UNICEF Annual Report 2016

Viet Nam

Executive Summary

In 2016, UNICEF advocacy efforts and technical support played a key role in the drafting and enactment of the new Child Law, which includes several improvements proposed by UNICEF to ensure better alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), although the National Assembly rejected the clause that would have brought the definition of the age of the child to 18 years old (16 years old in the current text). Nonetheless, the law provides a strong foundation for building an effective child protection system. UNICEF has continued to address with Viet Nam’s lawmakers the gaps and to advocate for full compliance with the CRC and international child rights standards.

Advances were also recorded in the reform of the country’s social protection system. UNICEF played a key advocacy role in promoting universal social assistance for children and for the first time, UNICEF’s proposal on cash benefits for children up to 3 years of age was included in a government document. Universal benefits will be introduced in poor ethnic minority areas by 2020, with all children up to the age of 3 being covered by 2025.

UNICEF Viet Nam built up its knowledge base on the root cause of and solutions to prevent violence against children and used innovative methods and partnerships to bring children and young people together to discuss the issue and identify their own solutions, including in events such as the third Asian Asia-Pacific High-Level Meeting on Child Rights.

UNICEF led, together with United Nations agencies, policy advocacy on the issue of ‘socialization’ identified as a priority issue. A common vision was articulated in a joint UN discussion paper that was presented to the Viet Nam Development Forum chaired by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Planning and Investment. High-level partners have gained a better understanding of the range of negative impact that this government policy has on vulnerable people, particularly children.

An evaluation of the Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education flagship initiative was finalized and the management response to it was developed, approved and followed up, ensuring an effective use of the evaluation.

In 2016, Viet Nam experienced the most severe drought in 60 years, affecting half a million children and more than one million women who experienced malnutrition and an acute water shortage. In response to the crisis the Government requested humanitarian assistance from international partners – the first time since 1975. A United Nations-wide emergency appeal was launched in June, with UNICEF successfully mobilizing US$4 million for 10 provinces to provide nutrition, water and sanitation support to children and women.

The crisis clearly showed how environmental and climate change-related risks exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and disparities among children in Viet Nam. A vision paper developed jointly by UNICEF and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on child-centred disaster risk reduction articulated the humanitarian-development nexus will serve as a foundation to formalize partnership. The new partnership cooperation agreement with the Viet Nam Red Cross marks an important milestone in risk-informed programming.
UNICEF continued to build strong partnerships with the private sector, strengthening its advocacy work on the impact of business on children. A study on the impact of the footwear and apparel sector on children’s rights was conducted and the findings from this, which highlight the vulnerabilities faced by children of migrant workers, will further strengthen the partnership between UNICEF and key industry players. The UNICEF Viet Nam is continuing its discussions with the Government to mobilize political endorsement for UNICEF to start local private-sector fund-raising, building on the model of other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. Such endorsement is instrumental for UNICEF to meet the objectives set out in the new Country Programme.

Throughout the year, UNICEF Viet Nam hosted high-level visits, including with a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, which were instrumental in bringing international attention to the plight of children left behind in Viet Nam.

With the support of UNICEF, Viet Nam hosted a visit of the Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children, who gave the keynote speech at the 4th ASEAN Children’s Forum in Ha Noi and held high-level discussions with senior government officials, civil society and other stakeholders.

In addition, 2016 was the last year of the current programme cycle and UNICEF Viet Nam mobilized efforts to develop a new five-year Country Programme approved by the Executive Board in September. The programme 2017–2021 builds on the key achievements to date while identifying and addressing unresolved Millennium Development Goals and aligning with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.

Humanitarian Assistance

The 2015–2016 El Niño weather phenomenon has caused the most severe drought in more than 60 years in several of Viet Nam’s regions, especially in the Mekong Delta, South Central and Central Highlands regions. Since the middle of 2015, an estimated 520,000 children and 1 million women have been affected by malnutrition and acute water shortage. In response, in March 2016 the Government requested humanitarian assistance from international partners for the first time since 1975, mainly in the areas of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene practices and nutritional support in the affected areas. UNICEF Viet Nam led the development of funding proposals on emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition responses, formulated in collaboration with the communication for development (C4D) section, under the framework of the joint Government-United Nations Emergency Response Plan launched in June 2016.

UNICEF Viet Nam successfully mobilized US$4 million, leading to the development and approval of the programme on ‘Emergency Support in Responding to Drought and Salt Water Intrusion in South Central Coast, Central Highlands and Mekong Delta Region supported by UNICEF’. The programme supports nutrition interventions for 7,480 severely and acutely malnourished children between 6 months and 5 years of age, 83,335 children between 6 months and 23 months and 123,200 pregnant and lactating women in 6 provinces (Ca Mau, Gia Lai, Hau Giang, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan and Tra Vinh). The programme also provides water and sanitation interventions to 78,000 households in 10 drought-affected provinces (Ben Tre, Binh Thuan, Ca Mau, Dak Lak, Gia Lai, Hau Giang, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan, Soc Trang and Tra Vinh).

To bridge the gap between the humanitarian response and development work, a first-ever high-level National Conference on Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Ninh Thuan Province in December 2016, chaired by the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Deputy Ambassador of Japan in Viet Nam, the Vice Chair of the Ninh Thuan People’s Committee and the UNICEF Viet Nam Representative. The conference
reviewed lessons learned from the ongoing emergency response and set out a strategic direction for child-centred disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam, linked to the Government’s socio-economic development plans at national and sub-national levels.

Presentations by the emergency programme implementing partners confirmed the positive progress of the UNICEF-supported interventions, as well as the contribution the interventions have made towards national efforts to respond to the crisis.

At the conference, a vision paper on child-centred disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam, jointly prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and UNICEF, was validated as an apt framework for Viet Nam. The paper was regarded by high-level decision makers as timely for the lower-middle-income country context of Viet Nam, as more intense and unpredictable natural hazards and climate change-related weather events risk jeopardizing the development gains already made.

The conference concluded that several areas need to be further strengthened as part of the national agenda on child-centred disaster risk reduction. This includes developing a disaster risk assessment and early warning system that captures the impact of natural disasters on children, women and families based on disaggregated data; strengthening cross-sectoral coordination in preparedness and response at central, sub-national and local levels; and improving operational processes and procedures to ensure timely implementation of any emergency response. The accountability of stakeholders to provide basic services for children and women in both development and humanitarian phases also needs to be strengthened. Finally, it is important to have in place community-based preparedness and management plans that seek to equip service providers, children, parents and communities with life skills in and knowledge of disaster risk reduction and to ensure these skills are regularly applied.

A follow-up conference will be held in mid-2017. The Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development has also requested UNICEF and Japan to lead the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings’ segment on child-centred disaster risk reduction in November 2017, when Viet Nam will host this important gathering.

Overall, the Ninh Thuan conference marked a milestone in setting the direction for child-centred disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam. The event also spotlighted UNICEF’s ability to act as a leader, convener, substantive operational partner and advocate for tackling both emerging issues (such as climate change adaptation) and persistent issues (such as poverty, inequity and vulnerability) that disproportionately affect children in Viet Nam. In addition, the conference underlined the potential of integrating risk-informed programming and disaster risk reduction into UNICEF Viet Nam’s programme of cooperation with the Government.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Climate change and children.** Viet Nam is facing more intense natural hazards and climate change-related weather events and these are jeopardizing the development gains the country has already made.

In this context, in 2016 the Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development requested UNICEF to support long-term cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The request provided a strategic opportunity for UNICEF as Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is the chair of the Central Committee for Disaster Prevention and Control, and thus a key government authority coordinating other ministries and leading the cross-sectoral response to emergencies and natural disasters.
At the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (held in November in India) the Vice Minister conveyed the Government’s strong commitment to the participation of children in reducing the risk of disasters. As a key milestone, the Vice Minister requested UNICEF to help organize a conference on child-centred disaster risk reduction, linked to the experience of the emergency response programme in the 10 provinces affected by the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis. A vision paper was prepared by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and UNICEF for the conference, outlining a child-focused risk-informed programming approach for resilient development in Viet Nam.

In early 2017, this vision paper will be translated into a new project within the framework of the 2017–2021 Country Programme to formalize the partnership with Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on child-centred disaster risk reduction. In addition, an accompanying project with Ninh Thuan Province is expected to collect lessons learned from the sub-national levels and inform the upstream policy work led by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

**Urbanization and children.** Throughout 2016, UNICEF Viet Nam strengthened its evidence base, position and partnerships for children affected by urbanization with local government, private sector and civil society partners.

At the sub-national level, a first-ever child rights situation analysis was carried out in Ho Chi Minh City in partnership with the local government, and a strategy and theory of change for the Ho Chi Minh City Child-Friendly City Initiative was developed. In addition, a study on children’s rights in the footwear and apparel industry generated evidence on the children of migrant workers. The study identified 10 areas of concern impacting on these children and bottlenecks that female migrant workers and their children face in accessing essential health, education and social services.

Looking ahead, it is envisaged that children of migrant workers in urban settings will be a key programmatic priority for the partnership between UNICEF and the Government, as well as UNICEF and private sector partners in the footwear and apparel industry in Ho Chi Minh City. From 2017, the aim is also that the Child-Friendly City Initiative will constitute a city-level multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform that enables partnerships with civil society, youth-led organizations, the private sector and academia to sustainably address emerging trends linked to rapid urbanization impacting on vulnerable and marginalized children.

**Accelerate integrated early childhood development (ECD).** Viet Nam is among the 34 countries in the world with the highest burden of stunting for children under 5 years of age and has low rates for early initiation of breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding. These, and other structural root causes, impede the fulfilment of children’s rights. To ensure that young children can enjoy integrated early childhood services, UNICEF Viet Nam has undertaken a shift in its strategic orientation, bringing the different sectoral interventions for children up to 8 years of age under the same overarching programme component. A technical paper on ECD was developed in 2016. This paper constitutes an evidence-based foundation for the Integrated ECD programme component and provides a roadmap for UNICEF Viet Nam to achieve improved development outcomes and equitable and inclusive environments, policies and programmes for all young children in Viet Nam. UNICEF also provided technical assistance for the development of policies related to ECD. This included support for the development of Decree 85, which details articles in the Labour Code concerning female workers, nutrition and child care, as well as a local policy in Ho Chi Minh City on payment of an overtime allowance to ensure care for small children in public kindergartens. Studies on independent and private childcare and pre-learning structures were conducted to generate insights and develop coherent integrated strategies and
interventions focused on inclusive care, pre-learning environments and school readiness. Finally, UNICEF provided substantial technical expertise for the development of the Child Law, which guarantees the comprehensive development of the child.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>DCT</td>
<td>direct cash transfers</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>early childhood development</td>
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<td>GSSC</td>
<td>Global Shared Service Centre</td>
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<td>HACT</td>
<td>Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and communication technology</td>
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<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
<td>water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
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**Capacity Development**

Public finance for children – ensuring that children are visible in national budgets – is an emerging area of concern for Viet Nam. In 2016, UNICEF focused on developing the national capacity in this area. As a result, 55 leaders and experts from the National Assembly and key ministries (the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs) gained knowledge and skills in public finance for children and shared their experiences during a study tour to Malaysia on child-sensitive planning and public finance management. In addition, 25 experts from 15 civil society organizations were identified and trained in public finance for children to strengthen their role in advocacy and budget monitoring and tracking for children. UNICEF Viet Nam staff also received training in public finance for children and the new Country Programme now reflects public finance for children as one of the strategic interventions for delivering better results for children.

UNICEF, in partnership with the child rights working group, also supported the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to begin the first-ever costing of the child protection system. An introductory training session was conducted, which increased the capacity of 30 key staff from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Dien Bien, Ha Noi, Ho Chi Minh City and Kon Tum provinces to undertake a costing analysis of child protection services.

In nutrition, UNICEF supported the National Institute of Nutrition to conduct training on emergency nutrition for 12 disaster-prone provinces, helping these provinces to respond to the drought crisis. Following the training, the institute established a working group on emergency nutrition to coordinate the nutrition response programme. With UNICEF support, national guidelines on emergency nutrition have been developed and a monitoring system on nutrition humanitarian performance is being formulated and will be used in the emergency intervention programme.
Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

UNICEF played a key advocacy role in the drafting of the new Child Law – approved in April 2016 – by supporting the Government’s efforts to harmonize national laws and achieve full compliance with international provisions. UNICEF supported documentation of international experience on child laws and child protection law reform, as well as evidence gathering on the implementation of children’s rights in Viet Nam and existing gaps in legal provisions. UNICEF also assisted the Government’s drafting team and the National Assembly’s appraisal team in their regular stakeholder consultations during the process. The use of social media to stimulate public and policy debate on child rights issues allowed UNICEF to involve multiple stakeholders in its advocacy efforts.

The approved Child Law includes several improvements and to a higher degree complies with the CRC. However, there are some gaps regarding the definition of a child’s age (still under 16) and the establishment of an independent child rights monitoring body. UNICEF has advocated and published in national newspapers two news editorials signed by the Representative and the Regional Director to call on lawmakers to ensure full compliance with the CRC.

In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF Viet Nam also engaged in policy advocacy on the issue of ‘socialization’ in Viet Nam. ‘Socialization’ was identified as a priority issue for joint United Nations advocacy, as the policy has a range of negative impacts, particularly on children. Building on the work of individual agencies, a joint United Nations discussion paper developed a common United Nations position and highlighted major challenges associated with socialization. The findings of the paper were incorporated into a United Nations presentation delivered at the Viet Nam Development Forum 2016 – a high-level event chaired by the Minister of Planning and Investment and the Prime Minister.

Partnerships

In 2016, UNICEF strengthened its advocacy work with the business community on the impact of business on children and their duty to respect and support children’s rights. In partnership with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNICEF Viet Nam hosted ‘Meet to Meet the SDGs’ events in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. These events attracted more than 200 business leaders to dialogue on why, what and how business has a core responsibility to protect, and support and respect children in the workplace, community and market place, as part of their commitment to contribute to the SDGs. At the events, UNICEF presented the preliminary results of a human rights value chain assessment in the travel and tourism sector in Viet Nam, conducted with global and local industry partners.

UNICEF Viet Nam also conducted a Study on Children’s Rights and the Footwear and Apparel Industry in partnership with factories, industry associations and other stakeholders, as this industry has been identified as having a significant impact on children. The assessment found that children of migrant workers are among the most vulnerable and marginalized children and identified 10 areas of concern impacting on their health, development and well-being.

