

Executive Summary

- In year two of the CP, UNICEF demonstrated its relevance in this large MIC with several impacts for children, especially the most disadvantaged/excluded girls and boys. With UNICEF support, pre-school education was significantly strengthened through a new inclusive curriculum, increased capacity of officials, teachers and inspectors, heightened public awareness and initial implementation of community-based services for disadvantaged communities. Enhancements of national capacity for primary school quality, inclusiveness and attendance, and for the prevention of violence against children and child labour, continued. Advocacy and research contributed to fresh policy commitments in critical areas like measuring child well-being, addressing developmental delays in early childhood, deinstitutionalization of children in care through foster-parenting, and child justice. UNICEF was also an important voice for children, and amplified the voices of children and youth – e.g.: in the Constitution debate and drafting of the national development plan and national child rights and youth strategies.
- Although not an emergency office, UNICEF Turkey showed flexibility in responding to two emergencies, first providing much-needed supplies and strengthening psychosocial support programmes for earthquake-affected children in Eastern Turkey, then providing supplies and infrastructure for safe learning and recreational environments for Syrian children in camps. The CO is embarking on an 18-month intervention for some 97,000 vulnerable Syrian children and youth.
- UNICEF Turkey increased its contribution to child rights and well-being regionally and globally through exchange of knowledge and experience, including support for events in Turkey (“Regional Conference on Supporting Families for Young Child Wellbeing” with the Ministry of Health; “Stepping up Progress in Combating Violence against Children” with the Ministry for the Family and Social Policies (MFSP), Council of Europe and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children; “Life without Barriers for Every Child”, with the MFSP; and “International Symposium on Justice for Children”, with the MFSP, Ministry of Justice, Justice Academy, High Council of Judges and Prosecutors and EU) and for leadership training for young people from some 20 countries through partnership in the Istanbul International Youth Academy.
- UNICEF Turkey worked with relevant actors including official development agency TICA to build a focus on equity and the rights of children and women into Turkey’s international development/humanitarian efforts, as per January’s agreement between the UNICEF CEE/CIS Regional Director and the Minister of Health initially to support UNICEF Humanitarian Action. The CO also facilitated a Somali health mission to Turkey, and Turkey’s commitment to “A Promise Renewed” was secured.
- UNICEF Turkey helped maximize Turkey’s contribution to the global post-2015 agenda, leading country consultations in Inequalities and Education, supporting the Health consultations and gathering views of young people and children.
- UNICEF Turkey further built its partnerships and dialogues with more and more official entities, civil society/private sector actors and international organizations. The EU remains a very important partner sharing many of UNICEF’s values and financially supporting work on preschool education, justice for children, violence against children and emergency response.
- The identification of any shortfalls in the Country Programme will form part of the Medium-Term Review to be conducted in 2013.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

Key trends and events which affected the situation of children in 2012 (1) (2) included the following:

Politics, administration, institutions:

- The multi-party commission drafting a new Constitution made little progress.
- The reorganization of government and individual ministries like MoNE, MoH and MFSP continued with many staff changes.
- A cross-sectoral Child Rights Monitoring and Assessment Board was formed and a First Turkey Strategy Document on the Rights of the Child was prepared, with no impact so far.
- Parliament established a national human rights institution, replacing the Prime Ministry Human Rights Presidency, and an ombudsperson institution. The chief ombudsperson was appointed. He will be assisted by five ombudspersons, one of them responsible for women’s and child rights. These new institutions need to demonstrate their independence.

Demographics, survival, nutrition, health:

UNICEF Annual Report 2012 for Turkey, CEE/CIS

- Due to high fertility in the recent past, the population continues to grow by about 1.3% a year, reaching 74,724,269 at end-2011, of which 30% are children. There were 1,237,132 live births in 2011 after 1,253,309 in 2010. Total fertility is much higher and the population much younger in the Southeast/East (3)
- UN estimates for 2011 (4) put neonatal, infant and under-five mortality at 9, 12 and 15 per thousand live births respectively. A survey cited in the Government's Annual Report for 2013 (5) puts infant mortality at 7.7 per thousand live births. The Report notes that infant mortality remains higher in rural areas and in eastern and southern regions.

- Results of the 2011 national nutrition survey are delayed. They could highlight anemia in young women, vitamin D deficiency in pregnant women and babies, folic acid deficiencies, obesity and diabetes.

- HIV/AIDS prevalence is low (<0.2% of 15-49 year-olds; 524 new HIV infections reported in January-June 2012). According to the MoH, there were 39 HIV-positive under-eighteens on ART as of December 2010.

Gender roles, discrimination and violence:

- Women's workforce participation was little changed at about 29% (including unpaid family labour) (6).

- There were daily reports of partner/ex-partner killings and occasional reports of honour killings.

Economy, social protection:

- Annual GDP growth slowed to about 3%. Job creation decelerated. The official unemployment rate was about 9% (7). Irregular employment, tenuous self-employment and exclusion from the workforce remain high.

- The SILC for 2010 suggested a slight deterioration in income distribution with a gini coefficient of 0.404, and the top quintile earning eight times more than the lowest. However, relative poverty (8) fell slightly to 16.0% (27.5% rural; 32.3% for Southeast Anatolia (9). OECD data suggests that child poverty is almost twice the OECD average, at 23.5% (cf: 16.9% for adults) (10)

- The ratio of "total public social assistance payments" to GDP was 1.18% in 2011 – unchanged from 2010 (11). Work continues on the introduction of an integrated social assistance model including household income support, based on objective criteria and linking recipient households to the labour market.

Education:

- Pre-primary education enrolment rates increased slightly in 2012 and secondary enrolment went on rising, partly due to a closing of the gender gap, but continued to vary markedly by province. National enrolment rates for 2011-12 were: Preschool (age 3-5)- girls 30.49%, boys 31.23%; Primary – girls 98.56%, boys 98.77%; Secondary – girls 66.14%, boys 68.53% (12). Many disadvantaged children non-attending or otherwise out of school (13).

- The education system has undergone major changes as of the 2012-2013 school year in line with a law approved by Parliament in March 2012. The school starting age has effectively been lowered from 6 to 5 years. Eight-year primary school education has been divided into two phases of four years each, and four-year secondary education has been made compulsory – although not necessarily in a formal setting.

- While these changes will increase the duration of education for many children and young people, they have required hasty adjustments of programmes and curricula as well as the reorganization of many schools, while further stretching available resources.

- There are concerns that some children, especially girls, may fail to make the transition between the two phases of primary education, and that the new emphases on vocational and religious education envisaged for the second phase of primary education may prevent children from completing primary education without sufficient basic skills. The increased religious content of education, reflecting only the majority current of Islam, has been controversial. (14)

Child protection:

- Outstanding child protection issues include child labour, violence against children and early marriage.

- About 13,500 children remain in residential care – a mixture of traditional orphanages and hostels, "children's houses" and family-sized "affection homes" – although more are being supported to live with families, relatives or foster parents (15).

- In juvenile justice, concerns include insufficient child courts, lengthy pre-trial detention and the varying quality of conditions in detention. Conditions for children in detention became a major public concern in February after the media focused on sexual abuse among boys in a detention centre in Pozanti, Adana. As a result, the centre was closed and the boys were transferred to an Ankara detention centre.

The Southeast:

- Military activity, civil unrest, court cases and political and social tensions related to the Kurdish issue continued and in some respects appeared to escalate. Children in the most affected regions suffer from the impact on socioeconomic development and are at risk of psychological stress, conflict with the law, and

physical injury or death due to accidents, cross-fire, participation in riots and demonstrations or recruitment as armed rebels.

Syrian border:

· Syrians fleeing violence have been accommodated in camps by the Government and the Red Crescent. By mid-December, the population of the camps exceeded 140,000, half of them children. Tens of thousands of Syrians may also be living in Turkey individually or with relatives. Thousands more are being provided with humanitarian assistance at the border. The camps are well equipped and run, although there are outstanding needs in areas like winter supplies, activities for youth, education and child protection.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

The Country Programme for 2011-2015, with its special emphasis on equity and youth, remained broadly on track in its second year. Ongoing policy development, and the development of implementation models, standards and monitoring systems, supported by capacity building, led to concrete outputs contributing to the fulfillment of the rights of all girls and boys, especially the most disadvantaged, particularly in those areas where the Programme builds on pre-existing partnerships and a previous history of cooperation, such as primary education, ECD/ preschool and child protection. In areas of more nascent UNICEF involvement - social policy, secondary education and youth policy - partnerships were expanded and strengthened and/or knowledge was generated which will fill gaps in existing research and inform the future policy development and implementation. The benefits of UNICEF's advocacy and its convening power were felt in all areas of the Programme and beyond. As per the Country Programme Action Plan, increasing use is being made of communications for development (C4D) approaches to raise awareness about child rights, to bring about behavioural and attitudinal change in favour of these rights and to enhance the abilities of duty-bearers and rights-holders to claim and realize them. Nevertheless, the full achievement of Programme goals continues to depend on factors such as resource mobilization, child rights awareness, budgeting, coordination, economic conditions and norms, beliefs and culture.

A strong awareness of gender issues is built into all parts of the Programme. Effort is also being made to implement all parts of the Programme in the light of the human rights based approach, and to engage children and young people both in Programme implementation and monitoring and in the achievement of wider development goals.

In a spirit of South-South cooperation, and in view of Turkey's strategic position in its region, the Programme has clearly been fostering the sharing of knowledge and experience across borders, both bilaterally and multilaterally through a series of events, missions and similar activities.

No major changes are expected in work plans for 2013. However, the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Country Programme to be carried out in 2013 will reassess the relevance of the Programme in the light of changes in the country situation, lessons learned since 2010, available data, national priorities and the latest assessments of barriers and bottlenecks in the fulfillment of children's rights. This may lead to some amendments concerning indicators and the balance of strategies for achieving some results.

In addition, steps will be taken during the MTR and in subsequent work plans to strengthen the focus on leadership areas so as to maximize the impact of UNICEF interventions, and in line with the size of Turkey's economy and the country's status in its region.

