

Cambodia

Executive summary

In the second year of the programme of cooperation, significant results were achieved across all UNICEF Cambodia's programme areas.

Amid healthy economic growth of seven per cent, disparities and inequities persist, and Cambodia will remain a Least Developed Country for the foreseeable future. To foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of poverty in Cambodia and devise appropriate holistic strategies, in 2016-2017 UNICEF conducted a child poverty assessment with Ministry of Planning (MOP) and the National Institute of Statistics (NIS). It found that multidimensional poverty, which considers overlapping deprivations such as education and health, stands at 49 per cent, significantly higher than monetary poverty alone (16 per cent). Wide regional disparities were revealed, most dramatically for children in the northeast. Results will inform UNICEF, government and development partner approaches to poverty and emphasize integrated solutions.

UNICEF also generated influential evidence through its longitudinal study examining health; nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and early childhood education (ECE) among children younger than five years of age and pregnant women. This helped monitor service delivery in the disadvantaged northeast region and Phnom Penh's urban poor communities.

The Council of Ministers endorsed the new Social Protection Policy Framework, highlighting cash transfers for pregnant women and children aged under five. A successful UNICEF-supported pilot providing much-needed funds to 1,248 pregnant women and children will inform national programme design, which is expected in early 2018.

The 2017 Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) conference on the importance of holistic early childhood development interventions was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) and supported by UNICEF Cambodia and partners. UNICEF presentations provided important input to discussions on nutrition, ECE and WASH.

In child protection, 2017 saw significant progress in the number of girls and boys reached with protective services, development of the legal and policy framework to prevent and respond to violence against children and unnecessary family separation, and generation of knowledge and data on child protection in Cambodia. In May, the Ministry of Health (MOH) released the first handbook for health care workers treating child victims of violence or sexual abuse, developed with UNICEF assistance. In December, the country's first action plan to protect children from all forms of violence was launched by the Deputy Prime Minister, with the attendance of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children. In parallel, the 'Positive Parenting Strategy' was finalized by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, UNICEF Cambodia and Save the Children.

An action plan to prevent and respond to child marriage and teenage pregnancy among ethnic

minority groups in the vulnerable northeast province of Ratanakiri was developed with support from Plan International, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF.

In nutrition, the proportion of targeted health facilities within the northeast providing nutrition-specific services for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) increased from 15 to 36 by mid-2017, surpassing the target of 35. UNICEF-supported training and mass nutrition screenings led by MOH enabled this achievement. UNICEF continued to advocate with Government (MOH, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts) to bolster certification of properly iodized salt, as only half of salt sold in Cambodia meets international standards. UNICEF assistance to MOH helped local health clinics complete over 80 per cent of planned outreach to hard-to-reach villages in focus provinces in 2017. These clinics now have at least two staff trained in antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care and early essential/immediate newborn care.

In significant collaborative partnerships, UNICEF, the European Union (EU) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) continued to work toward improved learning outcomes through the multi-donor Capacity Development Partnership Fund (CDPF); the next phase with significant funding starts 2018. Following ongoing collaboration and strategic advocacy, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will expand its partnership with UNICEF in education and child protection.

UNICEF continued to co-lead, with the respective ministries, the sector-wide technical working groups of education, rural WASH and social protection.

Nationwide communal elections were held mid-2017. The major opposition party gained 40 per cent of council seats. Political tensions increased with the arrest of key opposition figures, culminating with the dissolution of the major opposition party in November. Key donors reviewed budget support, and the EU froze National Electoral Committee funding and is reviewing Cambodia's preferential trading status. Sida froze funding for the decentralization process and the United States of America imposed visa restrictions on senior government officials. UNICEF continued to closely monitor the situation as the 2018 general elections approach, to ensure programme implementation remains stable.

The UNICEF Cambodia office moved to new premises in Phnom Penh in April 2017.

Humanitarian assistance

According to the 2016 World Risk Report, Cambodia ranks ninth in the world among countries most prone to natural disaster. In 2017, the country did not experience serious humanitarian situations due to natural hazards, apart from isolated flash floods and riverine flooding that affected a few villages around the Se San hydroelectric dam.

Between June and July, about 9,137 Cambodian migrants (including 3,374 women and 922 children) were received at the Poipet border town following a crackdown on undocumented foreign workers in Thailand. The ordinance contained heavy penalties for both employers and migrants violating regulations. With the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY), the Poipet government, International Organization for Migration, Samaritan's Purse, members of the Partnership Programme for Protection of Children (3PC—a non-government organization-Government-UNICEF collaboration) and social workers, UNICEF Cambodia monitored the impact of repatriation on these undocumented migrants. Social workers screened children susceptible to or victims of trafficking. The local Poipet municipality

administration adequately responded by assisting returnees with transportation fees. The situation quickly normalized once implementation of the ordinance was suspended after negotiations between the Cambodian and Thai governments.

Some notable achievements were made in 2017 towards stronger coordination of national disaster management. Due to continued advocacy by the Humanitarian Response Forum (UN and international non-governmental organization/NGO humanitarian actors), two strategic consultative meetings were held to enhance cooperation and coordination between the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and humanitarian partners. The meetings clarified roles of different NCDM departments and led to an agreement on the development and endorsement of a road map to facilitate implementation of the Disaster Management Law.

Building on lessons from simulation exercises since 2013, the Kampuchea Emergency Response Exercises were jointly organized by NCDM, the Humanitarian Response Forum and Cambodia Humanitarian Forum (national NGOs) in six provinces and at national level. They involved more than 460 participants from NCDM, provincial, district and commune committees for disaster management, the Humanitarian Response Forum and Cambodia Humanitarian Forum, the Cambodia Red Cross and the US Embassy. The objective of the 2017 exercises was to enhance harmonization of government and non-government humanitarian actors to ensure timely, effective and coordinated response to natural disasters. It was also designed to familiarize key actors with updated coordination and decision-making structures and processes, as well as roles and responsibilities during disasters. UNICEF emergency focal persons for education, WASH and child protection were assigned facilitation roles during the simulations.

UNICEF continued to co-lead three sectors of child protection and education with Save the Children and WASH with World Vision. UNICEF provided technical assistance to MOSVY to finalize and disseminate the Child Protection in Emergency Contingency Plan 2017-2018. In the education sector, UNICEF, Save the Children and other sector partners supported MOEYS to update the Education Emergency Preparedness and Response and develop the ministry's Disaster Management Secretariat. Through continued advocacy by UNICEF and World Vision and other sector actors, the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) agreed to develop the first Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for WASH. A partnership agreement was signed with World Vision International-Cambodia to strengthen the capacity and planning of the ministry and its provincial departments.

UNICEF pre-positioned various education and water and sanitation supplies, including tents, water filters, learning materials and equipment, hygiene kits, sporting materials, water purification tablets and disinfectants, water containers, digital arsenic reader, and spare parts for pumps for flood-prone provinces. WASH non-food items have been transferred to the Ministry of Rural Development and provincial department warehouses.

In collaboration with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, UNICEF continued to support the Cambodian Mine/Unexploded Ordnance Victim Information System to carry out data collection, analysis and reporting regarding survivors. As of October 2017, 39 survivors (including 15 children) were reported and 23 received community-based rehabilitation assistance. Approximately 21,200 children in seven natural disaster-prone provinces benefited from a training on mine risks for 452 teachers; mine risk education sessions were also provided to 1,956 out-of-school children. The Cambodian Mine Action Centre estimates that there may be as many as four to six million mines and other pieces of unexploded ordnance in Cambodia

With the National Institute of Statistics, based in the MOP, UNICEF Cambodia carried out a child poverty assessment study (2016-2017) to broaden the understanding of poverty beyond household income. It showed that multidimensional child poverty rate stands at 49 per cent, significantly higher than monetary child poverty (16 per cent). It also revealed that 54.3 per cent of rural children experienced at least three deprivations at the same time, with children in the northeast worse off. The findings are informing geographic focus areas for UNICEF's next country programme and have been included in Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2017, the Council of Ministers adopted the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025. Following joint advocacy led by UNICEF, social assistance for the poor and vulnerable was included as one of the two major pillars, thus expanding the original plan's coverage from social insurance only. Cash transfers for pregnant women and children were highlighted, with the expectation to reach the entire eligible population by 2025. In October, UNICEF concluded a pilot of the cash transfer programme, which reached 1,248 beneficiaries (69 pregnant women and 1,179 children younger than 5 years). Preliminary results demonstrated positive change in the women and children's health-seeking behaviours. The pilot also indicated whether or not the existing local-level government structure could execute the cash transfer programme. Using lessons learned from the pilot, UNICEF will support the Government in designing a new national cash transfer programme in early 2018.

Implementation of another key social assistance scheme – MOEYS' school scholarship programme – was successful in 2017, reaching 165,440 children from poor families. UNICEF supported the Ministry by 'topping-up' the allocation to children from ethnic minority backgrounds. This work aimed to help children from particularly marginalized and disadvantaged community's complete secondary school and pave the way toward a teaching career if desired. Continued support promoted access to quality education, using inclusive education methodologies through in-service teacher training for primary and early childhood education.

Enrolment figures in multilingual primary schools exceeded 2017 targets, with a 28 per cent increase in children enrolled (compared to a six per cent increase target for 2017). While preschool enrolment saw a slight decrease, which was expected in light of an initial boom in the first years, the number of enrolled students in 2016/17 (1,178) was not far off the Multilingual Education National Action Plan projection for 2018/19 (1,337 students). In partnership with CARE, UNICEF supported the Special Education Department develop a monitoring and evaluation tool to monitor multilingual education implementation, teaching practices and child development scales. It will be used by national and local-level monitoring teams. Data will be analysed and used to help improve programme delivery, focusing on assessing classroom management, teaching methodologies and student learning results.

A disability allowance programme was rolled out to approximately 7,500 persons with disabilities (about 10 per cent children). UNICEF technical support allowed MOSVY to fully utilize the government budget allocated to this programme, which resulted in a 30 per cent increase in the 2018 budget allocation. UNICEF also supported MOSVY to design new disability identification tools that examine basic functions (such as walk, hear, speak), rather than simply relying on medical diagnoses. The new tools include questionnaires to identify children with disabilities and will allow the Government to assist more children in this situation with the cash transfer scheme. Furthermore, UNICEF supported 14 civil society organization partners to provide services that benefited 56,566 children and persons with disabilities (12 per cent children). The partners continued to deliver support services to children and families with disabilities in 14 provinces.

In 2017, the Partnership Program for the Protection of Children (3PC) was able to reach 5,729 vulnerable children (46 per cent girls) experiencing multiple deprivations. These children faced challenges that include poverty (91 per cent), lack of schooling (10 per cent), the impact of drug abuse (4 per cent), witnessing violence (3 per cent), living on the streets (3 per cent), physical violence (1 per cent) and emotional violence (2 per cent). In addition, 450 children outside of family care (44 per cent girls) were placed in family- and community-based care and received support to be reintegrated with their families.

In 2017, UNICEF continued to support health outreach activities to ensure that women and newborns living in remote rural areas had equal access to essential health care services. More than 80 per cent of outreach activities involved the participation of midwives. These efforts led to an observed increase in the proportion of deliveries attended by skilled health personnel in remote areas, thus providing invaluable protection to vulnerable mothers and their children.

Emerging areas of importance

UNICEF Cambodia continued to work in a number of cross-cutting areas, including climate change, migration, adolescents, urbanization, and integrated early childhood development (IECD).

To mitigate the risks of climate change and its impact on clean water in Cambodia, UNICEF commissioned work with the NGO Teuk Saat 1001 to model development of climate-resilient water sources for water treatment and bottling facilities affected by droughts. Ten flood-resilient water treatment and bottling facilities were completed with the NGO Lien Aid in at-risk areas. A climate-resilient rural water supply and sanitation situation analysis was commissioned with the non-governmental organization People in Need, localizing global guidance and identifying technical and management options to improve WASH climate resilience.

With the Cambodia National Council for Children, UNICEF Cambodia published a study, *'Impact of Migration on Children in the Capital and Target Provinces'*. It identified key challenges and opportunities for children who migrated with parents to urban areas and for others left behind in communities with their grandparents, often younger children. Recommendations were shared with key stakeholders, including line ministries and urban authorities.

UNICEF continued to invest in adolescents, focusing on remedial education, life skills for out-of-school teenagers, child marriage and early pregnancy, and participation in policy dialogue. Approximately 5,600 teenagers were reached with child protection services, including remedial education, life skills, vocational training, career advice, business development and vocational programmes. The Adolescent and Youth Reference Group, composed of youth representatives from 18 NGOs, created an opportunity to participate in policy dialogue and programme development to promote safe and protective behaviours and practices. In 2017, this group engaged in dialogue with three National Assembly commissions and participated in the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' campaign. At least 800 students and 50 families were reached through face-to-face awareness-raising during the anti-violence event, and approximately 143,100 children and adolescents were reached online.

UNICEF Cambodia successfully implemented the local 'Voices of Youth' initiative for the second year. Ten Cambodian adolescents and youth received an in-depth 10-week training on blogging, self-expression, writing, teamwork and use of digital media, including online safety.

The training was based on the global 'Voices of Youth' model and adapted and expanded on by a prominent Cambodian blogger. Over 80 honest and daring blogs were written on topics ranging from self-image, generation gap, mental health, sexual orientation, social norms and culture. An independent evaluation will inform continuation of the project in 2018. The blogs are available at <https://medium.com/@voicesofyouthcambodia>.

An assessment of child protection and education for children and adolescents in urban poor communities was completed with the Phnom Penh Advisory Committee. UNICEF continued to advocate with Phnom Penh authorities to plan and budget for social services for urban poor communities, which are currently not included in existing plans because these settlements are not officially recognized.

To further address the challenges of urbanization, work continued on the longitudinal study of IECD indicators. Water quality data were shared with the Phnom Penh piped water service provider and meetings were facilitated between solid waste management service provider and local stakeholders in target areas to enhance service delivery.

The 2017 ARNEC conference on holistic interventions in early childhood development was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in partnership with MOEYS and supported by UNICEF Cambodia and partners. The Prime Minister of Cambodia opened the event, which was attended by over 530 national and international ECD professionals from Asia-Pacific and beyond, including 12 ministers/vice-ministers and high-level policymakers. They shared and learned about approaches to improving child well-being during the early stages of life. UNICEF Cambodia specifically contributed by presenting research on health, nutrition and WASH from its ongoing longitudinal study, highlighting the cross-cutting dimension of integrated early childhood development that goes beyond early childhood education. ARNEC board members received this information positively and new findings will continue to be used to improve programming as well as to be shared in future conferences.

Within IECD, work was commissioned with NGO BORDA to develop and document an age-appropriate, child-friendly WASH package for preschoolers. MOEYS will further expand this package. The local evidence base linking WASH and nutrition was strengthened through longitudinal study data analysis and sharing and a WASH and nutrition session at a national WASH conference; WaterAid, the German development agency GiZ, SNV and UNICEF presented, under UNICEF's lead. UNICEF Cambodia also commissioned work with NGO Plan to model a nutrition-sensitive WASH package for children under five, and the MRD will further expand this work.

Strategic Plan 2018-2021

The endorsement of the new global Strategic Plan 2018-2021 was timely, as UNICEF Cambodia is currently developing its new Country Programme, to start in 2019. A Strategic Reflection exercise was undertaken with all colleagues in the office with support from the Regional Chief of Programme Planning as well as the Deputy Regional Director. During this exercise it was discussed how the new Strategic Priorities can best be integrated into the new Country Programme Document as well as the Programme Strategy Notes. Furthermore, the updated Situation Analysis was structured along the lines of the new Strategic Plan.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

3PC – Partnership Program for the Protection of Children

ARNEC – Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood

CCWC - Commune Committee for Women and Children
 CDPF – Capacity Development Partnership Fund
 CMT – Country Management Team
 CNCC - Cambodia National Council for Children
 CPS - community preschool
 CRC – Convention on the Rights of the Child
 CSO - civil society organization
 D&D – decentralization and deconcentration (reform)
 EAPRO – East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
 ECCD - early childhood care and development
 ECD – early childhood development
 ECE – early childhood education
 EU – European Union
 GSSC – Global Shared Services Centre (of UNICEF)
 HACT – harmonized approach to cash transfers
 HR – human resources
 ICT – information and communication technology
 IECD – integrated early childhood development
 ILO – International Labour Organization
 KAP – knowledge, attitude and practice
 M&E – monitoring and evaluation
 MAM – moderate acute malnutrition
 MEF – Ministry of Economy and Finance
 MOEYS – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
 MOH – Ministry of Health
 MOI – Ministry of Interior
 MOP – Ministry of Planning
 MOSVY – Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
 MRD – Ministry of Rural Development
 MUAC – mid-upper arm circumference
 NCDDS - National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development
 NCDM – National Committee for Disaster Management
 NIS – National Institute of Statistics
 OR – Other Resources
 PDRD - Provincial Department of Rural Development
 RUTF – ready-to-use therapeutic food
 SAM – severe acute malnutrition
 SDG – Sustainable Development Goal
 Sida – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
 SNA - sub-national administration
 SSC - School Support Committees
 UN – United Nations
 UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework
 UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
 UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
 UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
 USAID – United States Agency for International Development
 WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene
 WFP – World Food Programme

WHZ – weight-for-height Z score
WHO – World Health Organization

Capacity development

To enhance the capacity of government staff to plan, budget, implement and monitor child-oriented programmes, UNICEF Cambodia continued to focus on strengthening different sectors' ability to deliver results for women and children.

UNICEF support through the Capacity Development Partnership Fund bolstered the education system by sustaining capacity improvements and promoting institutional and organizational reform. Focus areas were government plans involving educational strategy, public financial management, human resources and teacher policy, which underpin policy implementation and improve performance-based budget execution, quality and management of the education workforce, and efficiency of service delivery.

