Overview 2015

2015 was once again a successful year for UNICEF Standby Arrangements.

221 deployments were undertaken, a significant increase from 2014 and returning to levels similar to 2012 and 2013, the highest deployment years to date. Partners provided UNICEF with a total of 25,689 days, or the equivalent of 70 full time staff working for emergency operations.

37 different Country or Regional Offices received support through standby deployments or Rapid Response Team members. 65% of support went to Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies or regional responses in: Iraq, South Sudan, Yemen, Central African Republic, Syria (including Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon), Ebola response (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia) Nepal, Pacific Islands, Nigeria (including Chad, Niger and Cameroon) and the European Refugee and Migrant Crisis.

Over the year deployments grew steadily between January and May with deployments primarily to Ebola countries, Vanuatu, Ukraine, Nepal, Malawi and Malawi. This was followed by a quieter period in July and August, picking up again at the end of the year with deployments to the European Refugee and Migrant Crisis, Ethiopia, Malawi and Iraq.

Through our partnerships, Standby Arrangements were once again able to deliver urgently needed expertise in a range of profiles to support children in need of assistance including in countries experiencing smaller, under funded and ‘forgotten’ emergencies, to complement UNICEF’s own response.

To further strengthen external standby capacity, UNICEF signed Standby Agreements with three new partners in 2015: ChildFund Alliance, IMPACT Initiatives and Justice Rapid Response.

UNICEF would like to thank our Standby Partners over 2015 and also the individual deployees who responded in emergencies to relieve the suffering of children and those who provide their care and to ensure special protection is provided for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.

Appropriate and experienced staff and personnel with relevant deployment training are provided and rapidly deployed, primarily through internal redeployment of staff. This is complemented by external recruitment and standby personnel to allow for recruitment of possible longer-term posts, as needed.

Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF 2010
Requests for Standby Arrangement support

UNICEF Standby Arrangements received 241 requests for a standby deployee in 2015.

The number of requests increased from 225 in 2014. Requests include Country and Regional Office requests, and HQ roles supporting the Rapid Response Teams (RRT field deployments are covered on page 5).

152 requests were Filled
11 roles have a deployee Identified and preparing to deploy
27 roles were Cancelled by the UNICEF Country Office as the role was no longer required or filled through other means
45 roles were Abandoned because no suitable candidate was found through Standby Arrangements
7 roles requested in 2015 are still Vacant, seeking candidates

Overall there was a positive outcome for 63% of all 2015 requests to date. The rate at which Standby Arrangements abandoned roles as no suitable candidate were found was 19%. For the preceding six years (2009-2014 inclusive) the rate has fluctuated between 11-19%, which means that the abandonment rate in 2015 was within expected outcomes. Roles were abandoned for a variety of reasons including not finding a candidate who matched the requirements of the Terms of Reference especially in finding French or Arabic speaking deployees, lack of funding from standby partners to support the role, or multiple concurrent emergencies reducing the pool of available candidates.

The percentage and absolute number of cancelled roles dropped in 2015. In 2014 the rapid emergency response in Ebola countries, where staffing needs changed quickly and multiple avenues were utilised to fill roles, led to cancellation of a higher number of standby requests than usual once filled through other avenues. In 2015, less roles were cancelled, reflecting both a recovery from the spike in 2014 as well as efficient planning by the Country Offices in 2015 emergencies and stronger collaboration and communication by UNICEF surge mechanisms (for example through the rapid establishment and distribution of Operational Staffing Matrices).
In 2015 42 UNICEF Country and Regional Offices requested support through Standby Arrangements. Requests were received from Level 2 and 3 emergencies, protracted crisis as well as smaller emergencies, showing that 

**Standby Arrangements are able to support emergencies receiving little global attention, less funding, and with fewer other options for support.**

One such example was in Burundi, where election-related violence caused over 175,000 to flee their homes in advance of rainy season, while the threat of a new cholera outbreak remained.

The European Refugee and Migrant Crisis response in Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia combined saw 22 roles requested with a success rate (filled and identified) of 73%. The Nepal response generated 18 requests, at a 78% success rate.

