Executive Summary

In line with the priorities of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and the Central and Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States Regional Knowledge and Leadership Agenda (RKLA), UNICEF Uzbekistan played a lead convening role in key sectors relevant to children, combining upstream policy work with downstream initiatives to support policy implementation and address inequities in the fulfilment of child rights.

Notable achievements in 2016 included the following.

UNICEF Uzbekistan supported curriculum revision in medical colleges by incorporating World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF-recommended modules, such as integrated management of childhood illnesses, breastfeeding, growth and development monitoring, effective perinatal care and safe immunization.

With UNICEF technical assistance, 19 national standards were developed for perinatal care services (eight on newborn care and 11 on obstetric care) based on international standards.

A district health system-strengthening bottleneck assessment was conducted in selected regions to help develop improvement plans, enhance quality of health services and address critical bottlenecks at the sub-national level.

UNICEF provided technical support to the assessment of the home-visiting system. This study provided recommendations to strengthen the quality and increase the coverage of home-visiting services. It provides a basis for introducing a universal progressive model of home visiting in the country.

UNICEF continued to provide support to children living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) through a network of seven daycare centres. As a result, 2,821 boys and 2,168 girls and their families received psychosocial support. UNICEF also developed the capacity of 251 staff on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in 46 residential care institutions for children left without parental care.

UNICEF contributed to the sustainability of vaccine procurement by supporting the introduction of a standard methodology and procedures for forecasting and budgeting of the immunization programme.

About 98 per cent of 6-59 month-old children nationwide benefited from two rounds of UNICEF-supported vitamin A supplementation.

With UNICEF support, a contextualized conceptual framework for quality education was drafted to enable the measurement of quality in the education sector.

UNICEF technical support resulted in an analytical review of the early childhood development (ECD) policy to identify gaps for equitable quality service provision.

School textbook and reference materials on safe behaviour and disaster risk reduction
(DRR), including topics on environmental hazards and climate change, were developed by the Ministry of Public Education with UNICEF support.

With UNICEF technical assistance, amendments to national legislation concerning children in contact with the law were drafted.

UNICEF supported the development of a handbook for civil court judges on child-friendly court proceedings.

A policy and legislative review relating to the safeguarding of children’s property was completed with UNICEF support.

The following challenges were noted. Programme implementation was constrained by delays in signing the Country Programme Action Plan and sectoral workplans. Political transition in the country following the death of the first President of Uzbekistan also contributed to delays in programme implementation. In light of these changes, UNICEF Uzbekistan reviewed its workplans in consultation with partners, and prioritized activities that could be successfully implemented to maximize efficiency.

Furthermore, challenges in accessing reliable and disaggregated data to support evidence-based planning, programming and reporting, with a focus on the most vulnerable, affected programming and implementation.

UNICEF Uzbekistan engaged in the following collaborative partnerships. UNICEF started a dialogue on child rights with the Senate focusing on advocacy for full implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Telecom operator UCELL contributed US$ 100,000 to support water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools and assist UNICEF’s advocacy by disseminating messages to their subscribers and jointly commemorate key public events. This was the first case of collaboration between the private sector and UNICEF in the country.

In partnership with the National Association for Electronic Mass Media, issues of ECD and gender empowerment were brought to public attention through its nationwide television network on UNICEF’s 70th anniversary.

Together with other United Nations (UN) agencies, UNICEF assisted the Government in the process of Sustainable Development Goal localization.

Emerging Areas of Importance

**Early childhood development (ECD).** ECD is a major component of the UNICEF Programme 2016-2020, especially the health and education components. The assessment of gaps in the current system of home visiting and the finalization of recommendations for its improvement was a major intervention in the reporting period. The development of training programmes for improved home visiting to ensure provision of early intervention support for most-vulnerable children was another area of UNICEF’s work. In education, the lack of an adequate enabling environment was identified as a major bottleneck. Therefore, the normative and legislative frameworks were mapped and reviewed to identify bottlenecks contributing to the lack of access to quality preschool services for more than 70 per cent of children. (See also the sections on evidence generation and cross-sectoral linkages.)
**Climate change.** Although climate change is not directly an area of UNICEF’s work in the current country programme, disaster risk reduction (DRR) was integrated into the education component. Elements of environmental sustainability and climate change were incorporated in the school programme to raise awareness of children in this area. (See also the section on environmental sustainability.)

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer</td>
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<td>Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</td>
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**Capacity Development**

With UNICEF Uzbekistan’s technical support, a working group established by the Ministry of Public Education was trained on widely used conceptual frameworks of quality. The group, supported by UNICEF, drafted a quality education framework to operationally define the concept of quality in the context of the country. This will be used in 2017 to develop tools for objective measurement of quality.

Additionally, a working group was established and trained on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of education programmes. Supported by UNICEF, the group developed tools to monitor the progress of the first Uzbekistan Education Sector Plan (ESP), based on which a Joint Sector Review was initiated to develop the second ESP for 2018-2022. To increase capacity in disaster risk reduction, UNICEF supported the development of teaching and learning materials for inclusion in the school programme. The materials are being tested for effectiveness in selected schools by teachers trained with UNICEF support.

UNICEF Uzbekistan worked with the Ministry of Health to update the educational programme in nursing colleges. A review of the curriculum helped identify gaps. The shortcomings were addressed by incorporating WHO/UNICEF-recommended modules, such as integrated management of childhood illnesses, breastfeeding, growth and development monitoring, effective perinatal care and safe immunization. The revised curriculum was then tested in selected colleges by more than 100 instructors who were trained with UNICEF support. UNICEF Uzbekistan continued the capacity development of staff on HIV/AIDS in all 46 residential care institutions for children left without parental care. These children are now receiving specialized care from the 251 representatives of child care institutions.
UNICEF Uzbekistan supported the training of instructors in the Tashkent State Law University to teach child rights, which is now a mandatory subject in the curriculum.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In the reporting period, recommendations on implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child’s Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and on safeguarding children’s property rights were developed based on a policy and legislative reviews conducted in collaboration with the National Human Rights Centre. Technical assistance was also provided by a prominent member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

For ECD, a policy mapping was conducted and a review of current normative frameworks was drafted to help identify gaps in the provision of equitable quality services to the most vulnerable children. This review will act as the basis for a policy dialogue and revision in 2017.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, a set of policy recommendations were developed on strengthening quality and increasing coverage in service provision based on a comprehensive assessment of the home-visiting system. This will provide the basis for introducing a universal progressive model of home visiting in the next reporting period.

In collaboration with the Research Centre under the Supreme Court, national legislation and judicial practices concerning children in contact with the law were studied. This work will be used to develop amendments and changes to national legislation and a practical handbook on child-friendly justice for judges.