UNICEF helped train the staff of MOEYS' newly established Special Education Department on methodologies for preschool, basic inclusive education and special education for children with visual and hearing impairments.

UNICEF Cambodia supported the NIS to measure child poverty beyond monetary approaches and consider their overall well-being and nature of their deprivation. New data on multidimensional poverty is shifting poverty reduction strategies to reach the most vulnerable children and provided baseline data for SDG 1, while also establishing future programme targets.

To enhance the Government's ability to implement a programme-based budget, 60 Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) officials and 90 officials from social ministries' financial and planning departments were trained to formulate programme budget structure and indicators. The training generated increased demand from social ministries (MOSVY, Ministry of Women's Affairs, MRD) for UNICEF technical support to improve budget formulation and enhance policy-budget linkages to address needs of disadvantaged children and women.

UNICEF Cambodia supported the Ministry of Interior (MOI) to train female commune councillors in six target districts on the use of so-called 'village record books', which led to significant increases in registration of births within 30 days of delivery. In addition, 13 core female trainers were trained to deliver capacity-strengthening initiatives on disability inclusion and partnerships benefiting 365 female commune councillors.

Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy

In 2017, UNICEF conducted a child poverty assessment with MOP-NIS to better understand child poverty from monetary and non-monetary perspectives. It revealed that the multidimensional poverty rate stands at 49 per cent, significantly higher than monetary child poverty (16 per cent). Wide disparities among Cambodia's geographical regions were proven, most acutely among children in the northeast. Significant overlapping deprivations for stunted children compared to non-stunted peers highlighted the importance of a multisectoral approach to addressing poverty. Findings were used at inter-ministerial policy forums, including a nutrition conference to advocate for multisectoral interventions and increased funding for nutrition programmes. Data was incorporated as SDG baselines and helped inform 2030 targets.

The CDPF supported the Education Research Council and Department of Policy to conduct research activities to inform policy development and initiate advocacy work within MOEYS, including the National Teachers Survey, which identified specific issues affecting teachers. Research was conducted on National Grade 12 Exams and results supported MOEYS to improve exam papers, curriculum development, instruction, and teacher reform.

Significant progress was achieved in generating new knowledge and evidence on the child protection situation in Cambodia and alternative care. With support from UNICEF headquarters (HQ), the '*Statistical Profile of Child Protection in Cambodia*' will be published early 2018. It provides data on 13 key child protection indicators and baselines for the Child Protection Information Management System. For the first time, MOSVY conducted a national mapping of all residential care facilities in 2017, providing essential information on facility location and numbers of child residents. This provides an important opportunity to access these places of care, assess their situation and appropriately respond to the children's needs.

UNICEF Cambodia updated the situation analysis of children and women in Cambodia, which provided inputs for deprivation and causality analyses conducted in preparation for the next country programme.

Partnerships

The Council of Ministers adopted the National Social Protection Policy Framework, which prioritizes cash transfers for pregnant women and children. Joint advocacy by the International Labour Organization (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF led the MEF to expand its scope to cover social assistance and insurance. More vulnerable people, including children under five years and pregnant women, stand to benefit from Government social support.

With USAID, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision, Friends-International and UNICEF, a Government-led communication strategy to end violence against children and unnecessary family separation was developed. It addresses social norms, behaviours and practices that promote violence against children.

Funded by Wella-UNICEF Making Waves programme, UNICEF UK and USAID, UNICEF Cambodia continued its relationship with the 3PC partnership. The partnership reached 5,547 vulnerable children and 1,473 youths with child protection services including formal, remedial and non-formal education classes; sessions on alternative care, child maltreatment, child rights, safe migration; vocational training; job placement and; drug prevention.

Through the Sida/EU-funded education CDPF, UNICEF drew on technical partnerships with MOEYS (technical departments, provincial offices), NGOs, think tanks and United Nations agencies to promote institutional and organizational reform in development of government action plans on education, public finance management, human resources and teacher policy.

WASH in schools was a focus through partnership with GIZ and MOEYS' School Health Department. With the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and the Australian Council for Educational Research, UNICEF supported the first field trial in Cambodia of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics, which measures Grade 5 levels in several academic areas.

To re-establish universal salt iodization, UNICEF embarked on a new collaboration with three

Ministries (Planning, Industry and Handicraft, and Commerce) to improve certification and compliance with iodization standards.

UNICEF, the World Health Organization, Alive and Thrive and Ministry of Health efforts led to the ban of commercialized human breast milk, ending a practice that exploits vulnerable Cambodian women.

External communication and public advocacy

UNICEF Cambodia's communication in 2017 strengthened the organization's voice, audience reach and engagement. Ending violence against children and ECD were among key advocacy focus areas, in alignment with programmatic priorities and the global 'Cause Framework'. Public advocacy on ECD was sustained throughout the year: during the ARNEC conference; through public screenings of 'The Beginning of Life' documentary, which explores the impact of a child's early environment on cognitive, social and emotional development; and the Father's Day #SuperDad social media campaign. With the many partners in-country and National Committees for UNICEF, the office further raised public awareness of the negative impact of orphanage tourism and importance of de-institutionalizing children in residential care.

Building on 2016's successful pilot of the 'Voices of Youth' blogging initiative, the youth training project expanded (ten youth trained through a ten-week programme) and drew further attention to issues related to Cambodia's young generations. Over 80 blogs were written during the programme, attracting between 1,000 and 2,000 readers per post and generating over 50,000 reaches each Facebook post. An independent evaluation of the initiative will inform the project's continuation.

UNICEF Cambodia further built its social media presence in a country where more youth are getting connected online, communicating on issues ranging from puberty and menstruation, youth empowerment, health, nutrition, WASH, education, and child protection. By November 2017, social media followers surpassed 87,500 (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram), nearly doubling from 44,700 in 2016. Total social media reach was eight million by mid-November, with about 540,000 post-engagement. UNICEF Cambodia appeared in the news frequently during 2017 with prominent international media coverage around two topics in particular: orphanage tourism and ongoing child reintegration efforts and the banning of human breastmilk exports from Cambodia. There were at least 550 known mentions and quotes of UNICEF Cambodia from January to November, compared to 146 in 2016.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation

Collaboration between UNICEF Cambodia's education programme and EAPRO resulted in the introduction of social-emotional learning to preschools in five northeastern target districts, an educational approach not visibly reflected in Cambodia's preschool programmes. This cooperation saw training of education officers and teacher trainers, leading to the adaptation of regional guidelines.

In 2017, MOEYS conducted study visits to Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand to examine these countries' education systems. The visits expanded the ministry's capacity in priority reform areas such as teacher training, curriculum development, personnel management and SGD4 Education 2030 Road Map development, and built closer collaboration between education ministries in the region.

With UNICEF Thailand, a learning mission was organized for an inter-ministerial delegation (MEF, MOSVY and Council for Agricultural and Rural Development) to learn about child grant programme design and operation. It provided a framework for the national cash transfer design in Cambodia.

UNICEF leveraged Swiss Development Cooperation support through the Local Governance Initiative and Network Asia to fund peer learning between Bangladesh and Cambodia on disability rights and local governance. Nine Cambodian participants (MOI, Disability Action Council, MOSVY, Cambodian Disabled People's Organization) travelled to Bangladesh and examined how local government has initiated practical, inclusive disability initiatives and how the disability movement successfully secured the rights of disabled persons.

In November, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) demonstrated the role of female councillors in social services in Cambodia to 24 female local leaders from Myanmar. The visitors were on a mission to learn how Cambodia successfully established committees for women and children in all local-level governments in 2007. The mission also involved exchanging experiences on participating in and influencing local decisions effecting women and children's rights; from the discussions, the Myanmar female councillors appeared to be very active in local governance, including planning and budgeting for social services.

Identification and promotion of innovation

Building on UNICEF's long-standing engagement with Cambodia's administrative decentralization reform, in 2017 UNICEF Cambodia supported the Ministry of Interior and the National Treasury to simplify and improve budgeting and action guidance for communes. This is expected to lead to more optimal use of social service mapping by local administrators, allowing them to better identify the status and social needs of vulnerable households and provide appropriate services and support. UNICEF is monitoring and learning from the mapping data, which is aggregated and made available for analysis through a digital data collection tool. The analysis covers all UNICEF Cambodia programme areas and complements other emerging data streams that improve UNICEF and partners' understanding of citizen's articulation of social need priorities.

One of the key emerging data streams was an ongoing longitudinal study of the impact of IECD interventions, put in place by UNICEF Cambodia in partnership with the Government to enhance monitoring and evaluation in target communities. This enabled UNICEF and implementing partners to continually learn more about IECD issues, including maternal and child health, nutrition, WASH and early childhood education.

Another emerging data stream involved a new UNICEF-supported digital app for inspection of residential care facilities for children. The app replaced a paper-based collection system, offering implementing partners real-time access to critical data on whether or not facilities are complying with standards of alternative care for children. This helped pinpoint the facilities needing attention and facilitated better planning and more cost-effective implementation of facility inspections by MOSVY.

Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages

UNICEF Cambodia continued to roll out its IECD programme in 2017, which covers maternal and newborn health, nutrition, WASH and ECE. In March, UNICEF supported MOEYS to host the ARNEC conference in Siem Reap, where progress, constraints and lessons learned from

the Early Childhood Care and Development action plan were discussed. The conference was a platform to strengthen partnerships and share good practices, knowledge and tools, along with advocating for holistic early childhood development.

Continued cross-sectoral collaboration between the child protection and education programmes included expansion of positive discipline teacher training to 405 schools, resulting in a decrease in physical violence from 73 to 47 per cent in target schools. The programmes jointly supported development of MOEYS' Child Protection in Schools Policy Action Plan to provide a framework for the positive discipline programme.

By supporting improved budgeting and action guidance with the National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development and Ministry of Interior, UNICEF helped communes make deeper investments in eight key result areas that promote holistic child development. This was complemented by a budgeted communication plan to promote holistic parenting education and local administrators' civic engagement.

Through collaboration between education, health and WASH programmes, UNICEF supported MOEYS to develop 'health education' as a core subject in primary and secondary schools. WASH in schools indicators were integrated in the Government's Education Management Information System, to enable monitoring of progress towards SDGs 4 and 6.

In May, the Ministry of Health released the first handbook for health personnel on care of child victims of sexual violence and abuse, developed with UNICEF multisectoral support programmes.

UNICEF supported the Steering Committee on Violence against Children, composed of 13 ministries, to develop a costed action plan to prevent violence against children. It was launched in December with Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

Service delivery

Through 3PC, 7,796 vulnerable children benefited from a range of targeted preventive and responsive child protection services, including family reunification, counselling, food and medical support, and vocational training. Supportive services, including harm reduction and livelihood support, reached 1,665 vulnerable youths and 3,035 families. Children at risk of or who experienced violence, trafficking, living on the streets, from poor/marginalized households, out of school, with disabilities, and in conflict with the law comprised the main beneficiaries.

With UNICEF Cambodia's assistance, MOEYS reached 405 primary schools with positive discipline and effective classroom management teacher training (implementation began 2016), providing approximately 121,500 girls and boys with safer, improved school environments.

With the General Secondary Education Department, UNICEF initiated a scholarship programme toward completion of education for ethnic minority students, who typically demonstrate poor educational outcomes in Cambodia, benefiting 1,090 students (539 girls) in grades 11 and 12. UNICEF supported MOEYS to procure and pre-position 200 temporary learning spaces for five provinces and WASH non-food items in case of emergency.

Ongoing Ministry of Interior and UNICEF technical support to 34 target communes significantly increased community preschools and civil registration services, including birth registration.

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia partnered with the GAVI Alliance to procure vaccines, pharmaceuticals and laboratory devices. With the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, antiretroviral drugs valued at US\$15.6 million were procured.

The proportion of health facilities in Cambodia's northeast providing nutrition-specific services reached 36 by mid-2017, surpassing the target of 35.

Approximately 2,595 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition by September, driven by UNICEF support to the Ministry of Health for increased training and mass nutrition screening in target provinces.

In addition, 97 villages in target and non-target districts were reached through household water treatment and safe storage education sessions, providing communities valuable lessons on safe practices of drinking water.

Human rights-based approach to cooperation

In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UNICEF Cambodia worked with MOEYS to develop an in-service teacher training package on positive discipline. It aims to foster secure, child-friendly and non-violent relationships between teachers and students. Delivered to 405 schools to date, students report that the training has led to positive behaviour change from teachers (less corporal punishment) and improved learning environments. UNICEF baseline and end-line survey data exposed the prevalence of violence against children in schools, which intensified focus on addressing gender-based violence. UNICEF is also supporting MOEYS to develop a new child protection in school policy action plan.

UNICEF assisted MOEYS to offer multilingual education at pre-primary and primary levels in five northeastern provinces to promote the rights of all children to quality learning, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Consequently, 6,344 primary school students and 1,178 preschool students enrolled in multilingual education in 2016/17, exceeding government targets. In inclusive education, UNICEF Cambodia supported UNICEF HQ and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to test a new module on inclusive education that will improve statistics and help address barriers to access of education for children with disabilities.

UNICEF Cambodia recognizes the significant equity gaps children with disabilities face in accessing their rights in Cambodia, bearing in mind the framework of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and CRC. With the Government, in 2017 UNICEF promoted the rights of children with disabilities through technical assistance to relevant social protection programmes, mainstreaming of disability into policies and programmes, and supporting service delivery by 14 civil society partners. Some 56,566 direct beneficiaries, including 6,823 children (girls: 2,859), received support and services. UNICEF will continue to advocate for improved data collection and analysis on children with disabilities.

Gender equality

UNICEF Cambodia continued to prioritize girls' and women's rights and representation across all programmes, including during process initiated for the new Country Programme 2019-2023. The office benefited from a visit by the Gender Advisor from EAPRO, which included training for all staff on gender issues.

In education, UNICEF Cambodia assisted MOEYS in a joint scholarship programme costing \$90,000 that prioritizes adolescent girls and supports the completion of education for 1,090 grade 11 and 12 students (539 female) from ethnic minorities.

Through the positive discipline programme, the number of students experiencing or witnessing at least one incident of moderate physical violence in school decreased from 73.4 per cent to 46.5 per cent in target schools, compared to 64 per cent in non-target schools between 2015 and 2016 (US\$150,000).

UNICEF Cambodia supported MOEYS to print action plans and conduct dissemination workshops on integrating principles of the government's gender mainstreaming action in the development and implementation of annual operating plans (US\$26,000).

A schoolgirl counselling programme was implemented and monitored by MOEYS with UNICEF support costing US\$50,000. It trained 133 girl counsellors and school leaders from 45 secondary schools to address student dropout, repetition and promotion rates.

In Ratanakiri Province (northeast), UNICEF supported the development of a provincial action plan to prevent and respond to child marriage and teenage pregnancy among ethnic minorities (US\$2,863).

As part of the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' campaign, UNICEF provided US\$5,900 to support awareness activities at public, Buddhist and Islamic schools through the NGOs Coalition of Rights of the Child and Khmer Youth Association, along with an online campaign that reached more than 140,000 children with prevention messages on abuse and exploitation.

The #SuperDad campaign around Father's Day in June was a great success and for a US\$2,500 investment, proved very cost-effective. It engaged the public through social media on the role of fathers in providing love, good nutrition, protection and the best start in life to their children. The week-long campaign reached over half a million users, including over 60,000 on Facebook.

Environmental sustainability

By supporting the development of solar-powered water disinfection and lighting systems in 14 water treatment and bottling kiosks in target districts in 2017, UNICEF Cambodia contributed to reducing its carbon footprint. UNICEF supported work on six piped water supply systems, which, by treating surface water including in areas with a known risk of arsenic in groundwater, reduced the need to use potentially environmental hazardous arsenic treatment by products.

UNICEF also supported development of climate-resilient water sources for four existing water treatment and bottling facilities affected by water shortages in previous years. Construction work was completed on 10 raised flood-resilient water treatment and bottling facilities in flood-risk areas. To support sanitation and waste management, UNICEF Cambodia supported decentralized wastewater treatment systems in seven schools and seven health care facilities and planted gravel filters to provide onsite treatment to wastewater. These measures reduced adverse environmental impacts such as eutrophication (excessive richness of nutrients) with the associated damage to eco-systems.

As part of the strategy to become climate neutral by 2020, UNICEF continued to apply a three per cent carbon footprint tax on all flights used by staff. UNICEF Cambodia also started applying the new Executive Directive to rigorously screen international travel and ensure only those activities that cannot be achieved through non-travel are approved. This will reduce costs and the organization's carbon footprint.

By moving to new office premises, UNICEF Cambodia cut operating costs and reduced its carbon footprint. The new building was built to up-to-date standards for energy conservation, greenery integration, water conservation and carbon reduction. Implementing an open office floor plan enabled efficient use of electricity for lighting during the day. It is estimated that the electricity bill was reduced by as much as 50 per cent. Provision of central printing and photocopying equipment with focus on 'Follow Me Printing' significantly reduced paper waste through unnecessary printing and also saved energy. The number of printers was reduced from 25 to eight and of 186,720 print jobs requested, 16,876 jobs sent prematurely were deleted and 7,151 eventually expired

Effective leadership

The office achieved 99 per cent implementation of Regular Resources, 95 per cent of Other Resources and 100 per cent of the Institutional Budget. This was due to effective mechanisms that assessed and took timely action on key financial, human resources, supply, administration and security issues.

UNICEF Cambodia's active statutory committees and memberships were reviewed regularly. The Country Management Team (CMT) met monthly to assess management indicators, implementation bottlenecks, assurance activities and direct cash transfer liquidations. The Joint Consultative Committee met four times; discussions informed decisions such as the establishment of an action plan to respond to the Global Staff Survey. Regular all-staff meetings that included zone offices by videoconference were held after each Country Management Team meeting and created the opportunity for transparent feedback on management decisions. Weekly meetings with section heads were held to share major upcoming events and foster cross-sectoral linkages.

