Tunisia

Executive Summary

Tunisia’s future remains inextricably linked to its capacity to sustain growth, implement inclusive policies to address socio-economic demands and reduce inequalities. The country remained fragile, with politico-security concerns, low economic growth, persistent strikes, social unrest and high unemployment. Cases of gender discrimination, suicide of adolescents, child marriage and incidents of violence and abuse against children were increasingly reported in social media and by civil society.

Despite these challenges, there was cause for optimism. Following the momentum of the national investment conference in November and thanks to UNICEF Tunisia’s advocacy efforts on children rights and equity, Tunisia ended 2016 with an announcement from the Government that 2017 will be “the year of the child”, calling for: greater investment in education, early childhood development (ECD), and child protection; revision of all legislation pertaining to children to be in line with international treaties and the new constitution; and child rights to be reflected in national development programmes. UNICEF will have a key role supporting and influencing the child rights agenda in Tunisia.

UNICEF Tunisia supported regional and national consultations on ‘Investing in Children’ through policy dialogue and advocacy with the government and partners to promote child-sensitive social protection mechanisms and secure Government commitments to model a child allowance scheme.

In 2016, the Ministry of Health, with the support of UNICEF and WHO, successfully implemented the SWITCH vaccination program.

In education, UNICEF served as a convener, establishing a coordination mechanism bringing together donors and technical partners, leading to large ODA (Official Development Assistance) commitments for the education sector. With support from the Italian Cooperation and in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UNICEF began work to improve WASH and playground facilities in 34 targeted schools (benefiting approximately 8,000 children). With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education (MoE) implemented a campaign and designed a ‘second chance’ education programme for children dropping out of school. As a result, 9,589 children could remain in school in 2016, reducing the dropout rate by 10 per cent from 106,260 to 9,667; and 9,586 out of school children returned to school. A draft national integrated ECD strategy, a situation analysis of preschool education and a guidance document for educators on inclusion of children with disabilities were completed with UNICEF support.

In child protection, UNICEF’s ongoing policy dialogue and advocacy efforts resulted in the Ministry of Interior requesting support to establish specific child police units in densely populated cities of Tunisia; and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is considering creating a specific unit for justice for children to better protect their rights. Coordination committees for strengthening child protection and justice for children systems involving relevant partners are functioning. The Violence against Children (VAC) communication strategy was developed through a decentralized and participatory process involving a wide range of stakeholders, including children and parents. The C4D justice for children action plan was rolled out in two
regions with high incidences of juvenile delinquency. Advocacy efforts by civil society and UNICEF resulted in legislation for the Human Rights Commission including the establishment of a Child Rights' commissioner.

Several activities were carried out for UNICEF’s 70th Anniversary, including a special lesson in schools about child rights; an official ceremony with a photo exhibition at the Bardo Museum with the presence of three Ministers and the President of the Parliament and representatives from the government, development partners, media, private sector, civil society and youth; a special song was produced for children; and child rights messages were displayed and disseminated in football stadiums.

Some challenges in the implementation of all programmatic activities included the need to continue strengthening strategic planning at national and decentralized levels and develop detailed implementation mechanisms and costed action plans with agreed division of labour.

### Humanitarian Assistance

Tunisia did not experience a humanitarian emergency requiring UNICEF support. As part of UNICEF emergency preparedness measures, UNICEF Tunisia updated the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) risk assessment and key actions (i.e. the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, or EPRP) including its business continuity plan, with the support of the Regional Office.

An orientation for programme staff on UNICEF Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) was done in early 2016 by the Deputy Representative of UNICEF Libya. This orientation session informed staff of UNICEF’s basic emergency preparedness and response policies and procedures including a brief overview of Core Commitments for Children (CCCs), and other UNICEF emergency preparedness and response programmatic guidance.

One preparedness action outstanding is to conduct a capacity assessment of NGOs to respond to an emergency. This will require more in-depth assessment than the EWEA and will be an emergency preparedness priority for 2017.

### Emerging Areas of Importance

**Accelerating integrated early childhood development (ECD).** In 2016, with the technical support of the World Bank and UNICEF, the Tunisian Government initiated a process for the development of an integrated multisectoral and equity focused ECD strategy. To design a coherent and inclusive strategy and better coordinate the actions of partners, an ECD intersectoral steering committee was set up with strong stakeholder participation, including civil society and private sector actors.

UNICEF also facilitated a study of the state of the preschool education system in the country through financial and technical support for the analysis. UNICEF also supported varying levels of consultations at decentralized levels. The second phase of this activity, which consists of developing the ECD strategy, is expected to be finalized in early 2017, including defining the strategic interventions, expected results, costing, operational and monitoring plans and division of labour.

UNICEF Tunisia also supported the design and field testing of an information system on preschool education indicators. This system will serve to inform the decision-making process and target investment to reach out to regions with the highest school drop-out and low completion rates and allow information to be collected on the more than 4,000 ECD facilities
in country. A guide book on kindergarten children with disabilities and communication material for educators was produced and disseminated. Increased commitment by the government to invest in children was achieved. The Government declared 2017 the year of children and UNICEF will support a conference on innovative financing for children.

Regarding monitoring of social policy, the Government built on MoRES approach to develop an equity-based monitoring system for health programmes in two health districts. The system has been seen by national partners to be critical to increase equitable access to and reinforce inclusiveness of quality health services.

**Greater focus on the second decade of life.** Adolescents ages 10-24 constitute approximately 25 per cent of the total population of Tunisia. Every year, more than 100,000 children drop out of school before the age of 16 (the legal age of compulsory education). This is a loss of economic growth for the country, costing US$660 million per year.

Compounding this situation is a significant level of youth unemployment, at 32.7 per cent among males and nearly 30 per cent among females. Only 2.7 per cent of young people belong to political parties. The civic engagement rate of young people doesn’t exceed 6.1 per cent. A number of young people have engaged in violent groups but no data are available on the magnitude of the problem. In 2017 UNICEF will support the Government to understand this issue. The desire to migrate existed among 44 per cent of the 15-24 year olds. Reasons included social exclusion and a desire to improve economic situations. A total of 12.6 per cent of graduates have already migrated.

The needs of adolescents were increasingly recognized by the Tunisian Government thanks to various studies and reports undertaken by partners (World Bank, USAID, UNFPA, UNICEF), but a specific adolescent program to address those needs has not yet been developed.

The interventions for and with adolescents have been mostly related to a pilot life skills based education project which was implemented from 2013 to 2016. In the purview of that project, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, 500 students from across 17 high schools within 9 regions of Tunisia acquired life skills related to protecting themselves against substance addiction and were trained as peer educations. A sub-regional workshop on life skills education involving local government, NGOs, and the private sector, including representatives from Morocco and Algeria, facilitated further knowledge and information on life skills and livelihood interventions. Based on the outcome of the pilot experience and assessment of the quality of the project, the Ministry of Education decided to integrate life skills in its curricula in 2017, with the support of UNICEF.