Humanitarian Assistance

UNICEF recognizes that the Turkish authorities are able to mobilize successfully very substantial resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies. Nevertheless, there are areas, particularly linked to education and child protection, in which UNICEF can lend its expertise to recovery efforts. During the Van earthquake recovery effort in 2011-12, the government agreed, after some hesitation, that UNICEF would contribute to the rehabilitation of the education infrastructure in the most affected areas and extend technical support for the adaptation and roll-out of psychosocial support programmes. For most of 2012, UNICEF was unable even to monitor the needs of Syrians fleeing violence accommodated in camps in South and Southeast Turkey. However, UNICEF provided tents, recreation kits and early childhood education kits, and as the scale of the emergency escalated region-wide, the government announced its willingness to accept support only from the UN through activities outlined in the Regional Response Plan. Accordingly, UNICEF will be providing almost 100,000 children with winter clothes and shoes and education supplies, supplying teaching materials for volunteer teachers, and supporting psycho-social care and effective referral mechanisms and the provision of play, physical education and sports activities through adolescent volunteerism.

Effective Advocacy

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF's presence in Turkey, with the knowledge and partnerships which it has built as a result of its work, enable it to play a crucial role in the country as a voice for children's rights.

[table converted to list]

Advocacy with decision-makers and duty bearers, primarily public officials, is essential for every part of the Country Programme. UNICEF regularly reminds policy-makers of the principles and obligations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, highlighting inequalities and emerging issues, and provides them with policy advice, often at their own request. Advances were made through advocacy in many areas of the country programme in 2012 (See Programme Components). The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child considered Turkey's second and third periodic reports in June 2012 and UNICEF Turkey contributed to ensuring/facilitating high-level participation by the government, and is now using the Concluding Observations in its advocacy efforts. In addition to sectoral issues, the CO advocates for child rights with audiences such as Parliament, politicians, high-level policy-making bodies, political parties and/or the general public. In 2012, UNICEF made significant contributions to work on the national development plan for 2014-2018, to the draft child rights strategy of the Ministry for the Family and Social Policies, to the youth strategy of the Ministry for Youth and Sports. UNICEF advocated for child rights in the constitution and for an ombudsperson with responsibilities for child rights, and supported the annual Child Forum at which children representing provincial child rights committees met the prime minister. UNICEF provided input for the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey and for a child labour study to be carried out by the national statistical agency. UNICEF is increasingly seeking to maximize the impact of its advocacy work by joining forces with professional associations, NGOs, academics, the EU, the UNCT, the World Bank and others. With respect to the civil society sector, there is now a regular dialogue and exchange of knowledge. For example, Turkey has an MoU with the Union of Bar Associations. Advocacy is conducted through events such as conferences and launches, organized by UNICEF or other organizations, and through informal and formal contacts. International experts, often identified through cooperation with CEE/CIS Regional Office, also play an important role. With respect to leveraging resources, UNICEF Turkey seeks to increase the resources allocated for children's and women's rights and in particular for the most disadvantaged children through all its partnerships including its dialogue with the EU and its fund-raising work with the National Committee. It is intended to provide more information on effective advocacy in next year's Annual Report, following the mid-term review of the Country Programme in 2013.

Capacity Development

Mostly met benchmarks

Together with effective advocacy, capacity building remains a key strategy in most areas of the Country Programme, including preschool, education, child care, justice for children and the administration of post-disaster psychosocial programmes (See Programme Components). Capacity building focuses on the development of new strategies, policies, programmes, service models, mechanisms or processes - or adjustments and enhancements to existing ones - in areas of special UNICEF expertise and priority, provided that they must contribute to the achievement of Turkey's own development goals and make use of existing institutional and human resources, so as to ensure future sustainability. Special attention is paid to the development of sustainable standards and monitoring systems. While most capacity building work is carried

out with government partners, UNICEF has also in some ways been contributing to the capacity of civil society - for example, for monitoring violence against children.

As an example of capacity building in 2012, the Preschool Education project resulted in a new, extended and more inclusive preschool curriculum, and in a guidebook for the community-based model, a new set of standards and the commencement of work on an inspection system. Hundreds of officials, school principals and teacher-trainers received training for the implementation of these innovations.

It is intended to provide more information on capacity building in next year's annual report, following the MTR, which will include a review of the balance of programme strategies.

Communication for Development

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF Turkey and its partners have ample experience of social mobilization and awareness raising activities, and are now seeking to take a more systematic, participatory and evidence-based approach to C4D, including the use of social media, and to integrate this work closely into the country programme. The Country Programme for 2011-2015 states that "Communication for Development (C4D) approaches will be used to raise awareness about child rights, to bring about behavioural and attitudinal change in favour of these rights and to enhance the abilities of duty-bearers and rights-holders to claim and realize them, as well as to help to achieve the goals of the country programme by stimulating support and participation, increasing demand for programmes and services which benefit children, and encouraging complementary efforts." UNICEF and its partners are exploring the use of C4D initiatives for changing knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in areas like secondary education, the rights of the child as a whole, and justice for children - provided that sufficient resources are available to be effective, and that audiences should not be confused by concurrent campaigns. The Office will continue to learn from its own experience in this area.

In 2012, a KAP survey was developed and conducted to design a communication for development campaign to reduce the social distance between the children with disabilities, their families and the society in general.

Under the Strengthening Preschool Education Project, UNICEF Turkey conducted a *Power Mapping Study for Preschool Education System* in collaboration with the think-tank group TEPAV to provide guidance to decision makers to make evidence-based decisions on budget allocation (including services, human resources, and infrastructure) and to put preschool education on top of the political and service delivery agenda. The study was completed and received very positive informal feedback from all parties. The dissemination of the survey will take place upon the approval of the high level Ministry of national Education officials. Meanwhile, the previously-developed communications campaign is now being implemented to influence positively attitudes to preschool education among parents, bureaucrats and others.

In addition to social networking, UNICEF Turkey also continues to make appropriate use of its ongoing relations with the organized media, in support of its C4D efforts, and more generally to support the creation of an environment favourable to child rights.

Service Delivery

Initiating action to meet benchmarks

Service delivery is not a central strategy of the Country Programme. In Turkey, the government is well organized and has resources to provide or ensure the provision of services. Turkey also has a working market economy and strong non-government organizations. UNICEF's role is to provide ideas and expertise to support Turkey in increasing the quality of its services and ensuring that the most disadvantaged groups have equitable access to quality services. Within the context of its capacity-building efforts towards achieving such goals, UNICEF may nevertheless be closely involved in testing/demonstrating innovatory changes in service models. This approach is being taken during the initial implementation of community-based preschool and

child day care services. Modelling of a child protection coordination system among different national government agencies and local actors in Bursa has informed and led to ongoing work at the national level critically involving both the Ministry for the Family and Social Protection and the Ministry of National Education.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

Effective partnerships and collaborative relationships are vital to improve the implementation of child rights in Turkey, especially for vulnerable groups. The CPAP 2011-2015 regards partnership-building with international and non-government partners as an "essential strategy" for success. In 2012, UNICEF Turkey maintained its cooperation with international partners, took part in multi-country initiatives and increased its collaboration with civil society actors. With the EU, it continued to engage in regular dialogue, review strategic planning documents in areas relevant to its work, and implement selected grant-funded projects. The EU is also supporting UNICEF Turkey's response to the Syria emergency. Within the UN Country Team, UNICEF was active in the theme groups and joint programmes, and in the Post-2015 debate. Under all parts of the Country Programme, Turkey maintained intensive relations not only with an increasingly wide range of official entities but also with numerous civil society and private sector actors and academic institutions. The British Council and UK Natcom were key partners in 2012, the year of the London Olympics, for the International Inspiration Project on inclusion through physical activity and sport, and this work is continuing. Turkey intends to strengthen its dialogue with civil society including child rights NGOs and faith-based organizations. The Country Office will review its partnership strategy in the context of the mid-term review of the Country Programme in 2013.

Knowledge Management

Partially met benchmarks

In addition to situation analysis, numerous research activities were conducted under the Country Programme in 2012, although many have not yet been published. Due to concerns of their own, government partners sometimes prefer to use jointly-developed knowledge products to inform policies or internal policy dialogue without making them public. UNICEF also advocated for improved national data collection and analysis in almost every area of the country programme in 2012 (See programme components). The country office is increasingly seeking to document its work on the one hand and to facilitate exchange of knowledge on an international basis on the other (See South-South and horizontal cooperation). It is intended to include more information on knowledge management in the next annual report, following the mid-term review of the Country Programme in 2013.

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF Turkey seeks to base all its situation analysis, planning and programme implementation closely on human rights standards and principles including empowerment of rights holders and their participation in programming. A number of good practices are therefore fully integrated into office practice. The intermediate result on child rights monitoring specifically seeks to promote the establishment of effective and sustainable national child rights monitoring institutions and mechanisms, including the new ombudsperson system (See the Programme Component section of the report for more information on progress). The Committee on the Rights of the Child considered Turkey's second and third periodic reports in June 2012 and UNICEF efforts contributed to high-level government participation and to the targeted dissemination of the Concluding Observations. It is intended to include more information on the human rights based approach to cooperation in the next annual report, following the mid-term review of the Country Programme in 2013.

Gender Equality

Mostly met benchmarks

All UNICEF's programme components and emergency work are gender-sensitive and some have a special focus on girls as most likely to be disadvantaged (for example in access to education). Gender is mainstreamed in the updated Situation Analysis. The office, which is staffed mainly by women, maintains an in-house gender work group and takes an active role promoting and monitoring gender perspectives in the UNCT. A gender review of the programme is due in 2013. Following this, and the mid-term review in 2013, it is intended to include more information on gender in the next annual report.

Environmental Sustainability

Initiating action to meet benchmarks

UNICEF Turkey is active in the areas of environmental sustainability through the UNCT theme group.