The Contract Review Committee met 13 times to review 13 submissions for a total value of US\$950,000. All were approved on first submission, due to thorough preparation and adequate documentation. The Property Survey Board met three times during the year to review submissions for disposal of obsolete office equipment.

In January, a consultant from Moore Stephens International Limited led the office through a comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management exercise, which produced a risk profile and key identified risk areas and proposed mitigation measures. The Business Continuity Plan was updated to reflect the office's new location. It was tested in June 2017 during the commune election process, when all staff were requested to work from home. This was followed by a survey to assess staff readiness for teleworking.

Financial resources management

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia processed all financial transactions through the Global Shared Services Shared Centre (GSSC) in Budapest. No returned or rejected cases were experienced through the MyCase system, apart from a few challenges in managing the vendor master record registration. The problem was addressed following additional training from Global Shared Services).

The office monitored its direct cash transfers through financial spot checks and field monitoring activities undertaken by staff in Phnom Penh and the three zone offices. Through the timely submission and ongoing monitoring of direct cash transfer liquidation documentation, outstanding transfers more than six months were well within agreed-upon benchmarks. UNICEF Cambodia maintained direct cash transfers over nine months at zero per cent throughout the year.

As a priority in 2017, the Country Management Team regularly monitored implementation of the harmonized approach to cash transfers (HACT) assurance plan. By conducting financial audits for 14 implementing partners who met the established threshold amounts, UNICEF Cambodia reduced the number of minimum required financial spot checks during the year. Following the introduction of the simplified eZHACT system, some glitches were experienced with the key performance indicator scorecard for assurance activities. Some data errors also resulted from the introduction of a new calculation method for minimum required assurance activities in the InSight system without any prior notification.

Micro-assessments for two implementing partners and all planned programmatic visits were completed in 2017: 70 per cent of planned financial spot checks were completed as planned.

Financial account records were regularly reviewed and maintained according to UNICEF financial guidelines and chart of accounts.

The office continued to effectively use its bank optimization and cash forecasting tools and performed well in meeting its closing bank balance targets.

Fundraising and donor relations

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia managed US\$16,559,343 in Other Resources (OR) funds, of which 93 per cent was spent. The office mobilized a total of US\$8,322,887 additional OR funds during the reporting period, and expects additional significant funding in education in 2018. As a result of excellent partnerships with locally based EU and Sida missions and a track record of delivering results, both partners agreed to continue supporting the Education CDPF for a third phase (2018–2021). Furthermore, through good working relationships with USAID Cambodia, UNICEF Cambodia was able to mobilize an additional US\$1,624,000 (due to arrive early 2018) for education and child protection.

Unfortunately, expected health funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency did not materialize, following government changes in South Korea.

The office continued to advocate for new funding, especially in areas with shortfalls (health, nutrition, child protection).

Good collaboration was maintained with UNICEF National Committees. In total, UNICEF Cambodia received US\$3,656,383 in 2017 through National Committees. UNICEF continued to engage with the committees to end orphanage tourism and voluntourism. The office successfully hosted a number of visits by donors and National Committees in support of partnership building and resource mobilization, including for Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, UK and Netherlands (Aeon pre-visit). A series of visits are already being planned for 2018.

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia submitted 41 high quality donor reports, including a number of

human interest stories. None were late or overdue. Specific standard operating procedures on donor reports ensured their quality, including review by the communications section and an external editor before submission to the Deputy Representative. The office also updated its four National Committee donor toolkits developed in 2016.

Evaluation and research

UNICEF Cambodia ensured rigorous preparation and implementation of the online Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation system in 2017, which was regularly monitored by the Programme Management Group and Country Management Team. UNICEF Cambodia completed the country case study of the Evaluation of UNICEF's Strategies and Programme Performance in Reducing Stunting (rated satisfactory by GEROS) and participated in assessments of UNICEF's rural drinking water supply programming and of health systems strengthening.

To prepare for the new country programme, UNICEF Cambodia initiated three country-led evaluations for completion in early 2018: the Outcome Evaluation of the Education CDPF, Formative Evaluation of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development-UNICEF Cash Transfer Pilot, and Formative Evaluation of UNICEF's Child Protection Programme. UNICEF supported management of evaluations covering the 2011-2015 and 2016-2018 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF). Findings and recommendations will inform the new UNDAF and Country Programme Document 2019-2023.

To ensure evaluations are utilized, UNICEF Cambodia focused on the communication and dissemination of evaluations completed in 2016. This included publication of briefs in Khmer and the presentation of findings and recommendations at national and local level to influence public reform.

UNICEF Cambodia contributed to the national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy draft, which the Government will adopt in 2018. Staff members were trained to use standard operating procedure for research, evaluation and studies, which was included in UNICEF's Regional Evaluation Strategy. The evaluation staff position, which is shared among three country offices (Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar), was positively reviewed in 2017 by EAPRO as part of the peer review of UNICEF's evaluation function. A recommendation was made to replicate this shared arrangement across groups of countries where this may prove appropriate and useful to overcome scarcity of resources for evaluation at country level.

Budget use for evaluation was 2.26 per cent of programme expenditure.

Efficiency gains and cost savings

UNICEF Cambodia made several efforts to improve efficiency and cost savings internally and at UN community level. The UN Operations Management Team in Cambodia coordinated common procurement initiatives. UNICEF continued to lead the inter-agency procurement task force for a second year. In 2017, UNICEF had 31 active long-term arrangements to support office needs and other UN agencies to secure favourable prices and reduce transaction time for commonly procured goods and services.

The office achieved considerable savings in operating expenses as a result of the relocation to the new premises in the first quarter of 2017. Fuel costs declined by about US\$40,000 through discontinuation of the use of generators for electricity; security services were reduced by US\$18,000 with the use of building security turnstiles and ground floor lobby access control.

Savings in electricity amounted to roughly US\$16,000. Additional costs were cut by hosting more meetings at UNICEF conference facilities rather than outsourcing to hotels. This helped to reduce operating costs as well as staff time and transactional costs.

The office conducted an accessibility audit of the new office premises with a specialized local NGO (Phnom Penh Centre for Independent Living), which promotes the rights of people with disabilities. The assessment report was very good and some recommendations were made and used to further improve facilities to increase accessibility by people with disabilities.

The use of public transport such as buses and personal vehicles for duty travel within and near Phnom Penh increased office efficiency; while the office fleet was used for trips to remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Supply management

To support implementation in 2017, the procurement volume of programmatic and operational supplies and services as well as procurement services amounted to US\$16.6 million, slightly lower than 2016 (US\$17.1 million).

Procurement of programme and operational supplies totalled US\$0.9 million, including essential supplies for children, ICT equipment and printed promotional materials.

At US\$14.9 million, the value of procurement services continued to exceed UNICEF's direct supply assistance and remained an important mechanism to leverage resources for children in Cambodia. Regular procurement services amounted to US\$8.7 million, while procurement of vaccines for the National Immunization Program (MOH) accounted for US\$6.2 million. Vaccines were largely funded by the GAVI Alliance, but also included national budget for vaccine procurement. This further improved the sustainability of Cambodia's immunization programmes.

UNICEF continued to be the default procurement agent for three Global Fund grants (HIV, tuberculosis and health system strengthening), an arrangement that began in 2013. The existing agreement is valid until 31 December 2017.

Over 90 per cent of total supplies procured in 2017 was done in support of national availability and local delivery of essential supplies for UNICEF programmes, in addition to procurement services provided to the Government and other implementing partners. The main commodities included vaccines, pharmaceuticals, diagnostic test kits and nutrition supplies.

The value of service inputs reached US\$0.9 million, covering technical assistance, consultancies, research and advisory services, as well as services related to the move of the UNICEF office to a new location in 2017. Other service inputs included translation, interpreting and editing, and consultancies.

Table 1: UNICEF Cambodia Procurement 2017	
Type	Value US\$
Institutional services	\$875,000
Programme supplies	\$636,528
Operation supplies	\$236,000

Procurement services	\$14,879,405
Total procurement	\$16,626,933

At year end, UNICEF Cambodia had 31 active long-term arrangements in place to support UNICEF as well as other UN agencies, securing favourable prices and reducing transaction times for commonly procured goods and services.

UNICEF continued to chair the UN Procurement Task Force to enhance common procurement and operations, improve areas of common planning, identify shared needs and increase collaborative procurement initiatives.

Security for staff and premises

UNICEF Cambodia participated actively in UN Security Management Team meetings. The relocation to the new office premises in April 2017 improved security for staff and equipment. The premises comply with Minimum Operating Security Standards. An orientation on security/fire evacuation was conducted for all staff during the first week in the new building. One fire evacuation drill for the whole building took place in August, thereby testing the preparedness to evacuate the building during fire hazards.

UNICEF security focal points and staff wardens attended all required training during the year, keeping them up to date on all issues related to security. The increase of incidents of bag and phone snatching and street crime in Phnom Penh, which mainly targeted women, led to the arrangement of a specialized training for female staff. They will participate in regular sessions in future Department of Safety and Security basic training.

The office move committee continued its regular meetings during 2017 to discuss feedback from staff on new premises, especially the open office space set up. The Operations team worked with management to find solutions to address identified problems. The issue of vehicle parking continued to be a challenge, however the eventual introduction of reduced parking fees by building management helped. Some staff members managed to find alternative solutions, such as using public transport.

The aging office vehicles fleet remains a concern and UNICEF Cambodia continued to make efforts to replace them. In 2017, funds were secured to procure two new vehicles.

Human resources

2017 was a stable year for UNICEF Cambodia. With the UNICEF Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) based in Budapest fully operational, the Human Resources (HR) function shifted towards a more strategic role focused on attracting talent, ensuring performance management on results, and enhancing support to partners. Given the changes in responsibilities and structure with a shared HR Manager post, a review of the unit resulted in the abolishment of a national officer level B Learning Officer position and the creation of a level A HR Officer post.

All 2016 performance evaluations were completed on time. UNICEF Cambodia took full advantage of the new tools available: ACHIEVE, MyCase and Talent Management Suite, enabling the office to effectively attract, hire, support and empower staff members. Five full-time staff recruitments were completed and vacancy rate was one per cent. Thirteen consultants (value of US\$470,000), four UN volunteers and 12 interns were also recruited. The gender

balance remained at 37 per cent female to 63 per cent male (25:75 per cent among national officers). The office will continue to make efforts to especially attract national officer female applicants and foster an environment to retain female staff.

Throughout 2017, actions were taken to address all major issues from the 2014 and 2017 Global Staff Survey, with a focus on making the office a great place to work.

A learning plan was developed and implemented by the HR Development Team, resulting in 64 of 78 individual activities, 216 mandatory online courses and eight of 15 office-wide initiatives from the 2017–2018 plan being completed.

Effective use of information and communication technology

UNICEF Cambodia's information and communication technology (ICT) team continued to efficiently support country programme implementation by maintaining and renovating its network architecture and migrating mandatory software and systems.

With great collaboration from an HQ expert, UNICEF Cambodia successfully migrated 115 users, including those in zone offices, to Skype for Business telephony. The majority of operations and programme staff were involved in the process through hands-on training and were able to access the new system before and after moving to the new office. The experiences and lessons learned during the migration were widely shared in the region.

UNICEF Cambodia collaborated with a HQ team to install the LIGHT Service Centre in Phnom Penh, which is in line with ICT development strategy, offering greater return on investment and increased ICT efficiency and flexibility for zone offices, especially for mobile users working remotely. This feature enables them to more efficiently access network share drives, VISION, Management Dashboard and remote ICT support.

To support office greening efforts, the ICT team implemented Follow Me Printing, allowing users to release and pick up a job once they are physically present at the printer. This reduced the number of office printers from 25 to eight and significantly lessened quantity of printed paper. UNICEF Cambodia's ICT equipment is modernized and complies with ICT development hardware standards and guidelines. The budget to replace half of obsolete computers was well funded and committed. Consequently, in 2017, more than 60 per cent of computer workstations were migrated to Windows 10, the new UNICEF standard operating software.

Overall, 2017 was a productive year for the ICT team. All critical projects, including relocation of all server equipment, critical connectivity and users to a new office building within a fixed time frame, were accomplished.

Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 The identity, direction and well-being of UNICEF and staff are managed efficiently and effectively to enable the achievement of results for children in Cambodia

Analytical statement of progress

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia witnessed key achievements in management effectiveness in support of efficient and effective programme delivery. The relocation to the new office premises in April 2017 was successful and improved security for staff and equipment. Financial, human resources, information and communication, procurement and administrative support was provided in a timely manner to the programme teams leading to high implementation of planned activities, utilization of resources and achievement of results for Cambodian children and women.

Overall, 96 percent of the US\$22.3 million allocated in 2017 (Regular Resources and Other Resources) was utilized by the end of the year. The office achieved 99 percent implementation from Regular Resources and 95 percent on Other Resources and 100 percent of the Institutional Budget. The high levels of expenditures are attributed to systematic and consistent monitoring of disbursements, utilization, liquidations of disbursed funds and expiry of grants through monthly programme management group and country management team meetings. These meetings helped to discuss, decide and take actions on key financial, human resources, supply, and administration and security issues to facilitate and provide support for programme implementation.

In 2017, the country management team (CMT) met monthly to review the key management indicators and provide guidance on key strategic issues including the approval of rolling annual management plan 2017-2018 (RAMP). This is a critical internal office management tool to ensure that human, material and financial resources are effectively deployed to ensure meaningful and sustainable achievement of strategic results for children and women. The Programme Management Group) and Operations Management Group continued to provide inputs to the CMT agenda. Participation of zonal offices in CMT secured through teleconference enabling full participation hence reducing the needs for their physical presence in Phnom Penh for the meeting. In addition, all other statutory committees (country management team, joint consultative committee, contracts review committee, partnership review committee) also continued to meet regularly.

All 2016 performance evaluations were completed on time. The office took full advantage of the new tools available: ACHIEVE, MyCase and Talent Management Suite, enabling the office to effectively attract, hire, support and empower staff members. Five full-time staff recruitments were completed and vacancy rate was one per cent. Thirteen consultants (value of US\$470,000), four UN volunteers and 12 interns were also recruited. The gender balance remained at 37 per cent female (25 per cent among national officers). The office will continue to make efforts to especially attract National Officer female applicants and foster an environment to retain female staff.

In 2017, 90 per cent of total procurement was done in support of national availability and local delivery of essential supplies for UNICEF programmes as well as through Procurement Services provided to government and other implementing partners. Including Vaccines, ARVs, Pharmaceuticals, Diagnostic Test Kits and Nutrition supplies, exceeding the annual target of 80 per cent.

Thirteen cases were submitted to the Contract Review Committee for contracting of goods and services in support of the country programme implementation. All the procurement cases were approved on first review, due to adequate preparations for all the requisite documents.

In compliance with UNICEF standards, compact office work space and call accounting systems, the deployment and implementation of Skype for Business Telephony was completed during the

first quarter. UNICEF staff members also have better access to cooperate data such as Vision/SAP, dashboard and shared drive away from the office following successful deployment and implementation of LIGHT Service Centre and LIGHT Office. In addition, successful installation of e-printers helped UNICEF Cambodia to reduce printing costs and environmental footprint by ensuring more secure print job functions.

UNICEF Cambodia participated actively in UN Security Management Team meetings. The new premises were rated MOSS compliant.

OUTPUT 1 Governance and Systems exist to support the direction of country operations

Analytical statement of progress

The rolling Annual Management Plan was updated, which included revised statutory committees for 2017 (Country Management Team, Joint Consultative Committee, Contracts Review Committee, Partnership Review Committee). All the committees regularly met in 2017 thereby ensuring efficient operational support to programme implementation. The UNICEF Cambodia enterprise risk management profile was updated, with support from an audit firm Moore Stephens.

In compliance with UNICEF standard, compact office work space and call accounting systems, the deployment and implementation of Skype for Business Telephony was completed during the first quarter. UNICEF staff members also have better access to cooperate data such as Vision/SAP, dashboard and shared drive away from the office following successful deployment and implementation of LIGHT Service Centre and LIGHT Office. In addition, successful installation of e-printers helped UNICEF Cambodia to reduce printing costs and environmental footprint by ensuring more secure print job functions.

UNICEF Cambodia's information and communication technology (ICT) team continued to efficiently support country programme implementation by maintaining and renovating its network architecture and migrating mandatory software and tools (laptops, phone, printers, scanner).

With great collaboration and support from UNICEF headquarters, the office successfully migrated 115 users, including those in zone offices, to Skype for Business telephony. The majority of operations and programme colleagues were involved in the process through hands-on training and thus were able to access Office 365 telephony (skype for business telephony) before and after moving to the new office. Moreover, the office's experience and lessons learned during the migration were widely shared in the region.

UNICEF Cambodia collaborated with an HQ team to install the LIGHT Service Centre in Phnom Penh, in line with ICT development strategy. It provides greater return on investment and increased efficiency and flexibility of ICT services for zone offices, especially for mobile users working remotely.

To support office greening efforts, the ICT team implemented Follow Me Printing, allowing users to release and pick up a job once they are physically present at the printer. This reduced the number of office printers from 25 to eight and significantly lessened quantity of printed paper.

UNICEF Cambodia's ICT equipment is modernized and complies with ICT development hardware standards and guidelines. The budget to replace half of obsolete computers was well funded and committed. Consequently, in 2017, more than 60 per cent of computer workstations

were migrated to Windows 10, the new UNICEF standard operating software.

Overall, 2017 was quite a productive year for the ICT team. All critical projects, including relocation of all server equipment, critical connectivity and users to a new office building within a fixed time frame, were accomplished.

OUTPUT 2 Stewardship of Financial Resources creates the conditions to pursue country operations

Analytical statement of progress

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia managed to process all financial transactions through the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) based in Budapest. No returned or rejected cases through MyCase system were experienced, apart from a few challenges in management of Vendor master record registration. By June, the problem was addressed following additional training by GSSC.