To inform the development of a UN Joint Programme and promote policy dialogue with national stakeholders, a comprehensive situation analysis of persons, particularly children, with disabilities was initiated. An institutional analysis of the health sector and a legal analysis of the internal consistency of national legislation were completed. In addition, a statistical database containing government data on key persons, including children, with disabilities was established to help with future policy advocacy. In 2017, this will be complemented by household data collection.

Evidence on priority child rights issues was generated by regional governments to inform local policy making, including on children with disabilities and single mothers. (See also the section on cross-sectoral linkages.)

Partnerships

An agreement was reached with the National Human Rights Centre and the Office for the Ombudsperson for Human Rights to facilitate the establishment of a Children’s Ombudsperson to ensure actions for children in need of protection and to enhance caregivers’ knowledge and skills related to positive parenting.

A partnership was also formalized with the Ministry of Public Education, the Women’s Committee and the civil society organization (CSO) Republican Centre for Adaptation of Children to improve the gatekeeping system and prevent child separation/abandonment through community-level counselling services for vulnerable families in two regions of the country. This cooperation is expected to result in an inter-sectoral approach for child protection services and the establishment of a gatekeeping mechanism for children at risk of institutionalization.
Jointly with WHO, UNICEF Uzbekistan partnered with the Ministries of Health and Finance to facilitate phasing out of Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI) support to Uzbekistan, and to finalize key actions for financial sustainability of vaccine procurement. GAVI has allocated US$ 5 million to UNICEF to strengthen the health system by improving vaccine management.

Telecom operator UCELL contributed US$ 100,000 to support WASH in schools and support UNICEF’s advocacy by disseminating messages to their subscribers and jointly commemorate key public events. Latter-day Saints (LDS) Charities will supply equipment worth US$ 12,732 for training on neonatal intensive care in two regions.

In partnership with the National Association for Electronic Mass Media, issues of ECD and gender empowerment were brought to public attention through its nationwide television network on UNICEF’s 70th anniversary.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

Key messages on gender equality and early childhood development were distributed through popular television and radio channels. Television shows featuring discussions among celebrities, parents and influencers were produced and broadcast. Capacity development of media professionals contributed to the publication of over 400 in-depth media reports on maternal and child health and ECD.

UNICEF Uzbekistan’s online campaigns increased public engagement on social media and its website. The number of people reached through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter increased, and the number of visitors to UNICEF’s trilingual website increased from 18,303 in 2015 to 32,493, with almost 6,000 returning visitors.

UNICEF Uzbekistan’s public advocacy focused on exclusive breastfeeding, ECD, gender equality, hand washing with soap, rights of children with disabilities and children living with HIV. Young writers were provided with a platform to participate in UNICEF’s global campaign Tiny Stories, an online dialogue on child rights.

**South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation**

To facilitate horizontal exchange, collaboration and learning about the use of the home visitors training modules developed by UNICEF’s Regional Office and the International Step by Step Association, UNICEF facilitated the participation of stakeholders from Uzbekistan in a mapping exercise of current use of the training programme. The results of this exercise were discussed during the meeting of the UNICEF Regional Office master trainers meeting. Participants from Uzbekistan presented information on barriers, constraints, facilitating factors and lessons learned in the use of the modules.

**Identification Promotion of Innovation**

Young journalists were trained to create one-minute video spots using smart phones to express their views about taking actions towards a better world. The videos were broadcast on TV.

**Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

UNICEF Uzbekistan advocated for the adoption of a cross-sectoral approach in Government programmes. In the Republic of Karakalpakstan (north), the findings from a needs assessment of 1,162 families with children with disabilities were used by the local Inter-
Sectoral Working Groups on Child Well-being to develop regional action plans for improving the situation of children with disabilities.

Another study in the Fergana region (east) assessed the situation of 2,000 single mothers and provided information on their profile, needs, child-rearing practices and coverage by social allowances and benefits. The findings of the study informed the agenda of local governments. (See also the section on human rights-based approach to cooperation.)

UNICEF Uzbekistan in collaboration with the Government undertook a comprehensive review of ECD policy to ensure all aspects of child development in early years are accounted and proper programmes are developed for improved access to equitable quality early interventions, care and education. The mapping of the normative frameworks and preliminary results of their review highlighted the importance of developing a comprehensive and integrated ECD policy, introducing flexible standards and services, including children under three years of age in ECD services and increasing access to free early learning services.

A comprehensive assessment of the home-visiting system targeted the timely identification of vulnerable children and addressing inequities in services. This is intended to facilitate the introduction of a universal progressive model of home visiting.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

Work on the implementation of Convention on the Rights of the Child recommendations focused on policy advocacy and legislative amendments in line with international standards. UNICEF supported the National Human Rights Centre in conducting a policy and legislative review related to the safeguarding of children’s property rights, as well as the identification of specific areas for further support related to children in need of protection.

With the aim of advocating for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to better understand the situation of persons, including children, with disabilities, UNICEF Uzbekistan jointly with other UN agencies commissioned a comprehensive study on the situation in consultation with the network of disabled people’s organizations. (See also the section on evidence generation.)

UNICEF Uzbekistan supported regional governments and CSOs in equity-based programming through developing capacities for performing localized analyses of the situation of children and women.

The lack of availability of internationally comparable and disaggregated data remains a challenge. UNICEF Uzbekistan is working with key partners including the State Committee on Statistics and other ministries to compile data in key strategic areas and maintain a comprehensive database of key indicators on the situation of children and women in the framework of the regional Transformative Monitoring for Enhanced Equity (TransMonEE) initiative.

UNICEF’s Situation Analysis of Children in Uzbekistan, which was prepared in 2014, was updated in 2016 to incorporate the latest data obtained from various research activities and studies. Common barriers and bottlenecks were verified across sectors for improved cross-sectoral and equity-focused programming.

**Gender Equality**

UNICEF Uzbekistan supported the creation of a more girl-friendly environment conducive to better learning in selected schools. A knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study on
WASH in schools identified menstruation as a cause of absenteeism for adolescent girls. Improved hygiene facilities in schools ensuring privacy of girls, built with UNICEF support, helped address this issue.

The reinforcement of social protection measures for single mothers and their children was prioritized in regional and district development plans based on a UNICEF-supported study on the situation of 2,000 single mothers conducted by regional authorities and CSOs in the Fergana region. (See also the section on cross-sectoral linkages.)

A separate module devoted to the role of father’s engagement in child care was introduced to the curriculum of home visitors to encourage greater engagement of fathers with young children. The module uses elements of the participatory learning and action approach, challenging the existing norms and stereotypes with regard to gender roles and responsibilities in the family.

Mass media and social media campaigns were launched dedicated to the Day of the Girl Child and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

**Environmental Sustainability**

With the aim of decreasing harmful substances in the environment, UNICEF Uzbekistan supported the training of 404 teachers of medical colleges on immunization waste management. This training was based on the locally adopted WHO safe immunization training package, covering topics such as correct disposal of contaminated injection equipment and the development of immunization waste-disposal plans. Training was provided by the Centre of Development of Medical Education under the Ministry of Health and was attended by lecturers of nursing colleges from six provinces.