It is intended to include more information on environmental sustainability in the next annual report, following the mid-term review of the Country Programme in 2013.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF Turkey has increased its contribution to improving child rights and children's well-being beyond as well as within Turkey's borders through multilateral exchanges of knowledge and experience. UNICEF supported or contributed to several events of a regional or global nature which took place in Turkey ("Regional Conference on Supporting Families for Young Child Wellbeing" with the Ministry of Health in May; "Stepping up Progress in Combating Violence against Children", with the Ministry for the Family and Social Policies, Council of Europe and Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, in November; "Life without barriers for every child", with the MFSP, in December; "International Symposium on Justice for Children", with the GoT and EU, also in December).

UNICEF Turkey has been active in maximizing Turkey's contribution to the global post-2015 agenda. Turkey is one of the 50 countries selected for national consultations. UNICEF leads country consultations in Inequalities and Education, while supporting the Health consultations. Views of young people and children were gathered at the International Youth Leadership Academy International Training Programme in September and the annual Child Forum in November.

The country office assisted efforts to establish a UNICEF-Turkey Global Partnership in line with the agreement reached by the Regional Director of UNICEF CEE/CIS and the Minister of Health of Turkey at the beginning of the year. In this context, the country office entered into a dialogue with Turkey's official development agency TICA with a view to cooperating on Humanitarian Action for Children and other forms of cooperation. UNICEF Turkey also facilitated a mission of Somali health officials to Turkey help develop the MoH plan of support for the Somalia Health Care System, and Turkey's commitment to "A Promise Renewed" was secured.

UNICEF Turkey has also remained involved in multilateral initiatives like the Out of School Children initiative and a regional initiative on violence against children, and has continued to share with other countries its experience with developmental paediatric units, child rights media training and university-based child protection centres, among others. UNICEF facilitated Turkish involvement in the Forum of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities.

In line with UNICEF thinking globally, Turkey is one of the countries which may be considered to host a South-South cooperation centre or "hub". In 2013, the CO will continue to work with RO and HQ to advance this agenda and move the partnership with the government forward.

Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results

Turkey - 4350

PC 1 - Disparity reduction, social inclusion and protection

 On-track

PCR 4350/A0/04/001 Disparity Reduction, Social Inclusion and Protection

Progress: PCR 1 assumes, in general, that disparities of well-being and opportunity among children from different backgrounds, and between boys and girls, can be reduced sustainably by improving existing ECD, health and education services in ways which will guarantee equal access and quality for all children, and by expanding and developing national social services/assistance and child protection services, while backing these efforts through larger and more effective budgets and effective monitoring of child rights. This logic assumes that the strong tradition of state responsibility and existing extensive public service networks can be tuned to the child-rights-with-equity agenda.

UNICEF-supported research, advocacy, policy advice and capacity building activities contributed in 2012 to necessary steps being taken towards the achievement of intermediate results in all the above areas. At this early stage of the programme cycle, clear evidence of major results for children at the impact level were not to be expected. Available administrative data showing continuing increases in enrolment in preschool and primary education suggests that disparities among children are being reduced in a sustainable manner, at least in some respects. This is likely to reflect economic development, social change and the results of previous Country Programmes - inclusive education is one of Turkey's leadership areas in the regional UNICEF context. However, more detailed evidence is not yet available on school absenteeism, dropping out, transition, and school quality. With respect to key indicators in other areas, no new data is available.

The slow-down in GDP growth could endanger the achievement of targets, as could the ever-intensive political agenda and the corresponding difficulty of securing not just commitment but priority for child rights and well-being. The newly-introduced lower school starting age and division of primary education into two phases may have conflicting effects on primary education inclusiveness and quality. Another risk is that efforts to increase fiscal space may not keep pace with the development of services. Finally, some issues of child rights awareness and social norms may require more attention. Determinant analysis of unequal opportunities could highlight that the rights of girls or boys, including the disabled, are often infringed by parents or the community, and that social attitudes may prevent them from benefiting from services, while service-providers themselves may tolerate inequity and be insufficiently conscious of their duty to fulfil the rights of girls and boys of different backgrounds and characteristics.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/001/007 1.1.1 By the end of 2015, national and local authorities monitor the effectiveness of resource allocations, to alleviate child poverty and exclusion.

Progress:

With UNICEF advocacy, government institutions have shown awareness of the several dimensions of child well-being and openness to cooperate to combat child poverty at cross-sectoral level. They have also taken steps towards making more data available on child poverty, child well-being and child labour, and using such data in their policies to support the fulfilment of the rights of the most disadvantaged children.

- UNICEF has prepared two policy papers in collaboration with the Ministry for the Family & Social Policies (MFSP), Ministry of Development (MoD) and Ministry of Labour & Social Security (MoLSS) to identify possible intervention points to advance child well-being.
- In late 2012, the Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat) conducted the first Child Labour Survey for six years. UNICEF provided recommendations for questions.
- Through UNICEF technical assistance pilot provinces were identified, and the specific needs of these provinces analyzed, for the investment project of the MoLSS concerning the establishment of child labour monitoring units.

The lack of adequate data on child poverty and budgetary allocations/expenditure for children remains a

serious obstacle to monitoring and combating child poverty. In 2013, however, with UNICEF support, a study will commence to develop Turkey-specific Child Well-Being indicators and a working group on child budgeting will be formed, with a view to making the necessary information available by end-2015.

With respect to social assistance, the MFSP has expressed willingness to cooperate with UNICEF in 2013 to review and potentially modify the existing system of Conditional Cash Transfers linked to take-up of education and health services, based on the final results of an impact assessment conducted in 2012. The MFSP has meanwhile finalized its points system to monitor the effectiveness of social assistance. This can help to identify disadvantaged households (although not individual children) more accurately and increase their access to social transfers.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/001/008 1.1.2 By the end of 2015, national and local authorities ensure the provision of diversified and quality day care and pre-school education services and programmes, especially for the most disadvantaged girls and boys.

Progress:

UNICEF supported the Government in addressing the bottlenecks of access to quality ECD services especially for most marginalized children. Policy package featuring alternative, Community based models (including 10 various models, and a guideline for local administrations, NGOs, employers' organizations and public institutions in the establishment, management and dissemination of community based ECD services) -- has been accepted by the MONE for nationwide dissemination in all 81 provinces of the country, and advocated for in 10 provinces. First children to benefit from the services in 2012 were from the disadvantaged settings in İzmir (84 children) and Diyarbakır (300 children). Models represent a system change that will be complete with standards, inspection and e-monitoring system -- and a shift toward decentralized and cross-sectoral approach to service delivery. In his end-of-the-year speech to the Parliament, Minister of Education stated that free and flexible community-based ECD models have been developed as supportive services of institutional ECD services where local actors play a leading role.

Important progress was made towards improving and expanding preschool education services to all children including the most disadvantaged. Based on generated evidence about existing institutional and community-based child day care and preschool programmes, 42 academicians from 17 Turkish universities and 27 pre-school teachers revised the preschool education curriculum through a participatory process, which was approved by the board of higher education. Through intensive capacity building efforts targeting preschool professionals, a total of 126,050 children aged 0-6 years are now benefitting from inclusive child-centered curriculum. The new curriculum will be rolled out to all preschools in 2013 -2014. Public awareness of the benefits of preschool has increased due to a UNICEF-supported communication campaign.

The fundraising campaign entitled "25 TL Per Child" has been prepared tailor-made for Strengthening Pre-School Education Project and enabled 3.888 children to benefit from pre-school education free of charge in the most disadvantaged areas of project provinces.

Power Mapping Study has outlined all decision making processes regarding investment, budgeting and human resources in pre-school education and will be used for advocacy purposes by NGOs, counterparts and academia.

The financial support of the EU and the reputation of UNICEF as a reliable partner are critical factors making it possible for UNICEF to work with the government on ECD and preschool education.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/001/009 1.1.3 By 2015, the government addresses targeted gaps in institutional capacity at central and local levels to implement policies addressing the enrolment and completion of quality primary education, especially the most vulnerable and excluded boys and girls

Progress: In 2012, UNICEF welcomed the extension of compulsory education to 12 years and the government's aim of 100% enrolment for four year-olds in preschool, but called for additional resources to

achieve these aims.

Through advocacy, knowledge generation, policy advice, technical assistance and partnership, UNICEF contributed to an increase in national commitment and capacity for the implementation of policies that will realize Turkey's children's rights to education with equity by ensuring enrolment in and completion of quality primary education by all, especially girls, the disabled and the most vulnerable and excluded:

- With the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) now formally implementing Primary Education Institution Standards and the Non-Attendance Management Model - both previously developed with UNICEF to support participation and equitable service in primary education - UNICEF supported work which sensitized 70,000 school principals and teachers to the importance of child friendly standards for their schools and equipped them with skills to monitor the progressive realization of inclusive measures, potentially impacting over ten million children in the years ahead. Separately, MoNE drafted a ground-breaking inclusive education proposal targeting Roma children, in line with UNICEF's recent priorities and advocacy.
- UNICEF's partnership with the Education Reform Initiative generated critical research on school financial management and important analysis of e-school data and the transition from primary to secondary education.
- Through UNICEF's partnership with the British Council, the capacity of MoNE to work towards mainstreaming of disabled children in physical education and sports activities was enhanced. Moreover, following effective advocacy including events and a study visit, the Board of Education decided to increase the number of hours devoted to "Play and Physical Activities" in the first grade of primary education to five per week as of September 2012. With UNICEF financial and technical support, a new child friendly curriculum was developed, benefiting 1,600,000 first graders.



IR 4350/A0/04/001/010 1.1.4 By the end of 2015, the health care system provides Early Child Development services including a continuum* of care with focus on risk factors.

Progress:

The significant decline in mortality is accompanied by increased number of children, who while having survived, face serious developmental risks/delays.