UNICEF Tunisia also contributed to strategic thinking (e.g. “second chance education”) on response mechanisms and programs to address school dropout, with a particular focus on adolescents. Communication materials were developed with support from UNICEF Tunisia to raise awareness and prevent school dropout.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<td>CSBC</td>
<td>Communication for Social and Behavioural Change</td>
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<td>DCT</td>
<td>Direct Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
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<td>EU</td>
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<td>EWEA</td>
<td>Early Warning Early Action</td>
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<td>GCPAS</td>
<td>Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy</td>
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Notes:
1. Unemployment remained high at 15.4 per cent, particularly for women (22.6 per cent), university graduates (31.2 per cent) and youth (31.8 per cent).
2. Some statistics include: 93.2 per cent of children, age 2 to 14 years, suffered from violent discipline. Violence is widely regarded as a way of disciplining and upbringing a child; 43.6 per cent of mothers/caretakers of children believe that they must be physically punished and 58.2 per cent of students reported that they have suffered from one kind of violence in school; 200,000 children ages 5-14 are subject to various forms of school exclusion. Every year, more than 100,000 children drop out of school before the age of 16.
3. While these are reported in the media (social medial) and by civil society and based on qualitative observation, further empirical data/statistics need to be gathered.
4. UNICEF served as secretariat of the working group on human development and social inclusion, the group leading on the conference.
5. Child allowance scheme will be meant to target children under 5 years old.
7. The SWITCH program has been contextualized for Tunisia but refers to the global initiative as per WHO guidelines on the polio eradication initiative outlining the process of the global switch from trivalent OPV (tOPV) to bivalent OPV (bOPV), removing the type 2 component (OPV2) from immunization programmes.
8. Some of the donors and technical partners included World Bank (WB), EU, UK, USAID, and British Council.
9. UNICEF was asked to provide technical support to this process for 2017, including modelling on targeting of such initiatives.
10. With UNICEF support, the MoE launched a campaign against dropping out of school and designed remedial and catch up education programmes. As a result, 9,589 children were
able to remain in school, reducing the dropout rate by 10 per cent, from 106,260 to 96,671.
12. The dropout rate for school age boys ages 10-16 is 70 per cent when compared to 64 per cent among girls of the same age group.

Capacity Development

During 2016, several trainings were organized in order to build capacity in strategic planning for communication for social and behavioural change (CSBC) across a variety of partners at national and subnational levels. In terms of juvenile justice, using the socioecological model to help define a behavioural and social change strategy, UNICEF Tunisia provided support to partners in two pilot regions (Manouba and Gabes) to plan, coordinate and implement CSBC interventions to prevent juvenile delinquency. In total, more than 80 partners participated in the capacity development activities. UNICEF also provided technical and capacity building support on the violence against children (VAC) communication strategy. Nearly 60 partners participated in this approach, increasing their capacities in CSBC concepts and skills as well as their engagement for ensuring effective implementation the violence against children communication strategy heading into 2017.

UNICEF and partners continued to follow up on the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES), which started in 2015 in two health districts with high population density. The decentralized monitoring system of bottlenecks was put in place in these two districts, which has triggered a community discussion between all the sectoral stakeholders related to the four MoRES determinants and has led to the development of community operational action plans to improve the indicators related to maternal mortality in these areas. In this regard, UNICEF continued to provide technical support to develop the capacity of partners for a decentralized monitoring system for equity results monitoring related to maternal mortality.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

Regional and national consultations on ‘Investing in Children’ were supported through policy dialogue and advocacy with Government and partners promoting the importance of child sensitive social protection mechanisms; as such, the government is considering the feasibility of introducing a child allowance for under 5 years old. UNICEF Tunisia technically supported the 2016-2020 National Development Plan (NDP) processes at national and regional levels so that new plan considers key issues affecting children such as child poverty, quality education, ECD, as well as the prevention and reduction of violence against children.

UNICEF continued its policy dialogue support in ECD, educational reform, addressing school dropouts and out of school children and life skills building on the findings of the Out of School Children Initiative (OOSCI) study and systems approach for better education results (SABER). With UNICEF technical support, the MoE finalized the 2016-2020 education strategic plan, the white paper on education reform, and the operational plan of 15 subcommittees. UNICEF policy dialogue and technical assistance supported a study of the state of preschool education looking at 4,000 ECD structures and a guidance document for educators on inclusion of children with physical disability; as well as a draft of a national Early Childhood Development (ECD) strategy.

In child protection, the Interior Ministry requested support in establishing specific child police units in densely populated cities. Joint field visits with MoJ revealed inadequacies in the justice and police system to respond effectively to address child rights, leading the MoJ to consider the feasibility of creating a specific unit for justice for children. The violence against children communication strategy was developed through a decentralized and participatory process involving a wide range of stakeholders, including children and parents. Ongoing
policy dialogue processes continued regarding reinforcing the foster care system, strengthening case management of children, access to justice for children, juvenile justice and alternatives to juvenile detention.

**Partnerships**

As a way of highlighting the importance of investing in the right to education, UNICEF Tunisia encouraged the Ministry of Education to expand its partnership with civil society and the private sector at both national and local levels and assisted in securing from public development partners 45 per cent of the total funding requirement for its reform. This was done through dissemination of evidence-based data, policy briefings and dialogue, advocacy, supporting events, and launching a campaign.

UNICEF also promoted the development of child friendly school construction standards through a partnership with UNOPS, local builders and school children. This entailed involving children in the design of their school facilities and conducting awareness raising on WASH in Schools, including hygiene promotion and child friendly play spaces, for government counterparts at regional level, UNOPS and its subcontractors.

The enhanced partnership between UNICEF and the World Bank resulted in securing the political commitment from the government to design and implement an integrated ECD strategy involving both the public and private sectors through bringing their expertise, good practice and outreach.

The partnership with the Government of Tunisia, the European Union and civil society in the area of justice for children was revamped thanks to enhanced policy dialogue, advocacy, communication and provision of technical assistance. The partnership is now evolving towards justice for children system strengthening, including implementing an innovative, inclusive and participatory C4D Justice for Children strategy at local level.

UNICEF also supported partnerships at decentralized levels for improved data collection and monitoring child rights to improve decision making through awareness raising and capacity development of local authorities and civil society. Thanks to civil society and UNICEF, legislation for the Human Rights Commission included the establishment of a child rights commissioner.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

UNICEF Tunisia developed a Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy for 2016 – 2017 in line with the global communication and public advocacy strategy (GCPAS) framework and two programmatic priorities: ending and preventing all forms of violence against children; and ensuring no child is left behind in terms of education and preventing children dropping out from schools. The strategy also takes into account a set of programmatic communication approaches to address social norms and behavioural change in areas of violence against children, juvenile justice, early childhood development and adolescents’ participation. A report platform was established with young people. A communication campaign to prevent children from dropping out from school was launched.

UNICEF Tunisia’s Representative continued to advocate for the realization of children’s rights in bilateral meetings with senior government officials and other partners, including the private sector, in public speeches and through media interviews.

UNICEF Tunisia was among 30 UNICEF Country Offices to participate in the testing of the new UNICEF global brand strategy. Two sessions were conducted, including one with representatives of civil society, and with a group of UNICEF staff. Reports and photos from
the consultations were shared with UNICEF Headquarters (HQ) and during conference calls and webinars related to this process.

UNICEF’s 70th anniversary celebration provided opportunities to establish several partnerships for a special lesson in schools in November and December about UNICEF, which gathered many drawings, poems and essays from children and for an official ceremony with a photo exhibition on the 70th anniversary at the Prestigious Bardo Museum, with three Ministers and the President of the Parliament and representatives from the government, development partners, media, private sector, and civil society organizations, including youth. A special song was produced and dedicated for UNICEF and messages on child rights were displayed and disseminated in all football stadiums and on the Tunisian football federation stadium scoreboards.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

The rapid expansion of the use of social media, particularly Facebook, has the potential to open further opportunities for adolescents to participate in civic engagement pertaining to their rights.

