LSBE training planned for five centres in other municipalities has been delayed until early 2016 due to SSYS' development of revised criteria for participation in LSBE training, in order to reach the most marginalized and those at greatest risk.

The finalization of the design of a holistic parenting programme was considerably hampered by delays in the implementation of a KAP survey aimed to serve as a baseline and to inform the development of a communication strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation framework. The design will be finalized in the first quarter of 2016, and implementation will commence in March 2016.

Overall, progress in improving equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children and participation of adolescents has been constrained by the fact that the new Country Programme Action Plan 2015–2019 was approved by the Government only in the fourth quarter of 2015. Therefore, joint work plans with the MSS, Ministry of Justice and SSYS were only signed off in October/November, considerably hampering programme implementation.

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 with support from the H&M Conscious Foundation assisted the Government in further developing a holistic parenting programme aimed at enhancing parenting skills and promoting non-violent discipline. Building on the initial design phase conducted in 2014, UNICEF worked with local and international institutions to finalize the design of the parenting programme. This involved stocktaking and the conducting of a baseline survey on the KAP of caregivers, the analysis of which is expected at the end of the year. Due to the delayed signing of the CPAP, the piloting of the parenting programme was postponed until early 2016.

In 2015 UNICEF also commissioned a study on violence against children in and around educational settings. Research was undertaken in 35 different schools in the Special Zone Oecusse and five municipalities of Timor-Leste. The study's purpose was to assess the nature of the violence in and around educational settings, the context and causes of the violence; the

prevalence, frequency and intensity of the violence: impact of the violence on children and society more widely; the child protection systems and processes in place to prevent and respond to violence; and propose recommendations for strengthening child protection in educational settings. The preliminary findings of the report were presented and discussed during the celebration of the anniversary of the CRC in Dili on 20 November, co-hosted with the Commission on the Rights of the Child and Plan International. During the event, participants including children, adolescents and representatives from Government and civil society used the preliminary findings of the report to discuss and jointly identify ways to better prevent violence against children in domestic and educational settings in Timor-Leste. After the event, participants reported an increased knowledge about child rights and the ways in which violence against children can be prevented.

As part of the United Nations-wide Youth Results Working Group, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies supported SSYS in their revision of the National Youth Policy. This policy aims to respond to the major challenges and concerns facing young people in their daily lives, and to guide coordination between stakeholders at the local, national and international levels. Government approval of the policy is expected in early 2016.

UNICEF also supported the capacity development of adolescents in areas related to preventing violence and eliminating harmful practices. Through technical and financial support to the SSYS-supported Youth Parliament and Youth Centres, UNICEF helped to ensure that Youth Parliamentarians actively represented and served their peers, and that LSBE and training on reproductive health was conducted in Youth Centres. In total, around 455 adolescents participated in Youth Parliament activities and 250 youth participated in LSBE training in two Youth Centres in Dili. Implementation of LSBE training planned for five centres in other municipalities has been delayed until early 2016 due to SSYS' development of revised criteria for participation in LSBE training, in order to reach the most marginalized and those at greatest risk.

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:

In order to increase equitable access to and utilisation of child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, UNICEF with financial support from the Government of Norway assisted the MSS with the roll-out of the implementation of the 2012 draft CFW Policy, which was endorsed for roll-out by the Minister in late 2014. The policy aims to create a better balance between prevention, early intervention and response services. With a child and family welfare approach, interventions are directed at the whole family, aiming to improve parents' capacities to provide appropriate care and protection. Policy implementation teams have formed at national level and in Dili, Oecusse and Viqueque, and developed detailed implementation plans outlining a range of activities to socialize the policy and to help prevent harm to children at risk, as well as including ongoing response care for children who have experienced violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect. Implementation of related activities have commenced in all three locations.

Closely aligned with the roll-out of the implementation of the CFW Policy, the MSS, with the support of UNICEF and other development partners, developed a competency framework and appraisal process for its social welfare workforce. The staff appraisal process aims to assess progress on core skills and values measurable over the longer term. Development of the capacity of the social welfare workforce commenced in the fourth quarter of 2015.