Turkey has come closer to upholding the rights of young children who may have developmental difficulties and disabilities through improved systems and enhanced capacity for monitoring and intervention. While the ongoing reorganization of the Ministry of Health (MoH) led to the creation of a National Public Health Institute - and hence renewed commitment to preventive measures - both the MoH and the Ministry for the Family and Social Policies agreed to revise their Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) policies. UNICEF contributed by acting as a voice for children through evidence-based advocacy. A UNICEF study of bottlenecks facing children aged 0-3 with developmental delays and their families highlighted capacity gaps and unmet needs, and made several recommendations. Specifically, the study looked into the release of Health reports for developmental delay/disabilities and found only 14% were released for children under 3 (1208 out of 8499 researched in the 6 largest pediatric hospitals). The research recommended measures to increase the healthcare system capacity at the outpatient and inpatient services to tackle issue of early childhood, children with developmental risks according to current scientific standards, monitoring and support, as well as need to train more professionals in Developmental paediatrics. A review of national ECI policies involving a large group of academics and NGOs underlined the need for reform for children in the disability legislation.

UNICEF Turkey supported knowledge exchange by teaming up with the MoH and the Regional Office for a regional conference attended by 22 countries on home visiting and assistance to families with young children through the health system. The MoH also hosted a regional event on the nutrition interventions that fight micronutrient deficiencies disorders. Under "A Promise Renewed", Turkey renewed its commitment to child survival in Turkey and in the countries it aids.

Work on the adoption of a set of core indicators related to the continuum of care (as it relates to under-5 health and development), and its integration into the Primary Health Care/Family Medicine monitoring

system/database will resume in early 2013 with a new team of MoH professionals, following the structural reforms at the Ministry during 2012.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/001/011 1.1.5 By the end of 2015, the government ensures an increasingly integrated and functional protection and prevention system, including alternative care, for children - especially the most vulnerable and marginalized children - who are at risk of discrimination, violence and abuse.

Progress:

In 2012, with the new Ministry of Family and Social Policy as a dynamic factor, years of UNICEF focus on system development were turned into concrete change fulfilling the rights of the most vulnerable children through child protection. Standards to ensure quality care and protection for the 14 000 children under formal care were finally tested and adopted in 15 care institutions. A decade of advocacy for foster care expansion culminated in policy change allowing more flexibility, support and monitoring of foster families. Public outreach to 400 potential foster parents in December started triggering social change towards alternative care and should soon impact the number of institutionalized children.

Through inter-country policy dialogue and high-level events, new and bold commitments were formulated. The Turkish government joined the regional campaign to end placing under-threes in institutions and, at a conference organized with UNICEF and the Council of Europe in Ankara, the lead minister on children's issues promised to act on the renewed call of the UN SRSG on Violence Against Children. Gaps in protecting children – for example against corporal punishment in the home - and in responding to identified cases of abuse were evidenced through UNICEF research and voiced by the new civil society platform created as part of an EU supported regional project.

An additional push was given to innovative practices: hospital-based centers which receive victims of sexual abuse in a child-friendly and multidisciplinary manner – contributing to the recovery of hundreds of child survivors of rape and incest, but also motivating State services to adopt a similar approach, and the early identification component of an ambitious national child protection coordination strategy, experimented through 200 schools, with teachers now empowered to act upon children's early signs of distress and prevent further damage together with parents and professionals from other sectors.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/001/012 1.1.6 By 2015, the Government creates and resources an infrastructure for monitoring children's rights and responding to violations of those rights.

Progress: The year started with a milestone event ensuring that children's voices were heard in the drafting of the New Turkish Constitution, through a national child consultation, complemented by a joint position paper of UNICEF and civil society organizations on how best to reflect children's rights in the Constitution. The impact was monitored, and a specific paragraph on children containing a reference to the Convention on the Rights of the Child was proposed. The debate is now pending.

UNICEF advocacy and civil society partnership contributed to awareness of the need for effective, sustainable mechanisms for monitoring child rights and responding to violations, and to positive institutional developments. There was high-level, effective government participation at the Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child which discussed Turkey in June. Civil society, international agencies and embassies, academia and children received targeted information on the Concluding Observations of the Committee. Parliamentarians, Bar associations and children were also made aware of the OP III ratification issue. Meanwhile, the membership of Parliament's Child Rights Monitoring Committee was renewed and its existing mandate extended. The ombudsperson law adopted by Parliament in 2012 envisages a unit or deputy specialized in children and women's issues. As all child rights-related entities in Turkey join forces to ensure that the ombudsperson institution results in stronger promotion and protection of children's rights within and by the State system, UNICEF will also offer technical support to the new entity and will closely monitor the introduction and expected increase of eligible cases filed and processed.

Through field visits and research on justice and protection issues, UNICEF also highlighted needs to enhance the independence, power and accountability of child rights monitoring and inspection mechanisms. Through the creation of child-friendly units in museums, access to culture for children, including disadvantaged children, was increased.

PC 2 - Youth empowerment and protection

 On-track

PCR 4350/A0/04/002 Youth Empowerment and Protection

Progress: PCR 2 foresees that better and more equitable opportunities will be secured for all adolescents and young people mainly through improvements in the inclusiveness and effectiveness of the education system and the adoption and implementation of appropriate national youth policies, while justice for children will be assured mainly through enhanced coordination and capacity building among and within the relevant institutions. The "second decade, second chance" concept is one of Turkey's leadership areas in the regional UNICEF context.

In 2012, UNICEF-supported advocacy and knowledge generation brought the development of new inclusive secondary education policies closer. National youth policy development continued with some input from UNICEF, and UNICEF facilitated and supported the building of commitment, consensus and capacity for improved practice in juvenile justice. It is too early for evidence of major results for children at impact level. Despite improvements – notably among girls – enrolment in secondary education remained at 68.5% for boys and 66.1% for girls in 2011-12, with wide geographical variations, and non-attendance is known to be significant. No new data is available for key indicators in other areas.

The decision, taken in 2012, to make secondary education compulsory (although not necessarily in a formal setting) should create impetus for heightened national commitment to secondary school participation and increased budgets. However, it will not of itself ensure 100% enrolment and participation. The need for the education authorities to address barriers to participation identified by research, and to increase the relevance of the education system to the job market, remains valid.

Securing not just commitment but priority for the rights and well-being of adolescents and young people is not easy in a crowded political environment, where policy-makers and service providers may not perceive rights issues in the justice system or equity issues in education and youth services as urgent. Budgetary resources may not keep pace with services development. The new youth policy may not form a strong basis for empowering adolescents, including girls, boys, the disabled and those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with life and livelihood skills and participation opportunities. Determinant analysis also seems to highlight a need to foster positive attitudes to youth in society in general, as well as to raise demand for secondary education and to alter the low expectations of some parts of society, parents and professionals with respect to girls, the disabled, the Roma and others. The slow-down in GDP growth could also affect targets.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/002/004 2.1.1 Government ensures*, especially for out-of-school girls and most disadvantaged adolescents, increased access to and completion of secondary education; vocational education is better aligned with labor market needs.

Progress: In 2012, net enrolment in four-year secondary education (grades 9-12) rose to 67% and gross enrolment to 93%. However, there are wide inter-regional, urban-rural, socioeconomic and gender discrepancies both in enrolment in secondary education and in attendance, for reasons which include the need for children to earn income or work in the home, and discouragement.

The government made secondary education compulsory in 2012. This is expected to increase enrolment as well as the national sense of responsibility for addressing exclusion, but needs to be supported by increased public expenditure and the development of appropriate policies which take account of the many forms of exclusion and its various causes.

UNICEF is currently helping to address exclusion in upper secondary education – a relatively new area of the Country Programme – through knowledge generation and advocacy for evidence-based, gender-sensitive, rights-based policy-making paying special attention to the most disadvantaged groups.

- Turkey is now taking part in UNICEF's new Global Initiative on Out-of-Secondary School Children, as one of four selected middle income countries that face similar constraints to guaranteeing the right of all adolescents to quality education. Turkey's OOSSC report, on which future priorities will be built, was initiated in close cooperation with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and will be finalized in the first quarter of 2013.
- UNICEF and MoNE also initiated studies on 'Causes of Class Repetition and School Drop-outs in Secondary Education' and 'Identifying the Characteristics, Education and Employment Status and Needs of Children in the Age Group 14-18 who are out of Formal Education'. These studies, also to be finalized in early 2013, will put the spotlight on gender-based, geographic and socioeconomic disparities, and draw attention to issues faced by adolescents from several disadvantaged groups including migratory agricultural workers, the Roma and the disabled.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/002/005 2.1.2 By the end of 2015, a specific national agency for youth or the Ministry of Youth and Sports coordinates the implementation of the National Youth Policy while ensuring the meaningful participation of youth.

Progress:

The objective of having a youth policy developed in Turkey was well advanced in 2012 under the leadership of the new Ministry of Youth and Sports. Neither UNICEF nor the local youth participation mechanisms already in place, which UNICEF continued to support, were closely involved in this process. However, technical inputs were provided by UNICEF and civil society in the late stages of the consultation and drafting process. These inputs are expected to make the policy more representative and balanced than at the initial stage of its development.

With Youth Habitat, a second International Youth Leadership Academy was held in September 2012 to enhance the capacities and experience of young leaders from 16 countries on human rights, youth participation, child abuse and neglect, intercultural dialogue, conflict resolution and mediation. Combined theoretical and practical learning nurtured participants' concrete projects back home. Events were facilitated to enhance the visibility of youth leadership programming and give youth access to global celebrities and voice their concerns: Ms. Ban and Princess Mathilde of Belgium visited the Academy in June and October, respectively, for an enjoyable exposure and vibrant dialogue with Turkish young people. The mayor of Istanbul was also involved in supporting youth representation and opinions in the Post-2015 agenda. Nurturing Turkey's input into the global process, UNICEF ensured both that a national youth consultation took place and that youth representation was mainstreamed in other thematic Post-2015 consultations.

The International Inspiration project allowed 30 teenagers from 3 provinces (Ankara, Mersin, Trabzon) to be trained as youth voluntarism trainers, while a sports voluntarism programme was developed with the National Olympic Committee for 100 university students from 9 provinces, enabling them to take a leading role in sports organizations nationwide, as exemplified by the 16 year-old Turkish girl selected to relay the Olympic Torch from Turkey.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/002/006 2.2.1 By the end of 2015, the child justice system increases the use of alternative measures and probation services, and incorporates institutional care standards for children deprived of their liberty.