UNICEF Tunisia is committed establishing the U-Report platform in the country, which is viewed as an entry point for reaching adolescents and fostering their engagement and participation by promoting accountability mechanisms. During 2016, UNICEF Tunisia identified key partners to collaborate on the U-Report project and established a steering committee. Participation of adolescents was at the core of process in the project design. A series of consultations with adolescents (including most disadvantaged groups) was organized in order to identify the main concerns they want to address, develop Web content, branding, and define social mobilization strategies for young civic engagement. In 2017, UNICEF Tunisia will continue to enhance partnerships with telecom operators and strengthen young capacities in app development and digital communication.

While most efforts in 2016 were focused on establishing the steering committee and the technological aspects (software development, account and website management, connectivity), the accompanying social forum and human capacity development will be the focus for efforts in 2017, including dedicated human resources (e.g. Italian Fellowship) to follow-up on the platform development and roll-out and use of platform by adolescents.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

The implementation of reforms in social sectors in Tunisia offered the opportunity to UNICEF Tunisia to advance the agenda of development for children and women through its role as a convener. While the elaboration of an action plan for the integrated public policy for child protection is ongoing, the process laid the foundation for further cross-sectoral collaboration between relevant Ministries and partners, including civil society organizations. The steering committee in place to technically guide the process has been critical for policy dialogue for issues related to child protection. The process of developing a national integrated ECD strategy triggered collaboration between public and private sectors actors, including civil society, to improve the overall ECD system and the understanding of ECD service providers that will be in charge of children. UNICEF’s technical support was essential to ensure inclusion of children with disabilities into the strategy development.

Heading into 2017, UNICEF will continue to support integration and foster cross sector linkages, particularly in the area of adolescents, through the development of a Youth and Adolescent Strategy and by continuing to engage and influence in the policy dialogue processes in education, child protection, gender equality and social inclusion.
Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

UNICEF Tunisia continued to support strengthening of accountability mechanisms for the realization of children's rights. The consultation processes on 'Investing in Children' at regional and national levels to strengthen the social protection system will include minimum guaranties for the rights of children, particularly the most vulnerable. UNICEF supported these processes through policy dialogue and advocacy work with government, civil society and other partners. With UNICEF engagement and support, at subnational level within regions, there is greater awareness among regional-level partners to start collecting and using data on the status of child for planning and programming.

UNICEF’s technical support and advocacy efforts contributed to the right to equitable access to early childhood services and inclusive quality education for all children, including children with disabilities, being mainstreamed in the education reform process (e.g. a guidance document for educators on inclusion of children with physical disability was done with technical support from UNICEF). UNICEF’s engagement with civil society and the High Commissioner on Human Rights advocated for the creation of an independent commissioner for children. UNICEF will continue following up with partners on this process.

Through UNICEF-supported joint field visits, policy dialogue and advocacy, the MoJ recognized there are inadequacies in the justice and police system to address the rights of children and is considering the feasibility of establishing a dedicated unit within the MoJ to address child rights and their access to justice. The MoJ requested support in establishing specific child police units in the most densely populated cities of Tunisia.

The violence against children communication strategy was developed through a decentralized and participatory process involving a wide range of stakeholders, including children and parents. The advocacy and capacity development of national counterparts through study tours has informed partners to better ensure protection of children in conflict with the law by sharing of best practices. These advancements for the assurance and protection of child rights were made due to UNICEF’s technical assistance and consistent advocacy efforts throughout the year.

Gender Equality

Within the framework of the country’s approach to prevent and reduce school dropout in 2016, education partners agreed to improve the school environment through the delivery of ‘WASH in Schools’ and improved play spaces in 34 schools (reaching approximately 8,000 children) as a pilot phase. Activities included the construction of separated inclusive toilet facilities for girls and boys.

In lieu of the results of the 2015 Out of School Study supported by UNICEF (as part of the OOSCI) UNICEF and partners agreed to develop a campaign on preventing school dropouts focusing especially on boys, who have higher dropout rates in Tunisia compared to girls, to address the gender inequality in the situation of school dropouts. Focus group discussions were conducted with specific attention to boys to nurture the communication campaign materials and tools that were developed. The implementation of the campaign against school dropout will continue into 2017 and catch-up and remedial education programmes, peer-led education programmes and parenting education will be developed.

Regarding maternal mortality, UNICEF and partners continued to follow up on MoRES, which started in 2015 in two health districts. The decentralized monitoring system of bottlenecks was put in place in these two districts, which triggered a community discussion between all the sectoral stakeholders related to the four MoRES determinants and led to the
development of community operational action plans to improve the indicators related to maternal mortality in these areas.

To advance women/girls’ well-being, UNICEF Tunisia supported the development of a national strategy to fight against domestic violence on children and women.

These activities promoting gender equality were implemented by partners with the support of the Country Office. UNICEF was able to mobilize resources from the Italian cooperation to support the school environment interventions implemented by UNOPs. UNICEF Tunisia also provided technical support through consultancies to develop the decentralized monitoring system for equity results monitoring related to maternal mortality and provided technical and financial support for the campaign against school dropouts.

**Environmental Sustainability**

Greening of UNICEF actions outlined in 2015 continued in 2016. The eco-friendly practice of replacing plastic cups with washable glasses and ceramic cups was adopted by all staff. The partnership with an NGO for recycling continued for plastic, food and paper wastes. The treatment of computerized waste is now carried out in compliance with environmental standards. Used and damaged furniture was provided to the Tunisian Centre for Social Entrepreneurship.

Following the staff retreat in February 2016, increased efforts were made to advise staff on information and best practices to reduce water wastage, on responsible electricity usage and to reduce paper waster (best printing practices, including recto verso printing).

In March, UNICEF Tunisia participated in eco-construction days, which entailed a series of workshops and sharing of experiences between the government, the private sector and civil society around the good practices of construction and development respecting and protecting the environment. In April, UNICEF in partnership with the Arab Institute of Human Rights, supported the organization of a drawing workshop with children during the national book fair in Tunis on the theme of the Right to a healthy environment.

In November, the staff association and a local NGO the Friends of Belevadere Park organized a day where UNICEF staff and their families could spend time in Belvedere Park and learn about local flora and fauna and support local botanical preservation efforts (plant preservation and care, replanting plants).

**Effective Leadership**

UNICEF Tunisia started 2016 with 12 open audit recommendations, including 3 high priorities. UNICEF Tunisia implemented the audit recommendation action plan and succeeded in closing 11.5 out of 12 recommendations, including all 3 high priorities. The country management team (CMT) met twelve times monthly in 2016. During their 2016 meetings, the country management team reviewed the annual management plan priorities and the office score card in terms of progress, achievements, and challenges encountered, and recommended appropriate measures to improve the performance of various activities. Mandatory monthly program meetings gradually improved the monthly programme performance monitoring.

With programme budget review (PBR) approval, UNICEF Tunisia took steps (staff recruitments and reorganization) to establish a performance monitoring unit that will be effective as of 1 January, 2017. The table of authority was revised to include staff that joined during the year and ensured mitigation of all identified management risks in the previous table. UNICEF Tunisia also assessed its performance against the implementation of agreed priorities in the annual management plan (AMP) to inform the preparation of AMP 2017.
through an annual review. HACT was a standing agenda item in all country management team meetings, with follow up of the assurance plan and a regular monitoring of outstanding direct cash transfers (DCTs) and fund utilization status notably outstanding for more than 6 and 9 months.

Regarding the continuity of the effectiveness of program orientations and strategies, UNICEF Tunisia engaged in strategic discussions with other technical partners in the country on social reforms and innovation, school dropout, violence against children, and justice for children, as well as adolescents, with the aim of ensuring that UNICEF Tunisia’s strategies and contributions remain relevant and take into consideration changes in the programmatic environment.