To build a more sustainable future for children, increase resilience to disasters and reduce risks, a set of resource and reference materials on safe behaviour and disaster risk reduction for schools was developed by the Working Group under the Ministry of Public Education. Included in these materials were topics on environmental hazards and climate change and their impact on people in order to raise children’s awareness of the need to reduce activities harmful to environment.

As part of advocacy efforts, and to raise public awareness on climate change and environmental disasters and their consequences for children, UNICEF Uzbekistan commemorated the International Day for Disaster Reduction through the promotion of DRR messages in social media.

**Effective Leadership**

The year 2016 was the first of the new UNICEF Uzbekistan Country Programme. Considerable effort was made to ensure staff members were aware of the new priorities and focus of the programme and that all performance management tools were in line with these new directions. The learning committee also helped mainstream capacity development needs of staff with programme priorities. Chief among such efforts was investing in re-training of key programme staff with the newly revised training on the human rights-based approach to programming.

Programme implementation was constrained by delays in the signature of the Country Programme Action Plan and the transition of power following the death of the President. In light of these changes, UNICEF Uzbekistan reviewed its workplans in consultation with partners and prioritized activities that could be successfully implemented in the changing political environment. As a result, UNICEF Uzbekistan fully utilized all allocated resources.
The country management team reviewed the operation of statutory committees and work processes. To improve and expedite programme implementation, modifications were made in procedures. Among other things, approval thresholds were adjusted, for instance for the contracts review committee and the programme cooperation agreement. The number of committees was also reduced to the minimum required.


### Financial Resources Management

Budget utilization and resource management were reviewed monthly. As a result, UNICEF Uzbekistan completed all programmatic and operational activities within the planned budgeted resources. Overall utilization of the institutional budget, regular resources and other regular resources funds in 2016 was US$ 4,739,518.00, representing 100 per cent of planned funds. This includes US$ 437,431 (11 per cent of regular resource funds), US$ 88,817 (12 per cent of other resource funds) and US$ 7,794 (6.9 per cent of institutional budget funds) committed for 2017.

All financial closures activities were successfully completed within prescribed deadlines. Bank reconciliations were done in a timely manner, replenishment requests were placed promptly, and funds were received in a timely manner.

UNICEF Uzbekistan continued to make effective use of its bank optimization and cash forecasting tools, as well as VISION tools such as the Admin/Finance Dashboard, Performance Management reports and SAP-generated reports for regular detailed monitoring of financial and other assets. These actions continued to be successfully applied for financial and administrative risk minimization.

Comprehensive training on updated financial regulations was provided to counterparts. Together with the review of performance management indicators by the Country Management Team, assigning clear accountabilities and ongoing communication with partners resulted in there being no outstanding direct cash transfers at year’s end.

In March 2016, UNICEF Uzbekistan organized a series of training activities for UNICEF and partner staff on the use of the funding authorization and certification of expenditures (FACE) form. Harmonized approach to cash transfer (HACT) activities, programmatic visits outlined in the developed assurance plan which was updated and monitored by the HACT focal point and the country management team on a quarterly basis.

### Fundraising and Donor Relations

A grant agreement was signed with COSCOM LLC (Ucell trade mark) to support a US$ 100,000 WASH in Schools programme and to contribute to public advocacy efforts in promoting child rights in the country.

All donor reports were quality assured and submitted on time.

By the end of 2016, UNICEF Uzbekistan had used a total of US$767,461 of other resources. While the main donors to UNICEF Uzbekistan were the UK Government (Department for International Development), GAVI and the European Commission supporting health and DRR programmes, the Global Thematic Funds for Education and the Global Thematic Funds
for WASH were also utilized.

Since Uzbekistan was classified as a lower-middle-income country, fund-raising opportunities have further reduced.

A two-tier management performance monitoring system tracked expiring grants at the section level and at the programme coordination level monthly. As a result, all grants expired in 2016 were 100 per cent utilized.

In line with the requirements of the new country programme, UNICEF Uzbekistan prepared its resource mobilization strategy.

**Evaluation and Research**

The plan for research, impact monitoring and evaluation (PRIME) is used to ensure coordination of evaluations, studies, surveys and research aligned with the Country Programme 2016-2020. In consultation with senior management, and the M&E and programme sections, PRIME was used as a strategic prioritisation tool informed by key knowledge gaps identified in the Country Programme 2016-2020. As a result, a smaller number of strategically positioned research, studies and evaluations were identified.

At the start of the country programme, no evaluation had been planned to be completed in 2016. The 2015 evaluation of the European Union (EU)-funded project, Improvement of the mother and child health services in Uzbekistan-Phase 2, was rated as highly satisfactory and was recognized among the 48 best evaluations globally by the UNICEF global evaluation report oversight system after the meta-evaluation conducted in 2016. Recommendations from the evaluation were used to inform the development of the new Country Programme 2016-2020 as well as for advocacy with the Government to further improve the quality of maternal and child health services in Uzbekistan.

Senior management and the M&E Section ensured that management responses to all evaluations were implemented and reported in a timely manner.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

Savings were achieved in the areas of information and communication technology (ICT) by extending the useful life and usage of ICT equipment. UNICEF Uzbekistan also saved on human and financial resources by increasing the number of office-based long-term agreements. In addition to the existing long-term agreements in areas of catering services and office supplies, UNICEF Uzbekistan expanded the existing roster with agreements for event management companies. Additionally, UNICEF Uzbekistan continued outsourcing ancillary services, including security and cleaning, through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), while maintaining the same level of security and preparedness, as well as office maintenance.

UNICEF Uzbekistan is participating in the joint UN review of procurement, human resources (HR) and ICT activities with the aim of establishing more cost-effective and efficient utilization of cross-agency activities as part of the business operations strategy of Delivering as One. However, the proposed procurement pilot projects related to insurance of vehicles and procurement of office paper did not yield expected savings and will be revisited in future. A common HR roster for consultants was established and used by all UN agencies. An alternate backup satellite link was established that will be hosted by the UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) and shared by all UN agencies.
Supply Management

All supply activities in 2016 were duly completed. Quality, delivery and after-sales services were closely monitored. Total procurement reached US$ 1,211,544 as follows: programme supplies US$ 265,131, administrative supplies US$ 86,344, and services US$ 860,069. A considerable proportion of all supplies and services was printing, procurement of laboratory supplies, ICT equipment and event management services. Local procurement represented 75 per cent of all supply activities. The proportion of institutional contracts sourced from international expertise represented 40 per cent.

UNICEF Uzbekistan continued the effective utilization of long-term agreements in order to speed up procurement and standardize services. These covered office supplies, offset printing, event management services and travel management. Four additional agreements for catering services and printing services were concluded. The performance of service providers and suppliers within the framework of long-term agreements was closely monitored.