Progress: The new EU-supported project initiated in January 2012 created an important momentum nationally not only to re-mobilize key players, but also to re-assess roles and responsibilities among institutions in developing the justice for children agenda in Turkey. While the ministries of Justice and the Interior and the national child protection agency were the traditional leaders in this area, the involvement of the new Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the Justice Academy and the newly founded High Council of Judges and Prosecutors had to be ensured in order to secure balanced and complementary inputs into the State system serving child victims, witnesses and offenders.

Field visits and advocacy led to the revival of a national strategy for agencies to better coordinate their roles in implementing Turkey's Child Protection law of 2005. As demonstrated by UNICEF research, lack of coordination is one of the main bottlenecks in ensuring adequate protection and justice for children, illustrated for example by the excessive duration of trial – and pre-trial detention – of minors. In addition, the development of tools such as software and guidebooks enabling better data sharing and individual case-management for both children under protective orders and those in detention was initiated through participatory processes with relevant State agencies.

In-depth assessments and comparative analysis by international and national experts documented progress as well as numerous challenges and innovative practices in various areas: public custody for children, protective and supportive measures, child interrogation rooms and overall juvenile justice reform. An ambitious Justice for Children Symposium was held with the participation of all relevant stakeholders in Turkey and international experts, which allowed public sharing of these and other findings. It resulted in a positive political and technical consensus that, despite past and on-going efforts, reforms must be intensified with a focus on implementation and impact on children.

PC 3 - Cross-sectoral costs

 On-track

PCR 4350/A0/04/003 Cross Sectoral

Progress: The major cross-cutting issue facing the office in 2012 was the Syria emergency. Although it is not an emergency office, the Country Office has been able to leverage UNICEF's track record in emergencies to begin providing essential supplies and to support the provision of some educational, recreational and protection services to all of the Syrian children in camps in Turkey within the scope of a regional response plan. The emergency response has required a considerable effort in terms of supplies and programmatic planning, and related negotiations and communications within UNICEF and with national partners, other UN organizations in Turkey, and international organizations, and this has been achieved with only very limited support in terms of extra staff. Dedicated and specialized staff are now being recruited for the continued implementation of the emergency response, which may also develop additional dimensions in 2013. Meanwhile, the Country Office has continued to take a strategic approach to overall advocacy for child rights, focusing on key, topical cross-cutting issues, which have included constitutional reform, a national child rights strategy, the establishment of an ombudsperson system and the national development plan, as well as issues specific to each sector. In each of these key areas, results will become more apparent in 2012. At the same time, the Office has worked to improve the effectiveness of its public advocacy and communication for child rights and brand visibility with the use of new technologies and by integrating social media - which has the potential not only to reach new and wide audiences but to engage them and support fund-raising - into all its communications work.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/003/001 Advocacy and Communication

Progress: For advocacy on key cross-sectoral issues, see Programme Analysis. In public communication for child rights and brand visibility, UNICEF Turkey passed several important milestones in 2012 – a year of continued partnership building with a greater focus on results.

- Social media was integrated into all communication efforts and was pivotal to reaching and engaging audiences in new ways. UNICEF's following grew 38% to 33,451 (Facebook) and 7,951 (Twitter). A Social Media strategy was developed and shared with Turkish Natcom to expand and deepen relationships with social media communities around UNICEF areas of work.
- Almost 140,000 people visited the UNICEF Turkey web site (79% new visitors), with 340,000 page-views.
- Traditional media coverage continued to increase. There were over 2,600 articles about UNICEF in national print media (30% on Country Office work, 22% on NatCom, 48% on UNICEF generally), and 259 TV news items/programmes about UNICEF (38% CO, 36% NatCom, 26% UNICEF generally).
- The communications and programme sections worked closely to highlight the equity agenda as per

the global strategic communication and public advocacy framework. Strategic communications were built around events like the regional launch of Humanitarian Action for Children 2012 (in Turkey), the Regional Ministerial Meeting to End Placing Children under Three in Institutions (in Bosnia), and international conferences in Turkey on Violence against Children, Disability and Justice for Children. Key messages and multimedia products (micro-websites, publications, documentaries, podcasts) were developed and disseminated.

- In collaboration with DOC, a video on Urbanization and Children was prepared for the 2012 SOWC which was disseminated globally. The SOWC Executive Summary was translated into Turkish, and widely distributed.
- A social media package including info graphics and other advocacy materials for "A Promised Renewed" was translated into Turkish and widely distributed, engaging almost 1,400 people on social media and generating 25 articles in the Turkish media.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/003/002 Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress: In 2012, the Country Office continued monitoring programme and budget performance through regular Programme Coordination Meetings and VISION Performance Management. Performance indicators were monitored through VISION Managers Dashboard and Country Reports. Budget Monitoring and maintenance was reviewed monthly using SAP.

In view of the upcoming 2013 Mid-Term Review (MTR), the office substantially updated its Situation Analysis with the latest data and information on the situation of children and women in Turkey. The Office submitted its draft MTR Concept Note and Workplan Schedule to RO in December. Consultations will be held with partners in January and February 2013. Throughout the consultations, the office is engaging with all respective UNICEF Regional Advisors. The outcome of the MTR will be reflected in the revised CPAP in April 2013.

The Regional Workshop on MORES was hosted by RO in Ankara in June. Turkey later developed determinant analyses on Youth, Education, Roma, and Disability and shared these with RO. Education and Youth are considered the two leadership areas.

Within the United Nations Development Cooperation Strategy, UNICEF continued to chair the Thematic Group on Equity and Inclusive Public Services. Mid- and end year reviews were conducted jointly with the Ministry of Development. A mid-term review is scheduled for June 2013.

UNICEF participated actively in preparatory meetings for the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) to be conducted by Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies in 2013. UNICEF advocated for inclusion of indicators on Child Protection, Violence against Children and Disability.

In late 2012, the Ministry of Development invited UNICEF to join the 10th National Development Plan consultation process. UNICEF staff participated in consultation groups on children, education, health, social assistance, income distribution and poverty, disability and gender, and advocated for an equity perspective.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/003/003 Operating Costs

Progress:

The CPMP of 2011-2015 clearly sets the specific results and strategies of the Office. 2012 Office objectives, priorities and the key Country Programme outcomes and annual programme results were clearly defined.

The Rolling Office Management Plan was prepared through a participatory process. The Country Office continued to apply standard UNICEF financial and administrative control systems to ensure good management of financial and other assets. Some of the core programmatic functions of Monitoring & Evaluation, Child Protection, Education and Social Policy continued to be funded through regular resources. UN House Common Services and Office Premises expenses were also partially covered through the regular resources in 2012.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/003/004 Van Earthquake Emergency Response

Progress: UNICEF's strong reputation, the trust built through longstanding cooperation with key ministries, its ability to provide quality supplies in a short time and a track record of support in previous earthquakes made it possible for UNICEF to be included and to play a meaningful role in the 2011-2012 earthquake recovery effort. Although the rescue and recovery efforts were mostly handled by the government and Turkish entities, UNICEF was able to address specific needs that otherwise could not be handled.

UNICEF's contribution consisted of the rehabilitation of the education infrastructure in the most affected areas, by securing the manufacture and delivery of forty container-based classrooms plus accompanying lavatory facilities. With this support, up to 3,360 children, out of the total of 43,329 children whose classrooms were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake, were able to resume studies in a timely manner and in safe and warm learning environments.

Furthermore, UNICEF supported the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Ministry for the Family and Social Policies (MFSP) in the provision of school-based and "tent-to-tent" psychosocial support programmes, administered by the government. Assistance was extended to both extensive technical support for the adaptation and roll-out of existing psychosocial support programmes, and supplies such as container-classrooms, living and lavatory facilities, psycho-social training materials and 401 ECD/recreation kits. A total of 37,011 affected children in Van benefitted from the psycho-social programme.

The two areas of intervention will have an impact far beyond the completion of the earthquake rehabilitation phase. The container classrooms, properly maintained, have a long shelf-life and can provide auxiliary or overflow classrooms for schools. The psycho-social training-of-trainers created a corps of professionals that can be deployed in future emergencies. The intervention has also helped institutionalize further the concept of psycho-social support for children in Turkey among decision-makers and emergency response organs.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/003/005 New Element

Progress: UNICEF has contributed to creating a safe learning and recreational environment for some 22,500 of the Syrian children residing in camps in Turkey by providing supplies and infrastructure. Through this, as well as continuous advocacy efforts and technical support, UNICEF in October 2012 obtained the green light from the GoT for all interventions outlined in the Regional Response Plan, fully funded by the EU Instrument for Stability. Accordingly, UNICEF will in January 2013 start an 18-month intervention targeting an expected 97,000 vulnerable Syrian children and youth in the camps for them to access safe, participatory and inclusive education and recreation spaces which contribute to restoring a sense of stability and continuity. Furthermore, UNICEF will continue to advocate for the GoT to permit the UN to provide support to self-settled refugees outside the camps.

The Turkish authorities' emergency response has been of consistently high standard. However, the GoT indicated in 2011 that it could deal with the influx alone, with the enormous support of the Turkish Red Crescent Society. It was not until October 2012 – following a significant rise in numbers – that it agreed to United Nations support. Meanwhile, the UN Country Team, led by UNHCR, had only limited access to the camps (I) NGOs had no access at all). Consequently, no traditional UN assessments have been conducted. The GoT also declined the UN's offer of support for official assessments and data collection.

According to the latest official figures of early January 2013, there were over 148,170 Syrian refugees, including an estimated 74,188 children, receiving protection and assistance in a total of 14 camps distributed across 7 provinces. The numbers are still increasing.

 On-track

PCR 4350/A0/04/800 Support Budget

Progress: All statutory Committees met regularly and functioned well in 2012. CMT has taken the initiative to improve management performance, with a focus on overcoming initial difficulties arising from the new ERP system of SAP-Vision. The CMT has discussed the outcomes of the RMTs and follows change management

initiatives such as Simplified Programme Results Structure and Rolling/Multi-Year Work Plans, IPSAS and Vision. The implications of the initiatives are regularly communicated in writing to all staff. Intra-office communication efficiency continued to be effective in 2012 through regular general staff meetings, Monday morning meetings and usage of SharePoint as a knowledge management system. There was no audit in 2012.

