

## Burkina Faso

---

### Executive summary

In 2017, the situation in Burkina Faso was characterized by the increased threats from extremist, violent groups in the north and a series of social protests, both affecting the fulfilment of children's rights. In August, the capital city, Ouagadougou, witnessed its second deadly attack by armed men. Overall, 73 incidents were recorded and three out of four of the 160 victims were civilians. The rapidly deteriorating security situation in the Sahel region coupled with prolonged teacher strikes deprived the rights to continued education of a cumulative 97,000 children in the region. Adolescent and young people were exposed to the risks of being associated with extremist violent groups.

Chronic droughts put 132,899 people under "phase 3" of food insecurity; of those 59 per cent were in the Sahel region. From January to October 2017, 72,524 new severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admissions were recorded nationally and 52,668 children with severe acute malnutrition were treated through UNICEF's support.

In 2016, the Ministry of Health (MoH) scaled-up the new free healthcare policy for children under five years and women who were pregnant. This led to a significant increase in the number of new curative contacts from 1.65 to 2.21 per child between 2016/2017, demonstrating its positive result towards universal access to healthcare.

The year 2017 saw the implementation of the new community health strategy. The Country Office (CO) made a critical contribution in capacity development, supervision and procurement of kits to equip newly-recruited community health workers (CHWs) to provide integrated community-based management of childhood illness.

A joint review with the Government on the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) pilot demonstrated promising results of the non-subsidized approach to rural sanitation. To respond to the persistent insecurity in the country, UNICEF Burkina Faso introduced the Safe School Strategy to strengthen resilience in schools, and it was integrated in the quality child-friendly school programme by Ministry of Education (MoE). By December 2017, the strategy was implemented in 468 schools across three regions, benefiting 94,993 children (45,533 girls).

The Country Office strengthened multi-sectoral strategies to deliver results for children. The nutrition and WASH strategy, elaborated in 2016, reached over 171,000 pregnant and nursing women with key messages on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and WASH. Promotion of menstrual hygiene management was integrated in the quality child-friendly school programme as a strategy to support girls' education in 100 schools.

Despite the ambitious target set by the country programme document (CPD), a number of high-impact interventions in maternal, newborn and child survival remained at a low coverage. One consequence was that neonatal and maternal mortality rates did not decline, and a high prevalence of malnutrition among children persisted.

The roll-out of menstrual hygiene management in schools revealed a significant need for affordable and locally-appropriate menstrual hygiene products. UNICEF will continue to explore market-based solutions for meeting the demand at scale.

The efficiency of social policies to reduce child poverty was limited by the growing insecurity, a low tax burden and limited financial and human resources available to implement the national social protection policy.

Through a partnership between UNICEF Burkina Faso, the UNICEF Regional Office, UNICEF Headquarters, the non-government organization (NGO), Alive & Thrive, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a regional conference on child nutrition was organized. Parliamentarians from 20 West and Central African countries advanced the development of action plans to fight against malnutrition through South-to-South knowledge exchange.

The CO signed a memorandum of understanding with German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Save the Children International and the NGO ECPAT to strengthen coordination and synergy to support the national child protection system. As a result, a joint training with GIZ on gender-sensitive budgeting targeted parliamentarians was held, a study on violence against children was co-financed with Save the Children International; and joint advocacy was conducted to develop the National Strategy for child protection.

The results from the child poverty and profiling study conducted by the CO and Save the Children International triggered national discussions on a child-sensitive social protection system. Starting 2018, UNICEF Burkina Faso and Save the Children International will pilot this approach in three regions, with funding support from the Swedish Government, an emerging donor.

Through an innovative partnership with the corporate social responsibility forum of the mining industry, over 70 participants from mining companies, the Government and NGOs from Burkina Faso and three countries in the sub-region developed their capacity on child rights and business principals. As the first of its kind on the African continent, the training facilitated knowledge sharing and identified key opportunities for further engagement with the mining industry to promote child rights.

### **Humanitarian assistance**

Burkina Faso was affected by seasonal and chronic vulnerabilities due to floods and droughts, and the rapidly deteriorating security situation in the Sahel region. Following the repeated attacks by extremist armed groups in the Sahel region, an estimated 500 schools were temporary closed in March 2017, affecting 75,730 children (35,226 girls).

UNICEF Burkina Faso in partnership with Handicap International provided psychosocial services to 583 teachers and specialized psychological care to 115 teachers. The partnership developed capacity of 16 psychologists and local social workers on stress management. The responses contributed to re-opening of all but 11 schools by April. However, immediately after the back-to-school campaign, insecurity aggravated again, resulting in the closure of 182 primary schools (48.6 per cent in Soum and 15.8 per cent in Oudalan) by early December, affecting 21,818 students (52 per cent are girls). Psychosocial services were provided to distressed teachers through the partnership with Handicap International.

Regarding humanitarian-development programmes, the MoE with the CO and technical support

from UNICEF WCARO introduced the Safe School Strategy to strengthen resilience in schools. Following initial success in 71 schools in a pilot in Sahel, the strategy was extended to 297 schools in three regions, benefiting 78,950 children. By incorporating the strategy in the existing teacher training of the Quality Child-Friendly School, MoE was able to quickly scale it up. The second phase of the strategy was underway, targeting 100 additional schools.

Due to the deteriorated security in the Sahel region, nearly 5,000 people were internally displaced. The CO provided schooling kits to 101 schools that are hosting internally displaced children, benefitting 4,400 students including 2,100 girls.

In coordination with UNHCR and NGOs, UNICEF Burkina Faso supported 3,206 refugee children (1,683 girls) in Goudebou and Mentao camps with access to quality basic education: 1,683 children (919 girls) attended primary education, 1,502 children (764 girls) pre-school education, and 21 (5 girls) post-primary. UNICEF's contribution entailed teacher capacity development; strengthened coordination with local authorities; and provision of teaching materials. The CO continued to provide psycho-social support to 5,662 children (2,647 girls) aged three to 17 years from two refugee camps and 13 host communities.

To protect youth from recruitment by armed groups, UNICEF supported vocational training of 119 adolescents and youths (15-24 years) from refugee camps who are now running a small business in groups. A total of 750 adolescent boys and girls received training on peace building and life skills.

As of October 2017, 132,899 people were affected by Phase 3 food insecurity; of those, 59 per cent were in the Sahel region. From January to October 2017, 72,524 new admissions for severe acute malnutrition were recorded nationally. The CO procured 100 per cent of therapeutic milk and ready-to-use-therapeutic foods (RUTF) required in 2017, allowing the treatment of 52,668 children with SAM (including 19,756 in humanitarian situation). On the prevention side, the CO and NGO partners supported 128,882 children aged six to 23 months and their mothers with infant and young child feeding services and counselling (as of October 2017).

Frequent floods and storms affected 33,659 people in 12 out of the 13 regions. Together with refugees and the host communities, 28,655 persons were reached by hygiene messaging, hygiene kits, water (mainly water treatment) and sanitation services with UNICEF's support.

A dengue fever epidemic again hit the country in September, recording a total of 14,944 suspected cases through November 2017. Most of them were from the Central region and 20 per cent were under 18 years old. The CO participated in monthly meetings of the Epidemics Management Committee led by Ministry of Health (MoH) to plan and coordinate required actions. UNICEF specifically supported the reproduction of communication materials on prevention of dengue for 1,150,552 students (including 564,316 girls) in 5,445 schools. Using the U-Report, the CO transmitted messages on dengue fever to 34,000 adolescents and youths.

In terms of sustainability, UNICEF Burkina Faso accompanied the MoE in updating the National Strategy on Education in Emergency, and the Safe School Strategy was officially incorporated as a key strategy. The new Education Sectoral Plan 2017-2030 incorporated the strategies to tackle natural disasters and insecurity. Through the collaboration with the UNICEF Regional Office and the 2IE (engineering institute), "WASH in Emergency training" was carried out with 36 participants from nine francophone countries. As the lead agency for the WASH in emergency group, the CO accompanied the updating of WASH contingency plans and

spearheaded the organization of a simulation exercise of an emergency response to flooding, attended by 60 participants from WASH and relevant sectors.

### Equity in practice

Between 2015 and 2016, the CO and the Government jointly conducted an equity-focused, gender-sensitive situation analysis of children and women, using a life-cycle approach, with the ambition to reinforce articulation of children rights in national policies and programmes. Evidence generated from the analysis contributed to country-level advocacy efforts and to inform the National Plan for Social and Economic Development (2016-2020). Results were used for programming of UNDAF and CPD 2018-2020.

Since 2016, UNICEF Burkina Faso has been partnering with Save the Children to conduct a child poverty profiling and vulnerability analysis in the Boucle du Mouhoun region. The results were made available in 2017 and used to design a child-sensitive social protection programme aiming at reducing multi-dimensional child deprivations in four pilot regions (Boucle du Mouhoun, Center-North, North and East).

The MoH scaled up the new free healthcare policy for children under five and pregnant women in 2016. The CO supported the effort by piloting the strategy in the Sahel region, the most disadvantaged region with poor access to the quality social services. In 2017, the CO continued technical and financial support through strengthening supervision and monitoring of the new strategy, covering 254,376 children under five (671,886 curative consultations) and 67,665 pregnant women (192,836 antenatal visits, 142,303 curative consultations, 47,552 deliveries including 620 caesarean sections) in the region. This allowed a significant increase in the utilization of health services among children under five nationally from 1.71 to 2.02 contacts/child between 2016 and 2017 (during first three quarters).

Since 2013, UNICEF Burkina Faso has supported the most disadvantaged children in the East, North and Sahel regions to access quality infant and young child feeding services. Through the mother-to-mother's support groups, 188,000 pregnant women and 494,000 lactating women received these services and counselling at community level. Nearly 4,000 rural mothers who are participating in the mother-to-mother support groups received poultry and home-gardening materials to improve the household livelihood, and were trained in improved food production and WASH messages. To tackle the limited access to screening services in conflict-affected or hard-to-reach rural zones, malnutrition screening of children by mothers was introduced through mother-to-mother support groups in 2017. This innovative strategy will be expanded to the East and North regions from 2018 onward and preliminary results assessed.

In line with the Strategic Development Goals (SDGs), the Government ambitions to end open defecation country-wide by 2030. UNICEF Burkina Faso supported this commitment through introducing the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach since 2016, targeting rural areas where the access to sanitation is especially low. As a result of UNICEF-supported CLTS interventions since 2016, it is estimated that an additional 168,790 persons now live in "open defecation free" communities. The preliminary results from the joint review of a CLTS pilot in 2017 demonstrated positive results of this community-driven, sustainable strategy to accelerate the national efforts in ending open defecation. The review suggests that the no-subsidy approach for rural sanitation in Burkina Faso promotes equity because of its inclusiveness and feasibility even among the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

UNICEF Burkina Faso's efforts to promote an equitable and inclusive education led to an increase in gender parity index from 0.94 in 2010/2011 to 1.01 in 2016/2017 at primary

education level. The completion rate increased significantly during the same period from 49.1 per cent for girls (against 55.1 per cent for boys) in 2011 to 64.3 per cent for girls (against 56.6 per cent for boys in 2017). At the post-primary level, the parity index increased from 0.79 in 2010-2011 to 1.06 in 2016-17.

UNICEF Burkina Faso contributed to these results at the policy level through capacity-building of the Ministry of Education to ensure a safe learning environment for girls and the adoption of the national strategy to accelerate girls' education in 2012. The upstream work was linked to efforts at the operational level to enhance girls' access to education by: exemption of parent associations' fees for first-year girls; provision of dry take-home rations provided by partners such as World Food Programme (WFP) and non-government organizations (NGOs); and introducing gender-sensitive pedagogy in teachers' training and menstrual hygiene management in schools through the national child-friendly school programme. UNICEF supported 70,000 girls who were vulnerable in terms of household poverty and school distance with scholarships, school supplies and bicycles.

The CO's advocacy and external communication efforts resulted in diversifying partnerships with emerging donors such as UNICEF Japan, L'Occitane Foundation, Norway and Denmark Governments, all committed to support girls' education within the inclusion education component for a three to four year period.

### Strategic Plan 2018-2021

The UNICEF Burkina Faso Country Programme 2018-2020 will contribute to the Strategic Plan, the national socio-economic development plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Concerning the Strategic Plan Goal Area 1, the Government commitment to universal health coverage by strengthening community health systems is the opportunity to continue tackle the equity issue. Burkina Faso was included in the Global Financing Facility, a new financing opportunity to increase the coverage of health and nutrition interventions. As the H6 coordinator, the CO will further leverage resources for neonatal health and elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

As the lead of the partner group in nutrition, the CO mobilized funds to scale up the optimal infant and young child feeding practices and reduce stunting at community level, while strengthening the management of acute malnutrition through capacity development. As an emerging area, UNICEF will develop pilot initiatives on gender-responsive adolescent nutrition through multi-sectoral approach. Renewed focus on improved availability, quality and use of nutrition data will improve monitoring and delivery of nutrition interventions.