External Communication and Public Advocacy

Despite overall high awareness in the population about the importance of caring for children, many people are unclear about the specific issues facing children in Viet Nam. High-impact communication activities on social media, such as the translation of the video on ending violence against children featuring a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, reached about 44,000 views and allowed sensitive issues to break through state-controlled traditional media. News editorials by the Representative and the Regional Director further raised public awareness of
the issue of violence against children. Support to youth-led organizations in Ho Chi Minh City allowed young people to voice their concerns in the media and bring about change, for example in the context of the Third High-Level Meeting on Child Rights that was also attended by senior government officials.

Communication campaigns on children with disabilities, ethnic minorities and children of migrant workers, targeting individuals, businesses and non-governmental groups, have contributed to build support for children and to stimulate action. Individual field stories have shed light on climate change and the extreme vulnerability of children to natural disasters, and have contributed to influencing decision makers on the importance of child-centred disaster risk reduction.

UNICEF Viet Nam hosted a high-level visit of a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in June 2016. This visit was instrumental to advocate internationally on the plight of children left behind in Viet Nam. It generated extensive coverage in both social and traditional media that reached a large audience around the world. UNICEF Viet Nam also hosted a mission from UNICEF headquarters to gather photos and videos on UNICEF in action to update the global database and support the global roll-out of the new brand strategy. Efforts are now under way to develop a core narrative for UNICEF’s work in Viet Nam and adapt the brand strategy to the local context.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

In 2016, UNICEF Viet Nam used South-South cooperation as a framework for sharing of good practices and high-level advocacy to foster child rights implementation. In March, UNICEF facilitated a study visit to Mongolia to enable senior officials from the Government of Viet Nam to gain exposure to independent child rights monitoring mechanisms. The visit reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach to child rights in Viet Nam and a commitment to strengthening national legislation, especially the establishment of child rights monitoring mechanisms.

In June, UNICEF supported the 4th ASEAN Children’s Forum in Hanoi, bringing together more than 60 children from 10 ASEAN countries to speak out on their concerns. At the event, the Special Representative to the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children gave the keynote speech. The children’s recommendations on how to prevent violence against children, prevent trafficking, address climate change and ensure online child protection were shared during the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development held in November in Indonesia.

UNICEF provided extensive support to facilitate the participation of a Viet Nam delegation in the Third High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific. This meeting allowed for an exchange of views with other delegation members from the region and reinforced the Government’s commitment to child rights. Following the meeting, each concerned ministry developed an action plan to implement the meeting recommendations.

Another two study tours were supported by UNICEF Viet Nam during 2016. A Viet Nam government delegation met with the Pakistani government health team to share best practices in neonatal mortality reduction and early essential newborn care initiatives, and government officials from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea visited Viet Nam to learn about data management when conducting surveys and UNICEF Viet Nam’s experience with the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey.
Identification Promotion of Innovation

UNICEF Viet Nam has piloted three approaches to youth-led innovation during 2016. The first, Upshift, started in 2015 and focuses on empowering marginalized and disadvantaged youth to identify and take action on social issues that they or those in their immediate communities are experiencing.

In the second approach, a co-venturing method was applied where a young person is the central part of a team of diverse talents. This resulted in the Tikkun Ulam Makers Viet Nam event, brought to Viet Nam from Israel through a partnership effort coordinated by UNICEF. Participants with different backgrounds and expertise gathered together for a 72-hour 'makeathon', with the goal of connecting a child with a disability with a technology team to create prototype solutions. Seven children with disabilities challenged seven teams of young innovators to make their dream come true and the prototypes were judged by an expert panel at an event in Ho Chi Minh City.

In the third approach, UNICEF worked with young people to look at issues related to violence against children and utilized primary and secondary research methods to identify the root causes and create community solutions to prevent violence against children and heal those impacted by it. As part of this approach, some 150 adolescents and young people submitted proposals to participate in the Youth Speak – Violence Against Children Innovation Challenge. Through a rigorous training and experimentation process the best team to participate in Third High-Level Meeting on Child Rights Innovation Challenge Bootcamp was identified. This team presented their ideas and solutions to senior government officials from the Asia-Pacific region during the high-level meeting.

Looking ahead, in child survival and development the use of mobile technologies has a high potential to help address vulnerabilities and disparities among children, and this is an area that UNICEF Viet Nam will explore.

Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages

UNICEF Viet Nam supported national efforts to draft the new Child Law by facilitating broad consultative processes between many different stakeholders. Building on existing partnerships with the Government and the National Assembly, UNICEF supported the active participation and joint work of all government and National Assembly Child Law focal points at different stages of the law-making process. All programme sections of UNICEF were involved in developing thematic policy briefs that contributed to the drafting of the final version of the law. Technical support was provided for the drafting of a new and dedicated chapter on child protection and justice for children. Joint advocacy messages were also developed and delivered to influential lawmakers and National Assembly members.

After the Child Law was approved by the National Assembly in April 2016, UNICEF continued using established partnerships to support different government ministries responsible for coordinating the drafting of implementation decrees. This cross-sectoral work contributed to maximizing the benefits of the joint work and the dialogue between the Government and the National Assembly. The process also emphasized the importance of a cross-sectoral approach within UNICEF in generating solid evidence and developing consistent and coherent messages on child rights issues.

Three key lessons learned from UNICEF’s cross-sectoral work in this area can be highlighted. First, it is important to develop multi-layer and diverse partnerships with focal government agencies and the National Assembly through knowledge exchange and dialogues on child rights issues. Second, UNICEF programme sections play a critical role in providing technical assistance to law- and policymaking processes and advocacy events.
Third, consistent and coherent advocacy messages need to be delivered based on well-developed policy briefs and other media materials.

**Service Delivery**

A major component of the emergency programme in response to the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis focused on delivery of nutrition and water and sanitation services.

As part of the emergency nutrition programme, training was provided to almost 1,000 provincial, district and commune health staff on screening and monitoring children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the appropriate use of supplies and infant and young child feeding practices. Emergency nutrition supplies, including ready-to-use therapeutic food, multi-micronutrient tablets for pregnant and lactating women and micronutrient powder sachets for children, were distributed to beneficiaries. Household visits by commune health workers and village health collaborators were organized, mainly focused on children and pregnant and lactating women. C4D activities are also being implemented to sustain the use of supplies and caring practices such as infant and young child feeding and breastfeeding.

As part of the water and sanitation programme, packages of WASH supplies (containing PUR sachets, Aquatabs water purification tablets, filtering cloths, buckets and soap) and related communication materials have reached 56,156 households (totalling 248,116 beneficiaries, including 101,773 women and 74,938 children). Safe water storage and hand-washing facilities have been installed in 60 schools in 3 provinces and water filtration systems in another 66 schools in 6 provinces. To promote the appropriate use of supplies around 56 community mobilization sessions have been held on water treatment methods, with hygiene behaviours such as hand washing with soap also promoted. Finally, 12 provincial WASH workshops have been held for 800 health, Women’s Union and administration officials, as well as teachers and commune-level communication officers.

The emergency programme ensured timely programme implementation and management of fiduciary risk by applying the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) requirements. During the peak implementation period 26 programme visits were conducted to identify programme, operation and financial bottlenecks and address these.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

Throughout 2016, UNICEF Viet Nam was successful in achieving several benchmarks based on the human rights-based approach. The 2017–2021 Country Programme was formulated, which mainstreamed a human rights and child rights-based approach.


UNICEF supported the Government’s attempts to ensure that domestic laws are in full compliance with international child rights standards. UNICEF advocacy efforts played a key role in the drafting of the new Child Law, which includes several improvements proposed by UNICEF to ensure the law is better aligned with CRC provisions. There are, however, remaining issues regarding the establishment of an independent child rights monitoring
body, which is instrumental for the protection of children’s rights. Together with other United Nations agencies, policy advocacy by UNICEF also contributed to a delay in National Assembly endorsement of a draft Law on Associations. The draft raised significant concerns, such as in creating an enabling legal environment for freedom of assembly.

Advocating for the establishment of an independent child right’s monitoring body and a more enabling Law on Associations is a challenge in the current country context. Viet Nam has, however, made a promise to establish independent trade unions throughout negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and until recently these were seen as critical to further bolster the commitment to establish organizations to protect human rights and children’s rights.

Together with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF led an effort to ensure that a human rights-based approach to programming is upheld in the United Nations’ One Strategic Plan for 2017—2021, as well as the meaningful participation of civil society in programming and implementation.

Gender Equality

In 2016, UNICEF, together with other United Nations agencies and civil society organizations, undertook work to position the issue of child marriage on the national agenda. As part of this, a conference on child marriage was organized, where more than 200 high-level government officials were provided with knowledge on policy and intervention gaps to address child marriage in Viet Nam and recommendations on how to remove those gaps. UNICEF also supported a study on child marriage in Viet Nam, which provided a platform for the Government to address the existing data gap on the prevalence and driving factors of child marriage. In addition, the study triggered government action to provide sexual and reproductive health programmes for sexually active adolescents to reduce adolescent pregnancy rates.

During 2016, UNICEF backed work to ensure that the education system is more gender responsive. This included working with the Ministry of Education and Training, which is leading the development of a decree to ensure a safe, friendly and non-violent education setting, as part of efforts to implement the recent Child Law.

Along with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF also supported several workshops on comprehensive sexuality education, aimed at providing secondary school teachers with innovative teaching tools to stem gender-based violence among students and promote respectful relationships and gender equality. In addition, the provision of gender disaggregated data in UNICEF-supported studies on out-of-school children, early childhood education and inclusive education for children with disabilities helped to raise awareness among education managers on existing gender gaps in education. As a result, education sector plans at all levels were improved, including a greater gender focus and more gender-responsive budgeting.

Finally, UNICEF cooperated with the United Nations Joint Programme Group on Gender to develop the ‘UN Country Team Performance Indicators for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women’ (UN Country Team Gender Scorecard). This scorecard provides a framework for the United Nations Country Team to assess the effectiveness of its gender mainstreaming efforts and looks at institutional arrangements, processes and practices for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations in Viet Nam.

Environmental Sustainability

Despite Viet Nam’s impressive development achievements, the country is facing socio-economic challenges, especially with regard to constrained productivity, environmental
degradation, widening inequality and persistent multidimensional child poverty. Children in Viet Nam are also the most impacted by climate change. As was seen during the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis, children’s access to food, water and education becomes threatened during such crises and the pressure on communities increases children’s exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse. These findings are also echoed in a child-centred vulnerability mapping developed with the support of UNICEF in 2016, which highlighted how environmental and climate change-related risks exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and disparities.

In alignment with the SDGs and the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction, the humanitarian-development nexus is the key thrust of the vision for child-centred disaster risk reduction within the scope of the 2017–2021 Country Programme. A national conference on child-centred disaster risk reduction held in Ninh Thuan Province at the end of the year highlighted that sustained practices of breastfeeding, early detection and treatment of severe malnutrition, anaemia and micronutrient deficiency, vitamin A supplementation, full routine immunization, water treatment and hand washing with soap ensures children have a good start in life. These practices also reduce the risk of child malnutrition and outbreaks of diarrheal and other water-related diseases during an emergency.

The need for coordinated efforts among all partners, the important role played by the local community and parents in analysing the risks natural disasters pose to children and the accountability of the Government and service providers to ensure a continuum of services were all key recommendations arising from the conference. Such a continuum of services, along with a conducive policy and coordination framework, is the key direction for child-centred disaster risk reduction in Viet Nam.

Effective Leadership

The country management team met seven times during the year and reviewed office management and programme priorities to improve programme management performance. The joint consultative committee met twice during the year to promote a participatory and enabling work environment. Monthly programme coordination meetings were also conducted to review and plan programme priorities. The minutes of these meetings were regularly shared with all staff.

In response to the 2014 Global Staff Survey, the office continued to implement its office improvement plan, focusing on fostering a culture of open communication and learning opportunities for staff. Based on recommendations from the 2016 staff retreat, the office will continue the implementation of this plan.

As part of the global initiative that listed eight opportunities to streamline office management, the office implemented seven out of the eight areas recommended. The office statutory committees were updated, including the country management team, the contract review committee, the property survey board, the joint consultative committee and the partnership review committee. The remaining area of office management improvement concerns procurement cards. This initiative is currently under review and will be implemented once Citibank launches its services in Viet Nam.

The Office also reviewed and updated the table of authority. In addition, the office continued to update risk mitigation strategies as per the overall country office risk profile. With support from the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF Viet Nam conducted a workshop on enterprise risk management and the final risk profile was developed and uploaded on to Insight. The Business Continuity Plan was also reviewed, updated and tested.
Finally, the new Country Programme was developed in a systematic way, making use of a clear roadmap, results-based management capacity development, internal and external situation analyses, background papers and a Strategic Moment of Reflection exercise, and involved a high number of UNICEF Viet Nam staff.

**Financial Resources Management**

Direct cash transfers (DCTs) were monitored monthly and reports were reviewed at the programme coordination meetings. Both programme sections and the operations team made substantial efforts to follow up with implementing partners to timely liquidate DCT advances and to keep the average rate of outstanding DCT between six and nine months at 1.5 per cent, with May, July and October at 0 per cent.

The table of authority describing the responsibilities and limits of staff in various functional roles has been updated and shared with all staff to ensure that financial control is in place. The standard operating procedure related to DCT and the HACT was updated so that it complies with changes to UNICEF policies and procedures.

Local currency replenishments followed UNICEF headquarter policy and cooperation with the office house bank (Standard Chartered Bank Viet Nam) ensured the most competitive rate for foreign exchange transactions. Cash balances were maintained at two weeks of expenditure and liquidity was ensured despite the roll-out of the Global Shared Service Centre (GSSC) in May 2016, which has impacted the time frame for replenishment effected by headquarters and payments made by GSSC. Both operations and programme colleagues made efforts to streamline the new work processes and to cooperate with the GSSC team to reduce the impacts from the changes to the daily financial transactions because of the GSSC roll-out and implementation.