The office monitored its direct cash transfers through financial spot checks and field monitoring activities undertaken by staff in Phnom Penh staff and the three zone offices. Through the timely submission and ongoing monitoring of direct cash transfer liquidation documentation, outstanding transfers more than six months were well within agreed-upon benchmarks. UNICEF Cambodia maintained direct cash transfers over nine months at 0 per cent throughout the year.

Despite a slow start at the beginning of the year due to challenges associated with securing appointments with implementing partners, implementation of the HACT assurance plan was accelerated from mid-to the end of the year resulting in 100 percent of programmatic visits and 70 per cent of spot checks being completed. Two micro-assessments were conducted. As a priority in 2017, implementation of the HACT assurance plan was regularly monitored through country management mechanisms. By conducting financial audits for 14 implementing partners who met the established threshold amounts, UNICEF Cambodia reduced the number of minimum required financial spot checks during the year. Following the introduction of the eZHACT, some glitches were experienced with the scorecard KPI for assurance activities. Some data errors also resulted from the introduction of new calculation method for minimum required assurance activities in Insight system without notification.

Financial account records were regularly reviewed and maintained according to UNICEF financial guidelines and UNICEF's chart of accounts. The office continued to effectively use its bank optimization and cash forecasting tools and performed well in meeting its closing bank balance targets.

OUTPUT 3 Human resources have the capacities, skills, morale and motivation to support country operations

Analytical statement of progress

2017 was a stable year for UNICEF Cambodia. With the Global Shared Services Centre fully operational, the Human Resources (HR) function shifted towards a more strategic role focused on attracting talent, ensuring performance management on results, and enhancing support to partners.

Given changes in responsibilities and structure with a shared HR Manager post, a review of the

unit resulted in the abolishment of a National Officer Level B Learning Officer position and the creation of a National Officer Level A Human Resources Officer post.

All 2016 performance evaluations were completed on time. The office took full advantage of the new tools available: ACHIEVE, MyCase and Talent Management Suite, enabling the office to effectively attract, hire, support and empower staff members. Five full-time staff recruitments were completed and vacancy rate was one per cent. Thirteen consultants (value of US\$470,000), four UN volunteers and 12 interns were also recruited. The gender balance remained at 37 per cent female (25 per cent among national officers). The office will continue to make efforts to especially attract National Officer female applicants and foster an environment to retain female staff.

Throughout 2017, actions were taken to address all major issues from the 2014 and 2017 Global Staff Survey, with a focus on making the office a great place to work. A Global Staff Survey Action Plan with 29 specific actions has recently been endorsed by the country management team and implementation is underway. Some priority actions are aimed at promoting career and professional development, addressing gender gap in recruitment, improving office management and leadership, staff security and work-life balance, among others

A learning plan was developed and implemented by the Human Resources Development Team, resulting in 64 of 78 individual activities, 216 mandatory online courses and eight of 15 office-wide initiatives from the 2017–2018 plan being completed.

OUTPUT 4 Operational functions, including administration, efficiently and effectively managed

Analytical statement of progress

UNICEF Cambodia participated actively in UN Security Management Team meetings. The relocation to the new office premises in April 2017 improved security for staff and equipment. The new premises are MOSS compliant. An orientation on security/fire evacuation was conducted for all staff on the first week of moving to the new premises. One fire evacuation drill for the whole building took place in August thereby testing the preparedness to evacuate the building during fire hazards. UNICEF security focal points and staff wardens attended all required training during the year, keeping them up to date on all issues related to security. The increase of incidents of bag and phone snatching and street crime in Phnom Penh which mainly target female staff led to the arrangement of a specialized training for female staff to increase their awareness and take preventive measures.

The office move committee continued its regular meetings during 2017 to discuss feedback from staff on new office premises, especially the open office space set up. The operations team worked with the management to find solutions to address identified problems. The issue of vehicle parking continued to be a challenge, however the later introduction of reduced parking fees by the building management helped to ease the challenge. The aging office vehicles fleet remain a concern for the management and UNICEF Cambodia continues to make efforts to replace the aging vehicles. In 2017, funds were secured to procure two new vehicles.

UNICEF Cambodia made several efforts to improve efficiency and cost savings internally and at UN level. The UN Operations Management Team in Cambodia coordinated common procurement initiatives. UNICEF continued to lead the inter-agency procurement task force for a second year. In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia had 31 active long term arrangements (LTAS) in place to support the office and other UN agencies with commonly procured goods and services.

This helped to secure favourable prices and to reduce transaction times.

The office achieved considerable savings in operating expenses as a result of the relocation to the new premises in the first quarter of 2017. Fuel costs declined by about US\$40,000 through discontinuation of the use of generators for electricity; security services were reduced by US\$18,000 with the use of building security turnstiles and ground floor lobby access control. Savings in electricity amounted to roughly US\$16,000. Additional costs were cut by hosting more meetings at UNICEF conference facilities rather than outsourcing to hotels. This helped to reduce operating costs as well as staff time and transactional costs. The office conducted an accessibility audit of the new office premises with a specialized local NGO (Phnom Penh Centre for Independent Living), which promotes the rights of people with disabilities. The assessment report was very good and some recommendations were made and used to further improve facilities to increase accessibility by people with disabilities.

The use of public transport such as buses and personal vehicles for duty travel within and near Phnom Penh increased office efficiency to use the office fleet for trips to remote and hard-to-reach areas.

OUTCOME 2 Cambodia country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality results based management standards and achieve results for children.

Analytical statement of progress

During the annual review held in November, all six programme outcomes and 89 per cent of programme and management outputs (25/28) were reported to be on track. In 2017, the second year of the 3-year cycle, UNICEF Cambodia mobilised about US\$ 21 million equivalent to 83 per cent of the total budget. A 93 per cent utilization rate was achieved (99 per cent RR and 91 per cent ORR). Through both Government and civil society organization partnerships in 2017, UNICEF managed to disburse approximately US\$ 10 million as direct cash transfers in support of various programmes aimed at improving the lives of children and women of Cambodia.

In the course of 2017, 22 Partnership Cooperation Agreements were reviewed and 95 per cent were approved at the first sitting of the Partnership Review Committee due to adequate preparatory work. The majority were finalized within the internal 45 days threshold between formal submission of documents and signature by both UNICEF and implementing partners.

The implementation of management response plans to 2016 evaluations progressed as planned. At the end of December, 86.2 per cent of actions were completed or on track, with the remainder underway. Management responses of evaluations conducted in the previous country programme were all completed and closed. An Evaluation Dashboard was shared during quarterly CMT meetings to monitor the implementation of evaluations and the status of the evaluation function, and to collectively find solutions to identified bottlenecks. Evaluation and Learning Briefs were widely shared among staff to promote learning and identification of good practices and innovations.

Three evaluations are underway at different stages of implementation: (1) Outcome Evaluation of the Education CDPF with the draft report under review; (2) Formative Evaluation of the CARD and UNICEF Cash Transfer Pilot, with the draft report under preparation, and; (3) Formative Evaluation of UNICEF's Child Protection Programme whose data collection is underway. These three evaluations are contributing to some 2.2 per cent (\$471,521) of the total programme

budget. Evaluation management and quality assurance was put in place to ensure evaluability of the programmes, high quality terms of reference, proper selection of external consultants, review of inception reports, draft and final reports, dissemination and communication.

UNICEF Cambodia was also selected to take part in three global evaluation case studies which were completed. These were: (1) Global Evaluation of Drinking Water Supply; (2) Global Evaluation of UNICEF's Strategies in Reducing Stunting in Children under Five Years of Age (rated satisfactory by UNICEF's Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System), and (3) Global Evaluation of Health Systems Strengthening.

UNICEF Cambodia also supported the management of the Evaluation of the 011-2015 and 2016-2018 UNDAFs. Being part of the inter-agency evaluation management team, between March and November 2017 UNICEF participated from the planning to finalization of this evaluation whose report is being completed. Findings and recommendations will feed into the development of the new UNDAF, as well as UNICEF country programme 2019-2023.

Following up on the recently completed Cambodia's Community Preschool (CPS) Evaluation, UNICEF Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport held a national reflection workshop in October in Kampong Cham Province. It served to disseminate the results of the independent evaluation to relevant national and sub-national stakeholders to explore ways to improve the CPS implementation as well as advance results for early childhood development in Cambodia. The workshop brought together nearly 65 multi-stakeholder participants, about 50 per cent are women, from national ministries, provincial and district authorities, capacity development advisors and other early childhood practitioners to exchange knowledge and discuss plans for follow up actions to improve the CPS operations. . Two blog posts on CPS were published on social media in 2017 and one more will be made available to the public early 2018.

A summary in Khmer of the Joint Evaluation of the Child-Friendly School Policy (rated highly satisfactory by GEROS) was produced and distributed across MoEYS, both at the national and sub-national level to promote update of the findings and recommendations and influence the reform agenda of the Ministry to improve the quality and access to education.

The Evaluation Officer shared position which serves Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar – and hosted by Cambodia - was positively reviewed by EAPRO in 2017. While not entirely attributable to the establishment of the shared position, the review noted that there has been a significant increase in the number and quality of evaluations that have been completed since the establishment of the post.

OUTPUT 1 UNICEF staff and partners are provided with guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes

Analytical statement of progress

A total of seven rolling work plans were finalized and signed in March by UNICEF and respective Government counterparts. A joint work plan quality assurance meeting was conducted and this facilitated cross sectoral discussions and promoted integration. Ten Programme Management Meetings) were held to ensure effective coordination and cross-programme sharing & learning, collective solutions to challenges and achievements of results.

In preparation for the development of the next country programme (2019-2023), UNICEF Cambodia recruited a consultant to update the situation of children's and women's rights (Seitan). The draft Seitan update assessment report provided useful inputs for the prioritization, causality analyses and results-based management training that led to initial drafting of the causality analyses and theories of change for development of the next country programme. Following in-country mission to consult stakeholders, the consultant is currently finalizing the report incorporating feedback from the reference group, section chiefs and EAPRO Advisors.

UNICEF maintained regular and active participation in Humanitarian Response Forum meetings. Being co-lead of three emergency sectors (Education, WASH and Child Protection), UNICEF staff participated and provided facilitators to national and sub national emergency simulation exercises and attended two joint consultative meetings with National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) and development partners.

Despite efforts to finalize the Child-Centred Risk Assessment, very little progress was made, apart from meetings with the Secretary General of the NCDM and staff. There was an agreement achieved by NCDM was to establish a technical expert team to work with UNICEF to revisit the exercise. The lesson learnt is that adequate consultation and consensus done from the onset would have helped to promote Government ownership. These efforts, however, will be carried forward to 2018 to complete the analysis and finalize the report.

Besides the internal processes, UNICEF Cambodia actively participated in United Nations Country Team level coordination. This included the Programme Management Team and M&E group and contributed to the updating of Consolidated Annual Work Plans for 2017-2018 as well as to the 2017 UNDAF reporting. UNICEF was instrumental in the new UNDAF development process, including participation in Vision 2030 workshop with more than 100 participants from different sectors and several other meetings. The visioning session broadly identified four emerging priority issues - citizen participation, inequalities/ inequities, urbanization and sustainable environment. These key areas will be further articulated and prioritized in the upcoming UNDAF exercise that will tentatively be scheduled for January 2018.

Further, UNICEF has provided inputs to the UNDAF vulnerability analyses and common country assessment which became critical inputs to inform and sharpen the focus on the selection of priority for the new country programme. Draft reports were expected to be finalized by end of 2017.

UNICEF contributed to the development of the UN Joint Programme on Youth, which resulted in the project document being approved. Its first-year annual workplan commenced during the last quarter of 2017 with funding received from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

OUTPUT 2 UNICEF staff and partners are provided with tools, guidance and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders

Analytical statement of progress

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia raised US\$16,559,343 OR funds, of which 93 per cent was spent. Funding proposals were submitted to donors for a total of US\$18,047,000 and additional significant funding in education is expected in 2018. As a result of excellent partnerships with locally based EU and Sida missions and a track record of delivering results, both partners will

continue supporting the Education CDPF for a third phase (2018–2021). Furthermore, through good working relationships with USAID Cambodia, UNICEF Cambodia was able to mobilize an additional US\$1,624,221 (due to arrive early 2018) for education and child protection.

Unfortunately, expected health funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency did not materialize due to government changes in South Korea.

The office continued to advocate for new funding, especially in areas with shortfalls such as health and nutrition.

Good collaboration was maintained with UNICEF National Committees. In total, UNICEF Cambodia received US\$3,656,383 in 2017 through National Committees. UNICEF Cambodia continued to engage with the Committees to end orphanage tourism and voluntourism. The office successfully hosted a number of visits by donors and National Committees in support of partnership building and resource mobilization, including for South Korea, UK, Netherlands, Australia, Canada and Japan (Aeon pre-visit). A series of visits are already being planned for 2018.

In 2017, UNICEF Cambodia submitted 41 high-quality donor reports, including a number of human interest stories. None were late or overdue. Specific standard operating procedures for donor reports, including review by Communication section and an external editor before submission to the Deputy Representative, ensured their quality. The office also updated its four National Committee donor toolkits developed in 2016.

OUTPUT 3 Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied

Analytical statement of progress

To support programme implementation in 2017, the procurement volume of programmatic and operational supplies and services as well as procurement services amounted to US\$16.6 million, slightly lower than 2016 (US\$17.1 million).

Procurement of programme and operational supplies totalled US\$0.9 million, including essential supplies for children, IT equipment and printed materials.

At US\$14.9 million, the value of procurement services continued to exceed UNICEF's direct supply assistance and remained an important mechanism to leverage resources for children. Regular procurement services amounted to US\$8.7 million, while procurement of vaccines for the National Immunization Program (MOH) accounted for US\$6.2 million. Vaccines were largely funded by the GAVI Alliance, but also included national budget for vaccine procurement. This further improved the sustainability of Cambodia's immunization programmes.

UNICEF continued to be the default procurement agent for three Global Fund grants (HIV, tuberculosis and health system strengthening), an arrangement that began in 2013. The existing agreement is valid until 31 December 2017.

Over 90 per cent of supplies procured in 2017 were done in support of national availability and local delivery of essential supplies for UNICEF programmes, in addition to procurement services provided to the Government and other implementing partners. Main commodities included vaccines, pharmaceuticals, diagnostic test kits and nutrition supplies.

The value of service inputs reached US\$0.9 million, covering technical assistance, consultancies, research and advisory services, as well as services related to the move of the office to a new location in 2017. Other service inputs included translation, interpreting and editing, and consultancy services.

At year end, UNICEF Cambodia had 31 active long-term arrangements in place to support UNICEF as well as other UN agencies, securing favourable prices and reducing transaction times for commonly procured goods and services.

UNICEF continued to chair the inter-agency Procurement Task Force to enhance UN common procurement and operations, improve areas of common planning, identify common needs and increase collaborative procurement initiatives.

All Early Warning and Early Action key actions related to supply and logistics emergency readiness were updated in 2017.

OUTPUT 4 UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective communication, advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with stakeholders

Analytical statement of progress

UNICEF Cambodia communication efforts continue to focus around voice, audience reach and engagement. Among key advocacy focus areas were ending violence against children and early childhood development, in alignment with programmatic priorities and the global 'Cause Framework'. Throughout 2017, public advocacy on ECD was sustained, during ARNEC, and through public screenings of 'The Beginning of Life' documentary, and the #SuperDad social media campaign around Father's Day. In collaboration with the Government, civil society, development partners, and UNICEF National Committees, the office continued to raise public awareness of the negative impact of orphanage tourism and importance of de-institutionalization of children in residential care.

Building on the successful piloting of the Voices of Youth blogging initiative in 2016, the youth training project was expanded in 2017 (with ten youth trained through a ten-week programme) and continued to draw attention to issues related to Cambodian youth. Over 80 blogs were written during the programme, attracting between 1k-2k readers per post, and generating over 50k reach per Facebook post. Independent evaluation of the initiative will inform continuation of the project. UNICEF Cambodia continued to build its social media presence. By November 2017, social media followers were more than 87,500 (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram), nearly doubling from 44,700 at the end of 2016. Total social media reach was eight million by mid-November, with about 540,000 post-engagement. Content generation and social media management are resource heavy tasks and will continue to require financial and human resource investment from the organization, including through predictable and sustainable staffing arrangement and strong collaboration with programme sections and field offices as well as external partners and contractors.

UNICEF Cambodia appeared in the news frequently during 2017. Prominent international media coverage was particularly around two topics, orphanage tourism and ongoing child reintegration efforts, and the banning of the human breastmilk exports from Cambodia. There were at least 550 known mentions and quotes of UNICEF Cambodia from January to November (146 in 2016). UNICEF Cambodia collaborated with UN agencies in joint audience outreach around

United Nations Day. The UNICEF communication team also supported the communication focal point in UNDP for quality assurance of human interest stories developed for the Disability Joint Programme. UNICEF also led preparations for a joint media briefing session with United Nations Country Team members and supported preparations for media field trip led by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), both of which had to be put on hold due to current sensitive political climate in the country. UNICEF and other UN agencies will need to continue being vigilant and aware of any potential reputational-risk elements in order to respond quickly and appropriately. UNICEF Cambodia continued to engage with several National Committees for joint advocacy to end orphanage tourism and voluntourism, by information sharing, generating common messages, stories and social media packs. A number of visits by donors and National Committees in support of partnership building and resource mobilization were successfully hosted, including for South Korea, UK, Netherlands, Australia, Canada, and Japan (Aeon pre-visit). A series of visits are already being planned for 2018.