The countries with the highest numbers of abandoned roles were Nigeria, Iraq, Guinea, Vanuatu, Ethiopia and Niger.

In addition to requests from Country and Regional Offices, 15 new Rapid Response Team members started their terms on the Global Cluster RRT’s, responding to rapid cluster coordination, assessment and information management needs in emergencies as well as advancing global cluster work plans.

**Requests were primarily for the profiles of Child Protection, Information Management and WASH**, which are all traditionally areas of strong support from standby partners. Profiles such as telecoms and WASH are often requested for a shorter deployment duration, while others such as Education and Child Protection commonly require longer deployments, thus the graph shows total number of days requested to provide an accurate picture of the support that was required by UNICEF.

The number of Child Protection requests has remained very stable, between 43-46 for the previous five years. **WASH requests fluctuate more**, between 34-48, depending on the type of emergencies in that year. **Information management** was again a strong area of need with 43 requests, after dropping to 28 in 2014. **This year saw a big increase in Nutrition requests**, from between 11-13 in previous years to 23 requests in 2015.

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The [Annual Report 2015](#) of UNICEF Standby Arrangements provides a comprehensive overview of the organization’s efforts to support countries in need through various emergency responses and rapid response teams. This report highlights the effectiveness of Standby Arrangements in providing support to emergencies that often receive little global attention, with a focus on issues such as displacement, health crises, and humanitarian aid. The report emphasizes the importance of maintaining strong support for critical profiles like Child Protection, Information Management, and WASH, which are essential in ensuring effective assistance to those in need.

The report also underscores the role of Rapid Response Teams in responding to emergencies and coordinating efforts across different sectors. These teams play a crucial role in advancing global cluster work plans and addressing the immediate needs of affected populations.

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**Profiles**

- **Cash Programming, 1%**
- **Communication, 1%**
- **Construction, 1%**
- **DRR/DRM, 2%**
- **Education, 6%**
- **Emergency, 8%**
- **GBV, 2%**
- **Health, 2%**
- **Information Management, 20%**
- **Logistics, 0%**
- **Monitoring, 1%**
- **Nutrition, 12%**
- **Telecomms, 2%**
- **WASH, 16%**
- **Child Protection, 21%**
UNICEF deployed 164 standby partner (SBP) deployees in 2015. In addition, Rapid Response Team (RRT) members undertook 56 deployments from their respective base locations to support UNICEF led/co-led Clusters and Areas of Responsibility (AoRs). Both deployments increased in 2015, standby deployments up by 31 from 134, and RRT deployments up 12 from 44.

In total, Standby Arrangements deployed 25,689 days to UNICEF in 2015, the equivalent of 70 full time staff to emergency operations, the equivalent of approximately 13 million US dollars of in kind support.
In total, 37 different Country or Regional Offices received support through standby deployments or RRTs (an increase from 28 in 2014).

The following six Level 3 emergencies were active for UNICEF during all or part of 2015: Iraq, South Sudan, Yemen, Central African Republic, Syria (including Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon) and Ebola (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia).

Three Level 2 emergencies were declared in Nepal, Pacific Islands (cyclone Pam) and Nigeria (including Chad, Niger and Cameroon). The European Refugee and Migrant Crisis was also a regionally coordinated response.

Looking at these major emergencies during all or part of 2015, the Ebola response received the greatest percentage of support, 13% of total deployment days, followed by Pacific Islands 11%, Nigeria 9%, European Refugee and Migrant Crisis 8%, and Nepal 7%.

**Nigeria, Vanuatu, Malawi and Ukraine received the most days of standby support**

Andrew Parker, Chief of Field Office UNICEF Vanuatu: The deployees from Standby Arrangements were a critical complement to the UNICEF Regional Response Mechanism, allowing a lightly staffed Multi Country office to respond to an event affecting over half the population of Vanuatu whilst maintaining support and operations in the other 13 Pacific Island nations covered by the Suva office. Within the Vanuatu context, this additional support was highly appreciated by counterparts in supporting coordinated action across multiple sectors, augmenting the Government capacity with seasoned emergency personnel and contributing significantly to a well managed national response. The role of UNICEF in assisting national authorities to convene all stakeholders and reinforce cohesive action has been noted in numerous after action reports.