The different types of budget were closely monitored. Full and efficient use of the institutional budget was achieved. Unspent funds from regular resources were released in a timely manner to be used for programme expenses. A bank reconciliation of office bank accounts was completed monthly and reconciling items were timely cleared.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

During 2016, the UNICEF Viet Nam mobilized US$8 million in other resources and a United Nations-wide emergency appeal for the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis allowed UNICEF Viet Nam to mobilize US$4 million from Japan and the Central Emergency Response Fund. UNICEF Viet Nam updated its fund-raising strategy to reflect the changing aid environment and to align with the next Country Programme. A majority of the bilateral donors have reduced their official development assistance to Viet Nam as a result of the country transitioning to lower middle-income status. A survey of public sector donors in Viet Nam was conducted. While donors are less likely to support the United Nations agenda through the One Plan Fund, the survey allowed UNICEF to identify opportunities to develop bilateral agreements, mainly around climate change, green growth and the unfinished Millennium Development Goal agenda, in line with the strategic priorities of the next Country Programme.

UNICEF Viet Nam strengthened its relationship with key national committees, aiming to improve the quality and predictability of funding and reduce transaction costs related to managing the partnership. Strategic discussions are under way with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, the United Kingdom National Committee and Korean National Committee and the office hosted several high-level donor field visits.
UNICEF Viet Nam has also maintained discussions with the Government to mobilize political endorsement for UNICEF to start local private-sector fund-raising. This issue was discussed by the UNICEF Executive Director and Deputy Prime Minister in June 2016. Further meetings with government officials have confirmed the possibility to pursue a political dialogue with decision makers on this issue, building on the private sector fundraising model of other ASEAN countries. Income generated from the local corporate sector and individuals is instrumental for UNICEF to meet the objectives set out in the next Country Programme and further advocacy on this issue is planned.

**Evaluation and Research**

In 2016, the UNICEF Viet Nam helped facilitate an assessment of UNICEF by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network through a perception-based survey with government, civil society and private-sector respondents in Viet Nam and an in-depth interview with the Deputy Representative. UNICEF Viet Nam was also identified as one of five case study countries for an evaluation of UNICEF’s capacity in and action on communication for development.

The UNICEF Viet Nam collaborated closely with the United Nations Evaluation Group, the UNICEF Evaluation Office, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and other United Nations agencies in Viet Nam to provide technical advice and coordination support to the Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association International Evaluation Conference and the Regional Consultation on Equity Focused and Gender Responsive National Evaluation Policies and Systems, held in Viet Nam in November 2016.

The evaluation of the Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education flagship initiative was finalized and the management response to it was developed, approved and followed up, ensuring an effective use of the evaluation. An evaluation of UNICEF’s support to child-sensitive planning, monitoring and evaluation of the socio-economic development plans got under way, making evidence available for the design of UNICEF’s support to the Government in this area over the next five years.

For the costed evaluation plan of the 2017–2021 Country Programme, three major evaluations were identified: (a) the strategic positioning of cooperation at the sub-national level; (b) the effectiveness of the integrated ECD programme; and (c) the effectiveness of UNICEF support to the adoption of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles in Viet Nam.

In addition, UNICEF Viet Nam, through the One UN Results-Based Management Working Group, was actively involved in providing technical assistance to and finalizing the review of the One Plan 2012–2016, contributing to the formulation of the 2017-2021 One Strategic Plan of the UN in Viet Nam.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

The major cost savings realized in operations are linked to UNICEF Viet Nam being part of the United Nations common premises, the Green One UN House, and the use of common services in the house. Since UNICEF moved to the Green One UN House in June 2015, the office has saved about US$20,000 per month in rent and reduced its overhead costs. Savings have also been achieved by using common services such as protocol, travel, banking, reception, information and communication technology (ICT) services and outsourced services such as security and cleaning. In addition, 10 per cent of the electricity consumed in the Green One UN House is generated from solar panels, and this also provides a cost saving.
Supply Management

In 2016, due to the ongoing emergency, the supply component of the Country Programme was substantial. The total procurement volume was US$2,111,960, including US$1,170,417 for emergency supplies.

These supplies included 4 million Aquatab tablets and 15.8 million PUR sachets procured offshore. Through local procurement, 78,000 buckets, 78,000 water filtering cloths, 150,047 pieces of anti-bacterial soap, 160,000 PUR and Aquatab instruction leaflets, 80,000 WASH booklets and 500 posters on hand washing were purchased. Sixty water storage tanks, 60 hand-washing facilities, 120 water filtration systems and 33,450 pieces of anti-bacterial soap were purchased to improve WASH facilities in schools.

Emergency nutrition supplies, including 5,000 mid-upper arm circumference measuring tapes, 30 tonnes of ready-to-use therapeutic food, 8.7 million multi-micronutrient tablets and 8.4 million micronutrient powder sachets, were also procured, as well as 80,000 leaflets and 3,600 posters on multi-micronutrient tablets.

Table 1: Total procurement volume (offshore and local)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of procurement</th>
<th>Procurement volume (US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operational supplies</td>
<td>86,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>550,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local programme supplies</td>
<td>129,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offshore programme supplies (Emergency supplies)</td>
<td>1,170,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement services (vaccines)</td>
<td>175,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,111,960</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Data as of 15 November 2016)

The supply component in UNICEF Viet Nam supports the programme team to procure programme supplies, coordinates with the supply division if needed for procurement services, provides logistics services when required, coordinates with other United Nations agencies on common procurement and conducts local procurement for operational purposes and institutional services. UNICEF Viet Nam also plays a liaison role between the UNICEF Supply Division and the Government and supports customs clearance and the receiving of UNICEF programme supplies that are delivered directly to implementing partners. Throughout the year, regular local procurement continued, totalling US$766,536.

Table 2: Local procurement volume by programme section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Procurement volume (US dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>28,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>84,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Survival and Development</td>
<td>68,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency-related operational supplies and services</td>
<td>198,958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ho Chi Minh City  |  53,445  
Human Resources  |  14,321  
Operations  |  50,801  
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation  |  5,658  
Social Policy and Governance  |  260,852  
**Total**  |  **766,536**

(Data as of 15 November 2016)

As UNICEF Viet Nam needs various types of supplies throughout the year the supply component also helps to monitor, report and advise on supply activities and other tasks for supply management purposes. Due to the high portion of institutional services in the local procurement volume and the need to be well-prepared for any emergency, UNICEF Viet Nam is reviewing the need for more long-term agreements for frequently used goods and services.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

Viet Nam faces a low threat level. Located in the Green One UN House, UNICEF Viet Nam continued to contribute to enhancing the security of these common premises. Major security upgrades, such as re-enforcement of the main gates as well as operationalization of the security operational centre, were completed during the year.

**Human Resources**

In 2016, UNICEF Viet Nam successfully implemented all decisions related to the staffing structure approved by the programme and budget review. At the same time, the Office completed the recruitment of qualified candidates to form a strong emergency team within one month. The office reached 100 per cent compliance in meeting the performance evaluation submission timelines.

Human resources reform initiatives, including ACHIEVE, MyCase and MyHR, were successfully implemented, ensuring the office’s ability to effectively attract, hire, support and empower staff members.

UNICEF Viet Nam continued to address all major issues identified in the Global Staff Survey regarding staff empowerment, leadership and management, as well as career and staff development. An office-wide learning and development plan was put in place, based on an analysis of staff learning needs, and a range of learning activities have been implemented as planned.

A staff retreat was organized in 2016, focusing on achievements in the past year and how to ensure a successful new Country Programme. During the retreat, UNICEF Viet Nam committed to continuing the implementation of the Office Improvement Plan.

Recognizing that programme specialists (at NO-C level) are crucial for implementation of the new Country Programme, the Office established a coaching programme to strengthen NO-C roles and accountabilities, especially in child rights advocacy. The coaching sessions helped to break down vertical silos and increase knowledge sharing and learning within the NO-C team.

The development of the 2017–2021 Country Programme, related management plan and the subsequent programme and staff structure, as well as recruitment for positions identified in the new Country Programme, took place in an open, fair and transparent manner.
UNICEF Viet Nam is committed to UN Cares and has implemented the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace. No regular resource funds were used for funding ‘other resources’ posts.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

UNICEF Viet Nam has successfully implemented UNICEF-standard cloud-based Office tools for all 70 staff, including Office 365, Outlook, Skype for Business and OneDrive. In response to the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis, the UNICEF Viet Nam set up an emergency situation room with video conferencing facilities using Skype for Business, and which allows staff to use 3G mobile devices to report data in real time.

To improve efficiency and effectiveness, in particular communication between the main office in Hanoi and the sub-office in Ho Chi Minh City, the office set up the Cisco Jabber application for all Ho Chi Minh City staff. This application facilitates daily communication between the offices and has helped to save costs on inter-province telephone calls.

In support of innovation UNICEF Viet Nam arranged Rapid Pro training for all staff. UNICEF Viet Nam also helped to improve staff knowledge on information management by arranging briefing sessions on UNICEF information and knowledge management policies and tools, such as Share Point, OneDrive, Yammer and the staff intranet.

In the Green One UN House, UNICEF Viet Nam leads the One UN ICT team, which provides a one-stop-shop service to all users in the House. Whenever a user has a technical IT issue, they make a request to the one-stop service desk and the assigned service desk staff member will then contact the user to provide support accordingly.

In 2016, UNICEF Viet Nam also arranged several sharing sessions with other offices in the East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia regions on lessons learned in setting up and maintaining a common ICT infrastructure in the Green One UN House for more than 300 users from 12 different United Nations agencies.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1: Effective and efficient programme management and operations support.**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Effective and efficient programme support was maintained throughout 2016. The UNICEF Viet Nam prepared for a smooth implementation of the GSSC by changing the workflow of transactions, following the GSSC Standard Operating Procedures, using the bank communication management payment method, scanning all supporting documents, communicating and closely following up with GSSC colleagues on finance and human resources-related issues and ensuring an efficient year-end closure.

Effective and timely support has been provided to all programmes, including the emergency programme, to timely disburse funds to implementing partners and also to monitor the use of these funds through a review of FACE submissions and spot checks.

The ICT system continues to support staff effectively and provides high-quality services. High service levels of administrative support have also been maintained. At the same time, sitting within the Green One UN House significant savings have been realized in the areas of
reception, protocol, ICT, registry, security and cleaning. UNICEF Viet Nam also led the United Nations working group to update the Viet Nam – UN Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guidelines, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies. The revision of the guidelines was finalized in July 2016 for use by all implementing partners.

**OUTPUT 1:** Office results are proficiently managed and systems efficiently applied that ensured maximum efficient resources.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Country Management Team met seven times during the year and reviewed office management and programme priorities to improve programme management performance. The Joint Consultative Committee met twice during the year to promote a participatory and enabling work environment. Monthly programme coordination meetings were also conducted to review and plan programme priorities. The minutes of these meetings were regularly shared with all staff.

In response to the 2014 Global Staff Survey, the office continued to implement its Office Improvement Plan, focusing on fostering a culture of open communication and learning opportunities for staff. Based on recommendations from the 2016 staff retreat, the office will continue the implementation of this plan.

As part of the global initiative that listed eight opportunities to streamline office management, the office implemented seven out of the eight areas recommended. The office statutory committees were updated, including the Country Management Team, the Contract Review Committee, the Property Survey Board, the Joint Consultative Committee and the Partnership Review Committee. The remaining area of office management improvement concerns procurement cards. This initiative is currently under review and will be implemented once Citibank launches its services in Viet Nam.

The office also reviewed and updated the Table of Authority. In addition, the office continued to update risk mitigation strategies as per the overall country office risk profile. With support from the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, the office conducted a workshop on enterprise risk management and the final risk profile was developed and uploaded on to Insight. The Business Continuity Plan was also reviewed, updated and tested.

Finally, the new Country Programme was developed in a systematic way, making use of a clear road map, results-based management capacity development, internal and external situation analyses, background papers and a Strategic Moment of Reflection exercise, and involved a high number of UNICEF Viet Nam staff.

**OUTPUT 2:** Effective and efficient management and stewardship of financial resources to support realization of results.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Financial resources have been managed effectively and efficiently to support programme implementation and achieve the expected results. Work processes and the required staff roles have been updated and efforts were made by related staff members to ensure a smooth transition to the launch of the GSSC in May 2016, despite challenges encountered in the transition period. The impacts of the changes that have happened because of GSSC implementation have been managed well.
Cash flow forecasts by sections and units were realistic and monitored effectively by finance, and the monthly cash balances were well maintained. Quarterly travel reports have been prepared to enable managers/budget owners to review the use of funds for travel purposes. Effective and timely support has been provided to the emergency team to timely disburse funds to implementing partners under the emergency response programme and to monitor the use of these funds through spot checks.

**OUTPUT 3:** The office and staff members benefited from timely and effective recruitment process and Performance Appraisal System as well as learning and development opportunities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In 2016, two international posts, 14 national posts, three United Nations Volunteers posts, two internships, one stretch assignment and one post on standby agreement were filled, meeting the key performance indicators in recruitment and selection. The office reached 100 per cent compliance in meeting the performance evaluation submission timelines. Human resources reform initiatives, including Achieve, MyCase and MyHR online recruitment and on-boarding, were smoothly implemented, ensuring the office’s ability to attract, hire, support and empower staff members effectively. Since 2016 is the last year of UNICEF Viet Nam’s Country Programme 2012–2016 and the year for discussion and finalization of the Country Programme for 2017–2021, a learning and development plan for 2016 and early 2017 was developed, based on an analysis of all staff members’ learning needs and in consultation with section chiefs and the Country Management Team. This plan will support the office to achieve the remaining expected results of the current programme and be prepared for the new programme. As part of the learning plan a series of official learning courses were organized including on effective public speaking, public finance for children, results-based management and enterprise risk management. Many internal knowledge sharing sessions were also conducted throughout the year including on children with disabilities programming, how to keep children safe online, child-sensitive social protection, child poverty, the UN Joint Pension Fund, RapidPro and UNICEF information and knowledge management tools. A team coaching programme was arranged for a National Officer Category backbone group to help strengthen the programme specialist roles and accountabilities in the implementation of the new Country Programme, especially in child rights advocacy. In addition, nine individual staff members received financial support from the office to pursue their own learning and development activities in country as well as outside the country.