**Financial Resources Management**

Review of the UNICEF Tunisia score card and indicators, as per the VISION/InSight office dashboard, were included on the agenda of all monthly CMTs and program meetings. The reinforced monitoring mechanism improved the monitoring and liquidating of direct cash transfers (DCTs) with none outstanding over 9 months. UNICEF Tunisia only had one open TAs as of 31 December 2016 and 6 open purchase orders after end date.

UNICEF Tunisia utilized 97 per cent of its allocated budget for 2016, for a total amount of US$ 3,451,242. All the regular resources were utilized (US$ 1,270,118.1). UNICEF Tunisia closed 11 and half recommendations (3 high and 8 medium) out of the 12 recommendations in the 2015 audit report.

Several standard operating procedures (SoPs) were developed related to travel, contracts, and CSDs, to bring more efficiency and effectiveness in processes. In late 2016, UNICEF Tunisia transitioned to the Global Shared Services Centre (GSCC). Many financial transactions were passed to the Centre with the country management team following-up on issues as required.

The country management team gave special attention throughout the year to the objectives set at the beginning of the year in relation to improving the working environment and security of staff, which provides which outlines linkages with greening efforts of the office. In this context, substantial savings were incurred in electricity, water, and fuel and paper consumption.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

By the end 2016, other resources – regular (ORR) utilization rate was close to 93 per cent (actuals and committed) against 2016 allotments. Nearly US$1.8 million in ORR was phased into 2017 as per existing donor agreements for multiyear projects. In November 2016, new multiyear funding was received from the Italian Cooperation (nearly US$3.4 million) for education, expiring in 2018.

Education has benefited from thematic funds used at 96 per cent. Social inclusion thematic funds were used at nearly 99 per cent against the 2016 allotment. Funds carried over from the EU for the Access to Justice Project (more than US$700,000) and Italian Cooperation to support the Deinstitutionalization project (more than US$660,000) will enable activities to continue in 2017.

Monitoring of donor report deadlines and quality was ensured through internal capacity development and establishment and reinforcement of a standard operating procedure. As per the audit recommendations concerning the EU Justice Project delays in progress and fund utilization, UNICEF Tunisia brought in additional child protection staff to support the project management and coordination and liaise at technical level with the donor.

Several meetings were held with various donors in country to build relationships and foster information exchange, including EU, Italy, the UK,, Canada, and the World Bank.

In terms of funding prospects for 2017, a new partnership amounting US$5.9 million will be signed with the EU during the first quarter of 2017. The UK Embassy invited UNICEF to
submit a project proposal by end of January 2017 in the amount of at least US$6.1 million over a two year period with the prospective of further funding after completion of an annual evaluation. UNICEF Tunisia also contributed to leverage budget support for the country’s Education sector reform in the amount of US$48.2 million from the EU and US$100 million from the World Bank.

**Evaluation and Research**

UNICEF Tunisia did not conduct an evaluation in 2016. Nevertheless, programmatic support in 2016 was informed by data and evidence generated through issue-focused situational analysis/studies (e.g. ECD study on the state of 4,000 ECD structures). In 2017, UNICEF Tunisia will conduct two internal evaluations: one on social policy and one on justice for children. In 2017, UNICEF Tunisia will revise its IMEP as part of the midterm review process.

The outcomes of the December 2015 midterm review of the EU juvenile justice (JJ) and the EU external evaluation done in 2016 have informed corrective actions taken by UNICEF Tunisia on the project’s implementation throughout the year. Both processes observed the following shortfalls in the project implementation: poor project design with poorly defined targets, activity indicators and objectively verifiable indicators (OVIs); lack of communication, coordination and synergy between actors, including between the EU and UNICEF; lack of planning and knowledge of EU procedures; lack of clarification on the role of partners; and high turnover of UNICEF project managers.

Based on these observations, corrective actions undertaken included improved project design, where target values were revised to consider the number of children released from correctional centres who have received follow-up and an individualized reintegration program. The logframe and intervention logic were revised to be specific in accordance with results based monitoring framework approaches to activity indicators and OVIs. To reinforce the project management structure, UNICEF Tunisia took steps to make the UNICEF program manager the Juvenile Justice project manager with additional human capacity (JPO) to support the day-to-day project implementation. This management arrangement supported improved coordination of the project throughout 2016, with regular Technical Committee meetings held and improved transparency on project planning and improved relations between the EU and UNICEF.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

The strategy to reduce operating expenses continued in 2016. UNICEF Tunisia continued to benefit from special airfare tariffs under the LTAs signed as part of the ‘Delivering as One’ of the UN System in country, which resulted in significant savings in travel. UNICEF Tunisia also replaced some vehicles to reduce fuel consumption. As much as possible, field missions were combined among program staff, allowing the Office to save on fuel and other travel administration costs. UNICEF also started using other UN agencies’ LTA in printing and management of events. This led to reduced use of RFPs for every single print job or event.

UNICEF Tunisia, in collaboration with UNICEF Libya (based in Tunis), launched RFPs for hotels within various localities within Tunisia. This will allow UNICEF Tunisia to secure special rates for accommodations and meeting/conference services and therefore result in cost savings for the two offices. UN LTAs in the area of graphic design, translation services and communication are also being established. The office recorded substantial savings in electricity consumption (around 14 per cent) water (18 per cent), fuel (diesel fuel 36 per cent) and paper in 2016 compared to 2015. Some of these savings were also attributed to ongoing greening efforts by the office.
UNICEF Tunisia continued to provide administrative support to UNICEF Libya in Tunis, including local administrative support (for example, facilitating entry documentation diplomatic cards for UNICEF Libya staff based in Tunis). Local HR support was provided to UNICEF Libya by the UNICEF Tunisia HR focal point for recruitments as requested/needed. Although the current arrangement is done on an on case by case basis, it is envisaged that a more formalized Common Services unit will be put in place during 2017 for UNICEF Tunisia and UNICEF Libya.

Supply Management

The overall local procurement volume of good and services during 2016 was approximately US$829,429, of which 86.6 per cent was for programme related activities. UNICEF Tunisia started the process with the UN Procurement Group of establishing new LTAs for the following services: printing service, graphic design, translation/interpretation, video production and photography services. The processes are expected to be finalized in early 2017.

UNICEF Tunisia, along with UNICEF Libya, launched RFPs for banking and hotels services. UNICEF Tunisia does not have any supply/procurement staff. Since 2011, this function is performed by the ICT officer. As per the November 2016 approved PBR, a new post supply and procurement at NOB level has been created and the recruitment will be completed in 2017.

Security for Staff and Premises

Staff safety and security as well as the security of UNICEF premises remained a top priority in 2016. UNICEF Tunisia continued to work closely with UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), security management team (SMT), operations management team (OMT) and the regional security advisor to ensure all precautionary measures were undertaken, were adhered to, and that security advisories were shared with staff in a timely manner.

Extra support for the UNICEF Libya security liaison officer was made available towards the end of the year. A new security Officer post at NOB level has been approved by the PBR and the recruitment will be done in 2017.

UNICEF Tunisia was allocated US$ 30,000 by the UNICEF Regional Office for security enhancement of its premises. The funding was partially utilized as the project of changing premises was postponed to 2017. Some updates were completed, including office access controls, instalment of new cameras and a new video surveillance system. New shatter resistant films were installed on some of the ground and upper floor windows. All UNICEF vehicles were equipped with GPS.