The rapidly deteriorating insecurity in the north due to a growing number of attacks connected with violent extremism affected the access to quality education for children in the Sahel region. While the safe school strategy introduced by UNICEF will contribute to build resilience in schools, the CO is exploring innovative strategies to allow children to continue schooling. Key opportunities include the Government's commitment to scale up the Child Friendly School Programme by 2020; increased budget allocation to early childhood development; and the new Education Sectoral Policy with a focus on out-of-school children.

The strategic alignment between the national priorities, UNICEF's CPD and the SDGs are a way to advocate for more political commitment and for community engagement to protect the most disadvantaged children, including adolescent girls. A major challenge remains leveraging resources from domestic financing to support the national efforts in child protection, while ensuring the sustainability of results in juvenile justice and prevention of violence against

children. Demonstrating “value for money” with evidence remains another challenge, especially in ending child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting, a major area of contribution for communication for development (C4D).

The recent approval of programme documents in water supply, sanitation, water resource management and sector governance is an opportunity to accelerate the Government effort towards universal coverage for water and sanitation by 2030. The Government identified poor borehole quality as a bottleneck to water access, and a code of conduct for drilling is currently being elaborated with UNICEF support. Ongoing research on an innovative model, through public-private partnerships supported by UNICEF, will feed into developing a strategy for sustainable rural water management. Nearly half of the population still practice open defecation, and progress in rural sanitation was slow. UNICEF-supported no-subsidized approaches to rural sanitation will generate knowledge to accelerate ending open defecation. In 2018, the CO will support generating evidence on climate change and urbanization to guide advocacy and programmatic strategies.

For the Strategic Plan Goal Area 5, inefficient budget execution coupled with a low tax burden and under-coverage of social protection programmes pose challenges. A study on child poverty conducted by UNICEF and Save the Children determined a momentum in favour of child-sensitive social protection. Discussions are ongoing to put in place dedicated funding to accelerate the implementation of the national social protection policy. Building on the previous work, UNICEF will continue to influence child-sensitive allocation and spending, along with the increased fiscal space by generating evidences and supporting increased domestic revenue through a tax reform.

The decision of the Government to accelerate the decentralization process and the revision of the mining code that formalizes contributions of mining sector to local development formulate key opportunities to tackle inequity and child poverty. Furthermore, emerging partnership with the mining industry provides a prospect toward building “child-friendly communities” through strategic synergies between municipal governments, mining companies and UNICEF. Building on this, the CO will continue to promote child-sensitive budgeting and socially accountable spending at municipal level through participatory budgeting and citizen control.

Joint efforts between UNICEF Burkina Faso and the UNICEF Regional Office to define key results for the country programme documents (CPD) clarified “shared accountability” towards the Strategic Plan’s targets. The CPD result framework was designed in alignment with the Strategic Plan to facilitate monitoring of the CO’s contribution to the Strategic Plan. The costed evaluation plan and the integrated monitoring plan will not only feed into documenting the CO’s contribution to the Strategic Plan, but help the CO tailor the “change strategies” to the local context.

### Emerging areas of importance

**Focus on the second decade.** In 2017, the CO invested in reducing the knowledge gap on adolescence by supporting a thematic analysis on determinants of early pregnancy, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography. The analysis confirmed the vulnerability and multiple deprivations faced by adolescents, particularly by girls in poor households in rural areas. The study revealed precarious nature of sexuality among adolescents, as 37 per cent of girls and 21 per cent of boys aged 15 to 19 are sexually active and only 31 per cent had knowledge on HIV prevention. They are exposed to different forms of violence and other risky behaviours such as smoking and drug use. Nationally, 19 per cent of adolescent girls were pregnant or had a child prior to 19 years old; 21 per cent in rural areas

and 21 per cent among those living in poor households.

UNICEF Burkina Faso with the University of Ouagadougou and Johns Hopkins University organized a dissemination meeting of the findings from the Phase 1 of the “Global Early Adolescent Study”. The meeting highlighted early adolescence (10-14 years old) as the critical phase of shaping gender norms that influence sexual and reproductive health. A discussion is ongoing to mobilize resources and partnerships to implement Phase 2 of the Global Early Adolescent Study in Burkina Faso, to generate a scientific evidence base on early adolescence, which is neglected in conventional data collection and surveys.

Although the number of U-Reporters has grown progressively since its launch in March 2016, gender inequity among participants persists, especially for girls from rural areas. This year, the office trained 100 girls on mobile phone usage to facilitate their participation in U-Report, and set up 20 girls’ U-Reporters’ clubs in 20 provinces, increasing the percentage of girls among U-Reporters from 29 per cent to 31 per cent (approximately 9,000 new girls enrolled). The CO incorporated gender-related themes such as menstrual hygiene in the opinion polls sent through U-Report to attract girls’ interests.

UNICEF continued policy and advocacy dialogue with decision-makers including the First Lady, ministers and parliamentarians, promoting the scale up of teaching modules on female genital mutilation/cutting, child marriage and sexual and reproductive health in primary and secondary schools. The CO advocated the adoption and enforcement of a draft Children's Act and Code of Persons and Family, both to contribute to raising the official marriage age for girls from 17 to 18 years. The codes were finalized with technical and financial supports from UNICEF and are under the review by the Parliament.

To reach the most marginalized adolescents, UNICEF Burkina Faso supported 36,000 adolescents (50 per cent girls) who are members of 600 adolescents’ clubs in two regions (Sahel and Plateau-central). Those adolescents developed knowledge on life skills and child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, and sexual and reproductive health through the activities organized by the clubs, facilitated by volunteer animators trained by UNICEF and NGO partners. Messages on menstrual hygiene management were added to the sessions, using the adolescents’ clubs as the platform for intersectoral interventions.

In 2017, ‘All-In’ launched nationally, a global initiative to end the HIV epidemic among adolescents. Under the initiative, the CO supported the revision of the HIV testing and counselling norms and standards which resulted in reducing the age requiring parental consent for HIV testing from 18 to 15 years old, thus increasing access to HIV testing among adolescents. Over 40,530 young people were screened for HIV nationally, among whom 18,307 (45.2 per cent) were from the Centre region, 10,411 were school children (5,754 girls and 4,657 boys) and 7,896 were young people from the informal sector. The CO contributed communication interventions to promote HIV prevention and testing in schools in Central region. Through these initiatives, 210 young peer educators (71 girls and 139 boys) and 150 teachers were trained on emerging themes (HIV prevention, reproductive health, fighting drugs abuse, teenage pregnancy). Young people and adults in their neighbourhoods were sensitized on these themes through local radio, digital cinema and educational talks.

The All-In national coordination committee composed of the “champion ministries” (youths, health, education and social actions), UN agencies, National AIDS commission, youth groups and civil society organisations supported the planning, implementation, monitoring and resource mobilization of the initiative.

## Summary notes and acronyms

AMP – annual management plan  
ART/ARV – antiretroviral treatment/antiretroviral  
CHWs– community health workers  
CLTS – community-led total sanitation  
CMT – country management team  
CO – Country Office (UNICEF Burkina Faso)  
CPD – Country Programme Document  
CPMP – Country Programme Management Plan  
CRC – Committee for the Rights of a Child/ Convention on the Rights of the Child  
GER –gross enrolment rate  
GPE – Global Partnership for Education  
HAC – humanitarian action for children  
HACT – harmonized approach to cash transfer  
iCCM – integrated community case management  
ICT – information and communication technologies  
IMCI – integrated management of childhood illnesses  
IYCF – infant and young child feeding  
MDPs – Municipal Development Plans  
mHealth – mobile health  
MINFID – Ministry of Finance and Development  
MoE – Ministry of Education  
MoH – Ministry of Health  
MoWNSF – Ministry of Woman, National Solidarity and Family  
NGOs – non-government organization  
NSPP – National Social Protection Policy  
ODF – open defecation free  
OMT – operation management team  
ORE/ORR – Other Resources- Emergency/ Regular  
PMTCT – prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS  
PRIME – Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation  
RR – Regular Resources  
RUTF – ready-to-use therapeutic foods  
SAM – severe acute malnutrition  
SDG – Sustainable Development Goals  
SUN – Scaling Up Nutrition  
WASH– water, sanitation and hygiene  
WCARO– Western and Central Africa Regional Office (UNICEF)

## Capacity development

The CO technically and financially supported a participatory assessment of the national evaluation system that guided the development of the National Evaluation Capacity Development Strategy and its action plan under the leadership of Ministry of Finance.

In partnership with the Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (2ie), the CO supported the first WASH in Schools training for 35 actors from francophone countries. This training is expected to take place annually to strengthen the regional capacity around WASH in Schools.

Building on the 2016 national training, the CO trained 100 managers from health regional directions in results-based planning. The CO supported the training of health providers from all



38 targeted health districts in performance monitoring and bottleneck analysis. National trainers now monitor the application of these techniques in planning and monitoring.

In response to the deteriorating security in the Sahel region, the CO introduced the Safe School Approach as a part of the Quality Child-friendly School Programme. Following the training of 41 trainers and 250 teachers, the MoE extended the approach to 297 schools in three regions and trained an additional 843 teachers through the quality child-friendly school's teacher training platform. The strategy was implemented in 468 schools, benefiting 94,993 children (48 per cent girls).

UNICEF Burkina Faso built capacity of 2,415 juvenile justice actors on investigation techniques and the new civil registry strategy. Fifty-seven institutional actors participated in a training of trainers on social norms and trained 345 social workers from all provinces on ending child marriage. With two national NGOs, UNICEF reinforced the capacity of 1,200 mentors (50 per cent females) from 600 adolescents' clubs on menstrual hygiene. The CO trained 55 media actors on child marriage and birth registration. These results will contribute favourably to the child protection priorities in the new country programme document.

### **Evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy**

UNICEF Burkina Faso technically and financially supported the second edition of the "Knowledge sharing days on child-focused interventions," organized by the University of Ouagadougou. Ten cases studies were presented for inter-disciplinary sharing and dialogue, which identified good practices to reduce child marriage and child labour, and innovative responses to out-of-school children and stunting. The CO and the University are setting-up an electronic platform for wider dissemination of the good practices.

To leverage social budgeting for children, the CO conducted an analysis on national budget allocation and social spending for the past five years. The report and an advocacy note were shared with key decision makers including the Ministry of Finance and the Parliament, to ensure child-centred resource allocations and an effective and equitable social spending. These advocacy efforts were particularly timely as the Government shifted to the programme-based budgeting starting 2018.

In partnership with UNICEF NY Headquarters and the SKAT Foundation, the CO commissioned an in-depth study on contractual, institutional, and capacity barriers to professional drilling water sources. Results from the study will guide the elaboration of a Code of Conduct to improve the quality of drilling.

With Ministries of Health and of Finance and GAVI, UNICEF Burkina Faso conducted an equity analysis in immunization in three districts with the lowest vaccination coverage to identify causes for children's drop out or non-vaccination. Findings highlighted the need for capacity development at the district level in vaccine management and monitoring, and strengthened social mobilization to sensitize communities on the importance of vaccinating children.

To strengthen evidence-based advocacy that addresses gender inequalities, the CO supported evidence generation on positive social norms among girls and women. With the National Institute of Statistics and Demography, a data analysis of the Social Institutions and Gender Index yielded evidences on regional gender disparities.

### **Partnerships**

The revised Mining Code (2015) and the Decree (2017) formalized systematic contributions of mining sector to local development through additional tax and royalty. This provided an opportunity for UNICEF to engage the mining industry towards developing “a tripartite synergy” between the Government, UNICEF and mining companies. To this end, the CO formalized its partnership with the Corporate Social Responsibility forum, a platform for knowledge sharing among mining companies, the Chamber of Mines, Government, NGOs and academics.

As part of the forum's annual work plan, the forum and UNICEF Burkina Faso co-hosted a workshop on child rights and business principals using UNICEF’s “Child rights and mining toolkit.” First of its kind in Africa, the training raised awareness on child rights by building a “shared vision” among 73 participants from mining companies and their partners from Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Ivory Coast. It allowed the CO to identify specific needs for integrating child rights in risk assessment and mitigation for mining operations, while better aligning social investment and corporate social responsibility with the municipal local development plans.

UNICEF Burkina Faso and Save the Children International organized a dissemination session on the findings of the child poverty and profiling study in Boucle du Mouhoun region. This triggered commitment from Government and stakeholders to a child-sensitive social protection system and multidimensional child poverty monitoring, as prescribed by SDG One.

The joint UNICEF/UNFPA Programme maintained a high-level commitment to end female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage under the leadership of the First Lady, who led a bilateral advocacy meeting with the Prime Minister, eight key ministries along with the Association of Ministers’ spouses on child marriage. The programme, reaching 1,141,600 people, led to public declarations for the abandonment of female genital mutilation and child marriage in 600 villages with a 750,000 population.