In regard to emergency preparedness and response support to the Government of Timor-Leste, UNICEF in collaboration with the Human Rights Adviser's Unit in the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator developed a contingency plan for protection issues. The plan is based on the outcomes of a contingency planning exercise led by the Humanitarian Country Team in early 2015 and a Child Protection Working Group review in November 2015 of emergency response experiences. It outlines an integrated Protection, Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence humanitarian response to emergencies in Timor-Leste.

Good progress was achieved in the further enhancement of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System in close collaboration with the General Directorate of Statistics and the Ministry of Justice and MoH, in particular in the areas of capacity-development of relevant stakeholders and enhancing access to birth registration services. The capacities of midwives from 10 municipalities have been enhanced to notify births, and 507 suco administrative support staff from all 12 municipalities and the Special Economic Zone of Oecusse have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to compile and disseminate vital statistics. Birth registration coverage is expected to considerably improve as the MoH in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice incorporated the notification of births in its new Family Health Programme, which foresees a minimum of two health screening visits per year for each family in Timor-Leste by a team of one community doctor, two nurses and two midwives. Piloting of this programme commenced in the last quarter of 2015.

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 2015, UNICEF provided both technical and financial support towards the generation of high-quality data and analytical evidence and the creation and implementation of equity-sensitive and child-centred policies. Evidence base for programming was improved involving the finalization of end-line KAP survey and external evaluation of the EU-funded WASH project. In addition, external evaluations of the teachers' training component of the CFSI, ECD base-line survey for formal and alternative preschool learning and KAP survey on violence in and around schools were carried out, and reports are awaiting the Government's review and approval. A number of costed plans were developed, including a costed action plan for preschool education (developed with support from Yale University), the plan for operationalization of the new child welfare system policy and a costed operational plan for implementing the National Nutrition Strategy. The external evaluation of the EU-funded WASH programme was rated as 'highly satisfactory' by the UNICEF Evaluation Office in New York.

Most activities implemented and supported under this Outcome included an element of capacity development. For instance, UNICEF collaboration with the University of Timor-Leste and University of York in UK, aimed to strengthen the national evaluation capacity and contribute to the quality of field data collection. Twenty faculty members, officially appointed by the Vice-Rector for Postgraduate & Research Affairs of the University of Timor-Leste, were trained by the Institute for Effective Education, University of York in the United Kingdom for the methods of the systematic class-room observations to measure the results of the CFS teacher training interventions. UNICEF and the University of Timor-Leste will further enhance their partnership in 2016 to strengthen national capacity of evidence generation through evaluation, study and research, particularly related to children and women in Timor-Leste.

UNICEF provided support for the preparation of the Government delegation to the 70th Plenary

Session (Government dialogue) of the Committee of the Rights of the Child in Geneva and the follow-up process to respond to the Concluding Observations with concrete actions to fulfil state responsibility for the CRC.

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:

UNICEF provided support to the GDS to further build capacity of GDS for data collection and data processing through the public preschool baseline study. The capacity of the University of Timor-Leste was further enhanced in relation to the application of a systematic class-room observation approach through CFS evaluation.

The ECD Scale Survey which was finalized in late 2014 in partnership with MoE, the GDS of the Ministry of Finance, UNICEF Regional Office, Hong Kong University and Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood, established the country's first-ever comprehensive baseline on children's development. The study results were used for high-level advocacy, including with the Vice Prime Minister and the Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs. These actions contributed to the convening of the national ECD conference in December 2015 through which a holistic, cross-sectoral ECD coordination mechanism under the leadership of the Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs was established.

The evaluation of the EU-supported WASH project was completed and the results of the KAP end-line survey and evaluation were disseminated among partners. A new partnership with a local research institute was established to support data gathering for the alternative preschool study.

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 is in place.