The value of emergency pre-positioned supplies in UNICEF Uzbekistan’s warehouse amounted to US$ 128,972 at the end of 2016, and regular stock counts were performed as per UNICEF rules.

Security for Staff and Premises

UNICEF Uzbekistan continued to undertake measures to maintain its security and preparedness standards. Regular security preparedness exercises with participation of all staff were conducted. They included fire drills and communication tree testing as per actions endorsed by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the Security Management Team. Senior management and security focal points attended regular radio checks conducted by UNDSS. The information on key office staff, essential staff lists, satellite, vehicle and radio lists were shared with UNDSS and the Security Management Team on a regular basis as per the workplan endorsed by the Security Management Team.

All staff received refresher training on security and safety issues. The office continued to be fully MOSS compliant.

In October 2016, UNDSS conducted an all-staff training activity on personal security measures. In addition, another training activity on the usage of radio equipment was conducted by UNDSS for office drivers, security focal points and wardens.

As recommended by UNDSS, security alarm systems were installed in residences of newly recruited international professional staff members.

The business continuity plan was updated to reflect the most recent risk assessment, staffing list and critical response team, as well as updated ICT information. It was endorsed by the Country Management Team and shared with staff.

Human Resources

The following recruitments were completed to fill positions that became vacant staff departed: the Representative, M&E specialist and chief of operations, child protection specialist, as well as national professional posts including ECD officer, child protection officer, education assistant, executive assistant, finance assistant and HR assistant.

Individual consultants and contractors were engaged throughout the year to perform specific tasks as required by programme and communications.

The recruitment of the Deputy Representative and child rights monitoring officer (temporary assignment, maternity cover) was initiated. New positions of immunization officer, supply assistant and programme assistant were created to manage the implementation of a GAVI
Fund recently made available to Uzbekistan. These posts will be filled in 2017.

A performance management review was undertaken systematically, with the Country Management Team monitoring the progress at different stages. All staff completed their 2015 performance appraisals on time, and 2016 performance discussions were initiated.

UNICEF Uzbekistan continued investing in staff development. Staff participated actively in regional network meetings and forums through virtual media and participation in webinars.

Four staff, one international professional and three national professionals, participated in stretch assignments to the Greece, Slovenia, Moldova, Ukraine and Vietnam Country Offices, out of which three supported emergency programmes.

UNICEF Uzbekistan applied UNICEF’s HR policies on learning days, flexi-time and working from home with positive results. Compressed summer working hours were also used in 2016, while maintaining a 40-hour work week.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

UNICEF Uzbekistan maintained adequate ICT services in accordance with UNICEF global guidelines. Many staff used cloud services and SharePoint in their daily work. ICT functions were properly maintained and plans are in place to upgrade ICT equipment to meet UNICEF standards. ICT equipment was ordered to meet the planned rollout of Windows 10 in early 2017.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1 3.** By 2020 mothers and children, especially the most vulnerable, have access to quality healthcare services (individual and population based), including in emergency

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Contributing to RKLA 5, 6 and 7, UNICEF continued advocacy efforts with and technical support to the Ministry of Health, focusing on improvement of the quality of services for mother and newborn health. In 2016, UNICEF worked with health authorities to identify the main bottlenecks in accessing quality health care services at the district level in two of the most deprived regions. A district health system bottleneck assessment clearly demonstrated that the enabling environment is one of the most frequent bottlenecks to the effective coverage of mother and child health services. The study also showed the importance of improving availability of relevant statistics and improving the quality of primary data sources and medical documentation.

The poor quality of services at different levels of the health care system was also confirmed by the assessment. The quality of support services, such as infection control, availability of supportive care and evidence-based treatment protocols as well as newborn care, needs substantial improvements in district maternities. The assessment also revealed that the coverage of essential health interventions is inequitable and not universally accessible. Low levels of mother/caregiver knowledge of the danger signs affecting health-seeking behaviour of communities were also identified by the assessment as one of the barriers for child health and well-being. The assessment helped to prioritize and develop district-level evidence-based and context-sensitive solutions and strategies to overcome bottlenecks that are amendable at the district level.

An assessment of the patronage nursing system was conducted with UNICEF support to
transform it to a more efficient, sustainable and equitable service. The findings of the assessment showed gaps in the system, such as the lack of a standardized approach to the organization of the patronage nursing system, lack of a well-articulated accountability structure, low quality of training (relevance), lack of basic means for provision of quality care and inadequate time allocated for visits. The findings of the assessment will further inform policymakers and development partners to improve the patronage nursing system in Uzbekistan.

To ensure adequate financing capacity to purchase vaccines and support the country in vaccine budgeting, UNICEF provided assistance in the identification of suitable supply financing options. UNICEF facilitated the revision of long-term vaccine and injection supply resource requirements (costed multi-year plan) and its alignment with annual forecasting and budgeting. This resulted in the introduction of a standard methodology and procedures (vaccine and injection supply budget template and manual) for forecasting and budgeting of the immunization programme, which in turn aimed to secure funds in the state budget based on long-term projections.

To prevent the risk of vaccine supply interruption caused by delays in the conversion of budget disbursements into hard currency, UNICEF facilitated the process of preparation of submission of the country to the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII). VII will enable the country to procure vaccines without advance payment during the first quarter of the year when replenishment of vaccine stocks is required. As a result, the VII plan was endorsed by the UNICEF Supply Division Comptroller.

Contributing to RKLA 10, UNICEF Uzbekistan continued to provide support to children living with HIV through a network of seven day-care centres. As a result, 2,821 boys and 2,168 girls (of whom 50 percent were HIV-positive adolescents) and their families received psychosocial support, and information about HIV, opportunistic diseases associated with HIV/AIDS and adherence to anti-retroviral treatment. Capacity-development efforts resulted in better access of children/adolescents living with HIV/AIDS to psychosocial support services. More than 230 specialists from HIV/AIDS centres from eight regions are now able to provide such services. Efforts will continue in 2017 to ensure nationwide access to such services.

In 2016, around 98 per cent of children aged 6-59 months nationwide benefited from two rounds of UNICEF-supported vitamin A supplementation.

OUTPUT 1 3.1. By 2020, health managers have increased capacity to implement evidence-based and equity focused district health system strengthening plans, including in emergency

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To support evidence-based planning for improving the health system at the sub-national level, also known as district health system strengthening, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health and regional health authorities to identify system bottlenecks in two of the most deprived regions of the country. The assessment clearly demonstrated that the enabling environment is one of the most frequent bottlenecks observed in effective coverage of mother and child health. The supply-side bottlenecks are particularly severe at primary health care facilities and facilities providing paediatric care, and there is a shortage in competent staff. Essential medicines are lacking at perinatal care facilities and a lack of basic equipment is common at paediatric hospitals and departments. Health services, including referral systems, are not organized in a manner to ensure the continuum of care, efficient utilization of resources and reduction of hospital visits and hospitalizations. Demand-related bottlenecks are most severe at the primary health care level, especially for
Effective coverage of children. The assessment showed the need to improve the quality and quantity of integrated supervision at both outpatient and inpatient levels and to ensure the continuity of quality health care. The results of the assessment were presented and discussed in targeted regions. Over 300 health managers were made aware of the main bottlenecks and they discussed steps to overcome bottlenecks and monitor the progress in the following years as part of district health system strengthening modelling exercise.