### **External communication and public advocacy**

The CO used communication to support priorities in the CPD and UNICEF’s Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy. The CO participated in several global campaigns by adapting them locally. For the World Children’s Day, children from Burkina Faso “took over” through a music video that reached 40,000 viewers and engaged 147,000 people in less than a week. The digital engagement through the office’s Facebook page increased from 3,000 to 14,000 followers between 2016/2017 due to quality and innovative content.

In September, the CO organized a high-level meeting to present the Country Programme Document 2018-2020 to partners including the Government, donors, the private sector, civil society organizations and the media. Attended by 200 participants, the meeting was an opportunity to transmit children’s stories and UNICEF’s response to challenges faced by children in the country, as well as exchange ideas on partnerships for child rights.

The President of Burkina Faso in presence of the UNAIDS Executive Director launched two landmark plans to tackle the HIV epidemic: the 2017-2018 emergency catch-up plan and the 2017-2020 elimination of mother-to-child HIV transmission (eMTCT) plan in October. The First Lady was named the Goodwill Ambassador for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and launched the related operational plan in December. As the lead agency for eMTCT, UNICEF provided financial and technical support for development and launch of the eMTCT plan and supported the launch of the catch-up plan including mobilization of the highest-level authorities.

UNICEF Burkina Faso's work for WASH in rural areas (research on water access through a

public/private partnership on the maintenance of water pumps, and the CLTS approach piloted with UNICEF support) was recognized by the nomination of UNICEF as "Chevalier" in the National Order of Merit for Rural Development for the water and sanitation sectors.

### **South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation**

UNICEF Burkina Faso with the UNICEF Regional Office, UNICEF NY Headquarters and the NGO Alive & Thrive organized a high-level conference on nutrition with parliamentarians from 20 western and central African countries in Ouagadougou in June 2017. This initiative covered how parliamentarians can contribute to improve maternal and child nutrition, and identified steps and tools to engage them strategically and systematically to scale-up evidence-based nutrition interventions especially for the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

The CO documented and shared experiences from the "citizen control of public spending in education, health and WASH sectors initiative", building on the evaluation findings from 2016. In November, the CO hosted a visit of Government officials and UNICEF staff from Chad to Burkina Faso, to learn from the experience and adapt the methodology to their context. The visit was instrumental in sharing tips on how to build local capacity and community participation by engaging citizens in monitoring public spending. The visit's findings will contribute to the establishment of a national platform for resource mobilization and public spending in the Education Sector in Chad.

UNICEF Burkina Faso provided technical support to UNICEF Gabon for a training on public finance for children with parliamentarians, municipal authorities and Government senior officials. It was an opportunity to build a foundation for social budgeting analysis towards expansion of fiscal space in Gabon. The training strengthened the national capacity in conducting in-depth public expenditure analyses to feed into policy dialogue on child-sensitive budgeting.

UNICEF Burkina Faso and the Government participated in the 2017 SUN Global meeting in Ivory Coast. During the conference, the Burkinabè delegation (the nutrition focal point and SUN networks) met with the Ivorian government and exchanged their experiences on leadership, advocacy, efficient coordination and the organization of high-level nutrition donor meeting.

### **Identification and promotion of innovation**

The CO built new partnerships with four youth organizations to promote U-Report, resulting in the increase of U-Reporters (10-25 years old) from 25,000 to 34,000 between 2016/2017. Through activities targeting girls, gender balance slightly improved to 29 per cent - 10,500 female U-Reporters including 3,250 newly registered. Eleven opinion polls (e.g. SDGs, climate change and menstrual hygiene) were organized with average response rate of 35 per cent, affected by poor quality of mobile networks. The CO used U-Reporting to inform the elaboration of the alternative report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child through consulting with 9,000 U-Reporters.

The CO continued to support mHealth in two health districts in the Northern region. A total of 442 health personnel and 1,286 community health workers (CHWs) were reporting data on the integrated community case management of childhood illnesses (iCCM) weekly. MHealth improved CHWs work by providing a tool to timely report supply needs and reduce loss of time and money in visits to health centres for reporting

Piloting EduTrack started in 149 schools in Soum and Oudalan provinces in the Sahel region. Roll-out of EduTrack starting January 2018 will not only monitor key educational indicators on 35,062 school children, but serve as an early warning system as schools continue to be

targeted by violent extremism.

Since 2016, the CO has been testing a water-delivery model through public/private partnership to ensure quality and sustained access to water in rural areas. A SMS-based monitoring system was embedded for timely reporting of dysfunctional water pumps. Ongoing activities focused on application of water tariff at scale, development of a marketing strategy and operationalization of a responsibility pact among stakeholders. The evidences generated from the model can be replicated in other countries for shaping rural water supply policies.

### **Support to integration and cross-sectoral linkages**

The CO started implementation of the WASH in the nutrition strategy in East and Sahel regions through partnerships with NGOs and MoH. Through mother-to-mother groups as a platform, good hygiene and sanitation practices were promoted along with infant and young child feeding practices, reaching 42,525 pregnant women and 128,882 mothers of young children. The strategy will be expanded to other regions in 2018.

To strengthen multi-sectoral coordination in nutrition, the CO provided technical and financial support to the National Council for Nutrition Consultation and the Regional Consultation Councils for Nutrition. Chaired by the MoH, the National Council for Nutrition Consultation facilitated dialogue between MoH and other sectors “sensitive” to nutrition including agriculture, education, water, social protection and finance. The Regional Consultation Councils for Nutrition promoted dialogue on nutrition at regional level under the leadership of the governors.

Optimal nutrition practices were promoted in schools through the Quality Child-friendly School Programme. The CO supported conception, production and distribution of a comic book "Poko, child of tomorrow". The book prepares children and adolescents for their future role as parents including prevention of their children’s nutritional deficiencies. A total of 40 teachers and 15 teaching advisors were trained on the book and organized reading sessions with 1,081 children. The comic book helped students interactively learn good practices in nutrition, especially for those whose reading level is low. The challenge is to ensure the scalability of the book through a more explicit and inclusive experimental protocol.

To increase girls’ retention in schools, a menstrual hygiene management project was implemented throughout 2017 in 100 schools in Sahel, East and Haut Basin regions. Using communication materials developed through an action research, 31,191 children including 14,775 girls along with teachers and communities strengthened their knowledge on practices and attitudes favourable to menstrual hygiene management.

### **Service delivery**

Following recruitment and training of community health workers, the CO procured 235,000 ORS + Zinc kits and 42,523 packs of Amoxicillin DT, enabling 6,232 CHWs in 28 target health districts to provide the integrated child health management package. A partnership with Programme d’Appui au Développement Sanitaire allowed the procurement of 19,407 kits to CHWs in all 70 districts. By the end of September, 165,154 cases of child illnesses were managed by CHWs in five target regions, and 26,356 cases referred to health facilities.

The CO procured 92,694 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic foods through the central procurement centre, and supported capacity development and supervision of acute malnutrition management. Despite monthly monitoring by Nutrition Directorate and the CO, delay in delivery of nutrition supplies from Copenhagen led to a temporary stock-out in June. A memorandum of agreement on assisted purchases of nutritional and medical supplies between the Government

and UNICEF will help mitigate future stock-outs.

Through contract with local enterprises, 146 schools and 14 communities were equipped with water points and 50 schools and 10 health centres with latrines, reaching 63,200 people. Water committees and school clubs continued to play a central role in ensuring sustainable use of these infrastructures.

The CO through a NGO provided 1,000 menstrual hygiene kits to 100 schools (10 per school) which were managed by school clubs to support menstrual hygiene management. The CO is exploring options to strengthen the supply chain to provide the kits in more cost-effective way.

Community-led total sanitation increased rural sanitation demand to end open defecation in 292 new communities where 103,168 persons live in healthy environments. Furthermore, 81 communities were certified as open-defecation free (OFD) after upholding social norms against open defecation for six months. Monitoring visits led by local leaders and Government committees were key to sustain the collective engagement.

### **Human rights-based approach to cooperation**

The participatory process to elaborate the country programme document which concluded in 2017 was an opportunity for advocacy and mobilization of government authorities, CSOs, United Nations agencies and other development partners for promoting child rights. Children (girls and boys) were involved in the process as advocates for their rights.

The CO provided financial and technical supports to the National Childhood Council for the elaboration of the country's fifth and sixth reports and the Civil Society's Alternative Report to the Committee for the Rights of a Child. A total of 9,000 children and young people participated in the consultation through U-report organized by UNICEF, and their opinions were integrated into the alternative report. In addition, the CO supported the elaboration of the country's initial report on the convention on persons with disability.

Regarding the recommendation 135.98 of the Universal Periodic Review in 2013 related to human trafficking and child abduction, 150 actors including 27 women were trained on child rights and the bodies of treaties. In June 2017, the bill n°040 related to penal procedures was adopted, incorporating those in child courts. The CO is currently lobbying with the Government to set up 13 police brigades specialized in child protection across the country.

The CO supported the MoE with the establishment of 20 accelerated learning centres to restore the rights to education of 620 out-of-school children aged nine to 12 (347 girls) in the Sahel region. Of those, 484 children will be integrated in the formal education system, while others will continue with pre-professional training courses. The regional partners' group in education in the Sahel region presided by the governor with support from UNICEF is the platform to ensure accountability and coordination among the stakeholders to continue supporting the rights of those children.

### **Gender equality**

UNICEF Burkina Faso partnered with the Ministry of Woman, National Solidarity and Family, GIZ, USAID and the Gender Common Funds (UNICEF is Chair) to build capacity of Government officials and partners on gender-sensitive budgeting. Partnership with the Gender Consultative Group, led by Canada, focused on advocacy efforts with the Government to promote gender-mainstreaming in public policies.

Regarding girls' post-primary education, 1,754 vulnerable adolescent girls in Centre-Ouest and Sahel regions were supported with school supplies and fees, bicycles and scholarships or boarding fees, and all of them were maintained in schools. An evaluation of the interventions to support girls' education was ongoing to inform the CO's gender-based programming in 2018. The total budget was US\$559,266, and the expenditure was US\$405,933. The CO developed a new partnership with the L'Occitane Foundation to support the post-primary education of 450 vulnerable girls with funding support of US\$682,662 (550,000 Euro) for the period between 2017-2020.

A menstrual hygiene management component was implemented in 100 schools in Sahel, East and Haut-Bassin regions, reaching 31,191 children (including 14,775 girls) with strengthened capacities and knowledge on menstrual hygiene management, while triggering the promotion of menstrual hygiene management by communities' key actors. The expenditure was US\$250,604 against the annual budget of US\$350,000.

The All In joint initiative in Centre region raised awareness among adolescent girls and boys on prevention of HIV, drug use and unwanted pregnancy. The consolidated annual expenditure was US\$250,000 including US\$146,890 (74.4 per cent) contribution/expenditure by UNICEF and the rest from partners (such as UNFPA, World Bank and UNAIDS).

The UNFPA/UNICEF joint programme on child marriage contributed to protecting 36,000 girls aged 10 to 19 years from child marriage through upstream advocacy and mobilization of high-level authorities and journalists, and enforcement of the legal framework. Total budget was US\$ 505,798 and 100 per cent was spent.

Through community-led total sanitation, 292 new communities were certified as open defecation free. The collective decision of communities to end open defecation was driven by concerns around female dignity, safety and well-being which were dramatically improved, as latrines were built in households by the communities themselves.

## Environmental sustainability

Because of its geographic location, Burkina Faso is vulnerable to the effects of climate change including chronic droughts and frequent floods. Faced by the challenge in finding new water sources, UNICEF Burkina Faso engaged the Government in a discussion to improve the success rates and increase the yield of boreholes. In 2017, the CO commissioned a study to assess the performance of the drilling sector, which identified the improvement of mechanized drilling, borehole sustainability, improved groundwater information and strengthened institutional framework as critical components for professionalization of drilling. Based on the findings, the Water Ministry with UNICEF's technical assistance, drafted a roadmap to be finalized early 2018.

The CO supported student awareness on the use of clean energy through solar lamps, and on restoration of vegetation through practical activities in multipurpose gardens. Between 2015-2016, the CO equipped 25,000 students in 100 schools with gardening equipment and solar lamps. The CO carried out an end-user monitoring visit in 2017 that reported enthusiasm of the materials children and teachers as essential for teaching environmental issues. The challenge remains how to set up a systematic monitoring system of the materials to ensure their long-term utilization.

The office's greening committee spearheaded environmentally-friendly initiatives (e.g. paper recycling). Based on the assessment on energy needs, the installation of solar panels in the

Dori sub-office was underway, supported by the UNICEF's Greening and Accessibility Fund. Once installed, the solar system will not only reduce the office's ecological footprint, but improve its resilience to frequent power cuts. The committee implemented its annual work plan focused raising awareness of resource use and energy consumption. The bottlenecks will be further analyzed and communication measures implemented in 2018.

### **Effective leadership**

The meetings of the country management and the programme management teams were opportunities to review key performance indicators such as HACT assurance plan, scorecards, financial and supply implementation, direct cash transfer, donor reporting and funding gaps. The office and staff security was one of the priorities for the annual management plan and was discussed every month given the deteriorating security in the Sahel region. With the global effort to simplify office processes, the CMT examined the existing statutory office committees and minimized the number of the committee to seven as compared to 13 in 2016. Terms of reference of the committees were revised accordingly. The country management team approved the terms of reference for the new publication committee to strengthen the quality assurance of its publications.