**OUTPUT 4:** The Communication function effectively supports the advocacy, external/donor relations, fundraising and partnership efforts of the UNICEF Viet Nam with a high level of quality assurance and technical expertise, also contributing to One-UN Communication.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The communication section provided leadership in the implementation of public advocacy activities to promote child rights, especially in equity, children with disabilities, violence against children, child rights monitoring, inclusive education and early childhood development. About 100,000 visitors have consulted the UNICEF Viet Nam’s Facebook page in Vietnamese because of a result of communication actions to raise awareness. The translation in Vietnamese of the advocacy video on the sensitive issue of violence against children with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador garnered 44,000 views from Viet Nam and was picked up by state-controlled traditional media. Additional efforts have been undertaken to roll out the newly-developed brand strategy to drive engagement for child rights among the target audience and to ensure that UNICEF remains a trusted partner in the fast-changing development context in Viet Nam.
Effective support was provided to update and implement the fund-raising strategy. Fund-raising efforts have resulted in additional funding of more than US$8 million from UNICEF National Committees and other public sector donors. Efforts have been put in place to strengthen partnerships with key national committees to enhance predictability and quality of funding. A United Nations-wide emergency call for funds to support the response to the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis allowed UNICEF to mobilize US$4 million from the Government of Japan and the Central Emergency Response Fund. UNICEF Viet Nam also carried out a comprehensive donor mapping to gather a better understanding of who the main public sector donors in Viet Nam are and what areas of convergence exist with UNICEF’s strategic objectives. Additional opportunities will be pursued in 2017.

OUTPUT 5: 6.6 Programme Support

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The HACT Assurance Plan for 2016 was approved by the Representative and updated quarterly.

Outstanding direct cash transfers over six months were closely monitored by both programme and operation colleagues. On average, the outstanding direct cash transfer over six months remained at 1.26 per cent for 2016. This is a low rate and below the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office target of 5 per cent.

All implementing partners were provided with updated information on planned amounts of cash transfers and risk ratings. The team completed 49 out of 48 planned programme visits and 24 out of 24 spot checks, reaching 102 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively, of the target on minimum-required assurance activities.

Sections closely followed up with implementing partners and all recommendations by the 2015 HACT audit (agreed upon procedures) were addressed and closed.

The implementation of HACT assurance activities, especially additional spot checks, in connection with implementation of the emergency response programme, which started in quarter three, has been the biggest challenge. Implementing partners of the emergency response programme were considered high risk (without micro assessment) but received considerable amounts of funds, which required a high number of programme visits and seven additional spot checks. Moreover, most of the fund disbursements were made in quarter four and the Implementing Partners submitted liquidation FACEs only in late November and December, making it highly challenging for spot check members to complete all required spot checks by year-end, when the pressure of the budget review and closure of accounts was at a peak. Three of the spot checks were conducted in November and the remaining four in the last week of December 2016.

The interim revision of the Harmonized Programme and Project Management Guide was completed in July 2016 for application by implementing partners, and with the active participation and contribution from finance and programme staff.

OUTCOME 2: By 2016, a more effective national social protection system provides increased coverage, quality, and equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Viet Nam successfully helped to make the social protection system more child-sensitive in policy and practice through implementation of the Social Policy and Governance programme. Three pillars of the Social Policy and Governance Programme, focused on child-sensitive socio-economic development plans, social protection and national legal frameworks, contributed to the realization of children’s rights and the improvement of social protection for vulnerable children.

UNICEF’s upstream work to influence government planning and budgeting decisions on allocation of public resources for children allowed the integration of key themes on child well-being into the socio-economic development plans for 2016–2017 at national and sub-national levels. UNICEF worked with the key line ministries of Planning and Investment; Finance, Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs; Education and Training; and Health, as well as the National Assembly and sub-national government bodies to increase their capacity to develop child-sensitive socio-economic development plans through an officially approved guideline, developed jointly with the Ministry of Planning and Investment. UNICEF also contributed to equity-focused and child-sensitive local planning by supporting the development of a decentralized planning guideline for the National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction 2016–2020, as well as the finalization of a Situation Analysis of Children’s Rights in Lao Cai and the development of a Situation Analysis in Ho Chi Minh City. Citizen Report Card surveys allowed the collection of feedback from actual users of public services in selected provinces.

In Viet Nam, for the first time, social assistance for young children was acknowledged as an important source of investment in human capital, and UNICEF’s proposal on universal child benefits for children from zero to three years of age was reflected in the Government’s draft Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform 2016–2030. Recognizing the importance of ECD, UNICEF continued to advocate for a rights-based and life-cycle based approach to social assistance reform in Viet Nam. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF supported evidence generation, such as impact assessments and costing exercises of different policy options for child benefit packages, which stimulated policy debates on the expansion of social assistance for young children.

As a follow-up to these initiatives, UNICEF is currently working with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs on two analytical reports that outline fundamental considerations, gaps and reform options on targeting mechanisms (avoiding exclusion and inclusion errors) and policy consolidation in the area of social protection of children and their families. UNICEF is working with the National Poverty Reduction Office and the Government Statistics Office to revise the multidimensional child poverty methodology and to harmonise the national multidimensional poverty measurement and the indicator framework for monitoring the SDGs. These analyses will form part of the Social Policy and Governance Programme advocacy agenda to further improve government accountability and governance as well as the social assistance system for children.

Engagement with the National Assembly and civil society organizations has generated several results and promising partnerships for UNICEF’s future work, aimed at further enhancing the national legal frameworks and policy actions with an impact on children. The approval in 2016 of the Child Law demonstrated the improved legal environment for children’s rights by bringing cross-sectoral aspects of children’s rights in to one document, as well as the commitment of the Government to prioritize children’s issues in budget allocation and planning. This positive legal change also enhanced the degree of compliance of the Child Law with the CRC. In addition, UNICEF, together with other United Nations agencies, successfully contributed to influence the National Assembly’s decision to delay the endorsement of the Law on Associations due to its failure to address ongoing and potential institutional challenges facing civil society organizations in Viet Nam. UNICEF also provided
support to the development and institutionalisation of mechanisms for a consultative law-making process. Pre-National Assembly sessions were formalised and these provided an important platform for National Assembly members to have open discussions with key stakeholders, especially civil society organizations and young people, on different child rights violation issues in the law-making process.

In an effort to advocate for the establishment of effective child rights monitoring structures, UNICEF Viet Nam supported a knowledge exchange with various countries with strong independent child rights monitoring experiences. This contributed to an enhanced understanding and commitment of National Assembly members to establish such mechanisms in Viet Nam and resulted in the incorporation of important provisions on child rights monitoring in the Child Law. To improve the capacity of Members of Parliament on child rights oversight, a child-sensitive socio-economic development plan oversight tool was finalized, which provides detailed guidance and instruction for Members of Parliament on how to address child rights issues in their plan oversight process.

UNICEF Viet Nam also engaged in following up on the concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. With UNICEF capacity-building support on results-based reporting, relevant ministries drafted review reports on the implementation of the concluding observations, which will serve as a basis for further dialogue and consultation with stakeholders. Partnerships with civil society organizations were also further strengthened. During 2016, UNICEF’s collaboration with the Child Rights Working Group helped build their evidence base for advocacy on the implementation of the concluding observations. A partnership with AIESEC, a youth-led organization, opened ways to apply innovative approaches to engage children and young people in addressing child rights violation issues.

OUTPUT 1: By 2016, strengthened child-sensitive planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of socio-economic development outcomes, plans and programmes.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
In 2016, UNICEF Viet Nam strengthened the capacities of senior officials from the National Assembly and the key social sector ministries of Planning and Investment, Finance, Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Education and Training, and Health in child-sensitive socio-economic development plans and public finance management to improve their accountability for results for children. More than 200 key leaders and experts from the Government and elected bodies (the National Assembly and Provincial People’s Councils) at both national and sub-national levels improved their knowledge and understanding through systematic training, based on a child-focused planning guideline. A dozen key leaders from relevant ministries and the National Assembly participated in a South-South exchange visit to Malaysia to learn about child-sensitive planning and budgeting. Furthermore, to enhance the independent role of civil society, UNICEF Viet Nam facilitated training of trainers on public finance for children and tools for budget monitoring and tracking for 25 representatives of 15 civil society organizations.

UNICEF Viet Nam supported the generation and dissemination of comprehensive situation analyses of children in Lao Cai Province and Ho Chi Minh City. Citizen Report Card surveys allowed feedback to be collected from users of public services in commune child health and nutrition services in Gia Lai Province and social assistance in education in Ninh Thuan Province. In addition, child-focused budget analyses on early childhood education, maternal and child health and social assistance were conducted in these provinces. In addition, UNICEF established a partnership on budgetary accountability and transparency to raise the awareness of young people and citizens of their role in monitoring state budget allocations and utilization. Through the end-term evaluation of the socio-economic
development plan project, UNICEF Viet Nam identified key lessons learned from the implementation of the current Country Programme related to improving the linkage between planning and budgeting for children, and these were useful in the development of the 2017–2021 Country Programme.

OUTPUT 2: By 2016, expanded coverage of child-sensitive social assistance for poor, ethnic minority, and other vulnerable children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to advocate for a rights-based, universal and life-cycle approach to social protection of children and their families through its contribution to the development of the Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform 2016–2030. For the first time, UNICEF’s proposal on cash benefits for children up to three years of age was reflected in a government policy document. Accordingly, universal benefits will be introduced in ethnic minority and mountainous areas by 2020, and will be expanded to all children up to 3 years of age by 2025. By 2030, all children from 0 to 6 years of age will be covered by social assistance. A UNICEF-supported impact assessment of different policy options for child packages provided evidence of their positive impacts on child well-being and contributed to policy debates on the expansion of social assistance for children. UNICEF also brought an internationally renowned expert to Viet Nam to contribute to the discussion on policy reform options for the social protection system.

UNICEF, as co-chair of the United Nations’ Joint Programme Group on Social Protection, played an instrumental role in consolidating United Nations joint commentary on the draft Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform 2016–2030 and facilitating policy dialogue at national and sub-national levels. UNICEF also initiated joint evidence generation with the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Labour Organization on national social protection policies vis-à-vis the global principles in the Social Protection Floor and the SDGs. A joint UNICEF and International Labour Organization costing exercise contributed to the advocacy agenda on a gradual expansion of social assistance for children. UNICEF-commissioned studies on the concept of social care and the costing of child benefits provided additional insights. In addition, two regional and national workshops – organized with the World Bank and UNDP – served as a platform for national and sub-national stakeholders to discuss a child rights and life cycle-based approach.

UNICEF launched two interrelated policy studies on targeting mechanisms and policy consolidation to support the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to assess the current state of social assistance schemes for children and families. These will provide evidence on the feasibility of alternative targeting approaches, policy design and implementation, as well as propose reform options for the gradual transition to a universal child package and operationalization of the broad directions outlined in the Government’s draft Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform 2016–2030.

UNICEF is also working with the National Poverty Reduction Office and the General Statistics Office to revise the current multidimensional child poverty methodology and influence the national multidimensional poverty measurement to make it more sensitive and useful as an indicator framework for SDG monitoring. To address the unfinished development agenda among ethnic minorities, UNICEF Viet Nam disseminated the results of a study that examined social and cultural factors affecting the care practices and protection of ethnic minority children and released a video clip on child poverty among ethnic minorities. Finally, UNICEF contributed to a UN joint discussion paper on socialization and had discussions with strategic partners, including the World Bank, to initiate further analysis on out-of-pocket spending, with a particular focus on ECD.
OUTPUT 3: By 2016, enhanced capacity of elected officials in the National Assembly and in selected Provincial People’s Councils to oversee the realisation of child rights, policy formulation and implementation, and the performance of State agencies in delivering services to children and their caregivers.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To support the Government’s attempt to ensure domestic laws fully comply with international child rights standards, UNICEF advocacy efforts played a key role in the new Child Law, adopted in April 2016. The law includes several improvements, proposed by UNICEF, such as detailed provisions on planning and budgeting for children, an expanded chapter on child protection and a new chapter on child participation.

UNICEF-supported evidence generation on institutional challenges facing civil society organizations in child rights implementation and joint advocacy efforts with other United Nations agencies contributed to the National Assembly’s decision to delay its endorsement of the Law on Associations. UNICEF also supported the institutionalisation of pre-National Assembly sessions, which offer an important platform for Members of Parliament to have open dialogues with key stakeholders, especially civil society organizations and young people, on different child rights issues in the law-making process. The recent session on the Law on Tourism and Law on Legal Aid, for example, resulted in a commitment of Members of Parliament to address issues such as child sexual exploitation in the tourism industry and fair access to legal aid among different groups of children in the amendment of these two laws.

In efforts to advocate for the establishment of effective child rights monitoring structures, UNICEF’s support to the organization of an international workshop on independent child rights monitoring and a study visit to Mongolia contributed to an enhanced understanding and commitment of Members of Parliament to establish such a mechanism in Viet Nam. Important provisions on child rights monitoring were also incorporated in the Child Law, which serves as a basis towards a potential establishment of independent child rights monitoring structures, in line with international standards. In efforts to improve the capacity of Members of Parliament on child rights oversight, a child-sensitive socio-economic development plan oversight tool was finalized, providing detailed guidance for Members of Parliament to address child rights issues in their plan oversight process.

UNICEF was a key player in the follow-up on the implementation of the concluding observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. With UNICEF capacity-building support on results-based reporting, several review reports on implementation of the concluding observations were drafted by ministries. UNICEF also developed a partnership with the Child Rights Working Group and helped build their evidence base for advocacy. Two policy briefs – one on children with disabilities and one on ethnic minorities – were developed to support the working group’s advocacy work on implementation of the concluding observations.

In partnership with AIESEC, a youth-led organization, UNICEF equipped more than two hundred adolescents and young people in Ho Chi Minh City with the necessary knowledge and skills to lead consultations with children and local communities on ways to address violence against children. Three individuals selected to attend a Youth Innovation Workshop in Malaysia had the opportunity to influence discussions on this topic and dialogue with leaders from 30 countries across the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to UNICEF financial assistance to fund their start-up projects, three teams were also able to mobilize additional budget for their projects.
OUTPUT 4: By 2016, enhanced citizen and child feedback-based monitoring of the quality and relevance of Ho Chi Minh City's budgets, plans, and public services for all children, including those living in migrant families

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Social Policy and Governance Programme provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure. Therefore, the eight Social Policy and Governance Programme sub-national level outputs have been merged into one ‘Social Policy and Governance Programme Consolidated Provincial Output’ below, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation and reporting.

OUTPUT 5: By 2016, the An Giang provincial socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans and budgets reflect provincial commitment to promote equitable realization of child rights.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Social Policy and Governance Programme provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure. Therefore, the eight Social Policy and Governance Programme sub-national level outputs have been merged into one ‘Social Policy and Governance Programme Consolidated Provincial Output’ below, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation and reporting.