With UNICEF support, 300 health professionals from maternities in targeted regions received training to provide better quality health services to children and their families in accordance with revised standards and protocols of healthcare. Supportive supervision visits organized in the Karapakalstan region proved the compliance of practices with the protocols. The visits also identified local initiatives to sustain performance monitoring by creating local monitoring groups to assess regularly the performance of midwives in maternities and provide support for continued improvement.

OUTPUT 2 3.2. By 2020, national authorities have increased capacity to formulate evidence-based regulatory framework and budgets for key maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (MNCAH) packages of interventions

Analytical Statement of Progress:
An assessment of the patronage/home-visiting system enabled UNICEF and the Government of Uzbekistan to determine the system's main strengths and weaknesses. In addition, recommendations were developed for concrete actions and changes to strengthen its quality and increase the coverage by home-visiting services aimed at identifying vulnerable children and families in a timely manner and addressing inequities in basic mother and child assistance/support services. As a result, more intensive services were provided through the health sector or referral to services from other sectors with a continuum of involvement of the home visitor. The findings and recommendations of the assessment were presented to relevant stakeholders, development partners and academia during a consensus-building meeting leading to an agreement for modelling of the universal progressive model of home visiting also known as the ‘blended approach’ in two regions. The implementation roadmap was developed and submitted to the Ministry of Health for review.

UNICEF supported the development of national standards of perinatal care services based on the international recommendations and approved regionalization of perinatal care services by the Ministry of Health. Nineteen standards (eight on newborn care and 11 on obstetric care) were developed by a local technical group, with support of UNICEF experts, and submitted for approval. Approved standards will be used for costing of services for each level of perinatal care.

UNICEF supported the integration of WHO’s Safe Immunization Package in the curricula of the country’s nursing colleges. Four hundred lecturers/teachers of nursing colleges of Tashkent city, Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent, Khoresm, Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions are now able to teach safe immunization modules, making it possible for future nurses to be trained based on the latest available immunization information recommended by WHO.

OUTPUT 3 3.3 By 2020, health providers and communities have increased capacity to provide counselling and support to caregivers and children from pregnancy to adolescence
Analytical Statement of Progress:
To enhance the knowledge and capacities of home visitors on comprehensive child development, as well as to strengthen the counselling skills needed to work more effectively, UNICEF Uzbekistan supported the adaptation and testing of the training package Home Visiting for Young Child Health and Well-being for use in Uzbekistan. The 14 modules of the training programme were submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval and will be used in 2017 for capacity building of nurses in targeted regions.

UNICEF continued to play an important role in providing support to children living with HIV through a network of seven day-care centres. As a result, 2,821 boys and 2168 girls, of whom 50 per cent were HIV-positive adolescents, received information about HIV, opportunistic diseases associated with HIV/AIDS, adherence to anti-retroviral treatment, and psychosocial support. To address psychosocial issues of those living with HIV and their immediate family members, UNICEF Uzbekistan created a roster of peer educators to work with HIV-positive adolescents. Thirty adolescents living with HIV were trained on promoting health-enhancing change among peers, and 18 of them were certified as peer support trainers. Adolescents applied acquired skills during two training activities on healthy lifestyles for the newly identified adolescents with HIV, which was attended by 60 adolescents and their caregivers. In addition, participants were trained on essential life skills on HIV, anti-retroviral treatment, and building relationships with peers, parents and doctors.

OUTCOME 2 4. By 2020, girls and boys benefit equitably from improved preschool education and enhanced quality of basic education including in emergencies

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Government of Uzbekistan has identified improving the quality of education and increasing access to preschool services as its major priorities in the field of education. The UNICEF Uzbekistan education programme contributes to these goals by focusing on actions that help introduce system-level changes.

For ECD, the policy review drafted with UNICEF support contributed to identifying gaps in the enabling environment for equitable access to quality preschool education. The review informs and establishes the system of alternative service delivery, resulting ultimately in revised evidence-based policy for ECD.

Drafting of the national, contextualized quality education framework was another milestone that helped define the concept and delimit the scope of education sector activities for improved quality. This framework will ultimately help the Government objectively measure quality and take steps for its improvement.

At downstream, school-level interventions, UNICEF’s work on school-based DRR, namely development of educational materials and training of teachers on DRR, resulted in making education more relevant to the lives of children, thus improving quality in the long term. Scaling up of the UNICEF-supported, school-level DRR monitoring system and WASH in Schools programme in coming years by the Ministry of Public Education will transform schools to child-friendly environments that promote quality education.

OUTPUT 1 4.1 By 2018, the Ministry of Public Education has revised ECE policy frameworks for improved access to equitable quality preschool services

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Gaps in the ECD policy were identified as a key bottleneck by UNICEF and its partners during the development of the Country Programme. It was agreed with partners that the current normative framework is not conducive to increased access to quality ECD services. To address this bottleneck, UNICEF commissioned a policy review exercise to identify gaps. The activity was carried out with an initial stage of identification of available programme and policy documents, a review of similar available literature in Uzbekistan and other countries, and a mapping of current programme documents based on a widely-used policy framework, in this case that of the EU. The report of the review exercise was drafted and is pending verification of the findings in the first quarter of 2017 in a consultative workshop.

The initial findings of the review demonstrated the need for i) development of a unified ECD policy for the country, ii) modification of regulations and standards to reach a minimum practical level, iii) introduction of more flexible service delivery options, iv) increasing the age coverage of ECD services, and v) improvement of regulations for provision of free access to ECD for the most vulnerable children.

In 2017, based on the above recommendations, UNICEF will support the Ministry of Public Education to develop alternative solutions for cost-effective ECD service delivery and test their implementation in selected regions.

OUTPUT 2 4.2 By 2019, the Ministry of Public Education has increased capacity to deliver and measure learning in line with a competency-based curriculum

Analytical Statement of Progress:
With UNICEF Uzbekistan’s support, a mapping of programme and policy documents as well as normative frameworks of the education sector was completed to establish the current conceptual framework of quality education and identify gaps. The findings of the exercise clearly demonstrated i) the absence of a unified operational definition of quality and ii) the strong focus of the system on measurement of inputs and processes rather than its outcomes.