As the office concluded the Country Programme Document 2011-2017, the country management team played a major role in organizing the staff consultation processes on the new office structure, preparation of required documents for PBR and development of the Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) 2018-2020.

With on-site support from the UNICEF Regional Office, the CO organized a workshop to update the Enterprise Risk Management for the new CPD 2018-2020. This exercise fed into the finalization of the CPD and CPMP as well as UNDAF.

The business continuity plan was updated in February 2017 and two training sessions were undertaken for critical staffs to develop their capacity. Regular checks by the ICT unit on the connectivity of the five alternated business continuity plan sites helped to ensure that they are operational at any time. Following the attack in a popular restaurant in Ouagadougou in August 2017, the business continuity plan was tested in the real situation and did not experience difficulties.

No audit recommendation was followed-up as the last internal audit was in 2012. The CO is expecting an external audit early 2018.

### **Financial resources management**

The country management team examined the key financial and resource management indicators monthly to identify bottlenecks and take corrective actions. The CO's financial implementation rate was 100 per cent for the institutional budget; 100 per cent for Regular Resources (RR); and 97 per cent and 94 per cent Other Resources (ORR and ORE respectively) as of the end of 2017. The remaining OR balance was re-phased for 2018. Monthly bank reconciliation was regularly submitted via My Case to Global Shared Service Center within the required deadline and did not have a negative balance against the cash forecasts.

The cash summary disbursement in 2017 (direct cash transfers and reimbursement to partners) was US\$12,079,724, of which direct cash transfers six to nine months was 1.5 per cent, and over nine months was 0 per cent as of end 2017.

The finance unit contributed to the HACT quality assurance plan in 2017 by overseeing five audits and 14 micro-evaluations undertaken by external firms, and 92 spot checks carried out by the finance and programme assistants and an individual consultant. With the programme sections and the supply unit, the unit organized capacity-building workshops on HACT with implementation partners: 199 out of 230 partners were trained.

The CO responded to all requests from Global Shared Service Center in a timely manner. The only constraint was the delay in electronic transfers to beneficiaries' banks. To overcome this, the CO with support from Global Shared Service Center updated the vendor master database by ensuring that the exact number of digits for each beneficiary.

The CO has not been subject of an internal audit since 2012 but is expecting an external audit in January 2018. All the recommendations from the previous audit were implemented and closed.

In terms of efficiency gains, the CO will be able to report accurate statistics once the business operations strategy is operationalized in 2018.

### **Fundraising and donor relations**

Burkina Faso is not a private fundraising and partnership country, nor a "potential" for private sector fund-raising. Based on the evolving country context, however, the CO embarked on an innovative partnership with the mining industry and the Government to promote child rights in synergy with local development plans. Given that the majority of 10 mining companies are Canadian, the CO received technical assistance from UNICEF Canada to seek potential collaboration with direct contact with the companies' headquarters.

UNICEF Burkina Faso submitted 27 out of 28 donor reports on time. All reports went through the internal peer review process. For the second semester, the CO hired a consultant to set up a more systematic quality assurance mechanism for donor reports. For the new country programme period, a fix-term reports officer will be recruited.

In 2017 the CO mobilized US\$8.1 million OR funds for the Country Programme 2018-2020 period. Together with the OR in the system prior to 2017, total available OR as of early 2017 is US\$ 9.76 million against the OR ceiling of US\$ 50 million. Apart from these funds, donors "firmly pledged" US\$18.6 million.

UNICEF Burkina Faso proactively submitted funding proposals for total value of US\$30 million, which are under review. In September, the CO organized a major advocacy event to present the new CPD priorities, attended by 200 donors and partners. The resource mobilization strategy 2016-2017 was updated and is under the finalization for the CPD 2018-2020. Due to the deteriorated security in the Sahel region, Burkina Faso is included in the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2018 as a target country, appealing US\$31 million for humanitarian assistances.

### **Evaluation and research**

The CO elaborated the 2017 Plan for Research, Impact Monitoring and Evaluation (PRIME) to strategically guide the Country Programme 2018-2020, with focus on documenting evidence from pilots and reducing knowledge gaps in cross-sectoral areas such as adolescence and gender. The PRIME 2017 implementation resulted in the finalization of 14 reports including one evaluation, two reviews of pilot projects, one survey and 11 studies.

For the evaluation on girls' education, a quality assurance mechanism was set up internally and



externally through a steering committee with two line ministries (Education and Social Action). These mechanisms contributed to the objectivity and impartiality of the findings. Based on the findings, the MoE temporarily suspended the initiative, while putting in place a strengthened monitoring and management mechanism which was considered as a prerequisite for more efficient implementation. The CO closely accompanies this process and monitors the management response bi-annually.

To ensure continuous improvement of the quality of evaluations, the results of the Global Evaluation Report Oversight System in 2016 were discussed at a CMT meeting. This resulted in concrete recommendations for strengthening the capacity of stakeholders (consultants and steering committees) on the United Nations Evaluation Group norms and gender mainstreaming.

The CO supported the development of the national strategy for evaluation capacity development and its action plan. This experience was shared during the UNDP's international conference on evaluation capacities in Istanbul. The CO funded the participation of the Burkinabe Monitoring and Evaluation Network in the 8th African Evaluation Association's meeting for capacity-building and networking on evaluation of the SDGs.

The CO financially and technically supported the organization of the first "youth evaluators' day" in Burkina Faso which contributed to knowledge-transfer from evaluation commissioners and practitioners to youth evaluators, and to the definition of mentoring strategies.

### **Efficiency gains and cost savings**

The office implemented measures to reduce operational costs through long-term agreements (LTA). The CO set up 15 new LTAs for goods and services to enhance supply chain performance, and reviewed 10 LTAs. Three new LTAs were raised for transit, and maintenance of vehicles and air conditioning for all UN agencies. The inter-agency ICT working group negotiated a special rate for the Internet connectivity over Fiber Optic that enabled UNICEF to save US\$46,000 per year.

UNICEF Burkina Faso currently serves as the chair of the operations management team, and is leading the preparation of the BOS to be implemented in 2018 with focus on the system-wide LTAs, rosters for drivers and assistants and grouped purchase of office equipment and stationeries. The Operation Management Team requested the UNDP to conduct a baseline assessment of the expenditure of the common services to later assess the saving.

Starting January 2018, UNICEF will share its Zonal office premise in Dori with UNDP. A joint visit to Dori is planned early 2018 to finalize a collaboration agreement. Due to the space and security constraints of the current office premise, however, the CO is negotiating with the local authorities to identify a new premise.

Regarding the cost saving, the CO managed to reduce paper consumption by 30 per cent (saving of 99 reams of papers, or US\$639) mainly due to the installation of double-sided printing function in all printers. Accurate statistics for electricity and water costs are not available as a part of the cost was shared with UNDP. Fuel consumption (vehicles and generators) remained the same as 2016 although the number of staff slightly increased. The CO will closely monitor the traveling costs starting 2018. The setting up of the Office 365 Telephony will facilitate the monitoring of the phone consumption.

### **Supply management**

UNICEF Burkina Faso procured supplies for US\$33,800,996 including services and freights and the procurement services for US\$27,854,880, representing 82 per cent of supplies procured to the country. The CO supported the Government to finalize the 2018 forecast for vaccines and nutrition supplies, and the Vaccine Independence Initiative plan for 2018. The support strengthened the country's capacities on new supply financing solutions.

In support to the new community health strategy and under a memorandum of understanding with the PADS (Programme d'Appui au Development Sanitaire), the supply unit played an important role in procuring 18,042 kits to 17,947 newly recruited community health workers across all 13 regions (storage, kits constitution, distribution). In 2018, the CO plans to include health districts where community health worker kits were distributed in its end-user-monitoring plan.

In terms of influencing local markets, the supply unit worked with the health and nutrition section on a MoU with customs authorities, allowing InnoFaso to import materials for RUTF with tax exemption and resume local production. The supply unit conducted a "good manufacturing practice" inspection to evaluate the capacity of InnoFaso in terms of quality compliance in the RUTF production. To date, 26 of the 31 recommendations (83 per cent) from the inspection were implemented fully.

The supply unit strengthened the capacity of 158 partners from education, protection and health sectors on supply and logistics management, which was incorporated in the office's HACT training. Following the successful training in 2016, National Council for Emergency Response and Rehabilitation requested the supply unit to facilitate a second training on management of contingency stock, which strengthened the capacity of the Council's regional and national warehouse managers.

To strengthen synergy between the supply and programme sections, quarterly coordination meetings were organized, which contributed to the office's high implementation rate of the supply plan (95 per cent). For the CPD 2018-2020, the unit will continue to support the programme sections with focus on: (i) procurements-services delivery, (ii) end-users monitoring, and (iii) strengthened national supply chain system.

<b>(1) Total value of supplies and services received(i.e. irrespective of procurement location)</b>	<b>US\$</b>
Programmatic supplies including PS-funded	\$ 27,854,880.06
Operational supplies	\$ 563,225.68
Services including constructions projects	\$ 3,947,403.84
Constructions projects via HACT	0
International Freight	\$ 1,435,486.85
<b>TOTAL supplies and services received</b>	<b>\$ 33,800,996.43</b>

<b>(2) Total value of supplies managed in the CO's controlled warehouse(s)</b>	<b>US\$</b>
Total inventory in controlled warehouses	\$ 483,909
Total supplies issued from controlled warehouses	\$ 6,671,301.83

<b>TOTAL supplies managed in CO's controlled warehouses</b>	<b>\$ 7,155,210.83</b>
---	------------------------

### Security for staff and premises

The security context in Burkina Faso was marked by series of social demonstrations and increased threats by violent extremist groups. A total of 73 incidents including attacks against schools and administrative offices and killings of civilians, teachers and government officials were recorded. Police stations and patrol units were targeted, sometimes using improvised explosive devices. Three out of four of the 160 victims were civilians. In August, the capital city Ouagadougou had its second deadly attack, this time on a popular restaurant by armed men on motorcycles. The growing social malaise affected the functionality of line ministries, while the insecurity threatened the institutional stability, already debilitated by popular insurrections in 2014/2015.

The CO in coordination with the UN Security Management Team periodically analysed security threats through the Country Security Plan, the Security Risk Management System, and the Residential Security Measures. An UNMAS mission took place to analyze the risk of improvised explosive devices..

Growing insecurity in the Sahel was a threat to safety and security of UNICEF personnel. The Security Level System was upgraded to “three” in Sahel region while remaining at “two” for the rest of the country. Arrangements to strengthen security measures for residences of the zonal office staff were underway in 2017. Procurement of personal and collective protection equipment for the Dori office is planned. Starting January 2018, the zonal office will be shared with UNDP. Due to space and security constraints, UNICEF negotiated with local government for better premises to accommodate the two agencies with the possibility of putting full security measures in place.

The Security Officer underwent training in Security Certification Programme, Advanced Driver Trainer Course, and Emergency Trauma. The Deputy Representative was trained in Programme Criticality for which the UN Security will start the process early 2018. The majority of the staff completed first aid and fire safety training organized by CO.

### Human resources

As UNICEF Burkina Faso developed the new CPMP 2018-2020, the human resource unit contributed to the review and classification of job profiles and finalization of the new organization chart.

A total of 35 new positions were recruited during 2017 using the new TMS site. Overall, gender balance declined from 44 per cent to 38 per cent female between 2016 - 2017, despite efforts to improve gender balance during recruitment. The gender balance remained stable for general service staff (45 per cent female) but was low among national officers (26 per cent female).

As of April 2017, 91.8 per cent of 92 staff had completed their performance planning in ACHIEVE.

During the staff retreat, an action plan was established to address the outcomes from the Global Staff Survey 2017 with focus on staff professional and career development, accountability and security. The action plan was approved by the country management team and will be monitored by joint consultative committee.

In terms of learning and development, staff registered for 939 courses on Agora, of which 257 (27 per cent) were completed and 383 are in progress. On the other hand, 92 staff benefited from on-site training (internal or external, national or international); 25 staffs participated in regional or international meetings/conferences (internal or external) and eight staffs completed a stretch assignment within other offices.

The 10 standards on HIV in the workplace were implemented by the UN Cares Committee and three focal points; 30 per cent of staff completed the “HIV in workplace” online course.

The CO is developing the emergency preparedness for response plan, including the human resource preparedness in emergency, to be finalized early 2018.

The CO faced a funding shortfall for seven OR-funded positions for which RR funds were used to bridge the gap. OR funds were later on identified to cover these positions and RR funds were released subsequently.