The risk control self-assessment exercise in Turkey Office was conducted in 2010. Following the assessment of risks, the Risk and Control Library was developed. The library was last updated in June 2011 and reviewed. The risk and control library provided a baseline of the 10 key risks and associated controls and responses that may impact the achievement of UNICEF's objectives and results in Turkey. Among the identified risks, strategic ones are listed as follows;

- Strategic positioning and partnership,
- Knowledge Management,
- Predictability of Funding and
- Internalising Organizational Change.

Intranet based Early Warning Early Action for emergency preparedness and the Office Business Continuity Plan were reviewed. Office Planning assumptions for Rapid Response, First Response Actions, Plans by Functions, Checklists, Contact & Potential Supplier Lists, are available and defined in the EPRP. Business continuity in terms of IT and telecommunications was improved as part of the global VISION preparation: a backup Internet connection was already in place. Citrix server is functional and key users have VPN installed on their laptops, in order to ensure remote access to organizational IT applications and systems. Security issues are addressed at the UNCT level, together with all other UN agencies present at the SMT meetings.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/800/001 Effective and Efficient Governance and Systems

Progress: A new Table of Authority which reflects the changes was prepared and approved in December 2012 as per the guidelines issued in the last quarter of 2012. After the approval of the new ToA, all staff members were informed in writing about their responsibilities. All statutory Committees met regularly and functioned well in 2012. CMT has taken the initiative to improve management performance, with a focus on overcoming initial difficulties arising from the new ERP system of SAP-Vision. The CMT has discussed the outcomes of the RMTs and follows change management initiatives such as Simplified Programme Results Structure and Rolling/Multi-Year Work Plans, IPSAS and Vision. The implications of the initiatives are regularly communicated in writing to all staff. Intra-office communication efficiency continued to be effective in 2012 through regular general staff meetings, Monday morning meetings and usage of SharePoint as a knowledge management system. There was no audit in 2012.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/800/002 Effective and Efficient Management and Stewardship of Financial Resources

Progress:

The office continues to make effective use of its bank optimization and cash forecasting tools and has performed very well in meeting its closing bank balance targets and in restoring the percentage of closing balances for subsequent months. Deadlines on bank reconciliations and bank optimization targets were met. The Office always considered the effect of exchange rate in the market when converting USD to local currency and did its best to create foreign exchange gains from these transactions. In budget control, the CMT reviews the red flag areas including PBA expiry, DCT liquidations, and programme implementation level of expenditures. In 2012, the Office did not have any DCTs outstanding more than 6 months. All of the PBAs were used within the original duration of the PBA life.

As of 31 December, the total expenditure level of the CP including Institutional Budget of 2012 was realized at US\$ 9,183,825.

As of 31 December, the Institutional Budget expenditure level for 2012 was realized at US\$ 1,029,236.

2012 has been marked as the transition period from ProMS to VISION. Supply Unit had to tackle with every

supply related document in the system. Continuous training has been provided to each colleague individually on how to proceed in VISION.

The majority of the supply component of the CO is based on local procurement. It includes procurement of supplies (printed materials, furniture, IT equipment, badges, emergency supplies: containers, prefabs, educations kits) and procurement of services (printing, graphic design, internet and various consultancy services).

As part of the Emergency Response for the Syrian Refugees in Turkey, tents to be used as Child-Friendly Spaces have been procured from UNICEF Supply Division (SD) in Copenhagen. They were composed of 100 pieces of 24sqm tents each with supplements of Recreational Kits in a box and Early Childhood Development Kits in a box, 25 pieces of 24sqm tents with no supplements and 34 pieces of 42sqm tents. For the refugee children located in the camps of other neighboring countries to Syria, for procurement of education supplies, an Education Supplies Expert from UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen came to Ankara for a mission of two weeks. Education supplies suppliers and prefabricated building manufactures have been visited, which in conclusion of the bidding exercise conducted by Copenhagen Supply Division, a Turkish supplier has been awarded the contract to procure school-in-a-box kits to be delivered to Jordan. In total the ordered quantity is 5,280 kits. Market research for identification of potential suppliers - for procurement of winterized clothing for refugee children located in the camps of other neighboring countries to Syria - have been done, upon request of the Supply Division. UNICEF badges have been procured for Georgia Office. Georgia office also procured tires for our armored office vehicle.

5 Request for Quotations (RFQ`s), 25 Request for Proposals (RFP`s), 19 Institutional Contracts, 58 Individual Contracts have been processed. The total value of the Contracts issued in 2012 is \$2,463,594. 12 CRC submissions reviewed and completed in 12 CRC meetings and with total value \$1,615,568.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/800/003 Effective and Efficient Management of Human Capacity

Progress:

2012 has been quite intensive with regards to the human resources aspects of office operations.

The Office held a successful staff retreat in May 2012 outside Ankara with full participation of staff. During the retreat, each section had a presentation on the overview of 2011 and 2012 related activities. Besides staff related issues and office challenges were discussed at length. Moreover, teamwork activities have uplifted staff morale and created common interest.

 On-track

IR 4350/A0/04/800/888 HR

Progress: The Local Training Committee held scheduled meetings in 2012. The committee reviewed the training needs of staff and made recommendations to the Representative. Relevant staff members participated in most of the regional trainings/workshops.

Overtime was avoided as much as possible and compensatory time-off was utilized, except by drivers. Local administrative and human resources matters of general concern to the staff were discussed in the local JCC, CMT meetings and in other platforms such as all-staff and Monday morning meetings.

Effective Governance Structure

The CPMP of 2011-2015 clearly sets out the specific results and strategies of the Office. The 2012 Office objectives and priorities and the key Country Programme outcomes and annual programme results were clearly defined. The Rolling Office Management Plan was prepared through a participatory process. The revised Committees and relevant terms of reference continued to be used. A new Table of Authority reflecting the necessary changes was prepared and approved in December 2012 as per the guidelines issued in the last quarter of 2012. After the approval of the new ToA, all staff members were informed in writing about their responsibilities. All statutory Committees met regularly and functioned well in 2012. The CMT has taken the initiative to improve management performance, with a focus on overcoming initial difficulties arising from the new ERP system of SAP-Vision. The CMT discussed the outcomes of the RMTs and followed change management initiatives such as Simplified Programme Results Structure and Rolling/Multi-Year Work Plans, IPSAS and Vision. The implications of the initiatives were regularly communicated in writing to all staff. Intra-office communication efficiency was maintained in 2012 through regular general staff meetings, Monday morning meetings and the use of SharePoint as a knowledge management system. There was no audit in 2012.

Strategic Risk Management

The risk control self-assessment exercise was conducted in the Turkey Office in 2010. Following the assessment of risks, the Risk and Control Library was developed. The library was last reviewed and updated in June 2011. The risk and control library provided a baseline of the 10 key risks and associated controls and responses that may impact the achievement of UNICEF's objectives and results in Turkey. Among the identified risks, the strategic ones are listed as follows:

- Strategic positioning and partnership,
- Knowledge Management,
- Predictability of Funding, and
- Internalizing Organizational Change.

Intranet-based Early Warning-Early Action for emergency preparedness and the Office Business Continuity Plan were reviewed. Office Planning assumptions for Rapid Response, First Response Actions, Plans by Functions, Checklists and Contact & Potential Supplier Lists were available and defined in the EPRP. Business continuity in terms of IT and telecommunications was improved as part of the global VISION preparation: a backup Internet connection was already in place. The Citrix server is functional and key users have VPN installed on their laptops, in order to ensure remote access to organizational IT applications and systems. Security issues are addressed at the UNCT level, together with all other UN agencies present at the SMT meetings.

Evaluation

The Country Office has a rolling IMEP to cover the years 2011-12, reflecting the Country Programme and in parallel with the introduction of two-year rolling work plans.

The IMEP was updated for 2012. Due to the MTR process in 2013, the CO will opt to develop a one year interim IMEP for 2013.

In 2012 the Programme did not have any evaluation. However, the Country Office agreed to take part in the global Retrospective Multi-Country Evaluation to assess the impact of Advancing Inclusive Education. Other evaluations are planned for the 2nd half of the Programme Cycle.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The upgrades and improvements in Information and Communications Technology systems have successfully continued in line with ITSS division policy during 2012. The office has completed major software / hardware tasks as follows:

The virtualization project has been completed successfully and the number of physical servers has been reduced from 6 to 2.

The file and print server has been migrated to Win 2008 R2.

We switched Cisco VPN client with the Cisco AnyConnect application in client computers.

The Office has successfully started to use the WSUS server instead of Automatic Patch Deployment, as a closed pilot office, so that all computers and servers can be automatically patched with the reports in detail.

SAP GUI 7.20 Patch 5 was applied to all Win 7 computers in May.

Domain controllers have been migrated to Windows Server 2008 R2.

Inter-Notes has been installed as a lotus notes profile to all mobile computers so that remote users can reach emails easily.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

In 2012, the Country Office had a budget of US\$10.6 million, of which US\$8.8m was utilized and US\$1.73 million remains as commitment. 100% of funds were utilized before the expiry date.

The main sources of large OR funding are the Thematic Education Fund, the EU, Turkey National Committee, and consolidated funds from other Natcoms and Amway.

The Country Office also benefited in 2012 from Emergency funding for Van and Syria Emergency Response, predominantly the CERF fund and thematic humanitarian funding from several countries.

A Joint Strategic Plan for Fundraising was signed with the Turkish National Committee and PFP - the first signed in the last decade.

The National Committee concentrated on fund-raising for education including needs for preschool (25 liras per child campaign), catch-up education and regional primary boarding schools. UNICEF Turkey's project proposal "25TL per child to go to preschool" was very well received both by the individuals and corporates. As a result 3,888 children benefited from the preschool education during 2012-2013 school years in 10 project provinces.