UNICEF Uzbekistan supported the establishment and training of a working group of experts and mid-level managers of the Ministry of Public Education and Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education to develop a contextualized quality education framework for Uzbekistan and a system of monitoring quality. The working group, with support from UNICEF experts, reviewed widely used conceptual frameworks, such as those proposed by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF and the World Bank and drafted the Uzbekistan model, which was pending approval of the Government at the end of 2016. In 2017, the work will continue with the development of the monitoring system and the start of the groundwork for curriculum revision.

UNICEF also helped develop the capacity of the Government for improved M&E of educational programmes. In the previous programme cycle, UNICEF had supported the development of the first Uzbekistan ESP, which had been instrumental in mobilizing a Global Partnership for Education grant of US$ 49.9 million. In 2016, UNICEF trained M&E experts of the education sector at the national level, who later developed tools for monitoring the progress of the ESP. The monitoring process is now at its initial stage and will result in the Joint Sector Review of the current ESP. The final output of the exercise will be the development of the next ESP 2018-2022, which will be used as the roadmap for the education sector in the coming years.
OUTPUT 3 4.3 By 2020, local education authorities and communities are equipped with tools and skills to encourage demand for quality basic education and preschool services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
This programme component could not be implemented in 2016 due to delays in signing of workplans. Implementation will start in 2017.

OUTPUT 4 4.4 By 2020, line ministries are equipped with tools and skills to promote safe behaviour practices among children and communities before and during emergencies.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Uzbekistan supported the Ministry of Public Education to promote emergency preparedness among children and communities. One of the major achievements under this cooperation was the development of a Basics of Life Safety course for integration into the school curriculum.

With UNICEF support, a working group was established in the Ministry of Public Education to develop a set of resource and reference materials for teachers and students on DRR with the technical assistance of a UNICEF expert on materials development. The resource and reference materials for grades one to nine include lessons on DRR, safety, safe behaviours, and climate change. These materials were integrated into 13 different subjects in the school programme and include course books for schoolchildren, methodological guidelines for teachers and teaching aids to use during lessons. In order to increase educational effectiveness and communicative value of the materials, age-appropriate, culturally sensitive and subject-specific illustrations were developed specifically for these materials.

Three schools from disaster-prone areas of Kashkadarya, Samarkand region and Tashkent city were selected for testing of these materials. The teachers were trained and delivery of programme in schools was in progress at the end of 2016. The result of this testing phase will be used in 2017 to revise the materials for wider use in the education system.

OUTPUT 5 4.5 By 2020, key relevant stakeholders have drafted a revised teaching workforce policy that promotes quality of education in line with the national quality education framework.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
This programme component could not be implemented in 2016. The programme is contingent on development of the Quality Education Framework, which was drafted late in 2016 due to delays in signing of workplans. Implementation will start in 2017.

OUTPUT 6 4.6 By 2020, key relevant stakeholders have devised a unified system of teaching workforce development that supports the national quality education framework.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
This programme component could not be implemented in 2016. The programme is contingent on development of the Quality Education Framework, which was drafted late in 2016 due to delays in signing of workplans. Implementation will start in 2017.
OUTPUT 7 4.7 By 2020, the Ministry of Public Education has increased capacities to promote healthy, safe and protective school environments in line with the child-friendly schools principles.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Lack of effective monitoring of the emergency preparedness level of schools was identified as a bottleneck for proper planning for improved school safety. With UNICEF technical support, work on developing the system of monitoring started in 2016 with a review of the current system. The conceptual framework containing different elements of the monitoring system and how it is going to be integrated into the current school M&E system was developed. In 2017, the work will continue with the development of tools in a consultative workshop with partners and the testing of its effectiveness in selected schools.

To ensure healthy school environments, UNICEF supported the development of improvement plans for WASH in 30 target schools. The plans were later revised based on the findings of a knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) study in target communities. Additionally, five orientation meetings with the participation of 750 staff from the regional departments of education and health were conducted to raise awareness of the importance of WASH in schools. The training of 175 school administrators, teachers, parents and members of parent-teacher associations were in progress at the end of 2016 in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. To provide safe water and improve conditions for hand washing, UNICEF delivered plastic water storage tanks to remote schools covering about 5,000 children. To mark Global Hand Washing Day, students, teachers and parents of 30 pilot schools were engaged in communication interventions around WASH issues. Over 7,000 children and adults were reached directly through the campaign to highlight the importance of hygiene. The WASH in schools programme will continue in 2017 with the introduction of new materials on the subject into the curriculum for grades one to nine.

OUTCOME 3 5. By 2020, the most vulnerable girls and boys increasingly access prevention and response services to address violence, neglect and abuse

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The child protection programme built an effective cooperation with the Women’s Committee and the Ministry of Public Education to contribute to establishing a family support mechanism, contributing to RKLA 1. The Women’s Counselling Centre and Guardianship/Trusteeship, managing the cases of vulnerable families, were used as the existing government structures to implement the family support services and gatekeeping mechanisms in two priority regions using a model developed with UNICEF support.

The Presidential Decree on the reforms of the judicial-legal system and enhancement of guarantees of rights and freedoms of citizen mandates compliance of national legislation with international laws. Drafting of amendments to national legislations in line with international standards and best practices on justice for children, supported by UNICEF, contributed directly to this decree and is in line with RKLA 2. The amendments concern children in conflict with the law, child victims, witnesses and children in civil court proceedings. UNICEF also reached an agreement with the Supreme Court and the General Prosecution Office to initiate a diversion and community-based alternative for deprivation of liberty for children in conflict with the law, as well as child-friendly criminal court proceedings for victims and witnesses.

With UNICEF support, regional authorities and CSOs adopted an equity-based approach in undertaking steps to implement the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. Local development programming gained an equity-based child focus through the
technical support UNICEF provided in the area of monitoring and reporting on the situation of families with children with disabilities and single mothers. At the national level, UNICEF enhanced its partnership with the National Human Rights Centre, and identified specific gaps in the system requiring legislative amendments and improvements of current policies to safeguard property rights of children, especially those deprived of parental care.

**OUTPUT 1**

5.1 By 2020, the government has increased capacity to apply a systematic approach in addressing child protection issues in line with international good practices

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

As a follow-up to the recommendations of 2014, UNICEF commissioned a situational analysis of children in residential care institutions and of the recently adopted Resolution #263 of the Uzbekistan Cabinet of Ministers on improvement of the system of social protection of children deprived of parental care. UNICEF supported the Women’s Committee and the Ministry of Public Education in the development of the conceptual framework of a family support and gatekeeping system. The family support system establishes collaboration among state bodies, CSOs and Makhalla Committees (community-based self-governing bodies) to improve the situation of families and children in difficult circumstances through social work case management and provision of continuum services resulting in fewer referrals to residential care institutions. The framework was approved by the Government and will be implemented in 2017 in two regions.

