OVERALL RATING

Satisfactory

Implications:
Meets UNICEF/UNEG standards for evaluation reports and decision makers may use the evaluation with confidence.

This is overall a very good evaluation report that contains all necessary information. It can be used with confidence and can effectively inform decision making. All sections are solid and for the most part include all necessary information (i.e. the context in which the intervention takes place as well as the object of the evaluation are very clearly explained and provide a solid basis to understand the intervention and to follow the evaluation process). The methodology used is robust and provides several levels of evidence, all of which is explained in detail in the Findings section. This evidence is objectively used and addresses both strengths and weaknesses, as well as the causal reasons for success or failure. Conclusions are based on the findings but also present insights that provide added value and allow for a better understanding of the findings. Lessons Learned are adequately generalized and effectively provide contributions to general knowledge. Recommendations are realistic, actionable and correctly identify the stakeholders in each case. This being said, the annexes are not retrievable in the document and there is no other attachment available. Also, Conclusions and Recommendations should include a gender analysis, just as is the case with the Findings section. Similarly, the report should make explicit reference to the UNICEF procedures for Ethical Research Involving Children. Finally, although the executive summary observes good practices, it is slightly long and could benefit from being further synthesized.

Lessons for future evaluations:

SECTION A: BACKGROUND (weight 5%)

Satisfactory

The object of the evaluation is described in detail and its two components are clearly explained. Intended beneficiaries and the context of the intervention, including a situation analysis, are well explained as well as the way in which the context relates to the implementation of UNICEF Child Protection Programme. The report states that the Theory of Change is included in Annex 9, however none of the annexes are retrievable. The implementing agencies and specific roles of key stakeholders as well as their contributions, including UNICEF's, are explained.

SECTION B: EVALUATION PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE (weight 5%)

Satisfactory
The intended use and end users of this evaluation are clearly listed (it will be used by the Macedonian Government and UNICEF to inform the planning and implementation of the new country programme 2016-2020). The report clearly indicates what the evaluation seeks to achieve and the scope of the evaluation is also clearly explained (the period from January 2010 to June 2015 and the geographic scope including both national and local levels, as per the ToRs). However, no further details as to the specific locations to be covered are provided.

SECTION C: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY (weight 15%)

Satisfactory

The evaluation framework follows the standard OECD/ DAC evaluation criteria (covers relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the intervention); is clearly described; and relevant guiding evaluation questions are provided. The evaluation clearly describes the methodology used, data sources, and sampling strategies as well as the rationale for the choices made. Also, the report explains how triangulation of several levels of evidence was carried out. Explicit reference to UNEG ethical standards guiding the evaluation is made in the report and a description of ethical safeguards for participants is provided. Even if ethical safeguards involving interviewing children is provided (p. 36), no explicit mention is made to the UNICEF procedures for Ethical Research Involving Children. Conversely, the obligations of the evaluators concerning ethical issues are appropriately discussed in the report.

SECTION D: EVALUATION FINDINGS (weight 20%)

Highly Satisfactory

The report is particularly strong at providing multiple lines of evidence that support the findings, which are presented under each evaluation criterion. The causal factors leading to the achievement or non achievement of results are clearly explained in each case. Unexpected changes or unintended effects of the programme are duly discussed and analysed, particularly positive unintended effects. The evaluation provides a complete assessment of the intervention's M&E system, which is referred to under each evaluation criterion.

SECTION E: EVALUATION CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNED (weight 15%)

Highly Satisfactory

The Conclusions are logically derived from the findings and provide a clear description of both strengths and weaknesses of all of the areas covered by the intervention, addressing that which worked well and that which did not. Also, the Conclusions provide information concerning the foreseeable implications of the findings for the future implementation of the programme. Finally, Lessons Learned are correctly identified in the report and are duly generalised to signify what wider relevance they may have in different contexts.

SECTION F: RECOMMENDATIONS (weight 15%)

Highly Satisfactory

Recommendations are well grounded in the evaluation and logically derived from the findings and conclusions. They are divided into two main groups (continuation of Child Protection Reform and UNICEF's Strategic Contribution) and they are prioritized, clearly presented, and the target group is identified in each case. Recommendations are useful to intended users and they can be made operational in the context of the evaluation. The process followed in developing the recommendations and the stakeholders' level of participation in this process is clearly explained in the report and it is stated that the early draft recommendations were validated by UNICEF together with the partners.

SECTION G: EVALUATION STRUCTURE/PRESENTATION (weight 5%)

Fair
The report is logically structured, includes all necessary information presented in a very clear fashion that makes the report easy to read and navigate. The evaluation report includes abundant context information as well as much detail on the object of evaluation, which helps illuminate the Findings. The opening pages also include all of the necessary elements including name, timeframe, date, location, table of contents, graphs, figures, abbreviation list, and a list of annexes. However, the annexes are not retrievable within the report or within a separate document, which greatly jeopardizes the overall credibility of the evaluation since important elements such as the ToRs and the Theory of Change are missing.

### SECTION H: EVALUATION PRINCIPLES (weight 15%)

| Satisfactory | The evaluation includes a human rights-based approach and gender equality was addressed and mainstreamed across the evaluation questions and developed as specific points as per United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) guidelines. The level of stakeholder participation in the evaluation is explicitly discussed in the report. The style of the report includes gender and child-rights sensitive language throughout and the report uses disaggregated data whenever possible. The report discusses the presence of equity in the design and the implementation of the programme and mentions different degrees of benefits received by diverse groups (i.e. disabled children, Albanian, and Roma children) throughout the Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations. GEEW is mainstreamed throughout the report and the evaluation Findings reflect a gender analysis. However, Conclusions and Recommendations do not present a gender analysis. |

### SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (weight 5%)

| Satisfactory | The evaluation report presents an executive summary that is both complete and accurate and can properly inform decision making. The executive summary contains all necessary elements and does not contain any information that is not included in the rest of the report. However, the executive summary is slightly too long (7 pages), and could be further synthetized to maximise its usefulness. |

Does the evaluation meet UN SWAP evaluation performance indicators?

| 8 | Meets requirements |

**Recommendations for improvement**

| Section A | This is overall a solid section of the evaluation report. However, a Theory of Change is missing or a logic chain for the intervention should be included. |
| Section B | A more in-depth explanation of the scope's geographic coverage in terms of the specific locations that will be included and the rationale for this would have been desirable. |
| Section C | Along with specifications of actions made to safeguard children participating in the evaluation, the report should make explicit reference to the UNICEF procedures for Ethical Research Involving Children. |
| Section D | This is a solid section of the evaluation and observes best practices. |
| Section E | These are solid sections of the evaluation report and include all necessary elements, which are correctly identified. |
| Section F | The Recommendations section of the report observes best practices. |
| Section G | The annexes must be included in the evaluation report document or as a separate document. |
| Section H | Conclusions and Recommendations should also present a gender analysis. |
| Section I | The executive summary should be slightly shorter in order to maximise its usefulness. |