OUTPUT 5 UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively plan, monitor and evaluation programmes

Analytical statement of progress

Being the second year of the three-year country programme cycle, the office continued with implementation monitoring and reporting in order to identify and address bottlenecks impeding achievement of expected results for children. Following reviews between different programme sections and their respective implementing partners, UNICEF Cambodia successfully held its internal mid-and-end year reviews to take stock of progress and constraints in the achievement of 2017 expected results. As a result, UNICEF Cambodia and partners identified factors facilitating progress and learnt from lessons during 2017 implementation which will inform the adjustment of 2018 work and management plans, as well as feeding into development of next country programme strategy notes.

In line with 2017 office management priority to strengthen staff capacity for the development of the new country programme, a results-based management workshop was conducted, led by an RBM facilitation expert, EAPRO and HQ staff. Twenty-nine staff participated: consisting of Section Chiefs, Officers-in-Charge and subject expert focal points. This translated into immediate application of knowledge and skills in the development of causality analyses and theories of change. Following the training, teams further developed their products which were used during the internal prioritization exercise. Consequently, a Strategic Reflection exercise involving 63 staff members (management, national and international professionals), including the Regional Deputy Director and Regional Programme Planning Advisor was conducted to agree on the next country programme direction.

The development of five programme strategy notes for the new CPD is underway.

A learning session about Standard Operating Procedures for Research, Evaluation and Studies was successfully conducted with 26 participants, nearly half of whom were female. The purpose of the session was to strengthen capacity of research managers to understand relevant UNICEF guidelines and UN Evaluation Group norms and standards for research and evaluation.

Throughout 2017, UNICEF Cambodia prioritized 25 research, integrated monitoring and evaluation activities. By end of November, 72 per cent of these were reported to be completed/on track and 16 per cent were reported to be constrained/delayed. Despite slow progress in the mid-year due to local commune elections, HACT assurance

implementation plan was on track with all planned micro assessment and audits completed. 70 per cent of planned spot checks and 99 per cent of planned programmatic visits conducted.

Due to other competing priorities, UNICEF Cambodia opted out of e-Tools operationalization, and will participate in the global roll out in 2018.

OUTCOME 3 1. By 2018, infants, children 0 to 5 years old and pregnant women in target provinces have improved and more equitable use of integrated early childhood survival, care and development interventions and practices, including in emergencies.

Analytical statement of progress

In 2017, UNICEF continued to support integrated early child survival, care and development services and interventions, and promote demand and adoption of healthy practices by families and communities.

To reduce inequity in health, UNICEF continued to focus on providing maternal, newborn and child care through an expansion of integrated service delivery in hard-to-reach operational districts in northeastern provinces. The proportion of deliveries attended by skilled trained professionals by the end of the third quarter stagnated at 72 per cent, below the national annual target of 90 per cent. However, in UNICEF-supported provinces, coverage increased from 52 per cent to 62.2 per cent in Kratie, 54 per cent to 96.9 per cent in Mondulkiri and to 85.5 per cent in Ratanakiri, exceeding 2017 targets.

Outreach services involving midwives were strengthened. More than 80 per cent of planned integrated outreach to hard-to-reach areas were implemented, At least two midwives from each health centre in the target areas received hands-on training to provide essential antenatal and postnatal care.

Support for outreach services was complemented by assistance to strengthen service delivery and monitoring mechanisms. This was based on rapid identification to address bottlenecks to ensuring quality essential maternal and newborn child health interventions. UNICEF supported: integrated post-partum care; community care for mothers and newborns; communication for behavioural impact; integrated management of childhood illnesses; and effective implementation of the vaccine management improvement plan.

While UNICEF continued to support nutrition-specific interventions, a recent analysis shows the importance of continuing integrating interventions within communities. Through a longitudinal study, it was possible to extrapolate that WASH and Child Nutrition indicators could equally contribute to about 30 per cent of wasting and stunting. While breastfeeding was prevalent within the first six months in every district, more than 70 per cent of children are not meeting the minimum acceptable diet, and most receive water from their mothers during this period. Around 35 per cent of infants under three months received water or other liquids with milk in Phnom Penh (22 per cent in Kratie and 17 per cent in Ratanakiri, respectively). Several studies on the microbiological quality of drinking water have reported high levels of contamination in UNICEF target districts (46 per cent with E.coli and 77 per cent with Total Coliforms at point of collection). This is a causal factor for diarrhoea, thereby increasing the risk of stunting and malnutrition.

Despite progress in recent years Cambodia remains one of the countries in the region with the highest rates and burdens of open defecation, with particularly high levels of open defecation

(51 per cent largely among the poorest rural households (80.7 per cent)). Joint Monitoring Programme preliminary Sustainable Development Goal baseline estimates for WASH in schools show that 67 per cent of preschools have no water supply facilities, 74 per cent no have sanitation facilities and 71 per cent have no hygiene facilities. Only 50 per cent of health care facilities were reported by the National Institute of Public Health as always having enough water for all purposes in 2016.

Some improvements were recorded in UNICEF-supported districts. The proportion of the population with an improved sanitation facility increased from 31 per cent to 41 per cent in Kratie; the proportion of primary schools with latrines increased from 52 per cent to 67 per cent in Ratanakiri, while those with water facilities increased from 23 per cent to 30 per cent. These improvements are partly due to continued support for rural WASH sector coordination at the national and sub-national level, as well as increased technical support for improved data collection, analysis and dissemination. UNICEF supported the introduction of low cost, low volume flush plastic SaTo latrine pans in water-scarce areas, output-based incentive sanitation arrangements, and the procurement of ergonomic child potties to assist caregivers with young child faeces management.

In water supply, UNICEF supported upstream knowledge work, including the documentation of UNICEF support to pro-poor approaches, the modelling of climate-resilient water supply in selected sites, continued engagement with private service providers, and community water bottling enterprises.

Challenges continued to be faced in mobilizing resources for WASH in the northeast of Cambodia, and for dedicated nutrition-sensitive WASH programming. Remaining priorities for 2018 include further strengthening systems at sub-national level; the mobilization of public resources for WASH; further strengthening climate-resilient programming; and building stronger nutrition links.

Notable increases have been recorded in birth registration rates among children under five years old, from 64 per cent to 78 per cent nationwide. In 34 target communes, birth registration within 30 days after birth increased in Kratie (80%) and Ban Lung (95 per cent), above the provincial target of 50 per cent. Community preschool enrolment among three to five year olds increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. This is attributed to capacity building of all 40 target communes on identifying community need and delivering targeted social services. There was also a significant increase in investment in parenting education for caregivers (38 out of 40 target communes from a baseline of seven communes), and an increase in caregivers accessing dedicated learning and education on sanitation and safe water storage (from zero to 77 villages).

Despite increased investment in social services, sub-national capacity to promote and support early childhood care and development (ECCD) is limited by the absence of guidance, dedicated financial resources and cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms at every administrative level. In future, efforts will focus on advocacy and planning of capacity development and communication with caregiver initiatives promoting ECCD, and for enhanced coordination at sub-national levels. Plan Cambodia and Save the Children are both working to improve content and delivery of parenting education that promotes ECCD.

OUTPUT 1 By 2018, strengthened capacities of administrators in six target provinces in analysing, planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring actions that promote IECD.

Analytical statement of progress

Significant progress was made in the school year 2016-2017 in 34 rural target communes with increased access to early childhood education. Commune-managed preschools contributed 10 per cent to overall ECE enrolment (1,652 out of 4,759 children aged three to five years attend all forms of preschools - 52 per cent are girls) compared to only five per cent in 2015. The target Khan in Phnom Penh has an early childhood education enrolment rate of 80 per cent compared to the average of 67 per cent for Phnom Penh. The use of village record books by at least 80 per cent of villages in 36 out of 40 communes (90%) improved registration of vital events. For example, in 34 target communes, 55 per cent of births (709 out of 1,289) were registered within 30 days of delivery (49 per cent girls), 58 per cent of marriages and 38 per cent of deaths were registered. However, birth registration in remote target districts largely inhabited by indigenous communities remains low (for example, 37 per cent in the Bar Kaev district of Ratanakiri).

The above results are attributed to strengthened sub-national administration (SNA) capacity in analysing, planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring social services in target communes. This was made possible through UNICEF support to capacity building of 150 commune administrators and village leaders (including 23 women) in using the village record book in three districts of Kratie and Ratanakiri provinces, in close collaboration with the Government. Capacity building on social service packages and guidelines on commune sangkat expenditure was affected by delays in the approval of expenditure guidelines by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Inadequate resource allocation for civil registration and vital statistics and identification, as well as overcrowding of existing sub-national budget allocation for social services, This was, particularly at the commune/sangkat level, where personnel costs (allowances for councillors) remains a major bottleneck. This, together with a reluctance to earmark national funds for social services, compromises opportunities for ECCD. Inputs provided to commune/sangkat budget and expenditure guidelines of MEF and the Ministry of Interior could enable greater investment in ECCD and tracking of related expenditures. Continued advocacy for earmarking funding for social services will seek to address this issue in 2018.

OUTPUT 2 By 2018, strengthened capacities of communities, caregivers and families to practice timely and appropriate birth registration, complementary feeding, hygiene, positive parenting and health seeking behaviour for children under the age of five especially in six target provinces.

Analytical statement of progress

The achievements recorded in timely birth registration and enrolling three to five-year-olds in early childhood education are largely attributed to strengthened communication and parenting education initiatives that promote targeted caregiver practices. A significant increase was recorded in communes conducting parenting education for caregivers (38 out of 40 target communes from a baseline of seven communes). There was also an increase in caregivers accessing dedicated learning and education on sanitation and safe water storage, from zero to 77 villages). The topics most covered during parenting education sessions include antenatal and postnatal care, nutrition and birth registration.

A cross-cutting communication plan for inclusive civic engagement, social services and accountability in the context of decentralization and deconcentration (D&D) reform was developed, finalized and delivered to the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic

Development (NCDDDS). The communication and monitoring and evaluation team of NCDDDS is planning to seek funds internally to implement the plan.

In 2017, implementation was slow due to local (commune) elections, after which some communes in target areas changed council members and focal points for women and children. It is necessary to strengthen Commune Committee for Women and Children (CCWC) focal points' knowledge and skills on parenting education, especially in terms of content and delivery methodology (visual aids) and to better engage men and older people in communities, as they are influential in determining and promoting good practices around maternal and child health.

As of November 2017, 108 villages in six target Integrated Early Childhood Development convergence districts, and 372 villages in other geographical areas, had successfully initiated a community action plan for sanitation. Since the start of 2016, 480 villages with 82,699 people are estimated to have gained access to sanitation as a result of direct UNICEF support.

In coordination with UNICEF EAPRO, a report on '*Preparing for Sustainable Development Goal Monitoring of Safely Managed Sanitation in Cambodia*' was drafted. This will support national reporting on the higher safely managed sanitation service level, in line with the SDGs.

UNICEF supported MRD to analyse results from the 'Cambodia Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) Survey'. Comparing results to 2010, the report indicated a change in social norms on sanitation, with increased access, use and understanding of the importance of latrine use; a decline in awareness of the importance of water quality; and low and unchanging perceptions and practices in relation to risks associated with handling child or animal faeces.

Adjustments anticipated in 2018 include efforts to address low awareness and weak practices highlighted in the KAP survey and improve the quality and effectiveness of community-led total sanitation activities in relation to performance metrics. This includes open defecation free conversion rates, time and sustainability, as well as ensuring an equity focus through specific targeting and inclusion of poor households.

OUTPUT 3 By 2018, infants, children 0 to 5 years old and pregnant women in target provinces have improved and more equitable use of integrated early childhood survival, care and development interventions and practices, including in emergencies.

Analytical statement of progress

The proportion of targeted health facilities within the northeast providing nutrition-specific services for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) increased from just below 25 percent to more than 100 per cent (36 out of a targeted 35 health facilities) by mid-2017. This was made possible by UNICEF's financial and technical support to the Ministry of Health, resulting in training and mass screening in Kratie, Ratanakiri, Mondulhiri and Phnom Penh. By quarter three of 2017, approximately 2,595 children were treated for SAM. While the number of children doing at least two follow-up visits increased from 73 per cent to 77 per cent between 2016 and 2017, the number of children treated seemed to decrease in 2017 due to stock-outs of BP100 and difficulties screening children. New SAM and minimum package of activities nutrition guidelines, new web-based monitoring, the addition of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) in the essential drug list and new investment by the Ministry of Health of around US\$120,000) should address several bottlenecks in future. The newly developed local RUTF, proven in 2017 to have the same efficiency as BP100, is expected to improve the procurement process and reduce the

cost, as local fish protein is being used instead of milk protein. These intensive interventions implemented in targeted IECD districts of Kratie and close monitoring of households resulted in significant reductions in the prevalence of wasting, from 27 per cent to 13 per cent in the poorest households and 17 per cent to 5 per cent in the richest households. Additional efforts are needed to ensure that children are treated according to WHO/UNICEF standards. Recent analysis of 947 hospital in-patient treatment of SAM cases showed that after three follow-up visits only 30 per cent were above the recommended minus two standard deviations, 56 per cent had moderate acute malnutrition and 14 per cent has severe acute malnutrition.

In 2016, the Ministry of Planning with support from UNICEF collected 506 samples of salt from the market. Although only 31.7 per cent of the salt met Cambodian minimum standards, the amount of salt not being iodized has decreased since 2014, from 62.2 per cent to 17.5 per cent. Some 45.3 per cent of the salt was still below 15ppm in 2017 and additional work is required to ensure adequate enforcement of the new certification process. To date, there is adequate supply of potassium iodate, as the main salt cooperative has bought more than eight metric tonnes.

To ensure continued improvement of feeding practices during the first 24 months of life, UNICEF has collaborated with the Ministry of Health to: i) ban commercialization of Cambodian human milk to foreign markets; ii) implement with Hellen Keller International extensive formative research, and; iii) develop a draft strategy for infant and young child nutrition. UNICEF also collaborated with two NGOs to ensure that appropriate messages were delivered to communities in the northeast through the mobile library and mHealth system.

UNICEF continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Health to conduct regular longitudinal study follow-up surveys (four-monthly follow ups of cohorts) in Kratie, Ratanakiri and Phnom Penh. The findings were disseminated to relevant stakeholders to use to improve programme planning and implementation, and were published in peer-reviewed journals.

OUTPUT 4 1.4. By 2018, increased capacities of service providers to promote access by more newborns, children and women to quality primary health services, focussing on neonatal and maternal health and immunization, especially in six target provinces.

Analytical statement of progress

With UNICEF's financial and technical support, the Ministry of Health recorded major achievements in 2017.

All health centres in programme focus provinces conducted at least 80 per cent of planned outreach to hard-to-reach villages during the period under review, and have at least two staff trained in antenatal care, delivery, postnatal care and early essential newborn care or immediate newborn care.

None of the health centres in the IECD areas reported stock-outs of essential medicines above 5 per cent or stock-outs of HIV test kits. With the, at least two EPI officers from all operational districts in programme focus provinces were trained on the new standard operating procedures for immunization supply chain management endorsed by the Ministry. During the first quarter of this year, HIV test kits were not provided to nine newly established health centres out of 25 health centres in Ratanakiri province, as they did not have qualified staff trained to perform the testing. This supply bottleneck was resolved successfully: these facilities now have the capacity

to provide services. A short period of stock-outs of HIV test kits was observed in Stung Treng and Preah Vihear in March, due to the transition from single HIV tests to new dual tests for both HIV and Syphilis combined. This bottleneck was also resolved.

Stock-outs of vaccines, including BCG, HepB-0, Japanese Encephalitis and injective polio vaccine, as well as other items such as dipsticks for malaria rapid diagnostic testing, ready to use therapeutic food, and Vitamin K1 were observed in some health centres across the six programme provinces. This was due to inadequate supply, exacerbated by poor stock management and forecasting. These issues were resolved, except concerning the Japanese Encephalitis vaccine. Although all health facilities in programme focus provinces have at least two midwives trained in antenatal care, delivery, post-natal care and early essential newborn care/intensive newborn care, and all trained midwives received on-the-spot coaching, up to 30 per cent of health centres in these six focus provinces experienced high staff turnover and/or redistribution of midwives in-post to newly established health centres. This disrupted maternal service delivery, especially through integrated outreach activities targeting hard-to-reach populations in northeastern provinces.

Other challenges include family migration for seasonal farming, unregulated private providers and an outbreak of pertussis that disrupted routine service delivery and monitoring.

Looking forward, UNICEF will continue advocacy with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to earmark funds and/or provide clear guidelines on using service delivery grants, especially integrated outreach for hard-to-reach communities. In 2018, UNICEF will continue supporting capacity development of operational district and health centre staff in stock management and forecasting to ensure timely requests, and the Ministry of Health to devise effective health coverage plans.

OUTPUT 5 1.5. By 2018, strengthened commitment and capacity of government to provide more children and their families, particularly in the six target provinces, with increased access to quality WASH facilities/services.

Analytical statement of progress

In 2017, UNICEF continued to support rural WASH sector coordination at the national level as lead facilitator of the Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Working Group and at the sub-national level through the Provincial Technical Working Groups on Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, established in all provinces in 2017.

UNICEF provided lead technical support to the Royal Government of Cambodia to develop WASH Sustainable Development Goal baseline estimates in consultation with national stakeholders. Technical support was provided to plan the review of the rural WASH National Action Plan and develop a management information system. There was an increased focus on early childhood WASH during the collection, analysis and dissemination of children under five WASH data. The key findings were shared at national and sub-national forums and meetings with regulators and service providers.

In 2017, in collaboration with other stakeholders, UNICEF supported an assessment of WASH in public health facilities in five provinces. Findings were shared at national workshops and were used to inform the modelling of improvements to WASH in health care facilities, which began in 12 health centres.