**OUTPUT 2**

5.2 By 2020, justice professionals have increased capacity to manage cases involving children in contact with the law according to international standards

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Research Centre under the Supreme Court to draft amendments to civil and criminal procedural legislation covering relevant aspects of child-sensitive trial procedures. The amendments introduce child-friendly criminal investigation procedures, court proceedings for child victims and witnesses of crime, expansion of alternative measures for children in conflict with the law, and the protection of legal interests of children in civil court proceedings.

With UNICEF technical assistance to the Research Centre under the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice, a handbook for civil court judges on child-friendly court proceedings was drafted. The handbook provides practical guidance for civil court judges to determine the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings and the interviewing process of children in contact with law. The handbook will be introduced into the curriculum of the Lawyers’ Training Centre under the Ministry of Justice in 2017 and used for pre- and in-service training of civil court judges in Uzbekistan.

UNICEF supported a training workshop for prosecutors, judges, CSO service providers and Makhllah Committee members on diversion, alternatives to detention mechanisms and restorative juvenile justice. During the workshop, recommendations for applying juvenile justice international standards and best practices of justice for children were developed. In 2017, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to develop a feasible model of diversion and juvenile justice alternatives to deprivation of liberty for use by referral bodies concerning children in conflict with the law.

With UNICEF support, the textbook on child rights for use in the Tashkent Law University was finalized. During a training-of-trainers workshop, trainers also developed skills for teaching the course on child rights.
OUTPUT 3 5.3 By 2020, education and health front line workers have increased capacity to identify children at most risk to suffer from violence and abuse and apply referral protocols.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
This programme component could not be implemented in 2016 due to delays in signing of workplans. Implementation will start in 2017.

OUTPUT 4 5.4 By 2020, authorities at all levels and CSOs have increased capacity to effectively contribute to CRM and reporting.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported the National Human Rights Centre to perform a review of current practices of Government bodies and study national legislation to ensure protection of property rights of children. The review identified specific areas requiring legislative amendments and improvement of current policies. The study made concrete recommendations for system-based changes in the interest of children, especially those deprived of parental care. UNICEF also supported experts of the National Human Rights Centre to review the compliance of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child’s Optional Protocol on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The report was drafted, and is pending revision and adoption by the Government. The capacity of Inter-Sectoral Working Groups at the regional level was enhanced to address the issues of families in difficult circumstances and to implement recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

At the regional level, UNICEF continued facilitating better inter-sectoral coordination among local governments and CSOs to monitor the situation of vulnerable women and generate evidence in four priority regions. As a result, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, an action plan on improving the situation of children with disabilities was developed and endorsed by regional authorities. The action plan used the recommendations of the needs assessment of 1,162 families with children with disabilities. Khorezm and Jizzakh regions conducted in-depth monitoring of the situation of children with disabilities that described lack of services and low coverage of social benefits. In the Fergana region, the findings of the study of 2,000 single mothers exposed a profile of single mothers and their needs in child-rearing practices.

OUTCOME 4 1. Management Outcome

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Uzbekistan made efforts to ensure effective and efficient use of its human and financial resources. As a result, required additional funds (mainly other regular resources [ORR]) were mobilized and all allocated resources (regular resources, ORR and institutional budget) were 100 per cent utilized. Required human resources, including staff, consultants and contractors were recruited in a timely manner to ensure programme implementation continuity. Despite high staff turnover in the reporting period, due to adoption of a new staffing structure and departure of some staff, the majority of vacant positions were successfully filled in a timely manner.

OUTPUT 1 1.1 Governance and Systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Governance of UNICEF Uzbekistan was ensured through the development, implementation and review of the multi-year management plan in a participatory manner, as well as fully
functioning office statutory committees. Timely delegation of authorities and the removal of conflicting roles and responsibilities were performed.

OUTPUT 2 1.2 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following an Enterprise Risk Management review exercise, risks were identified and mitigated by a revision of work processes. Cash liquidity was ensured while minimizing financial risks and keeping balances to a minimum. Efficient and cost-effective operations of administration and ICT functions were also undertaken.

UNICEF Uzbekistan improved HACT implementation by developing adequate assurance activities in view of limited access to partners' financial records. Funds utilization monitoring was performed regularly, resulting in a 100 per cent utilization rate. At year-end closure there were no direct cash transfers pending liquidation more than six months.

To ensure compliance with UNICEF rules and regulations, UNICEF trained relevant staff of implementing partners on revised financial rules, including HACT and the Funding Authorization and Certification of Expenditures (FACE).

OUTPUT 3 1.3 Human Resources Management

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Overall management of HR administration and payroll as well as staff well-being services were effectively and efficiently provided to UNICEF staff, meeting established key performance indicators.

As 2016 was the beginning of the new programme cycle, a new staffing structure was required. In addition, some positions had become vacant. Therefore, UNICEF Uzbekistan initiated 12 recruitment processes, out of which ten were completed, with the other two in progress at the end of 2016.

All staff completed their 2015 performance appraisals on time and the Achieve 2016 performance discussions were initiated.

UNICEF Uzbekistan applied UNICEF’s HR policies on learning days, flexi-time and working from home with positive results. Compressed summer working hours were used in 2016, while maintaining a 40-hour work week.

OUTCOME 5 2. Programme Effectiveness Outcome

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Government of Uzbekistan and UNICEF signed the Country Programme Action Plan 2016-2020 in April 2016, which delayed programme implementation. Despite the delay, an intensive programme coordination with weekly oversight meetings ensured that programmes were implemented to the maximum extent possible.

Results-based planning, monitoring and reporting of Country Programme results contributed to enhancing programme effectiveness. In 2016, informed by key knowledge gaps, eight strategically positioned studies were prioritized. Five studies are expected to be finalised in
2017, and two studies were successfully completed in 2016. One study was ongoing at the end of 2016. The quality of research, studies and evaluations were assured at key milestones.

UNICEF Uzbekistan also enhanced programme effectiveness by increasing the visibility of key messages and generating public dialogue on important topics such as ECD, gender equality, hand washing with soap, exclusive breastfeeding, and the rights of children living with HIV/AIDS. For this, UNICEF worked with eminent opinion leaders and influencers to challenge social norms and discuss important topics, such as gender roles. Different types of media were used intensively to enhance effectiveness of communication campaigns.

**OUTPUT 1 2.1 Programme Coordination**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF Uzbekistan used a multi-tiered system for effective implementation. All programmes developed weekly priorities and reported on their progress. On a monthly basis, the Deputy Representative reviewed utilization rates, donor reporting commitments and expiring grants, and ensured that progress was on track. At the end of every quarter, a programme meeting was organized to review progress and take any required corrective action to deliver results as planned.

While oversight and coordination was instrumental in ensuring programme implementation by UNICEF Uzbekistan, the capacity of programme staff was also developed on results-based management.

UNICEF Uzbekistan put in place a task force to coordinate knowledge management in a systematic way. Knowledge sharing was encouraged through organized Learning Hours. This initiative is optimal for transferring technical knowledge and raising awareness on programmatic and organizational issues, as well as capitalizing on visiting experts and guest speakers on various relevant topics.