Analytical statement of progress:

In partnership with MoE and the Yale University Child Study Center, a five-year costed action plan of the Preschool Policy Framework was finalized. This was a critical exercise to ensure the effective implementation of the Policy Framework which aims to achieve universal quality preschool coverage of children 3–5 years old by 2030 starting from the low base of 10.7 per cent in 2013. The key information from the action plan was used for high-level policy dialogue and advocacy with the MoE, and expected to be instrumental to the Government's related upcoming budgeting and resource allocation exercises for the preschool education sub-sector.

Advocacy for increased visibility and investment for Nutrition was intensified through the dissemination of the report on the Timor-Leste-Food and Nutrition survey which was conducted in 2013, the National Nutrition Strategy and Economic Burden of Malnutrition in Timor-Leste at national and municipality level; and the development of costed operational plan for implementing the National Nutrition Strategy. The survey report provided the status and determinants of under-nutrition, the economic burden study provided the consequences of under-nutrition, the strategy and costed operational plan provided action and budget needed to address under-nutrition in the country. A set of advocacy materials focusing on, among other things, the need for multi-sectoral action, the need to invest in the first 1,000 days, the role of individual sectors, as well as separate municipality nutrition profiles, were prepared to support the advocacy. The survey report was also presented to the Council of Ministers by the MoH in

the presence of UNICEF, and the findings have also been used by various partners for conducting their nutrition related advocacy too.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Commission of the Rights of the Child, Coordinating Ministry of Social Affairs to support the creation of follow-up action based on the Concluding Observations received from the United Nations Committee of the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

OUTPUT 3: By 2019, policymakers, 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:

UNICEF supported the organization of a major national event to celebrate the International Children's Day and the anniversary of the CRC. The event was attended by high-level policymakers, including ministers, members of Parliament, dignitaries and children. During the event, children voiced their opinions about the negative impact of the corporal punishment through drama, songs and a public speech contest. This event generated 46 reports in the newspapers and two reports on the national Television focusing on the importance of end violence against children. UNICEF also supported the celebration of International Children's Day and the anniversary of the CRC at two smaller municipal events in Covalima and Manufahi.

Both the website of the Country Office and a Facebook page were launched this year, and their respective contents were updated on a regular basis, thereby also contributing to strengthening the fund-raising efforts of the Office. All key documents pertaining to the 2015–2019 Country Programme were made available on the website, and a total of 15 stories were posted on the website since April 2015. The UNICEF Timor-Leste Facebook was launched in October 2015 and had received more than 4000 likes by the end of the year. Also noteworthy is that the global website featured three stories during three consecutive months in 2015, among them a compelling story related to girls' education which was featured by various UNICEF NatComs.

OUTCOME 7: To support programme implementation and monitoring.

Analytical statement of progress:

Effective and efficient programme management and operations support to programme delivery is in place.

OUTPUT 1: Operational support is provided to all programmes to ensure smooth and effective implementation by providing transportation services, all office supplies, furniture and equipment, and coordination of ICT support.

Analytical statement of progress:

Required operational support is provided to all programmes to ensure smooth and effective implementation by providing transportation services, all office supplies, furniture and equipment, and ICT support.

Evaluation and Research

Title	Sequence number	Type of report
Endline Survey and Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Study for the Improving Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Rural Schools and Communities through Capacity Development Project	2015/003	Survey
Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2013: Final Report 2015	2015/002	Survey
Evaluation – ‘Improving Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Rural School and Communities through Capacity Development’ in Timor-Leste	2015/001	Evaluation

Other Publications

Title
WASH materials for survey
Poster for CRC celebration
Poster of impact of alcohol and drugs
Animation for routine immunization
Training manuals for youth
Training materials for youth
Support alternative preschool project printing materials
Printing of Nutrition wall charts
Video production on comprehensive family health care
SOWCR – Tetum Version (main report)
Convention on the Rights of the Child – Booklet (child-friendly version)
Communication materials and job aids for introduction of new vaccines in routine immunisation
Reader-friendly version of Situation Analysis and infographics including folder (Tetum and English)

Lessons Learned

Document type/category	Title
Lesson Learned	End of Project Evaluation of project ‘Improving Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Rural Schools and Communities through Capacity Development’ Timor-Leste