The initiative to reissue destroyed and or damaged birth certificates / registration documents to children in affected Islands was led by Ministry of Internal Affairs and supported by UNICEF Child Protection staff. Over 25% of the population were issued documents in the last nine months. The benefits in accessing relief previously denied those lacking registration documents has already been evident during the El Nino drought response and the longer term impact on both health and educational services is underlined by the respective Ministries.
Why did you join the Danish Refugee Council standby roster?

Being part of a UN Standby Roster, and especially the Danish Refugee Council, offers you the advantage of being part of a leading humanitarian INGO, while at the same time providing technical support to different UN Agencies in complex emergencies. The roster also offers you a lot of flexibility, of changing contexts and environments, a lot of capacity building opportunities (and I am a training addict) and especially, the endless support of a team who is constantly looking after you.

What sort of skills and experience did you have before joining the roster?

I have a Law background and a Human Rights postgraduate, and specialised myself then in Protection, Gender, Gender Based Violence, Disarmament/Demobilisation/Reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants and Civil-Military Coordination. Before joining the roster, I have worked as a Lawyer in Spain; had my first international field experience while volunteering in India; participated in field researches in Kosovo, South Africa and Zimbabwe; did an internship in Liberia with UN Women (linked to women’s political and economic empowerment, implementation of UNSCR 1325 and GBV); a traineeship with the Danish Refugee Council in DRCongo (protection and gender related) and worked for the European Commission’s DG ECHO (civil-military coordination and international relations). Speaking five languages (English, French, Spanish, Italian and intermediate Portuguese) has moreover considerably helped me to easily move and work through different continents.

Where has your career taken you since then?

After the consultancy with UNICEF DRCongo in Lubumbashi that followed the OJT deployment, I had two other missions through the roster. I can only thank the Danish Refugee Council for their trust and nomination for several missions, allowing me to continue growing in my professional career with UNHCR Iraq (Dohuk, Kurdistan) as a Child Protection Officer; and with UNICEF Croatia as a Child Protection in Emergencies Specialist.

What is next for you?

After having discovered my passion for CPiE and for being a trainer, I know it is in this field I want to continue being deployed, especially within UNICEF. I would moreover love getting another mission focusing on children’s DDR. I am currently having a break and continuing investing in my own capacity building (in CPiE but also looking into improving communication and leadership skills), but will soon be available again. I would absolutely like continuing to be a roster member and being deployed under that scheme, which can also be combined with interesting consultancies.

What was your most recent deployment like?

My latest deployment was in Croatia as a CPiE Specialist, where I supported UNICEF’s emergency response to the Europe refugee and migrant crisis. I also assumed the role of Emergency Coordinator during the first two months, managing and supervising the Field Emergency Response Team and all UNICEF emergency activities (WASH, Nutrition, Health and Child Protection). I cannot think of a more challenging mission than this one, due to the transitory nature of the refugees’/migrants’ stay in Croatia and the constantly changing context.

Iune Baravalle

deployed by Danish Refugee Council

UNICEF Democratic Republic of Congo 2013

UNICEF Croatia 2015

It was challenging to take on such responsibility but extremely fulfilling as it was a daily learning by doing experience with very positive results.
In the context of renewed fighting in Kachin and Northern Shan as well as the implementation of the Joint Action Plan signed between the UN and the Myanmar Government to prevent and stop the use and recruitment of children by armed forces, UNICEF Myanmar requested support to strengthen the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations against children.

Deployees coordinated monitoring and verification of grave violations, provided support to training of UN/NGO staff, community-based child protection monitoring and conducted awareness raising on recruitment of children by armed groups.

As of January 2015, a total of 595 boys and young men have been discharged from the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) and reintegrated into their communities. As a result of the Action Plan, Tatmadaw personnel are increasingly aware of the prohibition of child recruitment and have undertaken efforts to strengthen recruitment policies to prevent future child recruitment.