### **Effective use of information and communication technology**

The ICT unit undertook two training sessions on new tools such as Lync, One Drive and TeamViewer. Following the successful migration to Office 365 Telephony, four training sessions were organized to support staff capacity development. The migration was perceived by end-users as a major innovation in terms of communication capacity, with 100 per cent of 34 respondents reporting “satisfactory” or above on the office-wide online survey. Utilization of the office’s site on SharePoint was not optimized due to connectivity issues with internet. However, recent implementation of HACT e-tools and EZHACT allows more systematic use of this collaborative platform.

The ICT unit participated in operationalization of the mHealth which aims at helping community health workers report to their supervising health centre key indicators including weekly data and supply utilization through SMS messages. The ICT unit conducted an analysis on the inter-operativity of mHealth and the existing national Information system for the MoH and proposed a conceptual model, which allowed linking the data collected through both systems together.

The CO is rolling out EduTrac to enable schools to report key performance indicators through SMS messages. EduTrac will be utilized as an early warning system for school security in the Sahel region. With technical support from the ICT unit, the RapidPro-based platform was successfully tested and the administrators were trained. The unit supported the hiring a consultant firm specialized in the deployment of mobile technology.

The ICT unit supports ongoing installation of Solar panels in the Dori Zonal office funded by the UNICEF’s Greening Funds. This new system will contribute to the office’s effort on reducing the ICT carbon footprint.

The CO strengthened its advocacy reach with followers on Facebook growing from 3,000 to 14,000 between 2016/2017 by producing quality and innovative communication materials.

### **Programme components from RAM**

## **ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** Economic and social policies and programs are monitored, results based and contribute to the reduction of disparities, vulnerabilities and poverty of children and women

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Towards sustainable financing of child-sensitive social protection, UNICEF Burkina Faso engaged the Government since 2016 on analysing tax burden and fiscal revenue. In 2017, the findings and recommendations from the analysis were translated into an Action Plan, including building an accountability framework and benchmarks with the target of increased tax burden from 15.1 per cent in 2016 to 21 per cent in 2022. The Action Plan fed into the MINFID and the National Revenue Authority's priority actions plans and will be used as a advocacy tool to leverage substantial domestic resources for the National Social Protection Policy.

The CO continued its partnership with the MINFID in conducting the trend analysis of budget allocations and expenditures (2005-2017). The analysis distilled the gap between the actual shares and the commitments of the Government. The findings were used to advocate for child focused budgeting, through an official transmission of the report to the ministries and parliament, iterative discussions through media, an audience of CSOs with the Economic and Finance Commission of the Parliament. The advocacy efforts helped get commitments from the decision-makers on budgets, to better prioritize expenditures for children. These actions ultimately contributed to an increased budget allocation to social sectors for the 2018 financial law, culminating at 18.41 per cent, closed to the target of 19 per cent for the Country Programme 2011-2017.

The CO supported the organization of an international conference on poverty, governance and economic development which brought together experts across Africa to set instruments to strengthen the governance and inclusive growth as stated in the National Social and Economic Development Plan (*Plan National de Développement Economique et Social*).

Through the CO's leading role in the social protection partners' group, and to strategically position children and social protection on the national development agenda, UNICEF Burkina Faso continued its support to the operationalization of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP). This year, the Government approved the consensual targeting methodology of poor and vulnerable populations, feeding into efforts to set a national single registry after a pilot in five municipalities with UNICEF support. UNICEF reinforced institutional capacities (such as municipal authorities, NGOs, technical services, secretary generals) to set up a child-sensitive social protection system. The CO contributed to the design of a social assistance package for a smooth implementation of the national response programme led by the Ministry of Social Actions.

A set of analyses supported by the CO, including a mapping of social services in the context of decentralization, provided essential information for policy dialogue on social protection. During the fifth session of the National Social Protection Council chaired by the Prime Minister, the Government reinforced its commitment towards social services-oriented decentralization "one municipality - one social service". Consequently, the Government will boost the achievement of expected outcomes spanning the major NSPP axes, targeting poor and vulnerable populations at the municipality level.

Based on the recommendations of the child poverty and profiling study, the CO partnered with Save the Children International and organized dissemination sessions which mobilized major social protection players at the country level, and triggered discussions among national stakeholders on child-sensitivity for social protection initiatives. The results were used as key

reference for discussions between development partners and the Government on the analysis of the national database to monitor child poverty, as prescribed by SDG One.

Tapping into experience in 2016, the CO built partnerships with academia to generate evidence and share knowledge. UNICEF provided financial and technical supports to MINFID to strengthen the national evaluative capacities through a participatory assessment, based on which the National Evaluation Capacity Development Strategy and its action plan were developed. This process contributed to strategic positioning of public policies evaluation on the national agenda based on capacity gaps and corrective actions.

A partnership with the MINFID was established to strengthen the ongoing decentralization process through simplification and enhanced participation in developing and implementing the Municipal Development Plans (MDPs), by promoting the integration of children's rights and gender equality.

The revised Mining Code formalizes the contribution of the mining sector in the local development up to one per cent of their turnover and 20 per cent of tax revenues. As the decree was published in 2017 and the code will enter in force, opportunity will be generated for the municipal and regional governments to mobilize resources from the mining industry. The CO started to systematically engage the mining industry through a partnership with the Corporate Social Responsibility Forum in promoting the integration of child rights in their operations and social investment plans. This innovative partnership coupled with the office's ongoing support around the MDPs, will ensure the effective use of the contribution from the mining industry to tackle pressing needs in host communities, including child right and gender issues.

The efficiency of social policies in reducing child poverty and vulnerability was limited by the growing insecurity, a competing priority that the Government was facing. In addition, the low tax burden and the weakness of financial and human resources were barriers to expanding the fiscal space. Being strategically positioned within the 2018-2020 Country Programme, the social inclusion programme will contribute to tackle these challenges through gender and local development as cross-cutting strategies and with continued efforts in strengthening national monitoring and evaluation capacities.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2014, the research, analysis and advocacy on poverty, social protection, public expenditures and financial access to social services contribute to the elaboration, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of social and economic policies for achieving the rights of women and children

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The CO supported the operationalization of the NSPP through the implementation of a pilot survey in five municipalities to test and fine-tune the consensual methodology of targeting the poorest and most vulnerable population, as the first step for establishing the national single registry. The CO contributed to the design of a social assistance package for a smooth implementation of the national response programme, including the listing of essential commodities and developing of a communication plan.

Regarding capacity development, the CO strengthened the social protection institutional framework through the development and deployment of a training package. These sessions aimed at ensuring full participation of children in social protection initiatives and raising awareness on child sensitivity. As the Chair of the Social Protection sectoral group, the CO

strengthened coordination among partners and the Government to contribute to the operationalization of the NSPP while ensuring linkage with PNDES.

As part of the effort to strengthening policy dialogue on social protection, the CO technically and financially supported the organization of the fifth session of the NSPP Council in July 2017, chaired by the Prime Minister. The session reinforced the Government's commitment towards social services-oriented decentralization. The session converged efforts to reach "one municipality, one social service" and set the future actions required to finalize the national registry.

The CO supported mapping NGOs in the social protection sector to better coordinate and strengthen alliances, while avoiding duplications among actors. The ultimate objective of this exercise was to formalize local working groups on social protection. The mapping exercise was completed in the Boucle du Mouhoun region through institutional capacitybuilding, which set an enabling environment for a child-sensitive social protection.

The CO supported evidence generation to advocate for expansion of fiscal space for more equitable access to social services. A working group was created to support the MINFID to translate the recommendations of the taxation study into an action plan. The CO supported the organization of an international conference on poverty, governance and economic development covering initiatives conducive to governance and inclusive growth, as well as the documentation of the community-based poverty monitoring system with University of Laval and University of Ouagadougou.

To optimize the impact of the free health care system for under-five children and pregnant women, UNICEF supported the implementation of a citizen-led social accountability mechanism in three health districts (Dori, Fada and Barsalgo) to monitor the implementation of this new policy. In parallel, the CO and civil society organizations built social accountability and a citizen-control system in 70 communes for effective participation of communities in planning. These mechanisms, once fully operationalized, will improve the impact of public social expenditure for children.

In 2018, efforts will focus on the implementation of child-sensitive social protection in four regions, strengthening municipal social services and progressive scaling-up targeting marginalized populations towards completion of the national single registry.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of 2014, (disaggregated) quality data and analyses on the evolution of the situation of women and children are available, used and regularly updated

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography and the Institute of Population Studies, UNICEF Burkina Faso reduced knowledge gaps on children's rights and equity. This resulted in an analysis and dissemination of critical information on the linkages between poverty and gender, adolescent profiles and the determinants of adolescent girls' fertility. The process strengthened the technical capacity of Institute of Statistics and Demography in analysing data and writing papers on children's rights and gender inequities.

The situation analysis report as well as the dissemination of six policy briefs on health, nutrition, water, hygiene and sanitation, child protection and social policies constituted valuable supporting documents for resource mobilization and evidence-based advocacy.

The CO supported a desk review of publications and databases on childhood issues in Burkina Faso during the past twenty years. The effort was completed with support to the University of Ouagadougou of a forum on good practices and lessons learned documented by different institutions (such as Plan International, Terre des Hommes and Save the Children) on childhood interventions. This partnership with the University of Ouagadougou led to a platform of dialogue bringing together researchers, academics and development experts from the Government, civil society organisations and development partners and created a momentum for advancing the children's rights and equity agenda through enhanced knowledge management.

The CO continued its financial and technical support to strengthen the national evaluative capacities by conducting a participatory assessment of the national evaluation system. The knowledge generated from the assessment and the awareness raised among the different stakeholders throughout the exercise guided the development of the National Evaluation Capacity Development Strategy and its action plan. The CO supported the implementation of the Strategy's action plan by funding the participation of two senior government officials from the monitoring and evaluation office in the course on development evaluation.

The CO funded and provided technical support to the first edition of the "Youth evaluators' day" which contributed to the inter-generational sharing of lessons learned from evaluation practices and provided insights on mentoring strategies for youth evaluators.

The CO funded the participation of two members of the National Network of Monitoring and Evaluation in the 8th African Evaluation Association conference as an opportunity for networking, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing on evaluation in general and on the SDGs in particular. The Burkinabe delegation learned from pioneer countries such as Uganda on good practices and challenges for building a functional monitoring and evaluation system.

Setting-up the national evaluation coordinating body and support to the national population census stand as priorities for 2018.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2014, programme partners at central and decentralised levels apply results based management, human rights based approach, gender and emergency response preparation for planning, implementing and monitoring policies and programmes

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

With the Ministry of Woman, National Solidarity and Family (MoWNSF), GIZ, NDI, and the Gender Common Funds, the CO promoted gender-sensitive budgeting and gender mainstreaming in public policies through training of 88 national experts, 12 key ministries, 16 civil society organisations, members from the partners' group and the courts of accounts. A web-based database of the competencies of women and girls was established (funded by the Gender Common Funds) under the leadership of the MoWNSF to support girls' and women's empowerment. In addition, four start-up projects submitted by young women were funded by the Gender Common Funds, for which UNICEF Burkina Faso is currently the Chair.

The CO in collaboration with National Institute of Statistics and Demography conducted an analysis of the Social Institutions and Gender Index to produce evidence on regional gender disparities. The findings will be used to map gender-related social norms across the country.

In partnership with University of Ouagadougou and Johns Hopkins University, the CO organized



a dissemination meeting of the Global Early Adolescent Study (phase 1) conducted in Burkina Faso. The meeting highlighted the importance for generating evidences on 10-14 years old group and mobilizing resources and partnership to conduct a subsequent longitudinal study. Another recommendation was to create a working group on adolescents with focus on translating evidences into practices.

The Country Programme 2018-2020 was finalised with involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, and approved by the Executive Board in September 2017. As part of the support to national planning, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the MoWNSF in developing a results-oriented National Strategic Plan (2018-2020).

UNICEF's support to the Municipal Development Plans focused to initiate a participatory methodological reflection with MINFID to enhance quality of the plans. The initiative is expected to feed into policy dialogue on the revision of the national guidelines on Municipal Development Plans.

With the revision of the Mining code in 2015, the 2017 Decree on the "mining funds for local development" was the opportunity for the CO to collectively engage the mining industry through the Corporate Social Responsibility forum. The long-term objective is to create a tripartite synergy between the mining industry, the Government and UNICEF programmes to drive local development towards developing child-friendly communities based on the Municipal Development Plans. As a first step, the CO and the Corporate Social Responsibility forum successfully organized a three-day capacity development session on the UNICEF Toolkits: child rights and mining. Over 70 participants from mining companies, the Government and civil society organisations from Burkina Faso and three countries in the sub-region developed capacities to integrate child rights in the mining operations, especially in their social investment plan and the resettlement plan. The training identified key opportunities for the CO to pursue the collective partnership with the mining industry to promote child rights.

Priorities for 2018 include the capitalisation of results-oriented and equity-focused Municipal Development Plans and the advocacy for gender-sensitive budgeting in collaboration with GIZ and the Gender Consultation group.