OUTPUT 6: By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Ninh Thuan socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Social Policy and Governance Programme provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure. Therefore, the eight Social Policy and Governance Programme sub-national level outputs have been merged into one ‘Social Policy and Governance Programme Consolidated Provincial Output’ below, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation and reporting.

OUTPUT 7: By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Kon Tum socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Social Policy and Governance Programme provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure. Therefore, the eight Social Policy and Governance Programme sub-national level outputs have been merged into one ‘Social Policy and Governance Programme Consolidated Provincial Output’ below, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation and reporting.
OUTPUT 8: By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Dien Bien socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Social Policy and Governance Programme provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure. Therefore, the eight Social Policy and Governance Programme sub-national level outputs have been merged into one ‘Social Policy and Governance Programme Consolidated Provincial Output’ below, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation and reporting.

OUTPUT 9: By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Gia Lai socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Social Policy and Governance Programme provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure. Therefore, the eight Social Policy and Governance Programme sub-national level outputs have been merged into one ‘Social Policy and Governance Programme Consolidated Provincial Output’ below, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation and reporting.

OUTPUT 10: By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the Lao Cai socio-economic development plan and underlying sector plans.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Social Policy and Governance Programme provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure. Therefore, the eight Social Policy and Governance Programme sub-national level outputs have been merged into one ‘Social Policy and Governance Programme Consolidated Provincial Output’ below, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation and reporting.

OUTPUT 11: The Social Policy and Governance Programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Technical assistance for the Social Policy and Governance programme was managed and implemented in the most effective and efficient manner, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children

OUTPUT 12: By 2016, enhanced capacity for child-sensitive planning, budgeting, monitoring, and oversight of the provincial socio-economic development plans and underlying sector plans in selected provinces.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF contributed to strengthening the capacities of sub-national government bodies in selected provinces (namely, Dien Bien, Gia Lai, Kon Tum and Ninh Thuan) through facilitating a series of training workshops on the implementation of national guidelines on child-sensitive socio-economic development plans. Key policymakers and leaders in Dien Bien Province were, on a pilot basis, trained in public finance for children, with a focus on strengthening the linkages between planning and budgeting for children. Priority issues related to child well-being were reflected in socio-economic development plans for 2016–2017.

More than 600 citizens from the most disadvantaged areas in Gia Lai and Ninh Thuan provinces were selected to share their feedback on child health-care services and social assistance in education, and asked to contribute their opinions on how to further improve these services. UNICEF-supported comprehensive situation analyses of children in Lao Cai and Ho Chi Minh City and yearly provincial statistical books in all participating provinces provided rigorous and timely evidence on children to inform local decision-making. With the aim of documenting good practices and lessons learned, the UNICEF Viet Nam provided technical assistance to local government bodies in conducting reviews and evaluations of five-year provincial development programmes. Key findings of these assessments emphasized the importance of evidence-based policy advocacy in ensuring an equity focus as well as the efficient and effective use of budgetary resources allocated for children.

OUTCOME 3: By 2016, a more effective national social protection system provides increased coverage, quality, and equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Child Protection Programme made substantial contributions to a more effective national social protection system for children through the building of child protection systems by: (i) strengthening the legal and regulatory framework on child protection; (ii) improving child protection structures and services at national and sub-national levels; and (iii) supporting the establishment of a child-friendly justice system.

This year two core milestones for the child protection system were achieved. In April, the Child Law was passed and the first-ever Family and Juvenile Court was launched. Both represent over 10 years of work by UNICEF Viet Nam, involving high-level advocacy, evidence generation, technical support and capacity building. The Child Law takes effect in June 2017 and, for the first time, clearly articulates a comprehensive national framework for child protection, including authorising state interventions to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children. The Family and Juvenile Court is multi-jurisdictional, covering children’s matters in the civil, administrative and criminal law, and ensures that children will be better served and protected by the justice system.

Violence against children continues to impact large numbers of children in Viet Nam, leading to lifelong inequities. In 2016, UNICEF played a central role in continuing to place the issue firmly onto the national and regional agenda. Viet Nam, with support of UNICEF, hosted the visit of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children. During her visit, the Special Representative gave the keynote speech at the 4th ASEAN Children’s Forum and discussed with senior government officials, civil society and other stakeholders’ issues related to violence against children. This high-level public advocacy event was reinforced by UNICEF’s ongoing support to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to participate in a multi-country research project on the drivers of violence against children. UNICEF provided support to finalize the literature review and the
groundwork is now set for the design and implementation of a national intervention on violence against children. Capitalizing on the third High-Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific and its focus on violence against children, UNICEF supported the Government to prepare and present its study on the drivers of violence against children. Viet Nam's involvement in this research project has catalysed other governments in the Asia-Pacific region to engage in similar research.

Children in Viet Nam are increasingly vulnerable to online abuse and exploitation, and with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom through the #WeProtect global multi-stakeholder alliance, UNICEF generated momentum, commitment, awareness and capacity among key stakeholders to combat online abuse and exploitation. With UNICEF assistance, a National Programme on Child Online Protection was drafted and the capacity of law enforcement, justice and welfare officers was strengthened through specialized training. An exchange visit to the Philippines for a government delegation was conducted to learn from local experiences, good practices and initiatives on child online protection within the broader Filipino child protection system.

UNICEF efforts to support the social protection system reform continued, with technical support for finalizing the Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform 2016-2030. In addition, UNICEF assisted Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to conduct a study to facilitate a common understanding of social care in Viet Nam. In respect of the child protection system, UNICEF supported the Government to conduct a costing of child protection services in the social welfare sector. The results of this exercise are intended to inform the quality and access to the child protection system, and more broadly to advocate for greater allocation of state resources to child protection.

At the same time, important progress has continued regarding the promotion of the rights of children with disabilities. With the support of UNICEF, other United Nations agencies, the United States Agency for International Development, NGOs and disabled people's organizations, the National Committee on Disability was established in January and later in the year, Viet Nam's Action Plan on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was approved and launched. The Action Plan emphasises the importance of increasing public understanding of the rights of persons with disabilities, amendment of laws to align with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and implementation of programmes and policies relating to persons with disabilities.

At the sub-national level, access to social and child protection services for the most vulnerable groups of children has been increased through the expansion of community-based child protection systems to 124 communes within 35 districts, in the eight UNICEF focus provinces of An Giang, Dien Bien, Don Thap, Gia Lai, Ho Chi Minh City, Kon Tum, Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan. The provincial Social Work Service Centres are continuing to operate in six provinces (An Giang, Dong Thap, Ho Chi Minh City, Kon Tum, Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan), providing child protection services including case management, psychological support, care and support for victims of trafficking, legal aid and community-based and residential support for orphans and children with disabilities. With UNICEF support, new operational guidance materials have also been helping to improve community-based service delivery and tertiary services by Social Work Service Centres for abused children. Alternative care continues to improve with UNICEF providing technical support for foster care training materials for local social welfare officers, and respite day-care centres being expanded in selected provinces to provide day care services for children with disabilities. Finally, Viet Nam's adoption system has been further strengthened, with an increase recorded in domestic adoption and a focus on inter-country adoption of children with special needs.
OUTPUT 1: Child protection human resource and service structures better able to prevent and respond to child neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The child protection legal framework was significantly strengthened with the passage of the new Child Law. UNICEF supported the Government to articulate a comprehensive framework for the child protection system, as well as begin detailing the system in relevant sub-laws. In addition, UNICEF supported the development of sub-laws on the Law on Civil Status, contributing to improving the birth registration of children in special circumstances. UNICEF technical support also contributed to the development and implementation of the National Programme on Child Protection (2016–2020) as well as the Ministry of Education and Training policy on child protection in schools that will eventually cover approximately 20 million students.

During 2016, the evidence base for child protection was strengthened. UNICEF supported Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to finalize a literature review on the drivers of violence against children. Following on from the study, UNICEF and UNFPA supported a secondary analysis on child marriage in order to fill the gap in data and information. The findings were presented at a United Nations-supported national policy dialogue attended by key government and National Assembly stakeholders, to advocate, for the first time, for a comprehensive response to child marriage. The evidence was also utilised to advocate and raise awareness of violence against children through the National Symposium on Sexuality, Health and Society, jointly organized by civil society organizations, UNICEF and other UN agencies. UNICEF, together with Child Fund and Plan International, also supported Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to begin the first-ever costing of the child protection services within the social welfare sector that will be used to advocate for an increase in the budget allocation to child protection. The capacity of 30 national and provincial welfare officers was strengthened through training on costing.

The capacity of key stakeholders in relation to child online protection was enhanced, including through a study visit by Vietnamese officials to the Philippines on the laws and services provided to child victims of online sexual exploitation and abuse. Technical assistance, including UNICEF support to Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in evidence generation through a capacity assessment on child online protection, was also provided to the drafting of the National Programme on Child Online Protection (2016–2020).

UNICEF’s support to the development of social work continued to build up child protection human resources. UNICEF advocated for and assisted in finalization of the Strategic Plan for Social Work Development (2016–2020) and the agreement to develop a law on social work. The Ministry of Health was supported to develop and disseminate a policy on social work in hospitals, including training of 40 hospital managers on the policy. UNICEF also worked with Ministry of Education and Training to conduct a feasibility study on social work in schools to inform policy advocacy and programming. Six courses on school social work were developed for integration into the social work bachelor programme at Hanoi University of Education. At the local level, 80 social welfare managers were trained on social work administration, and a community-based case management guideline and a child protection services manual for Social Work Service Centres were developed and disseminated.

OUTPUT 2: Special protection measures developed and implemented to provide care, support and protection for the most vulnerable children, including exploited and trafficked children, children without parental care, children affected by HIV and AIDS, and children with disabilities.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Women’s Union to implement components of the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking related to the reception, identification and protection of trafficking victims, contributing to improved access and referral of trafficked victims, predominantly girls and women, to available services. Together with other United Nations agencies, UNICEF contributed to greater public awareness of human trafficking through support to the Government to hold the first-ever Anti-Trafficking Day.

Greater Government attention to eliminating child labour was catalysed through UNICEF and the International Labour Organization support to Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to develop a National Plan of Action on Child Labour (2016–2020). A workshop to launch the National Plan of Action was held, with the participation of senior representatives from Government, the United Nations, civil society and provinces, and following on from this, 15 provinces developed local action plans to address child labour. UNICEF also completed research on children’s rights in the travel and tourism, footwear and apparel industries that will be used to inform the development of industry-specific tools for addressing child rights violations in addition to child labour and children’s well-being in the supply chain.

UNICEF support contributed to greater inter-ministerial co-ordination between Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice on adoption, leading to improvements in domestic and inter-country adoption. By October 2016, 433 cases of inter-country adoption and more than 1,000 cases of domestic adoption were finalized. UNICEF also provided technical assistance to review implementation of the Law on Adoption and The Hague Convention, which generated findings, lessons learned and recommendations that can be used to further improve adoption in Viet Nam.

In addition, UNICEF contributed substantial technical inputs to improve and finalize the social care component, one of three core pillars, of the Master Plan on Social Assistance Reform 2016–2030.

The policy framework for children with disabilities, was improved through UNICEF technical assistance to the finalisation of the National Plan of Action on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following the Government’s approval of the National Plan of Action, UNICEF’s support to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs has increased the understanding and commitment of relevant government sectors at both central and local levels in realizing the rights of adults and children with disabilities. The first-ever study on children’s mental health helped fill data gaps related to perception, risk/protective factors and coping strategies and made recommendations on the improvement of mental health and psychosocial well-being services for children in Viet Nam.

With UNICEF support, and in partnership with Save the Children and Plan International, the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs conducted a rapid assessment of child protection issues in drought-affected Ninh Thuan Province. The report, the first of its kind, highlighted that child protection concerns, including family separation, neglect and psychological stress, were being ignored. The findings and recommendations were disseminated and led to follow-up actions at the national and provincial level. UNICEF’s capacity building for child protection in emergencies also continued, with training for 66 key leaders and staff of provincial welfare authorities in 22 disaster-prone provinces on planning and implementing local plans on prevention and response to child protection in emergencies.

OUTPUT 3: A child-friendly justice system established in line with the CRC and other key international standards to protect the rights of children in contact with the justice system.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
The launch of the first Family and Juvenile Court in Ho Chi Minh City in 2016 represented a major children’s rights milestone for Viet Nam and is the result of many years of UNICEF advocacy and technical support. Through UNICEF-supported training, 13 newly appointed specialist judges of the court and 30 judges who will be responsible for children’s cases of 24 district courts were equipped with essential knowledge on justice for children principles. Going forward, UNICEF will continue to support the roll-out of Family and Juvenile Courts through piloting of the court in Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Thap Province and the development of a training programme on child justice, which is now under finalization by the Court Academy for roll-out in 2017.

UNICEF continued to support the strengthening of the legal framework for child-friendly justice, including advocating for stronger provisions in line with international standards on child trafficking and child pornography in the Penal Code, which was ultimately unsuccessful. However, UNICEF continued its technical assistance to strengthen related areas, including development of sub-laws in respect of child-friendly and gender-sensitive procedures for handling child defendants, victims and witnesses. UNICEF also partnered with other UN agencies (including the UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Women and UNAIDS) to jointly advocate for reform of legal aid by co-hosting a United Nations-Government-Civil Society International Workshop on Legal Aid. This was timed to strategically influence the drafting of the Law on Legal Aid, with all members of the drafting team present. UNICEF supported international experts on legal aid for children to attend and present, and reinforced this support with technical and advocacy activities with the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly to ensure legal aid for all children. The draft Law on Legal Aid was submitted to the National Assembly for the first round of discussions, and reinforced by UNICEF’s advocacy and technical activities the National Assembly directed that the draft law should be revised to ensure legal aid for all children before re-submission for approval in 2017.

Institutional capacity on justice for children was generated through UNICEF’s technical support to develop a new undergraduate subject on justice for children, planned to be incorporated into the law curriculum at Hanoi Law University in 2017. The capacity of law enforcement officers in the investigation of online child sexual exploitation was strengthened through UNICEF-supported specialised basic and advanced training courses, including a training-of-trainers, delivered by international experts from the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. As a result, this training is now under consideration for integration into the Police Academy curriculum. Building on UNICEF-supported legal reforms to encourage greater use of diversion and alternatives to detention, UNICEF also supported capacity building of law enforcement, judicial and welfare officers at commune level in Ho Chi Minh City and Dong Thap. This was done through training courses on child-friendly handling of administrative violations by children, as part of UNICEF’s pilot community-based diversion programme for juveniles in conflict with the law.