In 2017 low cost, low volume flush plastic SaTo latrine pans were introduced in water-scarce areas, and capacity development was conducted for seven Provincial Departments of Rural Development (PDRDs) on the use of this product. Revised sanitation reporting and output based incentive arrangements were also agreed with the Ministry of Rural Development in 2017, and orientation was conducted for nine PDRDs. The procurement of ergonomic child potties to assist caregivers with young child faeces management as part of nutrition-sensitive sanitation programming was initiated. Challenges faced include continued high costs related to transportation and time needed in remote areas, and delays in sanitation promotion linked to local (commune) elections.

In the area of water supply, UNICEF supported: documentation of experiences on the use of pro-poor subsidies for piped water supply, the provisional findings of which were shared at a national conference; Cambodia's participation in the '*Global Evaluation of UNICEF's Drinking Water Supply Programming in Rural Areas and Small Towns – Country Case Study Report – Cambodia*'; and an end-of-project review of 'Safe Water Supply and Sustainable Sanitation For All' grants.

The modelling of climate-resilient water supply in selected sites affected by drought in previous years was initiated in 2017, and private service providers were engaged to bring water to unserved and poor households. This has benefited an estimated cumulative 109,049 people with access to improved drinking water as a result of UNICEF's direct support since the beginning of 2016. UNICEF also worked with PDRDs in three provinces to implement Water Safety Plans in 44 villages in eight communes.

In 2017 a partnership was initiated to support MRD and PDRD WASH emergency capacity strengthening through emergency preparedness and response planning. WASH items were transferred to MRD and PDRDs to strengthen national supply pre-positioning. No major disaster-related events required a UNICEF WASH response in 2017.

OUTPUT 6 1.6. By 2018, strengthened commitment and capacity of government to provide more children under five with increased access to inclusive quality early childhood education, particularly amongst children with disabilities, indigenous minority children, and those living in the six target provinces.

Analytical statement of progress

Good progress was made in inclusive education, with promising institutional changes enabling MoEYS to strengthen leadership of equity-oriented programmes. Key achievements include training teachers on inclusive education; MoEYS' Special Education Department becoming a functional department; continued enrolments in pre- and primary multilingual education; continued work to implement the minimum requirements for WASH in schools; gains in positive discipline; launching of MoEYS' disaster management mechanism; and an improved preschool framework and syllabus.

Enrolment figures in multilingual primary schools exceeded 2017 targets, with 28 per cent increase in children enrolled, compared to a six per cent target for 2017. While preschool enrolment saw a slight decrease, which was expected following an initial boom, the number of students in 2016-17 (1,178) is close to the Multilingual Education National Action Plan projection for 2018-19 (1,337). In partnership with CARE, UNICEF supported the Special Education Department to develop an M&E tool for monitoring multilingual education school quality.

Two assessment tools to monitor preschool teaching practices and child development scales

were introduced. UNICEF Cambodia supported the provision of capacity development to MoEYS in the utilisation of these tools, and, with support from UNICEF EAPRO, simultaneously introduced socio-emotional learning in preschools, starting with a training of trainers.

Preschool teacher training in inclusive education was delivered alongside a suite of other support in target districts for integrated early-childhood development. This included child performance observation and support and community preschool standards training. Advancements were made in incorporating data on children with disabilities into EMIS.

Teacher training materials were produced to help strengthen basic inclusive education, including for children with disabilities. Following the training of trainers, the Special Education Department delivered inclusive education in-service training in three provinces. Pre-service training should commence in Provincial Teacher Training Colleges by the end of 2017.

Core trainers in the two diploma courses for children with visual and hearing impairments were trained, after significant delays partly due to institutional changes in MoEYS, and resulting from performance issues with Krousar Thmey, culminating in the termination of the partnership in its current form by end-2017. The programme will be taken forward through a partnership between UNICEF, Teacher Training Department and the Special Education Department to support the set-up of the National Institute for Special Education in 2018, the institution responsible for delivering the diploma courses.

OUTCOME 4 2. By 2018, boys and girls in Cambodia have more equitable access to and completion of quality inclusive education with improved learning outcomes.

Analytical statement of progress

Enrolment in preschool slightly exceeded the target (66%), with 66.35 per cent five-year-olds enrolled in 2016-17 (196,669 students), 49 per cent of which were girls. State preschools dominated with a 63 per cent share of enrolled five-year-olds, followed by home-based care (17.4%), community based preschools (11.3%) and private preschools (8.3%). UNICEF Cambodia and EAPRO continued to engage in inter-ministerial discussions on the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Development National Action Plan, with progress was made in finalizing its results framework, and supporting and participating in the regional ARNEC Early Childhood Development and Care (ECCD) conference, where the ECCD progress report was disseminated.

The gross enrolment ratio for lower secondary school increased slightly, from 53.8 per cent to 55.7 per cent, exceeding the 2017 target of 54.4%. There was little disparity between rural and urban areas, however, geographic disparities remain at province level. The rates were slightly higher for girls (59.6%) compared to boys (52.1%). Based on revised calculations for grade 6 dropout rates and using 2016/17 EMIS data, the basic education survival rate was 50 per cent for 2015/16. The 2018 targets will have to be reset using revised calculations.

The national average score from standardized student learning assessment results for grade 6 surveyed in 2016 were: 52 per cent for Khmer and for Maths 48.3%, significantly below 2017/2018 targets of 65 per cent and 55 per cent respectively (no 2017 targets). Girls outperformed boys in Khmer (55.4 per cent compared to 48.7%); while Maths test scores were more similar (48.1 per cent for girls and 47.9 per cent for boys). There were significant differences between urban and rural areas reported in the survey: with rural areas performing below the national average in Khmer language at 49.9%; and with urban scores above, at 62.2

per cent. A similar pattern is true for Maths, with a 46.1 per cent average in rural areas and a significantly higher 58.4 per cent average in urban areas. Comparing socio-economic status quintiles further showed higher average results in the richer shares of the population. Finally, test scores in both subjects were higher for students who had attended preschool compared to those with zero preschool years. These trends indicate important inequity issues concerning learning outcomes. Test results using scaled scores (a new feature in the 2016 survey) yielded further findings: scaled scores show a significant proportion of grade six students being far below the expected level of proficiency for their grade. Analysis of scaled scores over time (between 2007 and 2016) indicated a slight increase in students' test scores in reading Khmer.

UNICEF continued to play an active role as chair of the Education Sector Working Group, as well as the Coordinating Agency for the Local Education Group linked to the Global Partnership for Education application. Several submissions were made to the Global Partnership for Education in 2017. The final submission for the Fixed Part of the proposed programme was made in November and the final submission of the Variable Part will be made in February 2018.

A comprehensive evaluation of the Capacity Development Partnership Fund was commenced, and preliminary results informed CDPF Phase III. UNICEF supported MoEYS in the localisation of SDGs, and their integration into plans and data collection systems with a focus on learning outcomes, WASH, inclusive education and ethnicity. For the first time, data on children with disabilities in preschool were incorporated into the EMIS. CDPF has continued to provide timely, relevant and on-demand technical support for systems-strengthening aimed at improving institutional, organizational and individual capacities at all levels in MoEYS to accelerate progress towards Education Strategic Plan implementation.

Continued progress was made in early childhood education and in ECCD toward targets set in strategic action plans and the curriculum framework. Quality improvements were made in the ECE sub-sector through training-of-trainer and teacher training in multilingual education; inclusive education; child performance observation; and in Social Emotional Learning supported by EAPRO.

In primary education, the Government's readiness to cater for children with disabilities, ethnic minority groups and overage students was strengthened owing to capacity building in these areas at national and sub-national levels. Through expansion of positive discipline training, which will be integrated into pre-service training, teachers from 233 schools were trained in effective classroom management, reaching 27.3 per cent of schools in the target provinces - exceeding the 2017 target of 25%. Moving forward, a stronger gender focus will be built into this training package. MoEYS launched its Disaster Management mechanism to better prepare for, and respond to, natural disasters to keep children safe. Finally, the guidelines for the Minimum Requirement for WASH in schools were disseminated nation-wide.

To improve the assessment and tracking of student learning outcomes and tie these to the broader inspection and technical support system within MoEYS (at national and sub-national levels), a provincial-based quality assurance inspection system is being developed and tested, aimed at nurturing a stronger culture of evidence-based policy-making and planning, including by reinforcing the role of District Training and Monitoring Teams to monitor and support school improvement.

Addressing community demand for education, a programme was designed to build an "engagement strategy" based on previous work in the area of school governance. Focusing on

strengthened community engagement for improved quality in education service delivery through School Support Committees (SSCs), the strategy will aim to reach to out-of-school children and increase awareness among community members about the value of inclusive quality education. In the first half of 2017, some bottlenecks in the mobilisation of financial and human resources resulted in initial delay to the implementation of some activities, however, progress is largely on track against planned results.

OUTPUT 1 1. By 2018, strengthened government capacity for policy development, planning and financing of quality education.

Analytical statement of progress

MoEYS demonstrated increased fiscal commitment to fund scholarships by allocating US\$10.8 million, of which US\$8.7 million was for primary and secondary scholarships. These numbers exceed UNICEF's output targets of US\$8 million for 2017. This was in an environment of increasing fiscal space for education, where MoEYS saw a three per cent increase in its recurrent budget from 2016, increased remuneration for civil servants in education and greater alignment between budget allocations and sector priorities. In this context, UNICEF continued to support MoEYS to accelerate progress towards Education Strategic Plan implementation.

UNICEF support to system-strengthening initiatives through the CDPF and a strategic partnership with the National Education Partnership is designed to sustain capacity improvements, and promote institutional and organizational reforms which will underpin policy implementation, as well as improve performance-based budget execution, the quality and management of the education workforce, and the efficiency of service delivery.

UNICEF assisted MoEYS to reduce disparities in provincial and district education performance through improved planning and managerial capacity to support schools. Assistance was provided to strengthen public accountability mechanisms for assuring access to education and improved education quality and standards through a mixture of approaches. This included quality school operation budget utilization, improved educator capacities on inclusive education and science, technology, engineering and mathematics, civil society action research, social audits, and strengthening school support committees. UNICEF continued to support investment in MoEYS' data systems, and mobilized timely technical assistance to collaborate with UNESCO and its Institute of Statistics on SDG4 localization. However, limited data analysis and non-existent feedback loops for supervision and implementation still remain key challenges.

UNICEF supported strategic operational and policy research conducted by MoEYS' Education Research Council and Department of Policy in conjunction with local universities. This is in areas of teacher reform, curriculum and inclusive education, aiming to improve sector responsiveness to policy, legislative and financing changes, as well as enhancing inclusion and equity issues.

Overall, a number of capacity development and organizational performance challenges remain to be addressed. These include the need for annual education operating plans at all levels to be more strongly results focused and gender responsive, and for planning across sector administration to be more deliberately medium term in nature, including having a stronger focus on sector outcomes rather than on individual activities and inputs.

Strategies to address these and other challenges are proposed in the CDPF Phase III design, and will be further informed by the final evaluation for Phase II. UNICEF will seek to address

some of these challenges through offering support for rationalizing and clarifying responsibilities of central and sub-national administration regarding education quality assurance and capacity development. This could be done with systematic organizational capacity assessments and review of information systems. Increased support to promote gender equity in the MoEYS workforce, including in technical and policy leadership, and sharpened focus on equity in capacity development support and service delivery is foreseen in 2018.

OUTPUT 2 2. By 2018, increased government and non-government capacities to provide access to inclusive basic education particularly amongst indigenous minorities and children with disabilities including in emergencies.

Analytical statement of progress

Good progress was made in inclusive education, with promising institutional changes enabling MoEYS to strengthen leadership of equity-oriented programmes. Key achievements include training teachers on inclusive education, MoEYS' Special Education Department becoming functional; continued enrolments in pre- and primary multilingual education; continued work to implement the minimum requirements for WASH in schools; gains in positive discipline; launching of MoEYS' disaster management mechanism; and an improved preschool curriculum.

Enrolment figures in multilingual primary schools exceeded 2017 targets, with 28 per cent increase in children enrolled, compared to a 6 per cent target for 2017. While preschool enrolment saw a slight but expected decrease, following an initial boom, the 1,178 students in 2016-17 is close to the Multilingual Education National Action Plan projection for 2018-19 of 1,337. In partnership with CARE, UNICEF supported the Special Education Department to develop an M&E tool for monitoring multilingual education school quality.

Two assessment tools to monitor preschool teaching practices and child development scales were introduced. UNICEF supported the provision of capacity development to MoEYS in the utilisation of these tools, and, with support from EAPRO, simultaneously introduced socio-emotional learning in preschools, starting with a training of trainers. Preschool teacher training in inclusive education was delivered alongside a suite of other support in target districts for integrated early-childhood development, including child performance observation and community preschool standards training. Advancements were made in incorporating data on children with disabilities into EMIS.

Teacher training materials were produced to help strengthen basic inclusive education, including for children with disabilities. Following the training of trainers, the Special Education Department delivered inclusive education in-service training in three provinces, and pre-service training should commence in Provincial Teacher Training Colleges at the end of 2017.

Core trainers in the two diploma courses for children with visual and hearing impairments were trained, after significant delays, partly due to institutional changes in MoEYS, and resulting from performance issues with Krousar Thmey, culminating in the termination of the partnership in its current form by end-2017. The programme will instead be taken forward through a partnership between UNICEF, Teacher Training Department and the Special Education Department to support the set-up of the National Institute for Special Education in 2018, the institution responsible for delivering the diploma courses.

UNICEF's partnership with MoEYS' Primary Education Department on positive discipline teacher training led to good results. An end-line survey carried out with support from UNICEF show that the practice of harsh physical discipline (such as hitting students with a stick or ruler

on some part of the body), as reported by students had decreased from 42.6 per cent to 27.0 per cent in the experiment group due to the training, compared to 38.7 per cent overall.

Provincial offices of education nationwide received basic orientation on the guidelines. Through partnership with the non-government organisation ESC-BORDA, a school training package to implement the Minimum Requirements for WASH in Schools was prepared, with some delay. MoEYS launched its Disaster Management structure. In 2018, UNICEF will support MoEYS Disaster Management secretariat to review the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, which will guide officials and schools on how to prepare for, and respond to, natural disasters.

OUTPUT 3 3. By 2018, strengthened capacity of education authorities at national level and in targeted districts to provide quality and measurable primary and lower secondary education.

Analytical statement of progress

The first field trial of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics to measure children's learning in reading, writing, Maths and global citizenship for Grade 5 was completed with technical support from the Australian Centre for Education Research UNICEF EAPRO and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. A consolidated report was produced, including findings for Brunei, Cambodia and Laos. The findings indicate that students from Cambodia and Laos performed poorly in Maths. Due to the general election in July 2018, Cambodia postponed the main assessment to 2019.

To improve the assessment and tracking of student learning outcomes and tie these to the broader inspection and technical support system within MoEYS, a provincial-based quality assurance inspection system is being developed. The new inspection framework is likely to more fully implemented as Government intends to increase funding to District Offices of Education, with a focus on monitoring, reactivating the role of inspector and District Training and Monitoring Teams in order to improve school performance based on solid evidence. The inspection system is being tested in four provinces in conjunction with school cluster strengthening and teacher mentoring to improve student learning outcomes. School datasheets, which track student learning are being finalized, and inspectors were trained to use these sheets for improving learning in schools. A baseline in Math and Khmer language for grade three students in target districts, where the quality assurance system and mentoring take place, was established and will be used for subsequent assessments starting 2019.

To enhance data quality and reliability, UNICEF has worked with Open Institute to standardize child-friendly school data in digital form, making CFS status more objectively comparable between schools and districts. The MoEYS has called for cost effectiveness of CFS monitoring to be considered and that it be contextualized within SDG4 commitments and reporting. This direction may imply that CFS assessment needs to be undertaken as a 'system level diagnostic', with impact assessments conducted every three to five years, tied to SDG reporting. The number of districts in the new plan would be similar to those where the piloting of quality assurance inspection and mentoring is taking place, but the approach would be different, using a random sample of districts. Expanding CFS into secondary school continued to be supported, including work on development of: (i) CFS implementation guideline for school management and support committees; (ii) life skills education curriculum, and (iii) Early Warning System manual to prevent student dropout. The guidelines have been drafted but need more work to finalize. The life skills syllabus was expected to be finalized by the end of 2017.

Some challenges faced during 2017, included: (i) lack of internal efficiency within technical

departments due to poor leadership and staff motivation; (ii) ineffective coordination among technical departments; (iii) limited technical capacity of staff to deliver effective training due to a lack of preparation time, (iv) use of less participatory methodologies, and follow up of application. Given these challenges, there is a need to improve leadership, build MoEYS capacity through experiential learning and facilitation skills to deliver training effectively.

OUTPUT 4 4. By 2018, enhanced community capacity to demand for and accountability of inclusive quality basic education, particularly in target districts.

Analytical statement of progress

While progress against targets continued to be slow in 2017, some advances were made that will help to accelerate delivery of results in 2018.

A joint mission to Mondulkiri by CARE and UNICEF identified some priority areas that could be targeted through a communication for development campaign. The mission identified an opportunity to strengthen community engagement through School Support Committees as a vehicle for improved quality in education service delivery; outreach to out-of-school children and increased awareness among community members about the value of education. Subsequently, an “engagement strategy” was developed and this will promote enrolment and attendance of students and teachers, as well as community engagement in School Support Committees; and strengthening communication between SSCs and district authorities. The programme will run through 2018, to be delivered by District Training and Monitoring Teams and School Support Committees with a timeframe adapted to minimize the risks posed by the national elections in July 2018.

Leveraging capacity already built among District Training and Monitoring Teams and School Support Committees in Ratanakiri and Mondulkiri through the school governance programme is a strategic way to build demand-side interventions in the two province. It has the potential to adapt the approach to other target provinces in the northeast. The longstanding work of CARE as a partner with in-depth knowledge of the northeast provinces makes them a suitable partner to work with on communication involving ethnic minority groups. The campaign will have its “institutional home” within MoEYS’ structure and policy environment (the Provincial Education Department and relevant provincial offices of education who will need to endorse any messages disseminated in the target provinces. The campaign will contribute to the sustainability of previous interventions, making sure materials produced can be used by MoEYS for a wide range of purposes.