**OUTCOME 2** By the end of 2015, the percentage of mothers, newborns and children effectively using quality high impact interventions in health and nutrition has increased, especially at community level.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

By the end of September 2017 Pentavalent<sup>3</sup> coverage was at 106 per cent among children under 12 months. The new vaccines introduced in the past three years (Rotatec, Measles-Rubeole/M-R and MenAfrivac) are now administered routinely nationwide. The coverage of M-R2 is at 79 per cent compared to 71 per cent in 2016. The CO contributed to these results through providing technical and financial support for vaccine procurement, cold chain maintenance and capacity development, outreach and social mobilization.

With UNICEF's technical support in coordination with WHO, Burkina Faso continued to ensure the epidemiologic surveillance system to prevent the risk of importing poliovirus from neighboring countries.

To prevent and control malaria, UNICEF Burkina Faso supported the Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention campaign for under five children. As result of a strategic partnership of UNICEF with the World Bank, Global Funds and the Malaria Consortium, the four rounds of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention were scaled up in 59 out of 70 districts, with 101 per cent coverage. The CO supported two districts (Boulsa and Tougouri) in partnership with Malaria Consortium, reaching 89,409 children under 5 years (103 per cent of coverage).

The CO supported the expansion of the integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) from 12 districts in 2016 to 28 districts in 2017 in five priority regions. A total of 6,232 CHWs developed capacity and were equipped to offer the iCCM services. Under- or untimely-reporting of the data on iCCM by CHWs was addressed by operationalizing the mHealth project in two districts of the North region, while scaling it up to four other districts in the same region by the end of 2017.

Nationally 82 per cent of deliveries were assisted by qualified personnel with regional disparities (95 per cent in urban areas vs. 52 per cent in the Sahel region). UNICEF support focused on strengthening the quality of interventions and provision of critical supplies for mothers and babies during and after childbirth. In the five priority regions, the administrative report (September 2017) showed a slight increase in the per cent of deliveries assisted by qualified personnel (60.55 per cent) compared 2016 (58 per cent).

Routine data in 2017 showed that 82.6 per cent of pregnant women were tested for HIV and 67 per cent of HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral (ARV) drugs for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV in 2017, compared to 72.80 per cent and 66 per cent respectively in 2016. Access to ARV was facilitated by the implementation of the task-shifting strategy that allowed ARV the prescription by paramedics. Burkina Faso committed to make the eMTCT of HIV a reality by 2020 with the national eMTCT plan developed and launched with support from UNICEF, UNAIDS and other partners. The CO continued to play a key role in the PMTCT, specifically in the option B+ implementation, in 14 out of 70 districts, and scaled up at national level, operational in 98.5 per cent of the HIV treatment sites.

The prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under five decreased from 12.4 per cent in 2008 to 8.6 per cent in 2017, and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) from 3.8 per cent in 2008 to 2.0 per cent in 2017. The prevalence of SAM in six regions (Est 2.0 per cent, Nord 2.0 per cent, Cascades 2.1 per cent, Centre Nord 2.1 per cent, Sud-Ouest 2.4 per cent and Sahel 4.1 per cent) was above the emergency threshold (2 per cent). The estimated prevalence of the chronic malnutrition in 2017 was 21.2 per cent (a decrease from 38.1 per cent in 2008) representing about 760,000 under five children stunted in 2017.

UNICEF Burkina Faso specifically contributed to improving sectoral coordination and scaling up proven preventive and curative nutrition-specific interventions. Support from the CO and the Regional Office was instrumental in organizing a high-level parliamentary seminar on advocacy for nutrition through the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The CO supported the organization of the General Assembly of the National Nutrition Council and regional councils in nutrition in all the 13 regions. In addition, UNICEF ensured the multi-stakeholder coordination as the chair of the partners' group and the vice-president for the UN network for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN). The CO contributed to the costing and validation of the 2017-2020 multi-sectoral nutrition strategic plan.

Burkina Faso was recognized at the 2017 Global SUN meeting as one of the countries that significantly improved the IYCF indicators, particularly on increased exclusive breast-feeding and reduction of stunting. The CO continued to use the integrated IYCF package as an approach to support optimal child and maternal nutrition at community level, with focus on the first 1,000 days. By targeting Northern, Sahel and Eastern regions, the initiative contributed to an important reduction in stunting over the past six years (North: 30.6 per cent vs. 22.6 per cent; Sahel: 41.3 per cent vs. 38.9 per cent; East: 44.8 per cent vs. 34.3 per cent respectively in 2012 and 2017).

In 2018, the CO will prioritize support to: (i) expansion of the community component of the IYCF through a mapping of the interventions and stakeholders on the IYCF; (ii) quality management of acute malnutrition; (iii) nutrition supply management for strengthening availability; and (iv) quality and use of routine data to guide policy. For Health, priorities include: (i) strengthened community health system; (ii) quality implementation of the Option B+ in the North Region to achieve eMTCT, while strengthening the increased coverage of paediatric ART; and (iii) support to the implementation of the universal health insurance scheme incorporating the free health care policy

**OUTPUT 1** By 2017, at least 50 per cent of newborns, under-five children (girls and boys), pregnant women, and mothers have access to high- impact health interventions in health facilities and at the community level, with a focus on most disadvantaged regions.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF continued its support to strengthening the cold chain system for quality vaccines; supported the implementation of the IMCI; and provided technical and financial support to scaling up the national strategy on home-based care for pregnant mothers and newborns in four out of five targeted regions (from 18 districts in 2016 to 24 districts in 2017).

By the end of September, Pentavalent3 coverage was at 106 per cent in children under 12 months. The coverage for meningococcal vaccine was at 63 per cent against the national target of 70 per cent for 2017. The coverage of M-R2 is at 79 per cent compared to 71 per cent in 2016. The CO continued to focus its support on strengthening the cold chain system (vaccination equipment, logistics and training). Two landmark achievements were the assessment on equity in immunization conducted in three low coverage districts and the leveraging of the cold chain equipment optimization platform resources.

Through partnership with Programme d'Appui au Développement Sanitaire), , the CO provided the MoH with procurement services of EPI and iCCM supplies/equipment, ensuring a management of, or a referral to health facilities of 165,154 cases by CHWs including: 39,373 for malaria, 51,475 for diarrhoea, 35,226 for pneumonia, and 12,724 for SAM, as well as 26,356 referred by the third trimester.

Through collaboration with "Terre des Hommes", Electronic Consultation Register is effective in 270 health centres in eight districts since 2016 and in 58 new health facilities in two districts of the East region targeted 2017. In the three UNICEF-supported regions using Electronic Consultation Register, the application of IMCI protocol is at 81.4 per cent compared to the national average of 57.19 per cent, exceeding the national target of 75 per cent for 2017.

In four regions targeted by UNICEF for home-based care for pregnant mothers and newborns, 150,373 pregnant women received home visits by CHWs and 3,123 pregnant women were referred to health facilities, while 42,796 newborns received home visits and 1,231 were referred

to health facilities as of the end of September 2017. A total of 33,148 women were accompanied for delivery at health facilities. In the five target regions, the per cent of women who attended more than four antenatal care visits increased from 19 per cent in 2016 to 26.48 per cent in 2017 (data up to September).

The CO provided additional newborn resuscitation equipment and training to 350 health facilities in 12 districts of the Nord and Centre-Nord regions. With this, 80 per cent of health centres in the five target regions are now equipped to provide the first-hand neonatal resuscitation.

The challenges included the lack of regular supervision for health centres and CHWs, the low national coverage of the iCCM implementation and incompleteness of reports especially made by health centres.

The priorities for 2018 are: strengthening the quality of supervision for health centres and CHWs, training CHWs on home-based care for pregnant women and new-born, support to the introduction of new vaccines and maintenance of a good vaccination coverage, and scaling up implementation of Electronic Consultation Register/IMCI.

**OUTPUT 2** By the end of 2017, at least 50 per cent of pregnant women have access to PMTCT services adapted to their needs and those of their spouses and 30 per cent of children (girls and boys) infected by HIV in need of ARV treatment are effectively under treatment nationwide.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

UNICEF Burkina Faso continued to support the implementation of the Option B + protocol through the task-shifting strategy in 14 districts, allowing the prescription of ARVs by paramedical staff besides medical doctors. As a result, the proportion of pregnant women tested for HIV increased from 30 per cent in 2009 to 82.6 per cent in September 2017 and all women received their results immediately.

Pediatric ART coverage, however, remained low: 15.5 per cent of HIV-positive children received ART in 2017 compared to 15 per cent in 2016, whereby 2,646 children (52 per cent girls) were under treatment. This is due to the limited application of the task-shifting strategy to adults and insufficient coverage of health facilities specialized in paediatric HIV, as well as cultural practices of prioritizing adults for HIV treatment. The CO provided technical and financial support for paediatric care and treatment and psychosocial supports to 879 HIV-positive children in all the five university hospitals.

The key achievement in 2017 was the development, launch and kick-start of the implementation of the national eMTCT Plan 2017-2020. The CO provided frontline support for development and validation of this plan as well as of the emergency plan to achieve “UNAIDS targets 90-90-90” towards the universal ART coverage. The launch of these two plans was presided by the President of Burkina Faso with the UNAIDS Executive Director; the First Lady was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for eMTCT. Subsequently, she launched the field implementation of the eMTCT plan in the North region with mobilization of communities including health actors, local leaders and families.

The national HIV testing standards, norms and guidelines were revised through the CO’s technical support. The age for HIV screening for young people without their guardians’ consent was lowered from 18 to 15 years old to increase access of HIV-testing for adolescents.

The CO continued its advocacy to nationally launch the All-In initiative, a global initiative to end the HIV epidemic among adolescents. A commitment of partners to engage in the initiative was obtained during the meeting of the national council to fight against HIV. With participation of Ministries of Education and of Youth, the integration of HIV in other sectors was discussed. UNICEF Burkina Faso and partners technically and financially supported the development and implementation of the national All-In plan to promote adolescent HIV-testing and treatment and accelerate the fight against early pregnancies and drug abuse. By end of September, over 95,742 adolescents were tested for HIV and informed of their sero-status.

The major bottlenecks were the high number of “loss-to-follow-up” cases of HIV positive women and their children, and stock out of the HIV test kits. UNICEF strengthened the community-awareness programme through social mobilization and advocated for a quick disbursement of national funds for HIV commodities.

The CO will continue to support the All-In initiative by leveraging further partnerships for scaling up, and pursue the implementation of the Option B+ in the North Region to achieve the eMTCT, while increasing the coverage of paediatric ART

**OUTPUT 3** By 2015, the health system plans, budgets, and develops the community approach; manages procurement services of health supplies; and responds effectively to emergencies, taking into account gender and equity.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

As of the 30th September 2017, more than 3.5 million under-five children and 981,607 pregnant women received free healthcare through the health care user-fees exemption strategy, adopted by the Government in March 2016. A total of 903,079 deliveries including 18,470 caesarean sections and 8.9 million curative consultations were conducted countrywide, with a major increase from 2016 (247,000 deliveries including 7,700 caesarean sections and 7.2 million curative consultations). The utilization of health services by under-five children increased to 2.02 contacts/child during the first three quarters of 2017, compared to 1.71 during the same period of 2016.

Since 2016, the CO provided technical and financial support to the implementation of this new policy especially in Sahel region, mainly by strengthening supervision and monitoring. In the Sahel region alone, the free healthcare policy benefitted 254,376 children under-five from January to November 2017, with 671,886 curative new contacts. The free health care strategy covered 192,836 antenatal visits and 142,303 curative consultations attended by 67,665 pregnant women, and 47,552 assisted deliveries including 620 caesarean section.

UNICEF Burkina Faso and other partners supported the elaboration or revision of five strategic documents including: the National Health Financing Strategy for Universal Health Coverage, the National Health Development Plan 2017-2020, the Health Sector Policy, the National Community Health Strategic Plan 2017-2020, and the National Plan for eMTCT of HIV. UNICEF's technical contribution specifically focused on integrating the gender and equity aspects in these strategies.

To improve the quality of the health sector planning, the CO continued to support the scaling up of the results-based operational and strategic planning. A total of 100 staff from MoH (both national and decentralized levels) were trained in results-based planning and management

using the recently updated training module. The guidelines for developing the district/regional health development plans were updated through UNICEF support, based on the SDGs, results-based management and the national socio-economic development plan (PNDES 2016-2020).

As a part of the equity-based monitoring system, the CO provided support to strengthened performance monitoring and bottleneck analysis at the institutional level bi-annually, and community levels annually, in all the 38 districts in seven targeted regions. The performance monitoring was conducted through routine desk data review and analysis, as well as participatory group work to deepen the bottleneck analysis.

Four emergency prevention and response plans for health were elaborated with UNICEF's technical support. Risk reduction and resilience aspects were mainstreamed in these plans to tackle the dengue fever outbreak and reduce the risks for potential epidemics of meningitis, Ebola disease and cholera in Burkina Faso.