OUTPUT 4; Ho Chi Minh City – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme
implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 5: An Giang – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 6: Dong Thap – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 7: Ninh Thuan – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 8: Kon Tum – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection
outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

**OUTPUT 9:** Dien Bien – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

**OUTPUT 10:** Gia Lai – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

**OUTPUT 11:** Lao Cai – Child protection system strengthened to provide effective prevention and protection of children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation and being in conflict with the law.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight child protection provincial outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight child protection outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child protection provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Protection Consolidated Provincial Output’.

**OUTPUT 12:** Technical assistance for child protection is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Quality technical assistance for the child protection programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented.
OUTPUT 13: By 2016, the provincial plans on child protection available and the implementation of provincial plan on child protection started to effectively preventing and protecting children from neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation, in particular the most vulnerable children and children in conflict with the law in An Giang, Dien Bien, Dong Thap, Gia Lai, Ho Chi Minh City, Kon Tum, Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
At the sub-national level, access to social and child protection services for the most vulnerable groups of children has been strengthened through UNICEF’s support to local government and local partners for the operation of the community-based child protection systems. To date, the systems have been expanded to 124 communes within 35 districts in eight UNICEF focus provinces. These provinces, districts and communes have established inter-sectoral child protection committees that function to prevent, identify and respond to cases of child protection. Case conferences are conducted monthly, where case managers, multi-disciplinary staff and para-social workers discuss specific cases of children in need of special protection to find the best solutions for the child and their family.

The provincial Social Work Service Centres, operating in An Giang, Dong Thap, Ho Chi Minh City, Kon Tum, Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan, continued to coordinate with the local child protection committees to deliver social and child protection services. These services include case management, psychological support, health care, care and support for victims of trafficking, emergency protection services, legal aid, alternative care and community-based and residential support for orphans and children with disabilities. About 4,551 children in need of special protection in 124 project communes were provided with support, referred to relevant services and placed under case management. In addition, 10,650 children in difficult circumstances and in conflict with the law in Ho Chi Minh City accessed counselling, psychosocial support, legal aid and other basic services, including education, health care and social support. Communication activities and awareness raising on prevention of abuse and violence against children was conducted in these localities, reaching approximately 39,100 parents and children.

UNICEF continued to build capacity for child protection frontline workers and staff of the Social Work Service Centres, who act as the backbone of the child protection system and deliver services. Training on basic prevention of child abuse, violence and exploitation, relevant child protection laws and policies, basic case management and social work principles was provided to approximately 1,733 case managers and collaborators. The trainees were also supported to organize communication activities for parents and caregivers, teachers and children to strengthen awareness on child protection issues and report problems to the local child protection committees.

OUTCOME 4: By 2016, increased quality and effective management of a comprehensive national health system, including health promotion and health protection, with a focus on ensuring more equitable access for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Government successfully operationalized the national action plan on maternal, newborn and child health for 2016–2020, the national guideline on reproductive health care and the national guideline on linkage and integration of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV into the reproductive health-care system. The Government also institutionalized and scaled up early essential new born care and kangaroo mother care interventions in all provincial health facilities and more than two thirds of the national and provincial-level health
facilities, respectively. These long-term planning and implementation frameworks have refocused child survival as well as supported the improvement of the quality of care for children in sub-national health facilities.

The oral polio vaccine switch was successfully implemented, complying with acceptable global standards. The national transition plan for GAVI support, serving as the roadmap for graduation from GAVI support, was also launched.

UNICEF Viet Nam contributed to these achievements through provision of technical assistance and advice, organization of nation-wide advocacy meetings and workshops, provision of provincial-level capacity building and coaching and supportive supervision. UNICEF Viet Nam also helped to develop and disseminate communication materials to promote early essential newborn care and kangaroo mother care, and provided provincial and district capacity building on immunization in hard-to-reach areas, in partnership with WHO, UNFPA and other development partners.

The Government included the concept of the first 1,000 days in a child’s life in the 2016 Child Law, developed and approved the decree on food fortification regulating mandatory iodization of salt and use of iodized salt in food processing, wheat flour fortification with zinc and iron and fortification of cooking oil with vitamin A. In addition, the Ministry of Health developed and approved a national guideline on integrated management of severe acute malnutrition and this made Viet Nam the third country in the region to adopt such a guideline, in line with 2013 WHO recommendations.

The Government also conducted a midterm review of the implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy 2011–2020 and the results of this review were used for the development of the national action plan for nutrition for 2016–2020. Viet Nam’s experience on the standardization and accreditation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative into a policy on quality assessment criteria for hospitals has been used as reference for UNICEF and WHO at headquarter level to develop a global guideline on this initiative. UNICEF Viet Nam led this support as a core mandated area of work and contributed to this success.

Emergency nutrition interventions were successfully implemented. This prevented about 123,000 pregnant and lactating women and 83,000 young children between 6 and 23 months of age from suffering from micronutrient deficiencies and contributed to saving the lives of about 7,000 children, aged from 6 months to 5 years, who suffered from severe acute malnutrition due to the 2016 drought crisis, through provision of early detection, rehabilitation and treatment services. UNICEF Viet Nam contributed significant technical and financial support to achieve these outcomes.

The Government has achieved the 2016 target of 65 per cent of rural households with access to hygienic latrines, an increase from the 55 per cent baseline in 2011. UNICEF contributed to this achievement through consistent technical and financial support to VIHEMA, which was the basis for strong capacity development in the planning and management of the national programme.

With joint advocacy and technical assistance provided by UNICEF and WHO, the National Programme document on Water Safety 2016–2020 was prepared as a collaborative effort among three ministries, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Health. In addition, UNICEF successfully convinced the technical working group to agree to develop a framework and an action plan for rural water safety to implement the national programme. As a supportive measure to promote rural drinking water safety, a guideline for the promotion of improved management of rural water supply schemes and a supportive directive to strengthen effective operation and
maintenance were issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in December 2016, with technical assistance from UNICEF.

The national guideline for the verification and certification of open defecation-free villages was also developed in 2016. This result was based on evidence generated by UNICEF-supported pilot programmes at sub-national level. Following the issuance of the guideline in April 2016, the Viet Nam Institute of Health and Environmental Management Agency has extended support to all 64 provinces to develop provincial open defecation-free action plans. This ongoing effort is in line with the national commitment to eliminate open defecation by 2025.

During 2016, UNICEF successfully advocated the Government to develop risk resilient programmes, with leadership of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the 2017–2021 Country Programme. The 2016 Global Handwashing Day and World Toilet Day was used to reinforce the promotion of behaviours and services that meet the challenges related to climate change related risks.

Key programme constraints and challenges remain the need for more effective national coordinating mechanisms for child survival initiatives that continuously show integration and cross-sectoral linkages. Relatedly, external programme finance has reduced due to the mid-income status of the country.

**OUTPUT 1:** By 2016, identified beneficiaries are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable, quality and integrated basic maternal, newborn and child health services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Government developed a national action plan on maternal, newborn and child health for 2016–2020 and national guidelines on implementation of maternal, newborn and child health interventions. UNICEF contributed to this achievement through technical assistance in the development and nationwide dissemination of the action plan and guidelines, in partnership with WHO, UNFPA and other development partners.

In 2016, the Government also institutionalized and scaled up early essential newborn care in all national and provincial-level health facilities in Viet Nam. UNICEF contributed to this achievement through provision of provincial capacity building, coaching and supervision on early essential newborn care performance in selected disadvantaged provinces by national experts, as well as development and dissemination of communication materials to promote early essential newborn care implementation. A key challenge is the scaling up of early essential newborn care following C-sections, especially where there is a shortage of expert obstetricians and paediatricians.

In addition, the Government has institutionalized and scaled up kangaroo mother care, a critical child survival initiative, with capacity building for 45 provinces and implementation in 30 provinces. UNICEF contributed to this success through support to the development of the Ministry of Health’s circular, a directive and training guideline on kangaroo mother care, ensuring an enabling environment for kangaroo mother care. UNICEF Viet Nam also helped to strengthen the regional centres of excellence for early essential newborn care and kangaroo mother care, facilitated South-South collaboration and international exchange on kangaroo mother care as well as documentation and dissemination of kangaroo mother care practices.

With the support of UNICEF, Viet Nam like many other countries successfully conducted the global oral polio vaccine switch from the trivalent oral polio vaccine to bivalent oral polio.
vaccine, ensuring an adequate supply of the bivalent oral polio vaccine. UNICEF offered technical support in the planning and monitoring of this process all over the country. Adequate pentavalent vaccines, financed by GAVI, have been timely supplied for the national Expanded Programme on Immunization. In addition, a mechanism for the Expanded Programme to use UNICEF’s procurement services to purchase pentavalent vaccines at a cheaper price was established, which helped the country to not only ensure vaccine security but also save US$3.4 million annually. Improved knowledge and understanding of vaccine and cold chain management was built among provincial and district-level staff through training and supportive supervision. Supported by UNICEF Viet Nam, the national GAVI Transition Plan for Viet Nam was finalized and validated using UNICEF technical assistance, in partnership with WHO and GAVI. This plan will see the graduation of Viet Nam from GAVI support in immunization over a three-year period.

In addition, in 2016 the Ministry of Health institutionalized and integrated prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and hepatitis B and syphilis prevention and control activities into the national maternal and child health-care system. UNICEF contributed to this result through provision of technical support for the development, approval and dissemination of two national guidelines on provincial-level capacity building on this integration for provincial maternal and child health-care staff.

OUTPUT 2: By 2016, identified beneficiaries benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable, quality, and integrated nutrition services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A new government decree on food fortification was developed and approved by the Government, regulating mandatory iodisation of salt and use of this in food processing, wheat flour fortification with zinc and iron and cooking oil with vitamin A. This is a turning point that provides an opportunity for the national nutrition programme to achieve micronutrient prevention and control, especially among women and young children.

A national guideline on integrated management of severe acute malnutrition was approved by Ministry of Health, making Viet Nam the third country in the region to adopt such a guideline in line with 2013 WHO recommendations. The guideline will serve as a strong legal ground to advocate for inclusion of nutrition examination, counselling and treatment of malnutrition into the health insurance scheme.

Viet Nam’s experience on standardization and accreditation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative into a policy on quality assessment criteria for hospitals has been used as reference for UNICEF and WHO to develop a global guideline on the initiative.

The 2016 Child Law included the concept of the first 1,000 days of a child’s life, which is a golden window for intervention on child health nutrition. This inclusion serves as a strong legal foundation to advocate for inclusion of nutrition examination, counselling and treatment of malnutrition into the health insurance scheme.

The midterm review of the implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy 2011–2020 was carried out. Building on this review, a new National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2016–2020 has been formulated, with a focus on the first 1,000 days of a child’s life as a window of opportunity.

Strategic and technical support was provided to Ministry of Health to successfully advocate for the Government and National Assembly to maintain the ban on advertisement of breast-milk substitutes for children up to 24 months in the law on advertisement.
Nutrition profiles at the national and provincial level were formulated, and will be uploaded and shared on the National Nutrition Institute website for planning of nutrition interventions.

With UNICEF Viet Nam support, a practical guideline on nutrition social marketing was developed and officially used in the nutrition programme network. This provides an opportunity to scale up the private-public partnership in solving the problem of undernutrition.

A practical training programme on emergency nutrition was designed by UNICEF Viet Nam with technical support from the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office. A training course was also conducted that helped improve the capacity of responsible health officers in dealing with the nutrition emergency situation in disaster-prone provinces in Viet Nam.

A first-ever comprehensive emergency nutrition intervention plan was designed and implemented. This has helped to prevent 123,000 pregnant and lactating women and 83,000 young children between 6 and 23 months from suffering from micronutrient deficiencies. The interventions also contributed to saving the lives of about 7,000 children between 6 months and 5 years, who suffered from severe acute malnutrition due to the 2016 drought and saltwater intrusion crisis.

OUTPUT 3: By 2016, identified beneficiaries benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and hygienic sanitation.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF Viet Nam and WHO jointly worked to establish the National Programme on Drinking Water Safety for 2016–2020. This is the first time a national programme has addressed rural drinking-water safety, ensuring collaboration with three line ministries. UNICEF provided technical assistance that enabled the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop a guideline and national plan to improve the management of the rural water supply schemes. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development also initiated support to planning and capacity development in underperforming provinces to further promote sustainable and safe water.

UNICEF facilitated South-South technical collaboration through a Cambodia-based NGO, Resource Development International, to manufacture innovative clay-pot filters in An Giang Province. As the product is manufactured locally, it has raised the potential to scale up household water treatment and safe storage as the poorest quintile population can afford the filters. While supporting this research and development, UNICEF also strengthened the leadership of the National Centre for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. This process has contributed to the development of national and provincial capacity to promote public-private partnerships in this emerging area. With technical assistance from UNICEF, the Viet Nam Institute of Health and Environmental Management Agency supported scaling up sanitation by using community approaches to total sanitation and sanitation marketing in 21 underdeveloped provinces. Training was provided on how to strengthen the supply chain, introduce low-cost toilet options and introduce effective community mobilization.

Following the recommendation of the midterm review, UNICEF Viet Nam initiated another WASH in Schools programme. This initiative intends to explore the strength of children as change agents to promote improved sanitation hygiene and safe drinking water behaviour through schools and communes. The Ministry of Education and Training is being supported to review the existing teaching materials in this area.

In addition, UNICEF strengthened the emergency coordination capacity of both standing and partnership offices in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to ensure better
preparedness and response on the WASH component. This process has strengthened the leadership of the Government and helped NGOs and the Red Cross to align their emergency response to reach the most vulnerable population groups during the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Ho Chi Minh City are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH and maternal, newborn and child health) services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.

**OUTPUT 5:** By 2016, identified beneficiaries in An Giang Province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH and maternal, newborn and child health) services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.