Each staff and consultant was issued a UN badge for accessing the office and an attendance record system was established. All new staff and consultants received a security briefing. At least four refresher courses on security were facilitated, including by the regional security, for all staff and consultants. The office phone tree, staff contacts and wardens’ lists were regularly updated. Training on first aid was provided to all staff and consultants along with a briefing on wardens system. UNICEF Tunisia updated its Business Continuity Plan document. A testing and simulation exercise is required for 2017. A request for additional funding for security measures for the new office premises was submitted to the Regional Office.
Human Resources

Five recruitments processes, including two international professionals were carried out in accordance with UNICEF rules/ procedures with the support of UNICEF MENARO and UNICEF Libya OPS manager. Local and international individual contracts were launched in the areas of ECD, C4D, Communication and Adolescents. The vacancy rate increased from 18 per cent in 2015 to 27 per cent at the end of 2016 because of frozen project posts in the staffing structure.

UNICEF Tunisia benefited from stretch assignments in child protection, WASH and Deputy Representative. Three staff members went on stretch assignments to UNICEF Djibouti, Lesotho, and Budapest, respectively, and to UNICEF EAP Regional Office.

The mandatory training courses initiated largely in 2015 had completion rates as follows: 100 per cent for security and results-based management (RBM), 92 per cent for Ethics and SHAAP; and 95 per cent for HACT and E-FACE. UNICEF staff attended face to face trainings to strengthen capacities in various areas, including transition to GSSC, VISION, and HACT. Each staff member reflected his or her training plan in their respective ACHIEVE (PER) and the learning committee met at least three times to review requests and submit recommendations to the Representative. Open discussions on performance management between staff and supervisors were encouraged by management and were held for all staff. UNICEF Tunisia also contracted with Deloitte to support staff and strengthen their competencies on management and leadership.

The staff association continued to work closely with management and bring together the staff and contribute to staff and their family’s welfare, including parties for children and farewell dinners for retirees. A staff retreat was held and focused on team building and motivation. The joint consultative committee (JCC) was held four times in 2016 (March, June, September and December) and all the minutes were shared with all staff. Weekly stand up meetings and periodic all staff meetings were organized.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

UNICEF Tunisia adhered to UNICEF’s global ICT standards to maintain greater efficiency and effectiveness. The UNICEF Regional Office conducted an assessment and follow up actions were implemented. UNICEF Tunisia updated its IT equipment. Skype for Business was commonly used for interviews and teleconferences. Conferencing equipment was acquired to enhance the video-conferencing facilities in the office. The office planned to switch to Lightweight and Agile IT initiative (LIGHT) by end of 2016 and the necessary equipment was acquired. The ICT post was abolished. ICT NOB contributed to programmatic activities in area of establishment of the U-Report platform for Tunisia and using tablets for the SWITCH vaccination program campaign. The Facebook page was reactivated with support of an external agency for the occasion of UNICEF’s 70th anniversary.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 – By 2019 public authorities elaborate, monitor and evaluate in a participative way social policies reforms based on measurable evidence and focused on childhood with special reference to equity and gender balance.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following local and national consultations focusing on “Investing in Children”, the Government increased its commitment to invest in children. The Government declared 2017 the year of children. UNICEF will support a conference on innovative financing for children. Evidence generated on the impact of investment in children in Tunisia on child poverty, education, nutrition and health to inform these consultations has promoted strategic dialogue on public policies focusing on children. The critical role of public budget in strengthening social protection mechanisms for children as well as the role that civil society organizations and communities play is better recognized by social protection system stakeholders.

All parties reached a consensus with the government to develop a Social Protection Floor (SPF) in Tunisia with a consideration to have child grants as a pillar of the SPF. It has also been agreed to enlarge partnerships with civil society to increase participation of children and adolescents in monitoring of their rights and identification of strategic domains for public action to advance the realization of their rights in the country. The ongoing education reform policies implemented by the country have been informed by studies and research. The budget estimation for quality and equitable preparatory year for 4 to 5 years old children is being developed to inform the development of the overall operation plan.

Regarding monitoring of social policy, the Government built on the MoRES approach to develop an equity based monitoring system for health programs in two health districts. The system has been seen by national partners to be critical to increase equitable access to and reinforce inclusiveness of quality health services. Government also recognized the need to strengthen monitoring of the situation of children at decentralized level and the design of a decentralized monitoring system based on the SDGs indicators began in two regions as a pilot.

UNICEF Tunisia supported policy dialogue and advocacy for child rights with Ministries. Case studies of other countries on universal allocation and innovative financing for children was shared with national partners. UNICEF Tunisia support was also instrumental to conceptualize and structure the local and national consultations on ‘investing in children’. UNICEF Tunisia contributed to the design of a technical approach to estimate the overall cost of the preparatory year of school. Introduction of participatory approaches based on MORES to monitor access to health services were possible thanks to UNICEF’s support. UNICEF’s technical support was instrumental to develop the actions plans of the above-mentioned health districts after the identification of specific bottlenecks to an equity access of health services in these delegations. UNICEF Tunisia’s support also was useful to trigger technical discussion at national and local levels on how to better monitor the situation of children at local level.

The universal child grant that was designed to support the reform of social policies and mainstream child rights encountered some constraints in its approach and its implementation. The issue of financing a universal child grant as well as its alignment to the national social protection mechanism were ongoing issues under discussion, which led the national counterparts to be reluctant to adhere to the process. The government is considering developing a targeted child grant under the SPF rather than a universal child grant. UNICEF will support a study to estimate the cost of a child grant, looking at case studies and workable models and determine the fiscal space for its financing. UNICEF Tunisia’s support in the health sector within the joint UNFPA, WHO, and UNICEF maternal and child health program highlighted the need to rethink UNICEF Tunisia’s approach in support of the health sector and to better position UNICEF in that domain.

**OUTPUT 1** – The of National institutions have improved capacities to develop social policies renewed in a participative way to guarantee social protection to children
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following on national and regional consultations on the ‘Investing in Children’, civil society organizations and the Government recognized the need to increase investment in children. With UNICEF support, specific analysis of the impact of investment in children to increase their access to basic social services was conducted and financial options to support these investments were explored. The role and responsibilities of CSOs and communities in strengthening the social protection system for children is better recognized thanks to UNICEF advocacy efforts. UNICEF technical support addressed the critical role of public financing to build an equitable social protection system taking into consideration children’s needs. A consensus to introduce a ‘child grant’ as a pillar of the social protection floor was reached with all technical partners, including UNICEF. UNICEF promoted the option of a universal child grant to ensure an equitable social protection system for children. In the education sector, the process to develop an operational plan for the ‘preparatory year’ including its financial sustainability was launched thanks to UNICEF technical support.

The social protection floor framework that was established offers the opportunity to continue technical discussions among all the involved stakeholders and share knowledge and available information on various options to invest in children. There is a request from national counterpart to conduct a study to develop a cost estimation of a universal child grant scheme, and model as well examine fiscal space for its financing. There is a need to strengthen advocacy at decision making level as well as increase civil society awareness to support a child friendly social protection reform in Tunisia.