The baseline report and draft communication strategy developed with assistance from the Open Institute in 2016 assessing existing attitudes, knowledge and practices, as well as key communication channels used by community members yielded some interesting findings that will inform the abovementioned campaign. In particular, findings from participants involved in the study in Ratanakiri indicated a need to boost the sense of engagement among parents and caregivers when it comes to supporting their children’s education. For instance, only 1 per cent of the 76 respondents (38 male/38 female) felt that it was their responsibility to help their children with homework. Only 14 per cent of respondents felt that they should visit the school to understand the environment, and three per cent would consider a role as member of a school support committee. These results may be partly a reflection of the generally low education level among this participant group

A further side benefit of Open Institute’s study was that it informed the Ministry of Interior’s cross-cutting C4D strategy, developed by 17 Triggers for the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development with support from UNICEF.

OUTCOME 5 By 2018, girls and boys vulnerable to and exposed to violence, and those separated from their family, or at risk of separation, are increasingly protected by institutional and legislative frameworks, quality services, and a supportive community environment.

Analytical statement of progress

Significant progress was made in 2017 in terms of the increase in the number of girls and boys reached with child protection services, the strengthening of the legal and policy framework to prevent and respond to violence against children and unnecessary family separation, and the generation of new knowledge and data on child protection in Cambodia.

Since the beginning of the country programme in 2016, 14,914 children (7,222 in 2017, of whom 46 per cent were female) have received child protection services through the Partnership Programme for the Protection of Children, an innovative partnership between UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and Friends International. It is funded jointly by USAID and UNICEF, with each of the nine participating NGOs also contributing funding. A further 143,100 children, adolescents and youths were reached with core messages to prevent violence, especially sexual abuse, through the 16 Day Campaign Against Violence Against Women and Children. The USAID, '7: the David Beckham UNICEF Fund', the Government of Canada through the Together for Girls Partnership, and the National Committees for UNICEF in Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and the UK provided financial support to these initiatives.

With 2017 marking the second year in which no new residential care facilities were approved by Government, there is mounting confidence that the unregulated and rapid growth in the number of these facilities, and children in them, has finally been stopped. This is a significant achievement by the Government, civil society partners and UNICEF and is one of the 'critical success factors' in the Government's 'Action Plan for Improving Child Care' designed to achieve the national target of safely returning 30 per cent of children in residential care to their families in 2016-2018.

UNICEF's contribution to this result included high level advocacy for the need of the 'Action Plan for Improving Child Care', technical and financial support for its development, implementation and monitoring. To ensure the Action Plan achieved results for children, UNICEF supported the five provinces to develop Provincial Operational Plans which have been approved and launched by the respective Governors. As part of the Action Plan, since 2016, 1,158 children (574 in 2017 of whom 43 per cent were female) in residential care and separated from their families have benefitted from more effective case management, including through the recruitment and capacity building of 33 social workers, supported by UNICEF. To enhance alternative care for children with disabilities, UNICEF entered into partnership with International Social Service Australia to build the capacity of a national pool of trainers on children with disabilities, develop a handbook for foster care for children with disabilities, and develop a strategic plan to implement Small Group Homes for children with severe disabilities. This work will be completed in early 2018.

The inter-ministerial 'Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021' was approved and launched by the MoSVY and the Ministry of Women's Affairs under the leadership of the Deputy Prime Minister in December 2017. The Government of Canada, through the Together for Girls Partnership, was a key partner in this work.

In parallel with the development and roll out of key activities in the Action Plan, remarkable achievements have been made to protect Cambodian children from violence, with a particular focus on gender and equity. With support from UNICEF Child Protection and Education Sections, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has reached a total of 405 primary schools through the teacher training on positive discipline since 2016, benefitting approximately 121,500 girls and boys. UNICEF has a long-term strategic partnership with Sida for this work.

In May 2017, the Ministry of Health released its '*Clinical Handbook on Health Care for Children Subjected to Violence or Sexual Abuse*', developed in collaboration with UNICEF.

UNICEF, with a range of partners, supported the development of a Government-led 'PROTECT: Communication Strategy to End Violence and Unnecessary Family Separation in Cambodia 2017-2022'. The 'Positive Parenting Strategy' with training toolkits was finalized by the MoWA together with UNICEF and Save the Children, and launched in December 2017. The finalisation of the 'Provincial Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy' targeting ethnic minority groups in Ratanakiri, was stalled but is now back on track for launch in early 2018, including a Theory of Change.

To ensure the promise of better justice for children as enshrined in the new Juvenile Justice Law, UNICEF, Plan International and Children's Rights International supported the MoSVY to develop a three year Strategic and Operational Plan to guide the implementation of the law.

Significant progress was achieved in generating new knowledge and evidence on the current situation regarding child protection in Cambodia, alternative care and violence against children in schools. With support from UNICEF HQ, a '*Statistical Profile of Child Protection in Cambodia*' was finalized in December for release in early 2018. For the first time, a national mapping of all residential care facilities was conducted by the MoSVY, providing essential information that details where the facilities are and how many children live in them, offering an immense opportunity to access these places of care and assess their situation.

The formative evaluation of the child protection programme commenced in August 2017, with the aim of informing UNICEF Cambodia's new Country Programme 2019-2023.

OUTPUT 1 3.1: By 2018, strengthened capacity of national government and five provincial authorities to formulate and implement the institutional and legal framework and costed plans for the scaling-up of child protection prevention and response interventions, including deinstitutionalization and reintegration services

Analytical statement of progress

The national Action Plan and the Provincial Operational Plans for Improving Child Care were approved by the Government and are in the process of being implemented. To continue building a systematic alliance with residential care institutions, learning sessions were held with 286 senior representatives from 170 institutions. This represented about 64 per cent of institutions mapped. A total of 51 residential care institutions engaged or continue to engage in the de-institutionalization process. Digital inspections of residential care institutions was conducted in the five target provinces using digital tablets, in partnership with Open Institute with financial support from USAID, the UNICEF Innovation Fund and the Fund Star Wars: Force for Change. Based on the lessons learnt of the first round of inspections, the questionnaire, the dashboard and key procedures were reviewed to improve the quality and scope of the digital inspection

process. A second round of inspection started before end of 2017.

The Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children was approved by the MoSVY and the MoWA. Both Ministries agreed to co-host the launch on 11 December 2017 with the participation of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children. The Government of Canada through the Together for Girls Partnership is a key partner in this work.

With support from UNICEF HQ, a '*Statistical Profile of Child Protection in Cambodia*' was completed, soon to be published. This provides data on 13 key child protection indicators, and provides baseline data that will be included in the Child Protection Information Management System. Digitalization and establishment of database for alternative care is progressing with inspection App in the final stage of roll out and tracking of children in residential care being developed. The National Institute of Statistics is in the final state of conducting a follow up survey to update violence against children data for the five priority provinces. The Judicial Guidelines for court staff to deal with children in contact with the law has commenced under the guidance of the Ministry of Justice, UNICEF and Hagar International. A training programme will be implemented for judges, prosecutors and court clerks in 15 selected provinces. The training on the 'Explanatory Note on Domestic Adoption' was conducted by the Ministry of Justice in Phnom Penh and Kampot, with approximately 70 participants from eight provinces. UNICEF Australia and the German National Committee for UNICEF provided financial support.

In collaboration with the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, UNICEF has supported the Cambodian Mine/Unexploded Ordnance Victim Information System to carry out data collection, analysis and reporting regarding survivors of landmines/unexploded remnants of war. A total of 39 survivors, including 15 children, were reported and 23 received community-based rehabilitation assistance. UNICEF also provided technical inputs to the MoSVY to finalize and disseminate the 'Child Protection in Emergency Contingency Plan 2017-2018'. Approximately 21,200 children in seven natural disaster-prone provinces benefitted from the training of 452 teachers on mine risk education; and specific sessions were provided to 1,956 out-of-school children.

OUTPUT 2 3.2: By 2018, strengthened capacity of social service providers (health, education, justice, and child protection) to provide quality services that protect girls and boys vulnerable to and exposed to violence, those separated from their family, or at risk of separation, and those being deinstitutionalized and reintegrated.

Analytical statement of progress

As of 30 September 2017, 7,222 vulnerable children (46 per cent female) benefited from preventive and responsive child protection services. Cumulatively, 14,914 children have been reached since 2016. In addition, 1,665 vulnerable youths (41 per cent female) and 3,035 families were reached with different services, including harm reduction from drugs and livelihood support. This was implemented through 3PC and supported by USAID.

Since 2015, with support from UNICEF Child Protection and Education Sections, the MoEYS has been implementing positive discipline training to primary school teachers. The training has been rolled out to 405 primary schools across three provinces, benefiting approximately 121,500 girls and boys. The KAP survey on disciplinary methods in Cambodian primary schools, conducted by the Royal University of Phnom Penh, UNICEF and the MoEYS, clearly shows that this investment in teacher development is yielding results. UNICEF commenced

supporting the MoEYS intra-ministerial technical working group to develop a long-term action plan for the implementation of the Child Protection Policy in Schools. This will include emerging issues in the country such as school-related gender-based violence, online sexual exploitation and cyber bullying. Sida made a financial contribution to these initiatives.

Following the successful launch of the Clinical Handbook, the MoH will build capacity on use of the handbook by medical practitioners in all 25 provinces. The Government of Canada and the Together for Girls are key partners in this work.

Since 2016, 1,158 children (574 in 2017 of whom 49 per cent were female) in residential care and separated from their families benefitted from more effective case management. This was primarily through UNICEF's support for the recruitment and capacity building of 33 Government and NGO social workers. As a result, 1,116 children (582 in 2017 of whom 43 per cent were female) were provided with long or short-term placements such as family reunification, kinship care, foster care or transit care. Some 574 children (43 per cent female) have been de-institutionalized since 2016 and provided with family or community-based placements and reintegration support, as per the MoSVY Action Plan for improving child care. An additional 309 cases of children in residential care have been opened, with the aim of supporting their return to families and reintegration. UNICEF supported the MoSVY to simplify their case management forms to enable use of a new digital tool developed with support by Family Care First. USAID contributed to this work.

Child-friendly justice mechanisms for reporting, referral and response to child survivors of violence and children in conflict with the law are being developed by National Police with technical support from UNICEF. The Training Manual for Commune Police Child Protection Desks is under the review of the National Police Academy, the General Commissariat of National Police and UNICEF. The training will begin in 2018, targeting police officers at national and sub-national levels in five priority provinces. Two Child Protection Police Focal Points will be selected in each province. The key partners are the UNICEF National Committees in Germany and Australia.

OUTPUT 3 3.3: By 2018, strengthened capacity of commune councils and religious leaders to protect girls and boys vulnerable to and exposed to violence and those separated from their family, or at risk of separation.

Analytical statement of progress

UNICEF supported the development of a Government-led strategy, 'PROTECT: Communication Strategy to End Violence and Unnecessary Family Separation in Cambodia 2017-2022'. This is the country's first national communication strategy to address the social and cultural norms that legitimize violence against children and normalize the belief that residential care facilities are beneficial to a child. The MoSVY agreed to establish an inter-ministerial working group to lead and coordinate the implementation. UNICEF supported the MoSVY through the recruitment of an individual consultant and two institutional contracts to develop communication materials and messages. UNICEF also strengthened its strategic partnership with USAID, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision and Friends International. They all confirmed their commitment to supporting the implementation of the strategy nationwide as a part of a working group. This work is financially supported by USAID and '7: the David Beckham UNICEF Fund'.

Key duty bearers at sub-national level will promote the protection of children from violence and unnecessary family separation thanks to the Commune Budget Expenditure Guidelines to be

finalized by the National Treasury, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Economic and Finance by the end of December 2017. UNICEF technically supported the development of the Guidelines to be disseminated in the five child protection focal provinces in the first quarter of 2018. A Child Protection Handbook currently being finalized will guide Commune Councils and CCWCs to implement the MoSVY Action Plan for Improving Child Care. USAID contributed to these initiatives.

Children will receive increased access to appropriate and timely parenting support thanks to UNICEF's work on the 'Positive Parenting Strategy' with the aim of preventing violence against children and keeping families together. The Positive Parenting Strategy with training toolkits was approved and launched by the MoWA in 2017. UNICEF and Save the Children contributed technical inputs to finalizing the Strategy and toolkits and will continue to support the MoWA to build capacities of 27 national trainers from eight Ministries who will cascade the training to sub-national level targeting staff from the MoWA and the MoSVY, social workers, WCCCs and CCWCs. 400 families in Phnom Penh and Kandal whose children have been reintegrated from residential care institutions and/or have experienced violence will receive parenting support directly from an implementing partner, ICS-SP. Key partners are '7: the David Beckham UNICEF Fund' and USAID.

A pagoda will become a safer place for children, thanks to the child protection programme being designed by the Ministry of Cult and Religions with the aim of promoting the role of Buddhist monks in protecting children from violence and family separation in communities. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Cult and Religions to develop the programme through a consultative workshop. It is planned to be rolled out in 290 pagodas in the five child protection focal provinces in 2018. The Norwegian Committee for UNICEF and UNICEF Australia provided financial support to the design of the programme.

OUTPUT 4 3.4: By 2018, strengthened capacity of at least 20 adolescent and youth focused organizations to work with and for adolescents (10- 19) and implement age-and gender-appropriate interventions to promote safe and protective behaviours and practices

Analytical statement of progress

The 3PC scaled up remedial education activities to reach more out-of-school adolescents to facilitate their entry back into the formal education system in the five targeted provinces. As of 30 September 2017, 5,547 vulnerable children and 1,473 vulnerable youths received various child protection services including remedial education, life skills, vocational training, career advice, business development and labour programme. The Wella-UNICEF Making Waves Program, UNICEF UK and USAID made financial contribution to this work.

UNICEF, together with Plan International, supported the MoWA to develop the Provincial Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in Ratanakiri 2017-2021 with a Theory of Change. This will enable local civil societies and community-based organizations to scale up interventions and coordinated actions to reduce teenage pregnancies and early marriage among ethnic minority groups in Ratanakiri. The finalisation of the Provincial Action Plan was stalled, but is now on track for launch in early 2018.

The Adolescent and Youth Reference Group, composed of adolescent and youth representatives from 18 NGOs, strengthened their capacities due to UNICEF's support in partnership with the NGO Coalition on the Right of the Child. The Adolescent and Youth Reference Group members were engaged in policy dialogues with three Commissions of the National Assembly. As a result, the Commissions acknowledged the issue of violence against

children and made a commitment to further discussing the issue with relevant Ministries as well as in the plenary session of the National Assembly. In addition, the Adolescent and Youth Reference Group in the process of preparing for a 16 Day campaign to end violence against women and girls. Between 25th November and 10th December, at least 800 students from eight Secondary Schools and 50 families in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap will be reached through the face-to-face awareness raising campaign, while approximately 143,100 children adolescents and youths will be reached online. The Adolescent and Youth Reference Group was also successful in drafting a three year Strategic Plan 2018-2021 to prevent violence against children and family separation.

To sharpen work with and for adolescents, UNICEF Cambodia's strategy on adolescent development and participation was drafted with support from EAPRO. It outlines the most pressing issues impacting the development and well-being of adolescents in the country, and identifies key specific interventions. A draft was revised at the UNICEF Cambodia Adolescent Taskforce, and will be presented to the management team for endorsement in early 2018. The strategy will help achieve results and inform policy and advocacy for promoting safe and protective behaviours and practices among adolescent girls and boys in Cambodia.

OUTCOME 6 4. By 2018, child rights and equity are increasingly prioritised in social sector national and sub-national policies, budget allocation, social protection systems and public discussion.

Analytical statement of progress

Important progress was made in 2017 in the prioritization of children in national and subnational planning, budgeting and social protection systems in Cambodia. Programme budgeting introduced as part of the Public Finance Management reform made budget allocation information available not only by ministries but also for specific programmes directly benefiting children. Based on UNICEF's evidence-driven budget advocacy in 2016, the Ministry of Health allocated some of its 2017 budget for procurement of Ready-To-Use Therapeutic Food. UNICEF followed up on its execution and supported acceleration of the process. Full expenditure of this budget item, together with further budget advocacy by UNICEF, resulted in a decision by MEF to allocate a further increase by 30 per cent budget for nutrition in 2018.

Similarly, UNICEF technical support to Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth accelerated rollout of a disability grant programme, fully utilizing the Government budget allocated for this programme. A 30 per cent budget increase for 2018 for this programme has been announced. Considering the Government has not increased budget allocation for most of programmes due to fiscal space limitation relating to the increased civil servant salaries, the increase of allocations for child and equity-sensitive programmes is a notable achievement.

Adoption of the new National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-25 and subsequent establishment of the National Social Protection Council, chaired by the Senior Minister of Economy and Finance, marked the beginning of a new stage of social protection in Cambodia.

Evidence-based advocacy for the establishment of social protection programmes directly benefiting pregnant women and young children to address high stunting rates in Cambodia resulted in the prioritization of cash transfers for this vulnerable group. Cash transfers are now recognized as a key social assistance intervention and full coverage of the eligible population is anticipated by 2025. Successful implementation of the UNICEF-supported cash transfer pilot for pregnant women and children through subnational government structures served as an

important lesson learnt for the design of a national programme, expected to start early 2018. A key challenge remains within the political climate for securing Government budget for progressive expansion of the cash transfer programme. The recent prioritization of formal and informal sector employees in urban areas for social protection expansion could reduce the financial and human resource capacity of the General Secretariat of National Social Protection Council to lead the design and oversee its implementation. Further delays in Government decisions on the implementing ministry for the cash transfer programme for pregnant women and children may also affect future plans.