Fund-raising meetings with numerous national and international companies/individuals and a gala dinner in collaboration with the Hilton Hotel, Ankara were just some of the activities which the Office and the Committee cooperated in 2012. The Turkish National Committee raised over US\$2.5 million solely for programmes in Turkey during 2012.

Due to strong advocacy efforts of UNICEF Turkey, the General Directorate for the Disabled and Elderly agreed to fund a KAP Survey on assessing the situation of disabled children in Turkey which is of US\$45,000 in monetary value.

Social Policy, ECD and Child Protection Programmes continue to remain underfunded. The Country Office is looking at potential donors to diversify its sources of funding in order to fully finance the country programme. However, a large amount of funding has still to be secured.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

The office continues to make effective use of its bank optimization and cash forecasting tools and has performed very well in meeting its closing bank balance targets and in restoring the percentage of closing balances for subsequent months. Deadlines on bank reconciliations and bank optimization targets were met. The Office always considered the exchange rate in the market when converting USD to local currency and did its best to create foreign exchange gains from these transactions. In budget control, the CMT reviews the red flag areas including PBA expiry, DCT liquidations, and programme implementation level of expenditures. In 2012, the Office did not have any DCTs outstanding for more than 6 months. All of the PBAs were used within the original duration of the PBA life.

As of 31 December, the total expenditure level of the CP including Institutional Budget of 2012 was realized at US\$ 9,183,825.

As of 31 December, the Institutional Budget expenditure level for 2012 was realized at US\$ 1,029,236.

Supply Management

2012 marked the transition from ProMS to VISION. Supply Unit handled every supply-related document in the system. Continuous training was provided to each colleague individually on how to proceed in VISION. Most supply work is based on local procurement, encompassing supplies (printed materials, furniture, IT equipment, badges, and emergency supplies like containers, prefabs and education kits) and services (printing, graphic design, internet and various consultancy services).

As part of the Emergency Response for Syrians in Turkey, tents were procured from UNICEF Supply Division (SD) in Copenhagen for use as Child Friendly Spaces, consisting of: 100 x 24sqm tents with supplements of Recreational Kits in a box and Early Childhood Development Kits in a box; 25 x 24sqm tents with no supplements, and 34 x 42sqm tents. In order to procure education supplies for Syrian children in camps in other countries neighbouring Syria, an Education Supplies Expert from SD came to Ankara for a two-week mission. Visits to education supplies suppliers and prefabricated building manufacturers were arranged, and following a bidding exercise conducted by SD, a Turkish supplier was awarded the contract to procure 5,280 school-in-a-box kits to be delivered to Jordan. Upon the request of SD, market research was conducted to identify potential suppliers for the procurement of winterized clothing for children in camps of countries neighbouring Syria. UNICEF badges were procured for the Georgia CO. The Georgia office also procured tires in Turkey for its armored office vehicle.

UNICEF is a member of the Operations Management Team of the UN Agencies, which has subgroups in different functional areas. The subgroup for Procurement and Admin/Logistics has been identifying and working on common procurement activities. Within this context, UNICEF Turkey had initiated the "Metro Ethernet Internet Services" for UNDP and IOM. In 2012 UNICEF also continued to make use of Travel and Management Services through a common LTA with some other UN Agencies in Turkey.

Turkey CO does not have an in-country warehouse. Most supplies procured for GoT counterparts (mainly printed items) are directly distributed from the supplier to the end user, and only consumable items are received within the office. Supplies procured are monitored by the Program Staff through Field visits. The Supply and Procurement Assistant also paid a monitoring visit, together with the Operations Manager, to the Van emergency area to monitor the use of container-classrooms previously procured.

Upon the retirement of the Admin and HR Assistant at the end March, and pending her replacement on the 1st of July, the Supply and Procurement Assistant temporarily undertook HR functions. Functions related to Individual Consultancy Contracts continued to be handled by the Supply unit. The newly-rented UN House 1st floor office space was fully furnished.

Five Requests for Quotations (RFQ`s), 25 Requests for Proposals (RFP`s), 19 Institutional Contracts and 58 Individual Contracts were processed. The total value of the Contracts issued in 2012 is \$2,463,594.

17 Purchase Orders with a total value of **\$126,211** were issued

SD was consulted as/when required. Emergency supplies and IT equipment were ordered from the SD and the LTA holder of the Supply Division respectively.

Twelve CRC submissions reviewed and completed in 12 CRC meetings with a total value of \$1,615,568.

Human Resources

2012 has been quite intensive with regards to the human resources aspects of office operations.

The Office held a successful staff retreat in May 2012 outside Ankara with full participation of staff. During the retreat, each section gave a presentation on its activities for 2011 and 2012. Staff-related issues and office challenges were discussed at length. Moreover, teamwork activities uplifted staff morale and created common interest.

The Local Training Committee held all scheduled meetings in 2012. The committee reviewed the training needs of the staff and made recommendations to the Representative. Relevant staff members participated in most of the regional training events/workshops.

Overtime was avoided as far as possible and compensatory time-off was utilized, except for drivers. Matters related to local administrative and human resources which were of general concern to the staff were discussed in the local JCC and CMT meetings and in other platforms such as all-staff and Monday morning meetings.

The CO held one all-staff retreat outside Ankara in 2012 and there were two one-day retreats in Ankara for programme staff and operations staff separately. The retreats served to maintain staff morale and built

coherence and a higher sense of common purpose as well as providing an opportunity to inform staff about personnel matters, and to permit non-hierarchical discussion and sharing of strategic programmatic/operational issues. The programme of the all-staff retreat was organized in cooperation with the UTSA and included informal discussions of interests of concern to staff, management or both, discussion of the outcome of the Global Staff Survey, presentations on leadership and on the work of different office sections, a review of progress on Vision and a series of team-building activities.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Common agreements for travel, courier, cleaning, security and telecommunication services saved our staff time by avoiding the need to undertake a separate bidding process on every occasion. These agreements also provided cost benefits by combining volumes. The Office has saved roughly US\$100,000 under staff costs, and it has contributed this saving to the Regional contingency fund. Additionally, the Office achieved a 25% discount in the three-year agreement with our internet service provider, following a bidding process, resulting in \$13,260 of cost savings in total.

Changes in AMP & CPMP

Under the new Country Programme for 2011-2015, the Country Office has a two-year rolling Office Management Plan covering 2011-2012. With the 2013 MTR process and emerging emergency situations regarding Syria, the CO is planning to develop a new AMP for 2013. The AMP will be built on the 2013 workplans and will identify the programmatic and operational mechanisms to reach the programme and operation results targeted for 2013. Reference will be made to emergency preparedness and response, performance reviews and other staff accountabilities. Annexes will include the Budget, the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, the Organigramme, the Table of Authority, workflow charts the Annual Staff Training/Learning Plan, memberships of thematic groups and the donor reporting schedule.

Turkey is one of the 12 countries scheduled for 2013 Mid Term Review. Within the framework of the region's transformation process, changes will be reflected to the Country Programme Management Plan following the MTR process in the 1st quarter of the year. The revised CPMP will be submitted to the regional office by 30 April 2013.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

Notes:

- (1) More details and analysis of many of the issues mentioned here are given, and more sources of information are referred to, in the Country Office's Situation Analysis, which was substantially updated in 2012, although not yet published.
- (2) The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued its concluding observations on Turkey's combined 2nd and 3rd periodic report in June 2012 (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/co/CRC_C_TUR_CO_2-3.pdf), drawing attention to progress on child rights and a wide range of outstanding issues.
- (3) All data from www.turkstat.gov.tr
- (4) http://www.childinfo.org/files/Child_Mortality_Report_2012.pdf
- (5) MoD - www.kalkinma.gov.tr
- (6) www.turkstat.gov.tr
- (7) www.turkstat.gov.tr
- (8) based on 50% of equivalised disposable household income
- (9) www.turkstat.gov.tr
- (10) www.oecd.org/els/social/family/database
- (11) MoD: Annual Programme for 2013 – www.kalkinma.gov.tr
- (12) MoNE Formal Education Statistics – <http://sgb.meb.gov.tr>
- (13) e.g.: national report under the UNICEF/UNESCO Out Of School Children (OOSC) initiative (forthcoming)
- (14) The Education Reform Initiative at Sabanci University (<http://erg.sabanciuniv.edu>) has continued to publish frequent reports and policy papers in Turkish and/or English on almost all aspects of education, including the new education system.
- (15) MFSP Child Services General Directorate -www.cocukhizmetleri.gov.tr

Acronyms:

MFSP – Ministry for the Family and Social Policies
 MoD - Ministry of Development
 MoH – Ministry of Health
 MoNE – Ministry of National Education
 SILC – Survey of Income and Living Conditions
 Turkstat - Turkish Statistical Institute

Document Centre

Evaluation

	Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
1	2011-2012 Turkey IMEP revised Feb 2012	2012/001	IMEP

Other Publications

	Title
1	TRANSITION TO SPECIAL NEEDS REPORT FOR CHILDREN A SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF THE DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION
2	Review: Developmental Difficulties in Early Childhood: Prevention, early identification, assessment and intervention in low- and middle- income countries.
3	Strengthening Preschool Education Project study visits report
4	Minimum Standards Guidebook
5	Report Consultation with Children on New Turkish Constitution

Lessons Learned

University-based Child Protection Centres for children who have faced violence, abuse or neglect, such as victims of child abuse or other sexual violence

Document Type/Category	MTSP Focus Area or Cross-Cutting Strategy	Related Links
Innovation	Focus area 4: Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	--Link to ten-minute film on Child Protection Centres: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv_ZwjANF8&feature=qup
Contact Person	Language	Emergency Related
sjacomyvite@unicef.org	English	

Abstract

University-based Child Protection Centres have emerged in Turkey primarily as alternative institutional arrangements for examining and supporting children who have been victims of violence and abuse. When courts and prosecutors refer children to these centres, rather than to the Forensic Medicine Institution, (a) they are examined in child-friendly conditions, by trained experts accustomed to dealing with children, and separately from adults, and (b) their medical, psychological and social condition and needs are assessed in one place and at the same time, and they can be treated or directed to the necessary services. Thus the children (and families) are spared much of the secondary victimisation which comes with repeated or traumatic examinations and interrogations, and are quickly set on course for a healthy recovery. The centres also help to ensure that justice is done, since the dedicated experts employed there are able and motivated to provide the courts with quick, detailed and accurate reports.