Veronique Riccio-Derksen
Dominique Reinecke
deployed by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
Annelies Ollieuz was deployed to UNICEF Nepal by NRC’s emergency roster NORCAP to assist the Nepalese government and the UN in their efforts to get children back in school as quickly as possible after the earthquake. Her main tasks were to ensure that children in the crisis affected areas were supported to return back to school, to ensure that safe child friendly spaces were created and to ensure that the affected children received the protection and psychosocial assistance they needed.

Carl-Johan Bäckström is deployed by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) to UNICEF Cambodia as a Risk Reduction and Preparedness Officer.

Cambodia is exposed to a range of natural hazards. Hazards like floods, droughts and storms happens on a more or less annual basis. During 2015 attention has been on the drought that has been affecting part of the country. One of the reasons behind the drought conditions is most likely El Niño, which is already among the strongest one on record. I have been working on monitoring the situation and assessing the impact on livelihoods. All my work is done in close cooperation with the government, UN, NGOs and UNICEF Regional Office.

In order to contribute to improve emergency preparedness and response (EPR) and to reduce disaster risk in general I have supported UNICEF Cambodia to increase the understanding of risk and its driving factors, as well as enhancing the ability to identify, assess and reduce risks. Part of that work has been supporting the office to increase EPR and disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions in the next country program (2016-2018), and also conducting an internal EPR/DRR training in cooperation with UNICEF regional office for UNICEF Cambodia’s critical EPR and DRR staff such as section chiefs, zone chiefs and emergency focal points.

The World Risk Report 2014 classifies Cambodia as the 9th most at risk country in the world so a lot of work still needs to be done to reduce the disaster risk for girls, boys, women and men. As a deployee, it feels good to be contributing to that important work. During my assignment I have also learnt a lot and it has been a great experience working for MSB, deployed to UNICEF.

Helen Sandbu Ryeng was deployed as a Communication Specialist with UNICEF Liberia, responding during the Ebola emergency.

Through her deployment, Helene raised awareness on Ebola and preventive measures through working with local media, relevant Ministries and other partners, as well as created increased visibility for UNICEF Liberia through media relations, managing social media, external communication and field trips for media and donors. Helene found the deployment very rewarding: ‘UNICEF took the lead on social mobilization in the context of the Ebola outbreak. Supporting the awareness raising efforts has been key to the response. I am proud of what UNICEF has been able to achieve on the ground in the fight against Ebola.’
As a construction engineer, responsible for offering technical guidance and support to different implementing partners (IPs) and contractors and with the support of a national engineer we have constructed 10 Community Care Coalition Centres (CCC’s), renovated 6 health facilities, constructed 13 primary schools and 11 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) making a total of 40 construction projects in different refugees camps and corners in Gambella region. Each construction design has been adapted to the environment in which they will function. Representing MSB’s contributions to UNICEF, I’m delighted to witness the impact our contributions has brought to the faces and souls of the people who have fled from South Sudan and the host communities of Ethiopia.

My most exciting time at UNICEF has been working with the Gambella team, from the head of office to individual colleagues, who seem to have been carefully selected from the very best and deployed to Gambella field office to serve in different capacities. We have faced many challenges together, from heavy rains and floods that cut off most sites to scarcity in construction materials and land disputes. Having worked previously in different countries like Congo, Uganda, South Sudan, CAR, Jordan, and Turkey with different organizations, I’m of the conviction that my time in Gambella has been the most rewarding. I feel very privileged to have been part of this big team and it’s my sincere hope that the results of my one year deployment has had a positive long term effect on both the host communities of Ethiopia and those fleeing the violence from South Sudan. The experience attained will be of great value in my future endeavors.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to both MSB and UNICEF, with whom I share the same desire and passion, for having given me a chance to participate in serving and improving the lives of women and children and for providing the resources needed for the construction of health care and education facilities. Without them, providing recreational and safe places for children and meeting the basic needs of medical care and education for the most vulnerable wouldn’t be possible. What a privilege it has been!

The drought in Ethiopia has created a situation in which the number of malnourished children is predicted to increase by up to 100% in 2016. According to UNICEF Ethiopia, the number of malnutrition cases is usually around 200,000 in a year, however this figure is predicted to surge to around 400,000 in 2016.