**OUTPUT 6:** By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Dong Thap Province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH & maternal, newborn and child health) services

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.
OUTPUT 7: By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Ninh Thuan Province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH and maternal, newborn and child health) services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 8: By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Kon Tum Province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH and maternal, newborn and child health) services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 9: By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Dien Bien Province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH and maternal, newborn and child health) services.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 10: By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Gia Lai Province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH and maternal, newborn and child health) services.
Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 11: By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Lao Cai province are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic child survival and development (nutrition, WASH and maternal, newborn and child health) services.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Following the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, the management of sub-national results using eight Child Survival and Development Provincial Outputs has proven to be a complex results structure and very ineffective in results reporting. Therefore, the eight outputs for managing results at sub-national levels have been merged into one consolidated child survival and development provincial output, offering a more efficient platform to manage programme implementation over the eight focus provinces of UNICEF in Viet Nam. Report on this output is integrated into the reporting of Output ‘Child Survival and Development Consolidated Provincial Output’.

OUTPUT 12: Technical assistance for the child survival and development programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The coordination and technical assistance role of the Child Survival and Development section in planning, implementation and monitoring of results remained on track. Regular meetings with counterparts to review implementation and budget utilization have been organized and appropriate steps have been taken to ensure programming is on track. The number of field visits organized to review progress and technical assistance support across all the UNICEF-supported provinces met HACT compliance.

Global and regional technical support and advice was mobilized for the development and implementation of policies, action plans and guidelines on maternal and child health, nutrition, and water and hygienic sanitation.

UNICEF facilitated technical assistance from a Cambodia-based NGO, Resource Development International, to assist a private company to manufacture an innovative ceramic clay-pot filter that has the potential to scale up household water treatment and safe storage at an affordable price. Technical assistance was also successfully extended to Dien Bien Province to partner with an architectural company to develop a model for green WASH facilities in a boarding school. The facility developed is now operational and is receiving national attention.

Finally, technical assistance was provided to a WASH financing study in Viet Nam and documentation of a Viet Nam WASH equity case study.
OUTPUT 13: By 2016, identified beneficiaries in Ho Chi Minh City, An Giang, Dong Thap, Ninh Thuan, Kon Tum, Dien Bien, Gia Lai and Lao Cai are covered with social health insurance and benefit equitably from increased access to sustainable and quality basic integrated child survival and development services (maternal, newborn and child health, Nutrition, WASH).

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Models on social marketing of iron folic supplementation for prevention and control of anaemia among women and community-integrated health, nutrition and water sanitation for stunting reduction were implemented in Dong Thap and An Giang and Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces, respectively.

UNICEF led the WASH and nutrition components of the joint United Nations response to the drought and saltwater intrusion emergency and reached more than 337,937 people, including 45,000 girls and 127,000 women, in 10 provinces. Emergency nutrition interventions were successfully implemented, preventing micronutrient deficiencies among 123,000 pregnant and lactating women and 83,000 young children between 6 and 23 months. The interventions also contributed to saving the lives of about 7,000 children, aged 6 months to 5 years, suffering from severe acute malnutrition due to the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis. The interventions focused on early detection, rehabilitation and treatment services at either hospitals or community under an emergency context.

Implementation of early essential newborn care and kangaroo mother care and integration of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the reproductive health-care system was scaled up at provincial and district levels in eight UNICEF-supported provinces. UNICEF provided training, coaching and supervision on early essential newborn care and kangaroo mother care to more than 600 health-care workers, leading to effective implementation in eight provinces that directly benefited 4,575 mothers and their newborn infants. The UNICEF support also led to provision of early essential newborn care and kangaroo mother care services to 30,858 newborns and their mothers and 693 low birthweight newborns.

Inpatient guidelines on nutrition screening, assessment and counselling, focusing on pregnant women and children, were developed and tested in hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City, and will be used as reference for the Ministry of Health to develop a national guideline. Apart from awareness raising on the need and importance of prioritizing nutrition criteria in hospitals by hospital leaders, training on nutrition screening, assessment and counselling for 1,000 responsible health staff was conducted, resulting in 82 per cent of hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City applying the guidelines properly. Early essential newborn care following C-sections was successfully implemented in two hospitals (Hung Vuong and Tu Du) through provision of training on the 10 steps of successful breastfeeding and early essential newborn care following C-sections for 54 and 80 health staff, respectively.

UNICEF’s support increased the sanitation coverage among 55,000 people in seven provinces. At least 123 villages were declared open defecation free. The WASH in Schools interventions in 20 schools benefited about 6,000 children in An Giang and Dien Bien provinces. An innovative child-friendly WASH facility was demonstrated in a boarding school in Dien Bien. The child-friendly model is gaining popularity, as it uses local building materials that keep the cost low. With UNICEF’s assistance, the departments of agriculture and rural development in focus provinces promoted household water treatment and safe storage among a rural population of 21,000. In addition, UNICEF facilitated the production of a clay-pot filter in An Giang Province, through technical collaboration with an NGO in Cambodia.
OUTCOME 5: By 2016, increased quality and effective management of education and training systems, and increased access to pre-primary, primary and non-formal education, particularly for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF’s leveraging capacity and convening role helped to influence the education system in the area of early childhood development, inclusive education and pre-learning and these efforts were recognized by the Government, development partners and United Nations agencies.

UNICEF influenced the quality of the education system through strong support to equitable policy actions, such as the inclusion of a chapter on equitable and inclusive education in the Child Law, followed by support to the drafting of sub-law documents to implement inclusive education for the most vulnerable children, including ethnic minority children and children with disabilities. The Ministry of Education and Training was proactive in promoting partnerships in various fields, from ethnic minority education to ECD and inclusive education for children with disabilities. Growing awareness of the importance of inclusive education for the most vulnerable children was observed at different levels. UNICEF support was provided to the organization of round tables and workshops on ECD and ethnic minority education, as well as an international conference on the development of human resources and occupational therapy to cope with the high demand for inclusive education for children with disabilities.

In 2016, inclusive education of children with disabilities was upheld through the participation and engagement of multiple stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, development partners, civil society organizations and the National Assembly. This resulted in greater awareness of the issue and enhanced not only policy measures to respond to the educational needs of children with disabilities but also the implementation, for example, those related to the operationalization of provincial inclusive education research centres. To articulate all these policies and their effective implementation, an inter-ministerial circular stipulating codes and standards for occupational titles and benefit allowances for staff supporting the education of persons with disabilities in public education institutions, and which UNICEF supported throughout the process, was issued in June 2016. In parallel, a new curriculum with a corresponding training code was developed, while initial and in-service teacher training was conducted by the Ha Noi National University of Education, the National College of Education and provincial teacher training colleges.

Recommendations from the final evaluation of the UNICEF-supported Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education Initiative were integrated into government decisions and national target programmes to improve the quality of ethnic minority education and, more specifically, the learning outcomes at the lower secondary level. The lower secondary level is experiencing a dropout trend, as seen in the Updated Analysis on Out-of-School Children study (2016). A preliminary study involving different counterparts, including ethnic minority education departments, researchers from the Viet Nam Institute of Educational Science and led by the Secondary Education Department, was conducted and highlighted the main issues affecting ethnic minority children at lower secondary levels, especially in the northern mountainous areas, the Central Highlands and the Mekong River Delta region.

Through technical support, advocacy and capacity building to education managers and planners, UNICEF brought forward the equity focus and results-based indicators in the annual and the next five-year education sector plans, which contributed to improving national and sub-national socio-economic development plans. With this strategic support, increased resources were mobilized by the Ministry of Education and Training and provincial Departments of Education and Training to ensure more investment to improve learning for
the most vulnerable children. Significant policies on human resources to ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities and ethnic minority children were issued in 2016, based on evidence generated by research and policy dialogues supported by UNICEF. Important tools for better preparedness and response to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation were made available, such as a portal with a computerized information system on disaster management prior to, during and after emergencies and an awareness raising video aired on national television channels. It also built the capacity of education officials for its operationalization country-wide.

UNICEF contributed to enhancing the transparency, accountability and capacity for effective and efficient management of official development assistance, including development loans by Ministry of Education and Training, through the establishment of a database framework on such assistance for the education sector. This tool allows an assessment of the scope and flows of financial resources from development partners at the national level through the provincial level down to individual schools, thus enabling a system-wide monitoring tool.

OUTPUT 1: By 2016, disadvantaged children benefit from an education system that provides quality and relevant inclusive education.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
With UNICEF’s contribution to training, orientation and evidence-based advocacy to national and sub-national policy makers and authorities, a significant improvement in the quality and gender-responsiveness of inclusive education for children in Viet Nam was achieved during 2016. Greater awareness and improved skills of education managers and teachers at all levels in working with children with disabilities and ethnic minority and migrant children, both in rural and urban settings, was observed, following important policy measures and a better quality of education.

Recommendations from the evaluation of the UNICEF-supported Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education initiative were integrated into government decisions and programmes to improve the quality of ethnic minority education. Together with the 2007–2015 Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education Action Research report, the evaluation includes evidence on the need to implement culturally and language-sensitive education programmes in Viet Nam.

Findings and recommendations from robust studies on Early Childhood Education and Development in densely populated areas, industrial zones and ethnic minority areas in Viet Nam for children under three enabled the budgeted action plan of Ministry of Education and Training, which is embedded in the national ECED scheme for 2016-2025. This action plan focuses on addressing issues on quality, safety and child development in independent, family-based childcare groups and centres for young children.

For the newly-approved Child Law to be implemented in the education sector and to promote child protection in schools, Ministry of Education and Training was supported to draft a decree on a safe, friendly and non-violent education setting. Together with other UN agencies, UNICEF also provided detailed guidance on how to implement the Child Law. Additionally, secondary schools came up with an innovative teaching toolkit (Connect with Respect) that aims at stemming the alarming problem of gender-based violence against students. The toolkit provides learning activities (role plays and group tasks) to promote respectful relationships and gender equality among students 11-14 years old. Ministry of Education and Training managers and decision makers have become aware that gender-related violence in and outside schools needs immediate action as there will otherwise be
severe consequences in school settings, undermining efforts to achieve quality, inclusive and equitable education.

UNICEF contributed to the adoption of a joint circular stipulating codes and standards for occupational titles and benefit allowances for staff supporting the education of persons with disabilities (the Job Code) in June. This was co-signed by the Vice Ministers of Home Affairs, Finance and Education and Training. In the wake of this circular, a pre-service curriculum at university-level education for training support workers was developed, with a new training code officially granted by Ministry of Education and Training to Ha Noi National University of Education to launch this pre-service training. Likewise, an in-service teacher training course was developed by Ministry of Education and Training and aims to develop sustainable human resources in inclusive education for children with disabilities. The scope of knowledge, research and evidence expanded with various international workshops on issues such as human resource development for inclusive education for children with disabilities and occupational therapy in special and inclusive education.

OUTPUT 2: By 2016, education managers undertake child-focused national education planning, monitoring and evaluation, and provide response to emergencies and climate change.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF leveraged resources from domestic and other development partners to ensure equity in education. UNICEF also influenced the quality of sustainable education sector plans in line with the Socio-economic Development Plan and the education sector plan, at both national and provincial level through technical support to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Training and provincial Departments of Education and Training in education sector planning and budgeting. Out-of-school children, particularly children with disabilities and migrant children, are now better reflected in the planned targets and interventions, which are financed through provincial resources. The Ministry of Education and Training also mobilized substantive engagement from other high-level decision-making institutions, such as the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Department of Finance and provincial departments of planning and investment, ensuring dialogue and increased consensus on equity in education issues.

An official development assistance database for the education sector is now available. This marked an important stepping stone towards an assessment of the scope and establishment of a system-wide monitoring of the flow of external financial resources from the national level to individual schools. UNICEF’s contribution to this was key in terms of enhancing the capacity of Education managers in managing the official development assistance in a more transparent, effective way through the development of this database.

A final report on out-of-school children in Viet Nam, provided, for the first time ever, disaggregated evidence on disparities by quintiles and regions. The Ministry of Education and Training developed a systematic approach, including fact-finding missions to six provinces that generated ownership to track out-of-school children. Although the rate of out-of-school children has decreased, falling from 11.2 per cent in 2009 (Census) to 8.1 per cent in 2014, the situation is still critical at the lower secondary education level. As a result, UNICEF supported Ministry of Education and Training to conduct in-depth qualitative analysis of lower secondary education, focusing on five provinces with a high concentration of ethnic minorities. This analysis also highlighted gender issues, the lack of culturally sensitive teaching and learning approaches and school management practices that do not efficiently address disparities and limit the transition from lower to upper secondary education.
Curriculum on disaster risk reduction and climate change was finalized and is available for dissemination through national training, starting with 300 core teachers in the Mekong Delta, to strengthen school preparedness and resilience to disaster risks and climate change. In addition, Ministry of Education and Training finalized a portal with a computerized information system for disaster management prior to, during and after emergencies. It also built the capacity of education officials for its operationalization country-wide. Ministry of Education and Training leveraged government resources for this online reporting system, building on education in emergencies needs assessment tools supported by UNICEF.

Finally, the Ministry of Education and Training officially launched the South-East Asia Primary Learning Metrics assessment of learning outcomes of 10-year-old children, and Viet Nam is included, along with six other countries in the region, in the initiative. Ministry of Education and Training also participated in the related Steering Committee meeting and demonstrated strong commitment by putting in place the relevant structures and mechanisms to conduct the full assessment in 2018.

**OUTPUT 3:** Technical assistance for education programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Technical assistance for the Education programme is effectively and efficiently managed and implemented, through quality assurance, technical expertise and results monitoring for children.

In 2016, UNICEF provided high-quality technical assistance to enhance inclusive and equitable education policies and management practices and improve the capacity of the education system for monitoring results at provincial and central levels in Viet Nam. This technical assistance was made available through policy advice, quality assurance, technical guidance, results monitoring, a leveraging and convening capacity as well as facilitating learning from global best practices.

A team of international and national technical staff was at the forefront to engage strategically with the Ministry of Education and Training, other central-level ministries, provincial Departments of Education and Training, development partners, donors and United Nations agencies in policy dialogue, joint field missions and regional forums to generate commitment to education equity. The Education section also made use of technical expertise in the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office to facilitate exchange and exposure to international best practices and South-South cooperation. The engagement and technical assistance by the programme team was not limited to delivering programmes funded by UNICEF, but it systematically strived to influence the system’s practices and leverage resources for children. As a result, equity-focused sector plans, emergency reporting systems, curriculum on disaster risk reduction, capacity development and policy monitoring have become available, allowing the Ministry of Education and Training and provincial Departments of Education and Training to leverage resources for improved system capacity for reform in the entire system. This has provided a good foundation for UNICEF to further collaborate with the Government on strategic outcome areas in the new Country Programme for 2017–2021 and to advance equity.