OUTPUT 2 – Monitoring and evaluation systems focused on the needs and disparities of the most vulnerable children are employed by the actors at central, regional and local level to improve the quality of the strategy results and policies in favor of childhood.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, several national counterparts informed their planning process with the results of studies and research supported by UNICEF, particularly MICS4, N-MODA and OOSCI as a result of dissemination process conducted at regional and national level to better guide the planning processes at all level. Pursuing the efforts done in 2015 to strengthen decentralized monitoring, regional monitoring committees were put in place in two governorates namely Kef and Kasserine, where multiple child deprivations were observed. UNICEF supported the establishment of those committees with the aim of increasing availability of data to inform planning process at decentralized level and strengthen coordination mechanisms among stakeholders involved in development interventions at regional level. The forthcoming MICS 6 survey was included in the studies and research plan of the National Institute of Statistics (NIS). A memorandum of understanding for the MICS 6 implementation was drafted and submitted to NIS for signature in order to trigger the MICS implementation process.

OUTPUT 3 - The capacities of Health actors are improved in order to develop and monitor equitable and high quality programs related to mothers, children and adolescents health.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
2016 was the second year of the implementation of the joint UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO program for child and maternal health. Within the immunization program, UNICEF supported the SWITCH vaccination program and specifically the use of ICT devices to monitor the implementation of the SWITCH initiative. National capacities to monitor the impact of the switch initiative were further strengthened along with capacities in emergency communication. To address the inequities between regions and social groups, UNICEF contributed to reinforcing the health information system at decentralized level by supporting the implementation of the MoRES approach in two health districts of the governorate of Nabeul. The monitoring system helped to identify bottlenecks to access of good quality
health services and develop actions plan to address them. The perspective in 2017 is to strengthen the systemic approach within the framework of the joint program. Building on the lessons learned from the SWITCH initiative, UNICEF will strengthen the use of ICT within the immunization program.

OUTPUT 4 – National, regional and local partners acquire capacities to put in place effective participation mechanisms of all children independently of their age, sex, social group, or region.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Despite the open political climate following the revolution, the level of young people’s participation remains relatively low, as reflected by the limited number of adolescents who participate in public and media debates and by the lack of their commitment to community life.
UNICEF Tunisia opened discussions on children and adolescents and notably on the obstacles to their participation and how to overcome them. UNICEF succeeded in influencing its partners to involve children and adolescents, girls and boys in the strategic reflections (during the elaboration of the national development plan).
In this framework and in order to establish a national strategy for the promotion of an effective participation and to guarantee its sustainability, UNICEF conducted a survey on ‘children and adolescent perception about the exercise of their rights to participation and active citizenship’, which will guide the elaboration of this strategy, planned for 2017. This strategy will identify, in a participatory manner with all stakeholders including children and adolescents themselves, the mechanisms to put in place to ensure an effective participation

To ensure that the voices of children and adolescents were heard, UNICEF Tunisia committed to setting up the U-Report platform in Tunisia. A steering committee was established and the digital platform construction began. The launching of the U-Report planned for 2017 will be an entry point for reaching youth, particularly adolescents, to facilitate a forum for adolescents’ voices and participation through accountability mechanisms and youth engagement.
The rapid expansion of digital communication technologies in Tunisia and particularly Facebook has the potential to open up other opportunities for adolescents to participate in civic engagement. UNICEF will continue to advocate for greater participation of adolescents and youth in processes concerning the promotion and protection of their rights.

OUTPUT 5 – Support to Social Policy and Health Programme

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The health officer position under the PSSE program remained unfulfilled for half of the year despite tentative of the Office to fulfil the position. No suitable candidate was identified at the end of the recruitment process. The position will be re-advertised for 2017.

OUTCOME 2 – By 2019, the government implements renewed policies and strategies in order to guarantee a universal access to better quality basic education of all children (boys and girls from the preschool to 16 years old) with a particular attention to vulnerable groups in disadvantaged regions.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The strategic plan 2016-2020 of the Ministry of Education was finalized in 2016. To support education reform, the Ministry developed a ‘white paper’ of the education reform which defined the strategic objectives and key action areas of the education reforms in Tunisia.
The government also agreed to implement a functional review of the MoE. Preliminary steps to elaborate an operational plan for the reform were undertaken by the 15 reforms commissions put in place by the government. As part of the reform agenda, national and regional capacities in strategic planning in the education sector were reinforced. The diagnostic of the current education information system of the country was done to identify reinforcement needs for a well harmonized and effective education information system.

As part of the hard dimension of the strategy against school dropout, an agreement with UNOPS for rehabilitation of school environment and facilities in 34 schools was put in place, including upgrading of school facilities standards.

Technical discussions for the best strategic approach began by the government with all the education sector partners in the country. With regard to preschool education, the country set the groundwork for a harmonized preschool education approach that will ensure equitable access to standard ECD services provided both in public and private sectors. The draft ECD strategy prepared nurtured in-depth dialogue on ECD in the country. In addition to early childhood education, parental education, health, and social protection are dimensions considered by the strategy.

Keys actions to undertake for the preparatory year in the national preschool system were identified as a result of the situation analysis on the state of preschool education. An information system to monitor the structures offering preschool education services was developed to assess children’s learning in preschool. The Ministry of Education took step to integrate life skills education in its curricula as of 2017 and 500 secondary students acquired life skills to protect themselves against the consumption of psychoactive substances and are able to transfer their knowledge to their peers.

UNICEF Tunisia’s support for the education reform process during the year covered the areas of quality, inclusiveness and equitable access for all children. The ongoing process of revision of curriculum for basic education was launched with UNICEF Tunisia’s support. Technical support was provided for this important aspect of the reform. UNICEF Tunisia also built national capacities on integration of life skills education into curriculum. Capacity development in strategic planning at regional levels was technically supported to ensure that operationalization of the reforms build on strengthened planning capacities close to the needs.

The agreement to conduct a functional review of the Education Ministry in 2017 and agreement to develop a costed operation plan for the implementation of the reform are a result of UNICEF strategic policy dialogue and advocacy with education partners. In the area of ECD, UNICEF Tunisia support was instrumental to trigger a cross sectoral discussion on ECD with all lines Ministries involved in ECD A draft integrated ECD strategy was completed. A guidance document to support inclusion of children with disabilities in preschool was produced with the support of UNICEF Tunisia. UNICEF also leveraged funds from the Italian cooperation to support the implementation of the government’s school dropout strategy. The agreement was informed by the last UNICEF and MoE OOSCI study conducted in 2014. UNICEF Tunisia supported prevention of school dropout through improvement of school environment and facilities, including construction of separate and inclusive toilets for girls and boys and playground facilities through a partnership agreement with UNOPS. UNICEF Tunisia also contributed to the strategic thinking (e.g. second chance education vs vocational training) on mechanisms and programs to address school dropout. Communication materials were developed with UNICEF Tunisia’s support to raise awareness and prevent school dropout.
Accelerating integrated early childhood development and greater focus on second decade of life were identified as emerging areas that needed to be better addressed. UNICEF Tunisia took steps to secure resources for additional internal expertise in ECD and engaged in the process to develop a national youth and adolescent strategy to inform the MTR process.

**OUTPUT 1** – National and local partners’ capacities are strengthened to lead, in a participative way, an education system reform based on the respect of child rights, equity, inclusion, teaching quality et good governance of the whole system.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF support for the Reform Commissions led to the production of several technical documents (guides, manuals, methodological documents on evaluation in education, and a draft of the new Law on Education and School Education The work of the 15 sectoral subcommittees on educational reform was completed. Technical support was provided for the identification and formulation of the axes of cooperation with the European Union, leveraging EU partnership for education reform. Comprehensive training for regional educational planning frameworks was provided. Technical work made it possible to identify the possibilities and limitations of the current system for collecting statistical information and to identify the needs for strengthening this system so that it can be more efficient and harmonized at the nomenclature level. International technical expertise in curriculum engineering and the teacher training system was launched.