Bernard Mendy visited the Debre Berhan Referral Hospital SC located in the North Shewa Zone of the Amhara region during his second Field Trip. He gave on-site training on the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) guidelines to health workers. While the visit was geared towards helping to improve the quality of services it found that even though this SC serves a huge population, it had only six beds! Many of the health workers who manage the SAM patients have no formal training on the guidelines. For a broader improvement in the capacity of the SC, findings and recommendations were made to UNICEF Ethiopia and the Amhara Region Health Bureau.

The hospital authority was appreciative to the Irish Aid for my deployment and UNICEF Ethiopia for the visit at a time crucial for averting the looming severe acute malnutrition crisis.

In 2015, the Ethiopia Country Office received Nutrition support through Standby Arrangements in the following profiles: Emergency Nutrition Cluster Unit Team Leader, Nutrition Specialist and CMAM (Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition) Specialist.

Bernard Mendy was deployed as Nutrition Specialist, and his work included an assessment of CMAM in Amhara:
"The staff assessment of Amhara really helped UNICEF to support the regional health bureau to identify the issues of the stabilization centers. As such a scale-up plan for increased number of stabilization centers by region has been developed which will reduce the burden on limited facilities as well as reduce the walking distance to a stabilisation centre of affected households. In addition in 75 stabilization centers with limited space, tents were provided resulting in malnourished children being able to be separated from other pediatric cases and reducing their exposure to further infection."

Thanks to the deployment support, the regional health bureau has developed an ambitious scale-up plan to increase the coverage of CMAM treatment in five other seriously affected regions as well as Amhara, increasing the coverage of stabilisation centres and addressed overcrowding through requesting tents to expand the centres.

The hospital authority was appreciative to the Irish Aid for my deployment and UNICEF Ethiopia for the visit at a time crucial for averting the looming severe acute malnutrition crisis.

Bernard Mendy was deployed as a Nutrition Specialist to UNICEF Ethiopia by Irish Aid.
Concurrent with the main areas of request, the profiles where most support is deployed in number of days are Child Protection and WASH deployments.

The graph uses total days deployed including extensions of original deployments to give a more accurate picture of the support received by UNICEF Country and Regional Offices in each profile.

Education and Nutrition were our most difficult profiles to fill this year by percentage of requests, while the profile with the highest absolute roles abandoned was Information Management.

The majority of standby support (48% of deployment days) goes to assisting UNICEF programmes. UNICEF also requests standby deployments to help meet cluster responsibilities, which accounts for 25% of standby deployee days. Alongside these deployments are the 22% of RRT deployments, which also go towards supporting clusters, bringing the total share to assist cluster responsibilities to 47%. UNICEF made use of 5% of deployee days to support operations, such as logistics or telecommunication support in emergencies.
In 2015 most partners were able to support requests at normal levels, while for a couple of partners funding challenges or cycles delayed or temporarily halted support.

MSB provided the highest number of deployment days followed closely by NRC.

The percentage of female deployees was 43%, which was a return to previous levels of between 42-45% over 2010-2013, after a drop to 36% in 2014.

The percentage of deployees from global south nationalities dropped slightly to 36%, from a previously increasing figure. In total deployees from 41 different nationalities were deployed to UNICEF in 2015.

Deployments ranged in duration from the shortest of 13 days to 394 days (including extensions). Deployments for six months or less made up 86% of deployments. This is in line with the mandate of Standby Arrangements to provide short term surge staffing to UNICEF Country Offices. Of the deployments for more than 365 days, one was for field support while the other nine were new RRT members starting their duration on the RRT teams.
Central African Republic

Rebirth of the UN inter-agency compound in Kaga Bandoro

A partnership between UNICEF and the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB)

The sectarian violence that has affected the Central African Republic since 2012 has seriously worsened an already dire humanitarian situation. More than two million children have borne the brunt of the violence that engulfed most of the country.

Situated 300km north of the capital Bangui, the city of Kaga Bandoro has seen a massive influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). In December 2012, all UN staff were evacuated from Kaga Bandoro following the looting, vandalizing and destruction of the UN compound, resulting in nearly no UN presence on the ground. As the situation stabilized and the UN slowly started to come back, UNICEF staff and other UN colleagues lived for many months in dire conditions at the “Évêché”, the local church rectory, where the biggest IDP camp was established. While close to the population in need, this did not make it easy for the staff to work, in a very difficult and insecure environment.