UNICEF Uzbekistan coordinated the process of developing and finalizing the biannual Joint Work Plans with other UN agencies, to deliver on results as defined in the UNDAF.

UNICEF Uzbekistan co-chaired the UNDAF Results Group on Social Protection along with the Ministry of Labour. In 2016, UNICEF coordinated with all UN agencies the programme for achieving the outcomes for social protection. This was also crucial during the process of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

**OUTPUT 2 2.2 External Relations**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
While UNICEF works closely with the Government, it also works with CSOs to build community action for realizing child rights.

UNICEF continued to work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank in advocacy efforts to eliminate forced labour of teachers and medical professionals during the cotton harvest season.

As the co-chair of the UNDAF Social Protection Results Group, UNICEF coordinated activities to localize the Sustainable Development Goals with government officials and other UN agencies.
UNICEF Uzbekistan also developed relations with the private sector and explored opportunities to work with federations and associations of different private sector enterprises. These efforts positioned child rights on the agenda of the private sector.

Academic institutions, such as the Tashkent State Law University and the Tashkent Medical Academy, partnered with UNICEF Uzbekistan to include children’s rights into their academic curricula.

Increasing the network of influencers, UNICEF expanded its alliance with leaders from different fields such as business, media, and arts and culture. UNICEF also engaged with embassies and other international missions in the country to generate an influential coalition to promote the child rights agenda.

OUTPUT 3 2.5 UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective advocacy and partnership on child rights issues with stakeholders

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Support from operations sections to improve programme effectiveness was important, particularly the ICT and supply functions. Usage of ICT equipment was extended, and internet speed was improved to facilitate communication for staff. UNICEF Uzbekistan maintained adequate ICT services in accordance with UNICEF global guidelines.

In 2016, the number of office-based long-term agreements was increased to improve efficiency. HACT was introduced in UNICEF Uzbekistan, and all staff and partners were trained on HACT procedures. HACT programmatic visits were planned for the office and all assurance activities were on track.

OUTPUT 4 2.4 UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively plan and monitor programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To improve planning, programing and policy advocacy, UNICEF supported two studies in 2016: an update of the Situation Analysis of Children, and a Home Visiting Assessment. The study on District Health System Strengthening Bottleneck Assessment was in progress at the end of 2016. Five more studies included in UNICEF’s PRIME portal will be completed in 2017.

The M&E unit ensured quality of all studies at key stages (terms of reference, inception, draft and final reports). The terms of reference template and guidance on research, studies and evaluations were developed to facilitate quality assurance process. Risk mitigation strategies were developed and agreed with partners for key studies. As part of the regional task force, the M&E unit provided key inputs to revise regional standard operating procedures on quality assurance of research, studies and evaluations.

Jointly with other UN agencies, UNICEF Uzbekistan commissioned a comprehensive situation analysis of persons and children with disabilities to inform the development of a UN Joint Programme and initiate policy dialogue with national stakeholders on key issues. The social policy and M&E units provided comprehensive technical support and quality assurance at key milestones. An institutional analysis of the health sector and a legal analysis of compliance with national legislative requirements were completed, while a statistical database containing government data on key indicators concerning persons and
children with disabilities was established.

No evaluation was planned in the first year of the Country Programme. The 2015 evaluation of the EU-funded project Improvement of the Mother and Child Health Services in Uzbekistan-Phase 2 was rated as highly satisfactory and was recognized among the 48 best evaluations by the UNICEF Global Evaluation Report Oversight System. Senior management and the M&E unit ensured timely implementation and updating of ongoing management response plans.

UNICEF Uzbekistan continued capacity development of the State Committee on Statistics on the TransMonEE initiative, currently the only consolidated source of child-related data across sectors in Uzbekistan. Following participation in the regional TransMonEE meeting on alternative care, the State Committee on Statistics updated the TransMonEE database with disaggregated data on critical child-related indicators.

OUTPUT 5 2.5 UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective advocacy and partnership on child rights issues with stakeholders

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Messages on sensitive issues were disseminated to the public through television and radio. UNICEF Uzbekistan entered a partnership with the National Association of Electronic Mass Media, which represents all non-governmental television and radio channels in the country. As a strategy to use opinion leaders and key influencers to initiate public discourse, UNICEF Uzbekistan designed two television shows on ECD and on the rights of the girl child.

Celebrities from mass media, the corporate sector, and arts and culture raised their voices against prevalent social norms related to early education and gender stereotypes, challenging the traditional roles of boys and girls. The television and radio shows reached the public with key messages. Open discussions on public platforms were piloted for the first time in Uzbekistan, and young parents actively participated. Media enhanced the reach and efficiency of the initiative. Working with influencers is a new approach in Uzbekistan, and it proved effective in facilitating discussions around UNICEF’s equity agenda.

UNICEF Uzbekistan also enhanced its efforts to reach audiences using social media and online engagement. Campaigns were designed and implemented through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. UNICEF’s trilingual website also saw a significant increase in visitor traffic. In 2016, while visitors to the UNICEF Uzbekistan website increased to 32,493 unique visitors (with 5,872 returning visitors), Facebook saw a rise in followers to 1,913. The Twitter and Instagram accounts have also steadily increased.

The campaigns supported through digital and social media focused on the equity agenda, World Breastfeeding Week, hand washing with soap, ECD, children living with HIV and children with disabilities.

To support policy advocacy efforts, UNICEF Uzbekistan engaged with representatives of the lower and upper chambers of Parliament and presented key recommendations to further realize the rights of children in the country. The engagement focused primarily on health issues, but also covered issues such as ECD and children without parental care.

UNICEF Uzbekistan’s efforts to build capacity of media personnel on child rights-based reporting resulted in a higher number of media reports and articles on child-related issues. Engagement with media houses was continued in all regions of the country, and UNICEF tracked over 419 informative and analytical articles in sub-national media related to ECD and...
UNICEF also contributed to the Communicating-as-One initiative by leading the process of drafting the communication strategy of the UN Communication Group in Uzbekistan.

An internal workshop was conducted to enhance the capacity of staff members to measure the effectiveness of communication initiatives. The workshop also focused on generating evidence for communication for development interventions in the context of Uzbekistan, particularly in collecting data.

In collaboration with the Regional Office, young journalists were trained to create one-minute video spots using smart phones, and received training as master trainers for training other young television journalists. As a result, participants expressed their views using smart phones about youth taking actions towards a better world. These spots were broadcast on TV channels by the National Association of Electronic Mass Media.

### Document Centre

#### Evaluation and research

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<td>2016/002</td>
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<td>UNICEF Uzbekistan CO. Situation analysis of children and women (SitAn) 2016</td>
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#### Other publications

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<td>Justice for Children: Analysis of Legislative Framework of Uzbekistan</td>
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#### Lessons learned

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#### Programme documents

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