In 2018, UNICEF will support MoH in tackling the major challenges including: the roll-out of the universal health insurance scheme incorporating the free health care policy, the permanent availability of essential commodities for maternal and child health, and ongoing restructuring of the MoH which will conclude in 2018. At regional and district levels, the CO will continue to strengthen the capacity of the new cadres of the MoH on data production, RBM and strategic planning

**OUTCOME 3** By the end of 2017, UNICEF is helping to increase access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation in rural areas. By 2015, the percentage of the population using a safe water source for drinking water increases from 56 per cent to 76 per cent, and the percentage of households using improved sanitation facilities increases from 10 per cent to 54 per cent.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Access to water and sanitation in Burkina Faso is still too low, with 54 per cent nationally for drinking water, 23 per cent for basic sanitation and 48 per cent of the population still practicing open defecation. Huge disparities and inequities exist between urban and rural areas, as well as between different regions. Access to WASH services is low due to inefficient approaches, especially in sanitation, where subsidy-led approaches sanitation service provision is predominant, as well as lack of beneficiaries' participation for both sanitation and water services.

In 2017, significant efforts were made by the Government to officially approve the four national programs (Water Supply; Integrated Water Resources Management; Sanitation; Governance) through which the programmatic targets were aligned with the SDGs. UNICEF supported the finalization of the Sanitation programme. National action plans for each programme were implemented with the objective of universal access to water and sanitation for all, everywhere, including communities, health centres and schools, and the elimination of open defecation by 2030.

In 2016 the CO started a piloting of the CLTS approach with progress in 2017 both in terms of the upstream advocacy and the implementation on the ground. UNICEF's support in 2017 focused on advocating for the Government's formal recognition of CLTS as a national strategy for rural sanitation. Early 2017, the CO organized the institutional triggering workshop and the training of trainers on CLTS, facilitated by the founder of the CLTS. The preliminary results from the CLTS pilot projects in three regions were evaluated through a joint review involving the

Government and stakeholders, and the final report is to be validated early 2018. Evidences generated by the review will greatly feed into the continued advocacy work in 2018 on.

As a result of the implementation of non-subsidised sanitation, 292 new communities were evaluated as ODF, bringing the total number of ODF communities to 338, equivalent to 50 per cent of the 664 communities triggered for CLTS since 2016. The number of persons living in ODF communities, through UNICEF's direct support is estimated at 168,790, including 103,168 reached during 2017.

Through UNICEF's direct support, the construction of 50 new boreholes and the rehabilitation of 110 others led to approximately 40,700 persons (including 21,200 women) in 146 schools and 14 communities gaining access to improved drinking water. As for sanitation and hygiene in schools, 43,691 students from 150 schools with improved access to sanitation (50 schools) and good menstrual hygiene management (100 schools).

In addressing the issue of non-functioning water points due to poor borehole quality, the CO supported the development of the national guidelines for better drilling practices. In a partnership with UNICEF Headquarters and a consultant from the NGO SKAT, the office carried out a study on the drilling sector in Burkina Faso and recommended the elaboration of a new code of practice for manual drilling to be taken up by the Government in 2018.

UNICEF Burkina Faso continued its efforts to improve the enabling environment of the WASH sector by strengthening innovation and sector-wide learning and knowledge sharing. The CO strengthened the capacity of the Water Ministry on strategic and operational planning and results-based management both at national and regional levels. UNICEF continued the Action Research on innovative models for rural water service delivery management through Public Private Partnerships, with focus on building locally appropriate accountability and financial models. The model is currently being tested in three municipalities; if successful, it can be replicated in other areas of the country and beyond. The preliminary results were documented and shared by the CO widely with national and international WASH actors. The Government of Burkina Faso officially recognized the contribution of UNICEF Burkina Faso to the rural water sector by honouring the office with "Chevalier de l'ordre de Merite du Development Rural" (the honorary award in rural development) in December 2017.

Major events and training to advocate for water and sanitation were carried out through partnerships with NGOs, Government and the university. The World Toilet Day, combined with the celebration of the ODF villages, was attended by three Ministers (Water and sanitation, Finance and Infrastructure) and more than 1,500 persons. The CO catalysed the celebration of the first International Menstrual Hygiene Management day in Burkina Faso organized in Dori with 400 participants. The first regional training of a 'WASH in Schools' took place in Ouagadougou and developed the capacity of over 35 UNICEF, Government and NGO staff from francophone countries.

In terms of humanitarian preparedness and response, the CO continued to support Malian refugees and host communities in the Sahel Region with WASH assistance. As the coordinator of the WASH in emergency group, the CO facilitated the updating of the WASH contingency plans. Several capacity development activities to strengthen emergency preparedness and response were carried out: a simulation of an emergency response to flooding took place with 60 partners over two days; in partnership with the UNICEFWCARO, the CO supported the engineering institute 2IE with the organization of the international "WASH in Emergency"

training for 36 participants from nine countries around the world; and in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a MSc student research on 'Environmental Risk Factors for the Dengue Epidemic in Ouagadougou in 2016' was carried out.

**OUTPUT 1** Output 2016-2017: By the end of 2017, at least 100,000 new people in communities, schools, and health centers have access to basic sanitation and handwashing.

Output 2014-2015: By 31 December 2015, at least 54 per cent of households in the Plateau Central, Centre Nord, Boucle du Mouhoun and Hauts Basins regions apply the basic rules of hygiene and have a permanent and equitable access to basic sanitation

Output 2011-2013: By the end of 2015, household members and students of the educational system in the Plateau Central and Centre Nord regions have permanent and equitable access to improved sanitation, with targets: 54 per cent for Ganzourgou and 30 per cent for Kourwéogo and Oubritenga (provinces in Plateau Central region), 10 per cent for Bam (province in Centre Nord region))

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, UNICEF Burkina Faso continued advocacy for the CLTS approach with a pilot project in three regions (Center West, East and Sahel). As a result of the pilot, 292 new communities were evaluated as ODF, bringing the total number of ODF communities to 338, equivalent to 50 per cent of 664 communities triggered for CLTS since 2016. This relatively low conversion rate, however, is going to improve early 2018, as community triggering has just been carried out in some of the communities during the last quarter of 2017 and their ODF status has not been evaluated. The number of persons living in ODF communities, through UNICEF-supported interventions, is estimated at 168,790 since 2016, including 103,168 reached in 2017. Compared to 2016, significant progress was made in 2017 as communities which started CLTS (triggering) back in 2016 completed key steps and were certified as ODF this year.

In February 2017, the office successfully organized a CLTS training of trainers and an institutional triggering workshop, facilitated by the founder of CLTS. These trainings contributed to the office's efforts for CLTS advocacy, and to strengthening the national capacities for CLTS implementation. Following the training, the CO in partnership with the Water Ministry and two implementing NGOs (SNV and APS), conducted a joint review of the CLTS pilot to assess the progress and identify possible enablers and challenges at the community level. As the first systematic review on the effectiveness and impact of the CLTS programs in Burkina Faso, the review will inform the decision makers on the success of the approach and the need for scaling it up across the country. Preliminary results from the review were shared with the key partners and the minister. A national validation workshop of the report is planned for early 2018.

In terms of WASH in Schools, 50 schools and 10 health centres were equipped with improved, gender-separated and universally accessible latrines and hand-washing facilities in the Sahel and East regions, reaching approximately 22,500 beneficiaries (including 11 160 girls). Through inter-sectoral collaboration between the WASH and Health and Nutrition Sections, training on good hygiene practices was included in the community-based sensitization on optimal IYCF practices in the East and Sahel regions through the mother-to-mother groups.

Menstrual hygiene remains a taboo in many settings, with poor knowledge and misconceptions among communities, families and schools. The menstrual hygiene management pilot project was implemented in 100 schools in the Sahel, East and Haut Bassin regions and reached 31,191 school children, including 14,775 girls. Challenges were a lack of funding for these activities, as well as a lack of affordable menstrual hygiene items on the local market. Key



priorities for 2018 are the documentation and scaling up of community-led total sanitation, as well as the further promotion of menstrual hygiene management, including the identification of business model for menstrual hygiene products.

**OUTPUT 2** Output 2016-2017: By the end of 2017, at least 75,000 new people in communities, schools, and health centers have access to clean water and good quality water.

Output 2014-2015: By the end of 2015, the authorities at communal level in Central Plateau, Centre Nord, Est, Boucle du Mouhoun and Hauts Bassins perform regular monitoring of the implementation of the WASH component of communal development plans and at least 30 per cent of households in these regions consume good quality water

Output 2011-2013: By the end of 2015, 73 per cent of the population in Plateau Central and 66 per cent of the population in Centre Nord have equitable and permanent access to and manage safe drinking water points.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

In 2017, with UNICEF support, approximately 40,700 persons (21,200 women and 19,500 men) gained access to improved drinking water through the construction of 50 new boreholes and the rehabilitation of 110 others. These infrastructures include 146 schools, through which 36,500 students (including 17,500 girls) obtained access to improved drinking water.

The newly-constructed water infrastructures were assessed by the technical committee (regional directorates, UNICEF, communities and companies) to ensure quality. However, due to limited human resources and logistic capacities of the regional directorates to ensure day-to-day supervision and control, the CO contracted companies that could provide day-to-day monitoring and quality control of all drilling companies starting 2017. Although immediate results were positive in term of increased effectiveness and timeliness of the construction work, documentation and reporting, a long term follow up is required to draw lessons learned for future works.

Besides contracting drilling companies for construction and rehabilitation of water points, UNICEF focused its interventions on capacity strengthening of five regional directorates (Central Plateau, Centre West, East, North, Sahel) in the implementation of water and sanitation action plans. To address the issue of lack of borehole quality, the CO supported the ministry to develop the national guidelines for good drilling practices to be validated and shared with all stakeholder in 2018.

The quality assurance problem goes beyond the boreholes that were funded by UNICEF. Many boreholes in Burkina Faso lack quality construction. This year, UNICEF Burkina Faso continued its dialogue and advocacy with the Government on the professionalization of drilling. Following a mapping exercise on the feasibility of manual drilling and a low-cost drilling technology carried out in 2016, an in-depth study on the status of drilling professionalization was carried out in 2017. In a partnership facilitated by UNICEF Headquarters, a consultant of the NGO SKAT carried out the study of the drilling sector in Burkina Faso, and recommended the elaboration of a new code of practice for manual drilling. The roadmap for its development is currently being finalized with the Water Ministry with UNICEF's technical supports, and the new code of practice is expected to be effective in two to three years.

UNICEF continued supporting the humanitarian response in Water, Hygiene and Sanitation targeting refugees and host communities in the Sahel Region. So far, 28,655 persons (14,760 women, 13,895 men) were reached with hygiene messaging, hygiene kits distribution, and water (mainly water treatment) and sanitation services. As for coordination of humanitarian interventions, the WASH contingency plans were updated. UNICEF's coordination was instrumental in organizing a simulation of an emergency response to flooding with 60 participants from the WASH in Emergency group and other partners over two days. In partnership with the UNICEF WCARO, UNICEF Burkina Faso supported the engineering institute 2IE to carry out an international "WASH in Emergency" training for 36 participants coming from nine countries.

The priority for 2018 is the code of conduct for drilling professionalization, as well as mobilization of additional resources for borehole construction.

**OUTPUT 3** Output for 2016-2017: By the end of 2017, the technical services have strengthened capacities to create a favorable environment for the drinking water, hygiene and sanitation sector.

Output for 2014-2015: By the end of 2015, at least 50 per cent of schools and nutrition centres of the of the Plateau Central, Centre Nord, Est, Boucle du Mouhoun and Hauts Bassins regions have the minimum WASH package (drinking water points, latrines, hand washing, awareness of basic hygiene) and apply the basic rules of hygiene

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The action research on service delivery models for rural water supply through a Private-Public Partnership has been ongoing since April 2016. It targeted in 2017 three municipalities and if successful, the model can be replicated in other areas of the country and beyond. The action research is testing the hypotheses related to the three aspects of the sustainability of the model: how to apply the water payment mechanism at municipality scale; how to develop a marketing strategy that creates sufficient service demand and favours the financial equilibrium between the operator's investment and the revenues generated from the community's contributions; and how to operationalize the contract and a responsibility pact with Key Performance Indicators between stakeholders.

In 2017, the following milestones were achieved: finalization of rehabilitation of infrastructure (disinfection of boreholes, water meter installation) that had started in 2016, design of the contract model, definition of the accountability mechanism, elaboration and testing of payment modalities and tools, testing of the financial business model, household surveys to identify the population's capacity and willingness to pay, demand creation activities, pump care taker and maintenance training, and consultations with communities to define the solidarity mechanism especially for the most vulnerable population.

In collaboration with IRC, a study and action plan on Knowledge Management and Sector Learning elaborated in 2016, was operationalized. Through this plan, the first national symposium in rural sanitation was held with 90 participants to discuss the latest developments and lessons learned on WASH, including no-subsidized approaches to sanitation such as CLTS. The second national symposium that brought together nearly one hundred professionals and decision makers of the water sector discussed the development on water supply management models in rural and semi-urban areas.