Discussions have advanced with several donors to finance technical support for educational reform, including leveraging partnerships with the World Bank and EU. There has been a progressive shift from an inclusive school project approach to a more strategic and complex programme approach (accessibility, curricular content, school environment, pedagogical tools, inclusive care, etc.), UNICEF is well positioned to continue to influence the agenda and provide continued technical support. European financial support for the functional reviews of four Ministries, including the Ministry of Education, was an opportunity to coordinate efforts and provide UNICEF with technical expertise in this area.

Output 2 – Education system capacities are improved in order to guarantee high quality preschool education services in accordance with international standard and favoring the inclusion of all children (boys and girls) with particular attention to the most vulnerable children from disadvantaged regions.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Tunisia accompanied the national partners in major interventions for early childhood development, including through technical and logistical assistance for the development of the ECD strategy, as well as the situation analysis. UNICEF supported a study on the state of pre-school education with a focus on the preparatory year. The results of this analysis helped decision-makers identify priority actions to harmonize standards and for ECD service providers, address gaps in human resources services including technical ECD qualifications. UNICEF assisted the Directorate-General for Children to set up an Information System on pre-school education structures. This system was pilot tested in areas and will be rolled out over the course of 2017. It will provide real-time information and indicators on more than 4,000 early childhood structures in Tunisia, and monitor the effectiveness of these institutions. A preschool assessment scale for children was
developed, to be piloted in 2017. With UNICEF support, a guide was created for educators and media communication for the inclusion of children with disabilities in kindergartens.

There was a good inter-ministerial dynamic and networking with different stakeholders and civil society. This will be capitalized on during the implementation of the ECD strategy action plan. The commitment of political authorities and donors to reducing regional disparities and improving social services, especially education, for the most vulnerable groups is an opportunity to improve access and quality of ECD service delivery. UNICEF Tunisia plans to develop a roadmap and a budgeted action plan for the preparatory year by 2020; develop and implement a revised strategy for parent education; establish standards and an innovative model of pre-school education (e.g. centre of excellence); and develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the implementation of the ECD strategy to ensure the sustainability of actions.

**OUTPUT 3** – the education system is made able to limit school dropout and underperformance through a participative and decentralized approach centered on the child (boy or girl) and on the improvement of the quality of the education.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
A school environment improvement project as part of the combatting school dropout program was launched in 34 targeted schools (for approximately 8,000 children). This was done through the partnership between the MOE, Italian Cooperation and UNICEF. A campaign for communication and social mobilization to combat school dropout was launched. A preliminary survey and six Focus Groups were conducted and communication materials were developed. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to develop a public awareness campaign on the phenomenon of school dropout. UNICEF conducted a behavioural research study. The campaign aims to mobilize national institutions, influential leaders, civil society and private sector to leverage attention and engage them in providing a supporting environment to prevent school dropout. The campaign was launched at the end of 2016 and will continue until the end of May 2017. The first version of a national model program to combat dropout and school failure was developed.

Several donors have expressed interest in partnerships with UNICEF and MoE to combat school dropout and addressing out-of-school children. This could lead to additional funding.

The implementation of the model program to combat school dropout and failure was a favourable factor for prospective collaboration with NGOs (capitalization of best practices in the fight against school dropout and failure) to further develop and improve the model program. Plans are underway to initiate a pilot project to support young people ages 15-19 years who are out-of-school with employment opportunities, especially through vocational training. A planned KAP Survey on hygiene at school will contribute to the overall improved communication materials and social mobilization interventions as per the framework of the national campaign to combat school dropout.

**OUTPUT 4** - National and local partners including Civil Society acquire relevant knowledge and capacities to provide the necessary skills to youngsters and adolescents (boys and girls), in targeted areas, in order to get them ready to success in their lives.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The experimental project to combat the consumption of psychoactive substances (launched in 2013) was completed. The capacity of a multidisciplinary team to develop life skills among
school children was strengthened. A total of 500 pupils acquired life skills to protect themselves against the consumption of psychoactive substances and were able to pass on their knowledge to their peers. Communication materials for awareness-raising on life skills focused on health (e.g. documentary video) were produced. A curriculum on life skills education was finalized and validated (in line with the integration of life skills in educational reform).

This work provided opportunity for reflection on life skills in Tunisia as an integral part of the various axes of educational reform, in the context of programs and in the initial and in-service training of teachers. The availability of video materials and literature on life skills produced through the experimental project led by DMSU, MOE and UNICEF allowed for better visibility and sharing of experiences. Approximately 50 young adolescents were sensitized as life skill peer educators presented an opportunity to disseminate key messages of life skills in through other forums such as the U-Report.

UNICEF plans to develop and share with the partners concerned a strategic document for integrating life skills into school curricula and develop a follow-up strategy. The process of integrating life skills into school curricula will be launched as part of curriculum reform and a new work plan will be developed with members of the Citizen Education Task Force.

**OUTPUT 5 – Support to the Education Programme**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Chief Education position remained vacant all year, resulting in a heavy workload for staff. Attempts to bring in additional capacities to support the WASH component of the program were unsuccessful. The TA WASH position remained vacant. As result of the PBR submitted, additional ECD expertise will be reinforced with the establishment of an ECD Specialist P4 position.

**OUTCOME 3 – Children and adolescents (boys and girls) who need protection against violence, abuse, exploitation and carelessness, benefit from an improved and equitable prevention and from adequate measures in accordance with the international conventions and treaties on human rights and gender balance.**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The integrated public policy for child protection was finalized and its operational plan is being developed. The commitment to align the national child code with international standards and the new constitution was secured and will be done in 2017. The government launched the process to develop a national strategy of ‘deinstitutionalization’ aiming at promoting alternative care measures to the institutional placement of children without parental care. In order to operationalize alternative solutions to institutional placement, preparatory steps were taken towards the support selected ‘pouponnières’ in two regions of the country. Strategic discussion was triggered between the two most important actors dealing with children without family care -- family judges and protection delegates -- with the aim at raising awareness of judges with regards to their role in the protection of these children. The process of improvement of quality of services in institutions was fostered by the training of 18 social workers from CIJE (centres intégrés de la jeunesse et de l’enfance) on elaboration of a monitoring tool to follow the situation of children.

The Ministry of Justice committed to creating a Ministry unit specialized on justice for children. The discussions regarding the sustainability of capacity building activities resulted in partnering with academic institutions to commit to include modules on justice for children.
in their curricula. Knowledge and good practices on promoting alternative measures to deprivation of liberty were gained thanks to a study trip in Europe. As a consequence, the Ministry of Justice emphasized the need to further promote probation (liberté surveillée) and exchanges between juvenile judges in order to foster implementation of the legal provision on probation for juveniles. A CSBC Strategy in favour of vulnerable children and children in conflict with the law to promote alternative measures to detention was elaborated and validated by government and civil society partners. In the area of juvenile delinquency prevention, based on the regional guidelines on alternative measures to detention, a program is being developed with support from an international NGO (DEI) aimed at building capacity of a network of 20 NGOs through the development of tools and training. All this progress was achieved with the support of UNICEF Tunisia, which aimed to align the national child protection system of the country to international standards to which the country has prescribed. UNICEF Tunisia focused its support on strengthening the institutional framework by providing technical support to the integrated public policy for child protection. Policy dialogue, advocacy and awareness raising activities were essential to support the ongoing national processes to align the legal text with the international standards and the new constitution of Tunisia. At the operational level, UNICEF Tunisia’s support was essential to facilitate dialogue between all stakeholders involved in child protection.