But since, the situation has significantly improved with the recent completion of the new UN compound, under UNICEF leadership.

Re-establishing Kaga Bandoro as a humanitarian hub was crucial to ensure delivery of humanitarian assistance where it was the most needed, as well as securing safer and proper living and working conditions for humanitarian workers. With support from the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP), a network of Europe based civil protection and emergency management agencies, UNICEF and the Swedish Civil Contingency Agencies (MSB) have partnered together to re-build and refurbish the badly damaged UN compound.

“The new compound makes a huge difference to the humanitarian community. It has been made possible by partners pulling their resources together, and by the great work and dedication of MSB and UNICEF staff working tirelessly alongside in the field, in challenging conditions,” says Alessia Turco, UNICEF CAR Chief of Field Operations.

One of the longest serving and most reliable UNICEF’s standby partner, MSB and its IHP partners (Danish Emergency Management Agency and the Luxembourg Rescue Services Agency) managed the reconstruction of the compound and provided the project with staff and expertise, equipment, and materials, for a total amount of almost USD2.4 million. UNICEF supplied all the prefab and provided local manpower and much needed logistics support in-country. The project took about a year to be completed from the initial technical assessment to its formal handover last May.

The UNICEF managed compound now provides working space, accommodation and other necessary facilities for more than 40 humanitarian workers. A total of 22 prefabricated houses have been installed and existing buildings for warehouse, workshop, offices, and temporary accommodation, including toilets, showers and laundry room, have been completely renovated. The compound is fully equipped with electricity supply and running water.

Today the facility is used on a permanent basis by several UN funds and programmes, including UNICEF, OCHA, WHO, WFP and UNFPA. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) like Save the Children are also benefiting from the new compound. More than 35 staff currently live and work in the compound and more are expected to move in. The availability of secured and comfortable accommodation has also allowed more UN and NGO staff to have temporary access to this part of the country to deliver critical relief assistance. The project certainly contributes to an increase in programme delivery. It similarly augments UNICEF’s accountability towards the affected population, while strengthening a one UN approach and coordination between partner organizations.

Kaga Bandoro compound before and after

© UNICEF CAR
Increased gender and GBV expertise from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

During 2015 MSB expanded roster capacity in gender profiles. Gender advisors had previously supported MSB led projects in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction. Increased demand from existing and new UN partners led to using gender profiles as stand alone deployments to UN partners. The need for expertise in gender-based violence prevention followed the same pattern and led to an inclusion of new GBV profiles in MSB’s field staff roster. MSB’s first GBV in emergencies expert was deployed to UNICEF Nigeria in 2015. The gender and GBV profiles have been developed and a recruitment process will take place in 2016 in close dialogue with UNICEF and UNFPA as co-leads for the GBV Area of Responsibility in the Protection Cluster.

Accountability to Affected Populations project with Norwegian Refugee Council

In 2015 UNICEF and NRC began collaboration on a project designed to ensure quality programming and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP). Deployments of AAP experts to the MENA region and the Democratic Republic of Congo will aim to mainstream quality programming to affected populations in UNICEF led and co-led clusters.

Online induction development at CANADEM

In 2015 CANADEM worked directly with the Standby Partner Training Secretariat (SPTS) to develop a distance learning induction program for CANADEM’s Humanitarian Roster in line with the SBP competency framework. This innovative approach will allow more deployees to participate in induction and be more easily assessed, prepared and updated for standby deployments, ultimately improving the quality of services delivered to affected populations. In addition, CANADEM has worked bilaterally with UN agencies including UNICEF to strengthen agency specific briefing information for deployees in pre deployment.

Danish Refugee Council monitoring visits

DRC conducts regular monitoring of deployments, to improve and reflect on:

1) Enhancing the quality of the DRC Standby mechanisms and procedures during deployments;
2) Providing better staff care by: a) gaining an insight into employees’ specific situations and thus aligning with their needs, and b) establishing a closer relationship between deployees and the DRC office;
3) Strengthening the relationship with the UN country office and field staff; and
4) Assessing the DRC Standby roster compliance with donor requirements.