UNICEF’s technical assistance was recognized by the Government as a key comparative advantage, particularly in the context of education reform where Viet Nam, as a lower-middle-income country, has a range of new needs.
The Education programme provided substantial technical inputs and follow-up to the ongoing development of the Ministry of Education and Training’s action plan on the implementation of the SDG on education, as part of the SDG national action plan.

The programme played a significant role in initiating and strengthening partnerships with United Nations agencies, development partners and academia in inclusive education for children with disabilities, ethnic minority children, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the education sector and an out-of-school children initiative. The Education section also played a key role in advocacy on shifting from early childhood education to integrated early childhood development in Viet Nam, which calls for cross-sectoral coordination and better investment from the Government for the first 1,000 days of a child’s life and better school preparedness. This, in turn, results in better economic and social returns.

Throughout the implementation, the programme contributed to a reduction of barriers, which hindered the right to education of disadvantaged children, including addressing the challenges pertaining to the demand for education from parents and the supply and quality of education provided by the education system.

OUTPUT 4: By 2016, disadvantaged children, particularly ethnic minority children, in selected provinces benefit from relevant and quality preschool and basic education supported by the provincial Education Sector Plans.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With UNICEF support, eight provinces continued to improve education sector planning with a stronger equity focus, through systematic analysis of key equity issues with provincial stakeholders (including the departments of planning and investment and departments of finance). Local resources were subsequently mobilized to advance education for the most disadvantaged children.

With UNICEF support, field-testing of the safe school model was conducted in four provinces. The training reached 240 education managers and core teachers who were able to further lead this initiative on the ground. Key interventions aligned with three key pillars, including (1) safe learning facilities; (2) school disaster management and (3) risk reduction and resilience education. This formed a strong foundation for preparedness and resilience building, while feeding into the Ministry of Education and Training-led process to develop a national guidance package for comprehensive school safety.

Education authorities from six provinces engaged in the development of provincial reports on out-of-school children, which helped improve the statistical system to track out-of-school children and identify actions to accelerate access to education for all children.

Inclusive education for children with disabilities was strengthened in four provinces, with more than 500 education managers and teachers trained on early identification and early interventions for children with disabilities and application of innovative techniques to work with children with learning disabilities and children with autism. An important platform of education managers from 10 provincial Departments of Education and Training was convened in Ninh Thuan Province to share good practices and lessons learned on the establishment and operation of provincial inclusive education resource centres.

Community-based early childhood education and childcare development interventions were initiated in Ho Chi Minh City, Lao Cai and Dien Bien. In Ho Chi Minh City, childcare for migrant children in industrial zones was improved, following training of care givers, a key initiative UNICEF supported together with a survey and an on-the-job training curriculum. Findings from this survey led to increased awareness of the City’s authorities on issues related to the childcare of working parents in industrial zones and resulted in the adoption of
a decision to support half of the allowance for overtime for preschool teachers in selected districts in processing zones.

Ethnic minority children in Lao Cai and Dien Bien enjoyed an improved learning environment, with trained teachers on culturally and gender-sensitive curriculum, life skills education and hygienic sanitation practices as well as parenting education.

UNICEF contributed to the policy dialogue on selection, deployment and development of ethnic minority teachers that was conducted in Ninh Thuan and An Giang provinces to ensure the effective use of available ethnic minority teaching resources. Ethnic minority education was expanded at provincial level with the implementation of mother tongue-based bilingual education implemented in An Giang and Lao Cai provinces with local resources. The adoption of the J’Rai mother tongue-based bilingual programme was submitted to the Gia Lai provincial authorities.

**OUTCOME 6: UNICEF Viet Nam is able to deliver programmatic results effectively through enhanced coordination, communication and partnership.**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The C4D unit has provided the technical lead in behaviour and social change related areas, supporting the achievement of programme outcomes, with a focus on emergency response, ending violence against children, private sector partnerships, social inclusion of disadvantaged children, social assistance and C4D capacity building and evaluation.

The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation unit continued to make significant contributions to the preparation of the 2017–2021 Country Programme, including technical guidance and support to the development of strategy notes, the Country Programme Document and project documents.

The Ho Chi Minh City-based Programme Partnerships Office was instrumental in strengthening strategic private sector partnerships for programme results for children in an urban setting. This was done through an engagement on the issue of child rights and business with key industries, corporate leaders, the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the European Chamber of Commerce in Viet Nam, with a specific focus on the impact of the travel and tourism industry and the footwear and apparel industry on children of migrant workers.

Strategic partnerships for children were also strengthened by engaging the innovation ecosystem on social change for children and developing a baseline and theory of change for the Child Friendly City Initiative, which contributed to the development of key result areas for children for the 2017–2021 period.

**OUTPUT 1: The C4D function is strengthened and efficiently managed across all programme components, with a high level of quality assurance and technical expertise.**

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The C4D unit has provided the technical lead on behaviour and social change related areas to support the achievement of programme outcomes, with a focus on emergency response, ending violence against children, private sector partnerships, social inclusion of disadvantaged children, social assistance and C4D capacity building and evaluation. UNICEF Viet Nam was also part of the global evaluation of UNICEF C4D capacity and the results of this evaluation were widely disseminated.
C4D participated in the emergency response to the drought and saltwater intrusion crisis and supported the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at national and sub-national levels in the most affected provinces with life-saving behaviour change communication on nutrition, water treatment and hygiene promotion. Interventions included behaviour change communication capacity building, information, and education and communication materials, including guidelines on interpersonal communication in emergencies, mass media activities and community/school-based interpersonal communication and mobilization activities. C4D also supported coordination with other United Nations agencies and partners, sharing relevant information and jointly planning behaviour change communication activities.

In child protection, C4D has focused on system strengthening with the development of a set of C4D skills training manuals for child protection communication planners and community-based collaborators. The dissemination of these will be used as a resource for the social work training curriculum. High-profile public advocacy campaigns were also carried out, as well as the development of communication training materials for grass-roots workers on prevention of human trafficking.

A series of capacity mapping and capacity-building workshops were held as part of the headquarters-led initiative with the Australian RMIT University and Indian University of Hyderabad.

To promote hand washing with soap and breastfeeding for workers in factories that are members of the iCare Benefits programme, C4D, together with the Child Survival and Development and Programme Partnerships units, conducted a rapid assessment, which identified key bottlenecks and C4D approaches to achieve long-term behaviour change impact. This was followed by a planning workshop to develop related toolkits. The C4D plan on hand washing with soap and breastfeeding promotion in factories was developed and was shared with iCare Benefits.

C4D continues to support the Ministry of Health to shift attitudes and change the behaviours of parents and childcare providers on immunization. UNICEF Viet Nam also worked with the Ministry of Education and Training on evidence-based advocacy related to child road traffic injury prevention and the promotion of child helmet use. Research on behavioural factors related to the use of/lack of compliance with child helmet wearing was conducted by the Ministry of Education and Training and the findings were widely disseminated.

The C4D strategy for the Social Assistance and System Strengthening Project was rolled out, focusing on policy advocacy communication and strengthening of community-based networks, data collection and household communication in the four provinces of Ha Giang, Lam Dong, Tra Vinh and Quang Nam.

Finally, communication materials on multidimensional child poverty, with a focus on ethnic minority children, were developed and utilized at various policy events.

OUTPUT 2: 5.2 Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation) unit played a dual role throughout the year. It proved high-quality Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation technical assistance to UNICEF programmes and One UN partners, as well as fostered the capacity development of implementing partners at national and sub-national levels in areas such as situation monitoring, results-based management, evaluation and results reporting.

In 2016, under the leadership of senior management, the Planning, Monitoring and
Evaluation unit continued to make significant contributions to the preparation of the 2017–2021 Country Programme, including technical guidance and support to the development of strategy notes, the Country Programme Document and project documents.

In addition, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation provided technical guidance, support and quality assurance to the National Disability Survey, the National Situation Analysis of Children, in-depth studies using Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 5 data as well as other evaluations, studies, donor reports and toolkit updates. The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation unit also managed and coordinated the Viet Nam in-depth study conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which provided a focused and granular understanding of key trends that will affect child rights in Viet Nam.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation supported the emergency team to establish and operationalize a humanitarian performance monitoring system, including field monitoring tools, review of beneficiary data and training of core staff to maintain the database.

Capacity development for UNICEF Viet Nam staff in results-based management was strengthened through the participation of two master trainers in a regional results-based management workshop, in-country results-based management training for 39 programme staff and support provided by the Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to a results-based management training session for UNICEF Mongolia.

In the area of evaluation, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation facilitated an assessment of UNICEF by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network and an evaluation of UNICEF’s capacity and action on C4D, led by UNICEF headquarters. The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation unit also collaborated closely with the UN Evaluation Group, the UNICEF Evaluation Office, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and other United Nations agencies in Viet Nam to provide technical advice and coordination support to the Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association International Evaluation Conference and the Regional Consultation on Equity Focused and Gender Responsive National Evaluation Policies and Systems, held in Viet Nam in November 2016. In addition, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation worked closely with other United Nations agencies to provide support to the Government’s implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

The evaluation of the Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education initiative was finalized and the management response was developed, approved and followed up to ensure the effective use of the evaluation. An evaluation of UNICEF support to child-sensitive planning, monitoring and evaluation of the socio-economic development plans is under way, while other important evaluations on the sanitation programme and emergency response interventions are planned for early 2017.

In addition, UNICEF Viet Nam, through the One UN RBM Working Group, was actively involved in providing technical assistance to and finalizing the review of the One Plan 2012–2016, and contributed to the formulation of the 2017–2021 One Strategic Plan of the United Nations in Viet Nam.

**OUTPUT 3:** Resources and partners, in particular the corporate sector, are leveraged and the Ho Chi Minh City Office is maintained to efficiently achieve results for children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The Programme Partnerships Office in Ho Chi Minh City (Ho Chi Minh City) was instrumental in strengthening strategic private sector partnerships to ensure programme results for children in an urban setting through engagement on child rights and business
issues with key industries, corporate leaders, the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the European Chamber of Commerce in Viet Nam. In partnership with the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNICEF Viet Nam hosted ‘Meet to Meet the SDGs’ events in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, which attracted more than 200 business representatives to discuss why, what and how business has a core responsibility to protect and support children, as part of their commitment to contribute to the SDGs.

Work on the Children’s Rights and Business Principles resulted in studies on the impact of the travel and tourism industry and the footwear and apparel industry on children of migrant workers. While the validation and finalization of the child rights and travel and tourism report is experiencing some delay, the study on child rights in the footwear and apparel industry was successfully validated, with the participation of factories, government departments, civil society organizations and business associations from Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding provinces. The study identified 10 areas of concern impacting on children of migrant workers, which will be addressed through a pilot factory programme and public private partnerships in 2017–2021.

The CEO of Icare Benefits, a UNICEF Viet Nam partner and social enterprise supporting factory workers, gave a keynote speech at the high-level Global Child Forum hosted by the Swedish royal family in Malaysia. The company continued to contribute non-financial assets to the development of comprehensive toolkits targeting factories in the footwear and apparel industry with behaviour change communication on breastfeeding and hand washing with soap.

UNICEF also strengthened its position as a leader and partner in the child-focused and youth-led innovation field by piloting and documenting community results from engaging marginalized and vulnerable young people as participants and leaders for social change. This was done through solution-driven social innovation initiatives such as Upshift, TikTok, Ulam Makers for children with disabilities and the Youth Speak on Violence against Children. A youth-led innovation forum was held with the Department of Science and Technology and youth-led organizations at the Saigon Innovation Hub, showcasing UNICEF’s partnership work and facilitating comments on and support for a youth-led innovation strategy for 2017–2021. This event was attended by the UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, key stakeholders and representatives from Ho Chi Minh City’s young start-up community, encouraging them to take children’s issues to the heart of innovation.

Likewise, cooperation was strengthened with the incoming leaders of the Ho Chi Minh City People’s Committee through high-level meetings on key priorities for children, such as the Child Rights Situation Analysis and the Child-Friendly City Initiative. A theory of change and strategy for the Child-Friendly City Initiative was developed, with key government bodies, civil society, youth-led organizations and private sector partners consulted during the process.

**Document Centre**

**Evaluation and research**

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<td>2016/015</td>
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<td>Situation of Child Poverty in Viet Nam in 2014</td>
<td>2016/007</td>
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Mid-Term Review of the five-year implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy, 2011–2015 2016/006 Review
Thematic Study on Gender Aspects in Child Development and Protection 2016/003 Study
Thematic Study on Ante-Natal Care Seeking Behaviour among Women Aged 15–49 2016/004 Study
Opportunities and Challenges for Civil Society Organizations in Children’s Rights in Viet Nam 2016/005 Study
Human Resources Mapping at Community Level in Selected Provinces of Viet Nam 2016/002 Study
Citizen Report Card Survey on User Satisfaction with Maternal and Child Healthcare at Difficult Communes in Gia Lai Province 2016/001 Study

Other publications

Title
Leaflet-Guide for using AQUATABS
Leaflet-Guide for using PUR
Poster-Call for use Micronutrients Tablet
Leaflet-Guide for using Micronutrients Powder
Leaflet-Guide for using Micronutrients Tablet
Communication Publications (Children and the Changing Climate)
Booklet profile and Human Interest Story to Ben Tre, Kon Tum, Ninh Thuan
Poster on 6-step Handwashing with Soap
Manual on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for households
Handbook on UN key messages for disaster risk reduction and disaster response
Leaflet and posters on early essential newborn care
2 video clips on South-south collaboration on early essential newborn care and Kangaroo mother care
Video clip on activities of J&J project in Dien Bien Province
Documentation video clip on Vietnam’s tOPV-bOPV switch roll-out 2016.
Animation clip to guide parents and child caretakers of children under 2 years old on how to monitor and care for children after vaccination
Training manual on behaviour change communication skills for immunization
Q&A Booklet on PDT-VGB_HIB vaccines
Video clip on child-sensitive Socio-Economic Development Plan
Leaflet on Multidimensional child poverty among ethnic minorities
Documentary ‘Co-exist, Adapt to and Develop Sustainably with Climate Change’

Lessons learned

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Programme documents
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