UNICEF Tunisia intends to undergo a thorough review of its child Protection program component as part of the MTR exercise to better position its support to the sector, taking into consideration the emerging program areas in the sector at national level and broader regional priorities.

OUTPUT 1 – Policies and legislation determining the child protection system are harmonized with the Tunisian Constitution and international regulation including the rules regarding equity and gender balance.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The integrated public policy for child protection initiated in 2015 was finalized and validated. The public policy development process was conducted through a participatory approach supported by UNICEF. The process was conducted by a steering committee composed of representatives from several Ministries (Education, Health, Justice, Social Affairs, and Interior) under the lead of the Ministry of Women, Family and Childhood. The action plan is being finalized per axes and each axis is led by one of the Ministries involved in the policy. A political validation of the policy will soon be proceeded by a Council of Ministers to give the order to its implementation and the creation of the coordination mechanism for monitoring and evaluation.

The process of elaborating the policy gave it strong ownership by all the partners, including those who are not traditionally involved in child protection, such as Ministries of Education and Health. Preliminary work began on the identification of the legal texts to be harmonized with international standards and the new constitution. The proposition of reform of the legal framework will be considered within the work of the sub-commission in charge of the work plan of the implementation of the of the child protection policy lead by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Women, Family and Childhood benefited from technical and financial support from the Council of Europe to improve knowledge and case studies of documentation in the field of children's rights and the fight against sexual violence.

OUTPUT 2 – Child protection actors privilege family care solutions for children in danger or with disabilities in order to avoid institutionalization.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
One of the project’s pivotal steps is the elaboration of a national strategy for De-Institutionalization including a communication plan, in view of advancing the intended activities.

Preparatory steps were taken to support selected ‘pouponnières’ in two regions. The two selected structures caring for children without parental care also prepared for their transition towards work focusing on supporting single-parent families through the creation of kindergartens and linking with ECD facilities.

Advocacy efforts led by UNICEF resulted in children without parental care being put on the Ministry of Justice agenda. Meetings were held, including an annual meeting between family judges and Protection Delegates (DPE) where a full session was dedicated to the situation of children without parental care.

Capacity-building activities were implemented, with an initial training for 18 social workers from CIJE focusing on the elaboration of a monitoring tool to follow the situation of children. Activities at the regional level will strengthen the foster care system, led by the INPE (Institut Nationale de la Protecton de l’enfance). In the short term, awareness-raising activities at grassroots level will be conducted to identify and recruit new foster families due to the very high number of children in need of short-term family-based care. In the long-term, discussions will lead to the elaboration of a “cahier des charges” for foster families.

The project’s relaunch had a positive effect on all partners and on their commitment, serving as a good opportunity to capitalize on the work realized on deinstitutionalization over the past 15 years. Many different initiatives will be given global and strategic direction that will be designed and agreed by all involved stakeholders.

The elaboration of a communication plan to accompany the strategy will help to change mentalities and raise awareness about the needs of children without parental care. The activities being implemented for foster care are promising as new foster families will be identified and systems put in place to reinforce monitoring and evaluation in this regard. The involvement of the civil society within the project was an important asset since they can work on the implementation of national strategy at grassroots level.

**OUTPUT 3** – Juvenile Justice actors (judicial and extra-judicial) have adequate capacities to guarantee law enforcement within the respect of children rights and the rights of adolescents in contact with the Justice System (victims, witnesses, authors) taking into account boys’ and girls’ needs.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The project ‘support for improving the juvenile justice system in Tunisia’, financed by the European Union (EU), received a no-cost extension for one year. Project activities aimed to establish a reference framework for probation officers (délegués à la liberté surveillée), as well as to develop their capacity in line with the framework. The Ministry of Justice committed to creating a Ministry unit specializing on justice for children.

The project aims to finalize guidelines as well as to draft standard operational procedures to capacitate juvenile justice actors to ensure a child-sensitive treatment of children in conflict with the law. To promote alternative measures to juvenile detention, the project’s technical committee conducted a study trip to the Netherlands and Belgium that included various meetings with government, civil society and academic stakeholders, as well as visits to state- and NGO-funded mediation and probation programmes. With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Justice organized a workshop to further promote probation (liberté surveillée) and exchanges between juvenile judges to foster implementation of the legal provision on probation for juveniles.
Within the project, a CSBC Strategy in favour of vulnerable children and children in conflict with the law to promote alternative measures to detention was elaborated and validated by government and civil society partners. A pilot phase was implemented focusing on strengthening capacities of juvenile justice actors, particularly adolescents, parents, as well as justice and other professionals in contact with children. A baseline study was conducted (socio-anthropological research) to better analyse perceptions, attitudes and practice of children, families and professionals to measure progress and better tailor the CSBC strategy. The intervention focused on two pilot regions and has created a stronger coalition among partners and strategic community level actors (youth parliamentarians, media and influential leaders).

The project also supported 14 non-governmental associations, including through direct financial measures, as well as through needs-based capacity development activities for improving the conduct of programs aimed at juvenile delinquency prevention, as well as monitoring of children in conflict with the law. A number of activities with regard to strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, including the development of the architecture for an information management system on juvenile justice data and indicators, were implemented.

The project ‘support for improving the juvenile justice system in Tunisia’, financed by the EU, enhanced government and civil society knowledge and capacity on justice for children issues, and sensitized communities towards treating children in conflict with the law in a child-sensitive manner. An action plan outlining the intended future activities stemming from the project’s results will allow a strategic and action-oriented focus on Tunisia’s children’s access to justice agenda.

**OUTPUT 4** – Families, Civil Society and all other actors working for and with children have access to the relevant information and can contribute to children protection against violence including gender based violence.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The C4D strategy to prevent violence against children in their homes or living spaces was finalized and an action plan was validated with UNICEF support. Thanks to a participatory process involving a multidisciplinary committee headed by the Ministry of Women, Family and Children, partners were engaged and feel ownership of the initiative.

Several training workshops were organized during the year and technical support from UNICEF was provided to build institutional capacity in C4D Strategic planning. The C4D strategy takes several approaches, (advocacy, social mobilization and communication for social change) into account, focusing on children at the centre of the action and enhancing linkages with parents, social organization networks, service providers and medias. This strategy provides multisector linkages with all programmes and evidence of coordinating work at multiple levels (national, regional and local level). Partners were engaged to implement the action plan in 2017.

**OUTPUT 5 - Support to the Child Protection Programme**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Despite the progress achieved, the child protection component of UNICEF Tunisia country programme encountered a shortage of internal technical capacity during the year and staff turnover therein. The implementation strategy of the protection program heavily relied on successive stretch assignments as well as temporary appointment positions, thus resulting
in implementation delays generated by the hiring processes. UNICEF Tunisia intends to undergo a thorough review of its Child Protection program component as part of the MTR exercise to better position its support to this sector, taking into consideration the emerging programme areas in the sector at national level and broader regional priorities.

### Document Centre

**Evaluation and Research**

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<td>CARTOGRAPHIE DES SOURCES D’INFORMATION ET DES STATISTIQUES SUR LE HANDICAP EN TUNISIE</td>
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### Lessons Learned

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Lesson Learned</td>
<td>Implementation Strategy</td>
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### Programme Documents

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<tr>
<td>UN Transition strategy 2011-2013</td>
<td>UN Transition strategy 2011-2013</td>
<td>STRATEGIE DE TRANSITION TUNISIE 27 Octobre.pdf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good practice</td>
<td>Documentation of a Community based NGO experience</td>
<td>Rapport de documentation expérience ONG-TAAMS (version validée2011).pdf</td>
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