In 2015 the Danish Refugee Council deployed eight deployees to UNICEF to respond to the European Refugee and Migrant Crisis in Serbia, Macedonia and Croatia. Staff from DRC will shortly visit these deployees to conduct a monitoring visit and learn how these deployees are helping UNICEF to respond to the needs of women and children arriving in these countries.
Ghermai Berhe has been deployed by CANADEM on six deployments to UNICEF in Kenya, Sudan, Philippines, Chad, Syria and most recently Malawi.

“I am a senior nutritionist and public health care management officer by profession. I was deployed by CANADEM to UNICEF Malawi country office from February to August 2015 when Malawi was distressed by flood. Personally, I found my last deployment the right action at the right time. The flood in Malawi affected about 15 districts. It was beyond the existing capacity of UNICEF Malawi to manage and handle the massive flood situation. My deployment jointly with existing staff and other standby partner’s staff made significant differences to the needy affected Malawi communities.”

In 2015, Malawi experienced devastating flood which affected 1.1 million people leaving 230,000 displaced while another 106,000 hosted by families. 693 cases of cholera were registered in 8 districts with 11 deaths reported. The country has been and continues to experience the worst food insecurity crisis in over a decade affecting about 2.8 million people as a result of the floods coupled with drought. With 47 per cent of the children already undernourished, concerns of possible increased malnutrition rates and likelihood of water-borne diseases will negatively affect the health and survival of children. This situation requires immediate, effective and coordinated response through targeted and life-saving interventions for emergency response and recovery to the floods while maintaining regular programme delivery.

Nankali Maksu, Chief Child Protection, UNICEF Malawi, on Standby Arrangement support in 2015:
Standby Arrangements capacitated UNICEF Malawi to effectively respond to the crisis. The staff mobilization plan was addressed through identification of specialists in support of the WASH, Protection, Education, Nutrition and Telecoms sectors. Standby Arrangements provided an excellent source of qualified short-term staff who had been pre-screened, deployed in a timely manner and could be provided through simplified procedures at almost no cost. As a result, UNICEF Malawi’s humanitarian action was significantly strengthened on the ground. In addition to timely deployment contributing to a quick and effective start in the early acute stage of the response, UNICEF Malawi also benefited from the possibility of medium term extensions of Standby Personnel deployments which maintained stability in our programmes, despite the complicated environment and difficult situation in which we operate.

Shannon Hayes
deployed by Danish Refugee Council as
Emergency Coordinator to
UNICEF Ukraine and also UNICEF Croatia

In 2015, I was deployed by the Danish Refugee Council to UNICEF twice. My first deployment was to UNICEF Ukraine as the Emergency Field Coordinator for 5 months, where I opened and ran the UNICEF office in Donetsk. My second deployment is ongoing with UNICEF Croatia as the Emergency Coordinator for the refugee response.

Being on a standby roster as an Emergency Coordinator is always unpredictable, because the nature of the role mandates a very quick deployment (I’m usually on a plane within a few days of receiving confirmation of being selected). Each new deployment presents its own challenges, such as having to quickly learn how offices are set up (systems, people, operations), which varies between UN agencies, and also (to a degree) between Country Office’s of the same agency. Additionally, deployees must quickly assess and understand the emergency context, and actual and planned programming in order to immediately start contributing to the team. For UN Country Office’s receiving standby partners, having external people joining their team can sometimes feel quite destabilizing for the staff that are not accustomed to emergency response. What I have really appreciated about working with UNICEF, is that I have always been immediately welcomed as a member of the team, and have had the pleasure of working with motivated colleagues who have exemplified UNICEF’s mission, vision and values.
Cheick Toure

deployed as a Logistics Coordinator to UNICEF Sierra Leone by CANADEM

UNICEF is a major provider of supplies in the Ebola response, including protective gloves, safety goggles, IV fluids, medicines, soap and chlorine.