To address delayed rollout of the disability allowance programme fully financed by the public budget, UNICEF provided technical support to MoSVY both to resolve bottlenecks for financial transaction as well as to accelerate implementation through an operational manual. UNICEF also provided technical assistance for the development of new identification tools for persons with disabilities based on social models, including specific questionnaires for children. Together with the increased budget allocation for this programme, a greater number of children with disabilities should be reached in 2018. Excellent partnership with the Persons with Disability Welfare department of MoSVY paved the way to advocate for an increase of the benefit level of this cash transfer programme to ensure its effectiveness. In 2018, UNICEF will support drafting of a revised sub-decree for this important change.

In 2017, UNICEF started to review its future engagement at subnational level. Decentralization and deconcentration reform have been progressing very slowly, and it was important to strategize on UNICEF's future support in this governance reform. A field survey was conducted jointly with the key ministries (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy and Finance, NCDD) to understand critical challenges for SNAs to invest in social sectors. During the formulation of the Theory of Change of the social policy component for the new Country Programme, a series of inter-ministerial meetings were held to discuss the findings identified during joint field visits to the all 26 capital and provincial administrations and the actions to address them collaboratively in the future. The importance of strengthening commune council capacity for provision of social protection and social welfare to the most vulnerable was also highlighted during the dialogues with the key central ministries, SNAs as well as major development partners. An agreement was made to keep it as one of the critical areas for future D&D reform.

Through inter-ministerial consultations both at technical and political levels, the findings of the child poverty study covering both multidimensional and monetary approaches were fully endorsed by the Government, informing baselines and targets for SDG indicators on poverty. The finalization of localized SDGs has been delayed, and final endorsement is anticipated for the first quarter of 2018. The importance on multi-dimensional child poverty as an indicator for national development plans was discussed with the key policy makers from Supreme National Economic Council. UNICEF's collaboration on strengthening national the M&E system resulted in the Supreme National Economic Council requesting support in the development of a result framework for the new national Rectangular Strategy IV, a political developmental platform which will guide the National Strategic Development Plan 2018-23. This will be an important opportunity to inform the key development plans, making sure critical child development issues are prioritized and alignment with SDGs is ensured.

OUTPUT 1 4.1: By 2018, increased capacities of four social sector ministries to formulate, execute and monitor programme budget with a focus on equity.

Analytical statement of progress

The capacity of planning and finance department of 15 key social ministries as well as the General Department of Budget of Ministry of Economy and Finance for formulation of programme budget was strengthened in 2017 through professional training of 170 officials supported by UNICEF. Pre- and post-training tests demonstrated greater knowledge in programme budget formulation. After the training, demand increased from social ministries for technical support from UNICEF to improve programme budget formulation to enhance policy-budget linkage. This includes request from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Rural Development. In addition, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Economy and Finance to revise quality assessment tools of Budget Strategic Plan and Programme Budget, including the way to assess equity-based programming.

UNICEF supported the General Department of National Treasury of MEF to formulate social service expenditure guidelines for communes/ sangkats, the lowest tier of subnational administration. Once finalized, these will contribute enhancing planning and budgeting for social services, particularly to provide key social services for the most vulnerable. In 2018, UNICEF plans to support training on guideline implementation, as well as regular coaching to communes/sangkats by the respective provincial treasury.

As a result of evidence-based advocacy by UNICEF to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the nutrition budget allocation for 2018 was increased by 30 per cent compared to 2017, from around US\$129,000 to approximately US\$169,000. UNICEF also contributed to an accelerated procurement of RUTF by MoH, for which the Government allocated public budget for the first time in 2017. The Budget for the MOSVY disability grant programme will also be increased by 30 per cent from just under US\$500,000 in 2017 to around \$650,000 in 2018, based on full utilization of budget in 2017 and smooth programme rollout. The Programme Budget execution training specially organized for MoSVY, as well as ongoing technical support from UNICEF, contributed to this achievement.

In 2018, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the Supreme National Economic Council to develop a results framework of national development plans to ensure prioritization of key results for children and linkages with the SDGs. Technical support to MoSVY will continue for prioritization of child and social welfare budget and improvement in Programme Budget structure following a request from Government. UNICEF will participate in the process of revising the budget allocation formula for commune/sangkat to promote equity-focused and increased budget allocation for local government to deliver services for children. UNICEF will also provide technical assistance to assess the capacity gaps in key ministries on Programme Budget formulation and execution, and develop a capacity building plan to support implementation of the Budget System Reform Strategy 2017-2025.

OUTPUT 2 4.2: By 2018, strengthened national social protection system to address the needs of the most vulnerable children and families and to enhance resilience against shocks.

Analytical statement of progress

In 2017, the National Social Protection Policy Framework, the overarching framework covering social security and social assistance, was adopted by the Council of Ministers. The cash transfer programme for pregnant women and children was highlighted as a priority, and the Prime Minister committed to implement it at an earliest date possible. The National Social Protection Council chaired by the Minister of Economy and Finance was established to oversee implementation of the National Social Protection Policy Framework, and its secretariat was

created within the MEF. Social protection coordination and governance are expected to be strengthened under the new governance structure.

The MoSVY's disability allowance programme was successfully rolled out in 2017, reaching 7,757 persons, including approximately 10 per cent children. UNICEF contributed to support the responsible department to access resources allocated, and to build capacity to execute budget. UNICEF also provided technical assistance to design new persons with disability identification tools based on a social model, including separate questionnaires for children. The new identification tool is expected to accelerate disability allowance programme implementation in 2018.

Around 1,000 pregnant women and children under five years benefited from the cash transfer pilot supported by UNICEF in collaboration with the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development, (known as CARD). Nine cash distributions and eight education sessions were conducted on a bi-monthly basis involving commune focal persons and health centre staff from May 2016 to October 2017.

UNICEF is conducting a process evaluation to draw lessons and to inform the design of the national cash transfer programme. The preliminary results were positive regarding behaviour change of beneficiary mothers which has boosted utilization of health services across all communes. Based on these results, Ministry of Economy and Finance senior management approved designing a new national cash transfer programme, which UNICEF will technically support from early 2018.

UNICEF, together with GiZ, initiated collaboration with the Ministry of Planning to improve IDPoor – the common targeting tool to identify the poor for social protection interventions by the government and non-government entities.

The pilot On-Demand IDPoor started in November to test the feasibility for regular updates of the IDPoor database in order to reduce exclusion errors and to update any demographic change of beneficiary families. For example, this includes registering newborns to make it more useful as a targeting tool especially for the upcoming national cash transfer programme.

Future rollout of a new cash transfer programme remains highly dependent on the political climate. Recent prioritization of formal and informal sector employees in urban areas has affected the Government's financial and technical capacity to initiate preparation for design and implementation of new cash transfer programme which will focus on the most vulnerable, the majority of whom are residents in rural areas. Expansion and improvement of existing cash transfer schemes, on the other hand, would be less complex. In addition to the design of a new cash transfer programme for pregnant women and children, in 2018 UNICEF plans to collaborate with MoEYS to improve the design and operation of school scholarship programme, and with MoSVY for the disability allowance programme to expand coverage and benefit level to improve its effectiveness.

OUTPUT 3 4.3: By 2018, strengthened capacities of provincial and district administrations to develop and monitor child-centred and equity- focused investment plans and budget in the framework of national decentralisation and deconcentration programme, especially in the six target provinces.

Analytical statement of progress

Progress was made with capacity building of subnational administrations for child-sensitive and equity focused planning. The new subnational administration planning guidelines developed in 2016 with support from UNICEF were rolled out from the beginning of 2017. The new guidelines highlight participation of vulnerable groups in the planning process, including women, youth and persons with disabilities. To streamline timing of subnational planning process in order to inform subnational budget formulation more effectively, UNICEF facilitated dialogues among the key stakeholders (MoP, MEF, Mol and NCDDS).

As a result, for the first time, the subnational planning process was initiated ahead of budgeting process, with the letter issued by the Senior Minister of Interior in February. Challenges, however, were observed for streamlining planning and budgeting processes. Many subnational administrations waited until training for the new planning guidelines to be conducted to start planning processes. The delay of training in some provinces subsequently delayed planning processes, missing opportunities to inform the 2018 budget.

UNICEF continued advocacy with the provincial administrations to invest in social services, resulting in budget allocation for nutrition (Ratanakiri province) and child protection (Kandal province) for the first time. To understand challenges for provincial administrations to spend their budget for social services, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the NCDDS to conduct field research through interviews with the planning and budgeting divisions of all 25 capital and provincial administrations. The key bottlenecks identified included limited knowledge on what activities could be financed by provincial budget, misalignment of planning and budgeting cycles, and lack of guidance from the central ministries on how to invest in social services. Based on these findings, UNICEF organized joint meetings with the key ministries to address these issues. The agreed actions included: (i) preparation of joint circulars on integrated calendars of planning and budgeting; (ii) development of guidelines for social budgeting and expenditures for capital and provincial administrations, and; (iii) establishment of social investment monitoring mechanisms and provision of award and recognition for good performance. The latter will include promoting peer learning, by sharing of best practices among subnational administrations through an annual forum of local leaders and other means of communication. UNICEF will support the implementation of these strategic actions in the coming years.

In 2017, challenges in decentralization reform and sub-national democratic development have deepened. Functional transfer has been stalled due to resistance from line ministries and lack of shared vision on D&D reform. The dissolution of the largest opposition party in late 2017 has triggered temporary discontinuation of support from key donors on D&D reform. The impact of this is not yet known for the future progress of the reform process.

In 2018, UNICEF will continue working to build capacity of subnational administrations in planning, budgeting and implementation of social projects for the benefit of children and women. UNICEF will work with central ministries on creating enabling environments for subnational administrations to deliver results through implementation of agreed actions to address specific bottlenecks as above mentioned, while providing technical support to the SNAs in target provinces.

OUTPUT 4 4.4: By 2018, increased capacities of government and non-government institutions to generate and utilize quality data and evidence, and to monitor and evaluate the realization of child rights.

Analytical statement of progress

Building on progress achieved in 2016, the Ministry of Planning continued to work on drafting the national M&E policy and capacity development for child poverty measurement and monitoring in the context of SGD localization. The Ministry of Planning is drafting a national strategy based on the draft M&E policy, based on consultations made with key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Supreme National Economic Council and the Council for the Development of Cambodia,

The Government approved the child poverty study main findings and thus child poverty indicators with information on baselines and targets are included in draft Cambodia SDG framework expected to be approved in the 1st quarter of 2018. The child poverty report is under final review, expected for finalization and dissemination in early 2018.

Capacity building on Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis was conducted and core members of the National Poverty Assessment Working Group as well as local researchers were trained on its methodology. Monetary child poverty has been measured by this working group using Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2015 data, institutionalizing this child poverty assessment exercise.

Cambodia as a State Party is preparing its report on CRC implementation combining the 4th, 5th and 6th reports covering a period of 2008-2017. UNICEF, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Save the Children provided financial and technical support to the Cambodia National Council for Children (CNCC) for data collection, report drafting and consultation with stakeholders on progress. The report will be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2018. UNICEF also supported a training of NGO networks on drafting the alternative report.

In 2018 UNICEF will focus on working with the Supreme National Economic Council and the Ministry of Planning for preparation of the national development plans (Rectangular Strategy IV and National Strategic Development Plan 2018-23). UNICEF will also prioritize finalization of the national M&E strategy as well as advocacy and technical support for inclusion of data related to children with disabilities in the upcoming Census and national household surveys to fill this major information gap.

OUTPUT 5 4.5: Increased capacity of district and commune level authorities, civil society organisations and families to support children with disabilities to realize their rights.

Analytical statement of progress

Disability Rights Initiative Cambodia civil society organisation (CSO) partners are on track for delivering against their planned results and are winding down their activities to close in first quarter of 2018. Despite critical support being provided, sustainability of service delivery for families and children with disabilities is a challenge with little to no public investment. In response, UNICEF provided on-going capacity development support for the CSO partners on topics related to financial management, procurement, results-based programming, M&E and communication and advocacy through on the job support as well as three dedicated learning workshops. For 2017, the following achievements were reported:

- 14 CSO partners continue to deliver support services to children and families with disabilities in 14 provinces;
- CSO partners have cumulatively reached 56,566 direct beneficiaries. Twelve per cent were children with disabilities, of whom 2,859 were girls).

Work with the Ministry of Interior is on track. Training on disability inclusion with Mol will contribute to a more enabling and inclusive local governance context for children and persons with disabilities. The first half of the year's focus on the elections meant that training at commune level to reach new commune councillors in the focus areas - six focus districts in five provinces and the Phnom Penh capital. The disability inclusion training package was revised to reflect the new sub-national planning guidelines for Commune Investment Programme and District Investment Programme by the technical counterparts of Mol and NCDDS. In 2017, 52 Commune and eight Sangkat authorities were trained, with 1,569 participants of whom 365 were women.

Evidence collected from the field in target areas where disability inclusion training has been implemented shows progress towards greater inclusion of children and families with disabilities in local governance processes. On average, 77 per cent of target communes reported inclusive actions for children with disabilities and 63.5 per cent reported participation of persons with disabilities in local governance planning processes. Actions taken by communes in support on persons with disability in the focus areas included: purchase of assistive devices, transportation costs to access social services, school support materials, provision of bicycles, skills training, disability awareness-raising, and ramp construction.

Collaboration with LOGIN Asia, funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation, resulted in horizontal learning activity on inclusive local governance between representatives of Cambodia and representatives from Bangladesh in May 2017.

Work with MoSVY to revise the identification tools for the disability allowance for poor persons with disabilities is underway and field testing of the draft tools and national validation will be completed by the end of 2017. Support for national community-based rehabilitation coordination is on track, with field monitoring of operators taking place and a national reflection workshop planned for late December.

The research on the children with disabilities in Cambodia conducted by CBM-Nossal is constrained. The final draft received does not meet research standards and is not usable in its current version. UNICEF will work independently of CBM-Nossal to identify and refine parts of the research for possible further dissemination.

Document centre

Evaluation and research

Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
The Impact of Migration On Children In the Capital and Target Provinces Cambodia	2017/016	Study
Situational analysis of children with disabilities in Cambodia	2017/015	Study
Cambodia Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Survey	2017/014	Study
Disciplinary Methods in Cambodian Primary Schools: Towards Violence Free Schools	2017/013	Study

Evaluation of the UNDAF Cycles 2011-2015 and 2016-2018 in Cambodia	2017/012	Evaluation
Brief Assessment of the Status of Decentralisation in Cambodia	2017/011	Study
Bottlenecks Analysis of Persistent Health and Nutritional Status Inequities	2017/010	Study
Studies for the Food Supplement and the Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods	2017/009	Study
A Review of Appropriate Care-Seeking for Children and Newborn with Pneumonia	2017/008	Survey
Participatory Action Research on Key Family Practices	2017/007	Research
Review of the UNICEF Cambodia Programme for Combatting Child Malnutrition	2017/006	Review
Reducing Stunting in Children Under Five Years of Age: A Comprehensive Evaluation of UNICEF's Strategies and Programme Performance – Cambodia Country Case Study	2017/005	Evaluation
Study on Funding and Financial Models of Residential Care Institutions in Cambodia	2017/004	Study
Study on Alternative Care Community Practices for Children in Cambodia	2017/003	Study
Joint Child Protection and Education Needs Assessment in Phnom Penh Urban Poor Communities	2017/002	Study
National Mapping of Residential Care Facilities	2017/001	Study

Other publications

Title

Lessons learned

Document Type/Category	Title
Innovation	Care for Children: Digital inspection of residential care and taking corrective measures
Innovation	Inter-sectoral longitudinal study on impact of integrated early childhood development
Innovation	Can fish replace milk powder in products for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition in Cambodia?

Programme documents

Document Type	Title	Name
Annual Report	Global Staff Survey Action Plan 2017	Cambodia GSS action plan pdf.pdf
AWP/RWP	UNICEF-MEF Rolling Workplan 2017-2018	Signed RWP-Output2.pdf
AWP/RWP	UNICEF-SNEC-CARD-MOSVY	Signed RWP-Output1.pdf
AWP/RWP	UNICEF-MRD Rolling Workplans 2017-2018	WASH 2017-2018 Work Plan-Signed.pdf
AWP/RWP	UNICEF-MOEYS Rolling Workplans 2017-	Singed IQE RWP 2017_stamp.pdf

	2018	
AWP/RWP	UNICEF-MOH Rolling Workplan 2017-2018	CSD RWP 2017-2018_signed.pdf
AWP/RWP	UNICEF Child Protection RWP 2017-2018	Rolling Workplan CP_signed.pdf
AWP/RWP	UNICEF-NCDD Annual Workplan 2017	UNICEF AWPB 2017 -NEW-Compress.pdf
AWP/RWP	Social Inclusion and Governance RWP 2016-2017 - MOP-CNCC	2016 RWP-Output 4-MoP-CNCC.pdf
AWP/RWP	Social Inclusion and Governance RWP 2016-2017 - CARD	2016 RWP-Output 2-CARD-MEF.pdf
AWP/RWP	Social Inclusion and Governance RWP 2016-2017 - MEF	2016 RWP-Output 1-MEF-SNEC.pdf
AWP/RWP	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene RWP 2016-2017	Signed annual workplan_WASH.pdf
AWP/RWP	Child Protection RWP 2016-2017	Signed RWP_001.pdf
AWP/RWP	Health and Nutrition RWP with MOH (signed cover page)	Cover CSD 2016-2017.pdf
AWP/RWP	Health and Nutrition RWP with MOH	Signed AWP 2016-2017 CSD_MoH.pdf
AWP/RWP	Education Rolling Work Plan 2016-2017	Final Signed 2016 2017 Education RWP.pdf
CPAP	Cambodia Country Programme Action Plan (2016-2018)	Final Cambodia CPAP 2016-2018.pdf
CPD	Cambodia Country Programme Document (2016-2018)	2015-PL21-Cambodia_CPD-ODS-EN.pdf