Innovation or Lesson Learned

As a result of the work of the Child Protection Centres, thousands of child victims of violence and abuse have been examined and questioned in a child-friendly environment, thereby reducing secondary victimisation. Many of these have also been directed promptly towards appropriate medical, psychological or social care, treatment or rehabilitation. The existing Child Protection Centres are institutionalised and sustainable, and provide a complete model for the establishment of similar centres elsewhere. A guidebook, educational materials and a training programme are available and are being further developed. The need for such centres has been amply demonstrated, with each centre receiving several hundred children each year. The Child Protection Centres Coordination Board intends to develop a joint data-base of all cases managed by Child Protection Units, including indicators of results/impact (outcomes). Courts have acknowledged the timeliness and quality of the reports produced by the Child Protection Units, and have proved willing to take decisions in criminal, custody and other cases on the basis of this evidence. A ruling issued by of the High Court in 2011 (Yargıtay Ceza Genel Kurul Kararı, 2011/5-56 Esas, 2011/76 KN2011) confirmed that courts were free to accept reports from appropriately-composed committees of university-based experts in the same way as reports from the Forensic Medicine Institution. The Institution formerly had a de facto monopoly of expertise in cases of child sexual abuse – and most cases still go through it. However, children from outside Istanbul often have to travel several hundred kilometres for examination by the Institution, its examinations may not take place in a child-friendly and child-specific setting, and its reports may take up to two years to be delivered (In one field visit, a judge in Adana explained that he usually sends a request for expertise both to the Institution and to the Child Protection Unit at Çukurova University, and then goes ahead with whichever sends its report first). In early 2012, the High Council of Justice and Prosecutors stated that it would be appropriate for examinations of child victims in abuse cases in particular to be conducted through the Child Protection Centres or Child Protection Units of universities. Its decision to this effect (Decision No. 30 of January 18, 2012) was subsequently circulated to judges, public prosecutors and other judicial personnel.

Potential Application

Issue

Some of these benefits for children could undoubtedly be achieved in other ways, and indeed various initiatives are under way in different sectors (security, justice, health, social services) to implement the principle that a child victim should make only one statement, to improve the services of the Forensic Medicine Institution and make them more widely available, to increase the number and role of social workers and to establish similar centres in state hospitals. However, the university environment is especially well suited to hosting Child Protection Centres, since professionals from various disciplines, medical and non-medical, are readily available, and the provision of services can be combined with the conduct of research into all aspects of child abuse and sexual violence against children.

Strategy and Implementation

Currently, there are seven university-based Child Protection Centres (Gazi University, Ankara, founded in 2006; Marmara University, Istanbul, 2009; Erciyes University, Kayseri, 2009; Cumhuriyet [Republic] University, Sivas, 2010; Kocaeli University, İzmit, 2010; Çukurova University, Adana 2011, Mersin University, Mersin, 2012). These centres have cooperated to share experience, to develop standards, a manual, a textbook and training programmes for staff, and to promote the Child Protection Centre concept to other universities and potentially other countries. The model is therefore ready to be rolled out more extensively. UNICEF has contributed to these efforts by providing some limited financial resources but more importantly through its convening power, its trade mark and its ability to place the Child Protection Centre initiative within the context of a wider effort to strengthen child protection within a comprehensive system. Questions which now arise include what additional roles the centres and/or universities in general, might be able to play in the field of child protection – whether by extending their services to other groups of children or through research and the education of duty-bearers, and whether and how UNICEF should support the initiative from now on.

Progress and Results

In Turkey as in other countries, child abuse has been receiving more and more attention in recent years. The National Research on Violence against Women in Turkey, published by the General Directorate for the Status of Women in 2009, showed that 7% of women had experienced some form of sexual abuse before the age of 15. Cases of sexual violence against children, from gang rapes of teenage girls to incest involving very small children, are reported in the media almost daily. This is in addition to many cases of non-sexual violence. The increasing number of cases coming to light has posed challenges for the judiciary and for the institutions with responsibilities for child protection. One such problem is the treatment of the child victims, who, as part of the legal process, are often subjected to repeated examinations and interrogations, compounding the trauma which they have experienced. How many of these girls and boys receive the social or psychiatric services they need to carry on with their lives in the best possible way is unclear. As part of its work on juvenile justice under the 2001-2005 Country Programme, UNICEF Turkey aimed to develop systems to uphold the rights of juvenile victims of crime, in collaboration with bar associations and the medical profession. Medical professionals in target provinces were trained to diagnose victims of abuse and give child-friendly medical check-ups. These efforts contributed, inter alia, to an increase in the number of professionals, including doctors in university medical faculties, with an understanding of the issues at stake and the will to do something about it. Later, these professionals identified existing regulations envisaging the establishment of "implementation and research centres" within universities as an opportunity to create a sustainable structure for a multi-disciplinary, holistic approach to child victims of crime. The seven university-based Child Protection Centres set up between 2006 and 2012 operate within this legal and administrative context. Formally, they are "Child Protection Implementation and Research Centres." The establishment of such centres requires the

approval of the university senate and then of the Higher Education Council. Once established, they have a legal identity and a management structure, report directly to the university rector, and have opportunities to draw on the resources of all other units of the university. They are also able to set up Child Protection Units within the university's faculties or institutes. It is through such Units, set up within the medical faculties of the universities, that the centres have begun to engage directly with children in violence cases. While there are some differences from university to university, each of these units has a core staff including a child surgeon, a paediatrician, a forensic medicine expert, a social services expert, a clinical psychologist, a nurse and a secretary.

Under its Country Programme for 2006-10, and more specifically within the EU-funded project "Modelling Child Protection Systems at the Provincial Level", between 2008 and 2011, UNICEF Turkey supported the joint efforts of the child protection centres to strengthen their own capacity and ensure the sustainability of this service model. During this period, the Child Protection Centres set up an informal Coordination Board, as a way of working together. This led to the development of a manual on the establishment of university-based Child Protection Centres, followed by a second and more detailed textbook of educational materials for the centres and their staff; the drafting of standards for the Child Protection Centres/Units, encompassing physical facilities, staffing and procedures, and the design and testing of introductory five-day training courses for those who are to work in such centres (The five-day training course is in the process of finalisation; a five-month course and the award of higher qualifications by research thesis are also envisaged). In addition, an Association for the Support of Child Protection Centres has been established in line with the law on associations to identify and implement ways of supporting the centres. An accreditation system for new centres is foreseen.

Next Steps

Next steps for the child protection centres and their coordination bodies may include: advocacy and cooperation for the establishment of child protection centres in other universities and provinces; closer case-tracking and monitoring of outcomes for the children whom the centres have served; the collection and analysis of data on these children with a view to identifying risk factors and preventive measures; expansion of the research functions of the centres and their inputs to policy-making; expansion of the teaching functions of the centres; sharing of the centres' experience to assist in the possible establishment of child protection units within other university faculties such as faculties of law or education; enabling more counseling/medical follow-up services to be provided on the premises of the centres, and making the services of the child protection centres more readily available to a wider range of children, such as children forced into crime (e.g.: on parole), and/or children with negative experiences who may not be referred to the centre by judicial (or security) authorities but may be self-referred or referred by parents or the child care system or other professionals. Needless to say, it is important that the centres should do what they do best within the resources available to them, and that their activities should complement rather than duplicate the work of other elements of a child protection system.

A highly topical issue is the dichotomy between the Child Protection Centres and the Child Monitor Centres (ÇİM). The latter have been modelled to provide much the same services as the university-based child protection centres in respect of child victims of violence and neglect, and they also aim to implement a multidisciplinary approach and to build a bridge with academic research, at least in the health sector. In the ÇİM model, the Ministry of Health is administratively responsible and cooperates with the ministries of Education, the Interior, National Education and the Family and Social Policies, as well as with the Forensic Medicine Department and universities. Six ÇİMs are understood to be active in Ministry of Health hospitals in Ankara, Diyarbakir, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Kayseri and Samsun, and many others are foreseen. Dialogue could lead to the incorporation within each model of the strong points of the other, and cooperation in research, training, standards and many other areas. However, differences in paradigms and procedures between Ministry of Health and university hospitals may need to be overcome.

UNICEF's cooperation with the Child Protection Centres initiative has been a good example of a collaborative relationship with professionals that has made it possible to leverage resources for the purpose of upholding children's rights. UNICEF has been flexible enough to identify the initiative as a model which furthers its own child protection priorities and goals, and to support it in a facilitatory role. Individually, the centres are embedded in Turkish institutions and the Turkish legal and health systems, and their work is financed accordingly. Nevertheless, the participants of the initiative have emphasized the importance of the role played by UNICEF in the progress that has been made. They cite UNICEF's convening power among members of different professions, the importance of the encouragement and technical support provided by UNICEF for the coordination work of the centres and their collective projects, the strength of UNICEF's trade mark and UNICEF's ability to help the centres to place their work within a wider theoretical and institutional child protection framework.

The experience of the Child Protection Centres has made UNICEF more aware of the potential of universities not only for research and training but also for implementation of services. With respect to the future, it is clear that UNICEF's engagement, if any, must continue to be justifiable on the grounds of the contribution which the child protection centres can make to the improvement of the child protection system as a whole. It is to be hoped that UNICEF's role as facilitator will be needed less as the coordinating bodies of the child protection centres become more institutionalised with their own human and financial resources. However, this may take some more time. Meanwhile, UNICEF may choose to partner the initiative in specific areas such as modeling additional services or conducting research and advocacy work which are in line with its own priorities. UNICEF is extremely well placed to facilitate relations between the centres and other institutions in the field of child protection – from the Ministry for the Family and Social Policies to civil society organisations - and to assist their networking to create synergies at the national and international levels.