Zelalem Mengistu

building resilience against recurring floods with Maquines Refugees.

Zelalem Mengistu was deployed by CANADEM as an Emergency Programme Specialist for UNICEF Sudan.

Titus Moetsabi

conducting field support to a religious leader providing prayers to quarantined family, and receiving feedback from communities on Ebola responses in Kadalo, Kambia. Titus Moetsabi was deployed by CANADEM as C4D Specialist with UNICEF Sierra Leone.
The UNICEF Standby Team administered five trainings specifically organised for standby candidates in 2015, and standby candidates were allotted places on six additional trainings run by UNICEF. In total 62 candidates were trained. Additional places on standby partner hosted trainings were utilised to train 31 UNICEF staff and 11 UNHCR staff from duty stations operating in emergencies who had less access to regional trainings. 4 NGO partner staff and 1 standby partner staff also participated.

UNICEF is grateful to our Standby Partners who hosted the following trainings:
- UNICEF UNHCR Education in Emergencies for Standby Partners—Norwegian Refugee Council
- UNICEF UNHCR Child Protection in Emergencies for Standby Partners—Danish Refugee Council
- UNICEF UNHCR WASH in Emergencies for Standby Partners—Irish Aid
- UNICEF in Emergencies (formerly UNICEF Emergency Preparedness and Response) - Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
- UNICEF Multi Cluster Coordination Training for Standby Partners—Irish Aid

Participants on the UNICEF UNHCR Child Protection in Emergencies Training 2015

Updated UNICEF in Emergencies website

In December 2015 UNICEF updated and relaunched the UNICEF in Emergencies website. The website provides E-learning opportunities on the Core Commitments for Children (CCC), e-resources, links to current Appeals and country specific information, and an Emergency Deployment Kit which is an orientation to UNICEF’s approach, policy and principles. It is intended for staff, standby partners and consultants being deployed for emergency response. The kit can be accessed on line or downloaded to a USB which deployees can take to the field. http://www.unicefinemergencies.com/

New Standby Arrangements database for UNICEF

The growth of standby deployments, expansion into the Rapid Response Teams, higher data requirements and connection to improved performance monitoring all evidenced a need to upgrade data management systems. During 2015 the Standby Team conducted an analysis of data requirements and assessed possible solutions, and developed a new database in Salesforce. The new database is in use from January 2016 and allows more efficient data management, improved reporting and real time analysis, partnership management and forms the basis of improved performance monitoring of Standby Arrangements.
Three new Standby Partners for UNICEF Standby Arrangements in 2015:

**IMPACT Initiatives**

IMPACT Initiatives is a Swiss registered NGO that promotes evidence-based humanitarian planning through assessments and information management. In its deployments IMPACT systematically partners with clusters, working groups or other aid coordination platforms to support better planning and monitoring of humanitarian action. IMPACT Initiatives, together with its sister organisation ACTED, is a longstanding member of UNICEF-led WASH Cluster platforms and will initially support UNICEF through the deployment of an Information Management and Assessment specialist to the WASH Cluster Field Support Team (formerly WASH Cluster Rapid Response Team).

**ChildFund Alliance**

ChildFund Alliance is an effective global network of child-centred development organisations working in the poorest countries around the world to create opportunities for disadvantaged children. ChildFund Alliance has strong operational capacity, reaching 18.5m children and family members in 30 countries in Asia, Africa and Americas last year through their 30 national offices 500+ local partner organizations. It is a longstanding member of the UNICEF-led Child Protection Working Group (the child protection AoR at the global level) and through the Standby Agreement will support the Child Protection AoR Rapid Response Team through the deployment of an Information Management specialist.

**Justice Rapid Response (JRR)**

Justice Rapid Response (JRR) is an intergovernmental mechanism that manages the rapid deployment of criminal justice and related professionals to investigate, analyze and report on situations where serious human rights and international criminal violations have been reported. In addition, JRR experts can deploy to capacity building missions, to improve the ability of government, UN and NGO staff to respond to victims of crime, in particular sexual and gender based violence. Through the Standby Agreement, JRR and UNICEF will continue to build upon the partnership already underway in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) to strengthen Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM) of grave violations against children.