The CO continued to develop the institutional capacities in the water and sanitation sector through training of 26 staff from the water and sanitation regional directorates on strategic and operational planning, focused on results based management. The office funded the participation of the Water and Sanitation Minister in the “Sanitation and Water for All” meeting in Washington, and the subsequent meetings of the Steering Committee as a member and the representative for West Africa.

In the new national drinking-water programme, emphasis was put on water supply networks for multi-villages to gradually promote household tap water connections in rural areas. To support this emerging priority, the CO facilitated an exchange visit of the Directorate General for Water Supply to learn from the experiences of Benin, which put in place the multi-village drinking water supply schemes for small towns of 1,500 to 2,000 inhabitants. A second exchange visit was organized with Ivory Coast on rural sanitation and CLTS; UNICEF’s partners learned how to address challenges during triggering exercises and how to sustain the ODF status of certified villages.

Priorities for 2018 are the documentation of research results and the mobilization of financial resources for the Action Research, and carrying out additional research activities on WASH and climate change.

**OUTCOME 4** By 2015, (i) the primary school Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) increases from 72.4 per cent in 2008-2009 to 100 per cent, with a special focus on vulnerable children and those with special needs and (ii) the primary school Completion Rate increases from 45.9 per cent in 2009-2010 to 75.1 per cent, with special focus on girls.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The overall performance of the country in basic education has considerably improved since 2011, with a gross admission rate of above 100 per cent in 2017. However, the progress both in terms of access to and quality of basic education was modest compared to 2016. The gross enrolment rate in primary school reached 88.5 per cent (89 per cent for girls) against 86.1 per cent (86.4 per cent for girls) in 2016. The completion rate for primary education has shown a slight increase from 57.9 per cent (61 per cent for girls) in 2016 to 60.3 per cent (64.3 per cent for girls) in 2017, after having stagnated since 2013 (59.5 per cent for all; 59.7 per cent for girls). Possible reasons might be: 1) the growing number of makeshift classrooms which made the completion rate go down; 2) lack of coverage of the school feeding programme (i.e. only for a few months and does not cover all schools); 3) recurrent strikes of public servants; and 4) spill over to Burkina Faso of the crisis in southern Mali, affecting the security of the areas bordering Mali.

To overcome these barriers, UNICEF Burkina Faso continued advocacy to reach 100 per cent of primary school teachers with training on the Quality Child-Friendly School approach, a decision made by the MoE in 2016. By the end of 2017, 15 out of 45 provinces (about 30 per cent of all schools) reached this target. Among these schools, UNICEF directly supported 941 schools. Through the implementation of the Quality Child Friendly School approach, 178,747 children (48 per cent girls) obtained access to improved quality education this year, against 183,027 children (48 per cent girls) in 2016. Despite the increase in the number of schools (88 new schools in 2017 targeted) implementing the Quality Child-Friendly School approach, the number of pupils in these 941 schools decreased by 2.3 per cent between 2016 to 2017. This is due to the fact that the enrolment data in 17 of these schools have not yet been reported in

2017 as data collection is still ongoing. Moreover, a decline in the enrolment rate in schools in Ganzourgou province by more than a thousand pupils was observed, possibly due to children going to work in artisanal gold mines.

Since 2016, the CO has led advocacy with the MoE to increase the budget allocation for pre-school education. During the development of the Education Sector Plan 2017-2030 this year, these advocacy efforts led to raising the percentage of budget allocation to ECD (against the overall education sector budget) from 0.4 per cent in 2016 to 2 per cent in 2017.

The gender parity index has shown progress at the national level: from 0.91 to 1.03 for the post-primary and from 1.003 to 1.005 for the primary level between 2013/2014 and 2015/2016. However, some regions are lagging behind, for example, the Sahel Region where the gender disparity remains high (0.72 for post primary). UNICEF Burkina Faso promoted girls' education via prevention of child marriage and provision of scholarships and learning kits to the most vulnerable girls (household poverty, long distance from school, etc.) targeting the Sahel region.

The CO continued its contribution to inclusive education with a focus on out-of-school children and children with disabilities. In 2017, the CO targeted the "parliamentarians' network for education" for its upstream advocacy work and organized a workshop on inclusive education with the members of the network. Moreover, the CO supported the training of 1,914 out-of-school adolescents (50 per cent of whom were girls) who benefited from vocational training and bridging classes.

In terms of coordination, the CO supported the MoE in managing the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) grant for the development of the Education Sectoral Plan 2017-2030 based on which the subsequent funding request for the "GPE catalytic funds" was made. The GPE Board approved the request and US\$ 33.8 million were awarded to Burkina Faso. The CO was designated to lead the technical and financial partners' group in education, starting end of September for two years. These strategic roles within the sector facilitated the strengthened capacities of the CO to influence the new Education Sectoral Plan, with the aim of incorporating the equity agenda and a focus on ECD.

Regarding knowledge management, the CO financially and technically supported key studies on: (i) out-of-school children, (ii) the causes of the low performance in mathematics, (iii) an impact evaluation of income generated activities on girls' education, (iv) the effectiveness of strategies promoting girls' education, and (v) the effectiveness of the different ECD models. The reports of first three studies were shared with the partners in Education during dissemination workshops. The results from the study on out-of-school children were used for the development of the Education Sector plan. The last two studies were launched in the last quarter of 2017 and are ongoing.

The worsening security situation in the Sahel region was the major constraint this year. Currently over 180 schools in the region remained closed. To respond to this, UNICEF helped the MoE develop and integrate the "safe school approach" as a part of the Quality Child Friendly School programme. The CO advocated the official recognition of the "safe school strategy" by the Government as a strategy to advance the emergency-development nexuses within the context of the United Nation's "Sustaining peace" initiative. The CO's advocacy efforts resulted in the Government's endorsement of the Safe school declaration in September 2017 in New York.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2015, the strategies of accelerating access to a quality basic education are promoted

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Access to basic education improved nationally, with the increased number of pupils in primary schools from 2,873,049 (1,395,243 girls) in 2016 to 3,040,802 (1,482,275 girls) in 2017. At preschool-level, the number of children enrolled increased from 55,003 (26,997 girls) to 67,733 (33,154 girls) during the same period. Scaling up of the Quality Child-Friendly School programme made a good progress: about 30,930 actors involved in school management were trained or sensitized on the QCFS approach based on the existing module.

On the demand side, UNICEF financially and technically contributed to the MoE's massive social mobilization campaign to sensitize parents, community members and children on the importance of basic education. This campaign targeted 60 villages in the Sahel region where 12,000 children were enrolled and maintained in schools throughout the 2016-2017 school year. In addition, 19 educational infrastructures in the Sahel region were constructed with UNICEF's financial support to provide an enabling environment for education to approximately 3,800 children (48 per cent of whom are girls). The CO hired a consultant to strengthen the quality assurance of the school infrastructures built with UNICEF's financial support.

Regarding ECD, 98 teaching advisors for pre-schools from Ganzourgou communes were trained to boost parents' awareness on ECD. A pilot initiative with a NGO Börne Fonden in Ganzougou supported by UNICEF provided the MoE with a model of community-based preschools (bisongos) that are managed and sustained at the decentralized-level by the municipalities and communities. The success of this pilot allowed the model to be extended to the Namentenga province since September 2017.

The CO supported the education of 4,929 children (2,563 girls) in emergency situations including 3,146 refugee children (1,458 girls) in schools located in camps and host communities. Following the deteriorated security due to the violent extremist groups' activities in the Sahel Region, the CO supported the training of 1,300 teachers from 468 schools on the 'safe school approach'. The implementation of the safe school initiative with UNICEF's financial and technical supports reached 78,701 affected-children including 36,728 girls (47 per cent) in 297 schools by the end of November 2017. In addition, due to the repeated attacks by armed groups targeting schools, the CO through the partnership with a NGO Handicap International strengthened the capacities of 41 national supervisors and 16 national psychologists on stress management and counselling to build the local capacity to deal with similar emergency situations.

The challenge remains with growing insecurity in the Sahel region. Closure of more than 60 per cent of schools in the region in March 2017 (estimated 500 schools) for three weeks, and again starting in October (168 schools currently closed) are affecting the continuation of education among many children. The main lesson learned is having the programmatic ability and flexibility to quickly mobilize competent partners to introduce context-specific strategies that address both short-term and long-term needs, such as the psychosocial care to teachers and the safe school approach.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2015, the education quality standards are known and applied.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Nationally, the primary completion rate, a proxy indicator for education quality, increased from 57.9 per cent (61 per cent for girls) in 2016 to 60.3 per cent (64.3 per cent for girls) in 2017. However, this modest progress is far below the target of 75.1 per cent by 2017.

The MoE and UNICEF Burkina Faso continued to promote quality education through the scaling up of the quality child-friendly school programme at national level. The quality child-friendly school model is being rolled out in 15 out of 45 provinces where 100 per cent schools are now applying quality child-friendly school's quality standards.

To improve the learning environment, 2,000 school desks were purchased and procured with UNICEF's financial support for an estimated 4,000 pupils. The CO provided library and hygiene materials/kits which contributed to improve quality of education of 9,005 children (4,267 girls) in 50 schools in the Sahel region. At community level, roughly 5,340 members of School Management Committees and of parent and mothers' associations were trained on the quality child-friendly school approach with UNICEF's support to promote their participation.

Since the 2015-2016 school year, the CO introduced the "speed learning to read" approach which enabled the pupils of 22 schools (48 per cent girls) to learn the alphabet and basic reading in half the time spent in the conventional approach. An assessment in 2017 confirmed the positive results from the previous year, demonstrating superiority of children in the pilot schools in the reading-writing test (average score of 63 per cent) compared to the non-pilot schools (score of 29 per cent). As the piloting ends in 2018, a final evaluation is planned to generate evidences to feed into the ongoing curriculum reform.

EduTrack is now operational in Oudalan and Soum provinces in the Sahel region. The CO supported the MoE financially and technically to develop the platform and train the system managers and users in schools on EduTrack including total 298 teachers and community members. The system is ready to start collecting data from the 149 target schools in January 2018. EduTrack will serve as an early warning system should the schools continue to be targeted by violent extremism.

As a part of the efforts to generate evidences, two studies launched in late 2016 were completed. The first study revealed the low level of knowledge of teachers as the main reason for the low performance of students in mathematics. The second study on income-generating activities showed a problem of reporting and monitoring of activities due to illiteracy. Another study on the effectiveness of strategies to promote girls' education was launched this year and is ongoing. These findings will guide in the implementation of priority strategies in Education of the CPD 2018-2020.

The limited mobility in the Sahel region due to security issues remained the main constraint for scaling up of the safe school approach as teachers have to travel for training.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2015, The education programs provide greater equity

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

Burkina Faso made a slow but gradual progress in gender equality in education, with the gender parity index in primary education gradually progressing from 1,004 (2014/2015 school year) to 1,005 (2015/2016 school year), and to 1,012 (2016-2017 school year). As a result of UNICEF's advocacy and supports, the out-of-school-children study was finalized and findings were used to inform the development of the Education Sector Plan 2017-20130. The CO financed a workshop

on inclusive education with the members of the Parliament, and conducted advocacy with them to promote an increased budget allocation for inclusive education. The CO supported the MoE to design modules on how to mainstream inclusive education in primary and secondary schools, which will be used in teachers' colleges/schools.

At the downstream level, UNICEF Burkina Faso continued supporting girls' education via provision of block grants/scholarships, procurement of learning kits and bicycles, especially for post-primary education. For the 2016/2017 school year, 1103 girls in post-primary schools benefited from block grants/scholarships and 15,000 girls (including 5,000 girls in post-primary education) obtained school kits to support their continued schooling. A study on the strategies to promote girls' education is ongoing to assess the effectiveness of these interventions and make recommendations on sustainability.

In terms of equity for children with disabilities, the CO supported the identification and enrolment of 4,493 children with disabilities (2,200 girls) in schools. In addition, 1,914 out-of-school adolescents (50 per cent of whom were girls) benefited from vocational training and bridging classes.

A total of 2,640 adults (50 per cent of women), members of mothers' associations and school management committees in Ganzourgou, Namentenga and the Sahel regions received literacy courses through 88 local literacy centres. Knowing how to read and write will help these mothers to contribute more meaningfully in the management of their children's schools.

Bottlenecks for gender equity in education are child marriage and lack of post-primary schools especially in rural areas, making it difficult for girls to continue education due to long commuting. In terms of out-of-school children, the study finalized this year revealed that many parents opt for Koranic schools instead of classic schools as their children's educational option, especially in the Sahel region, which continues to be a challenge. At the end of 2017, the CO initiated advocacy with religious leaders and administrative and political authorities to find a solution to the high number of out-of-school children in the Sahel region. Through consultations with religious leaders and inter-religious associations, commitments to develop a new partnership were agreed upon, to support the education of nomadic children, children in Koranic schools and those enrolled in Franco-Arab schools. Pilot models will be implemented in 2018.

Based on the bottlenecks, priorities for 2018 are following: 1) finalization of the study on the effectiveness of strategies to promote girls' education; 2) piloting of alternative models for out-of-school children – engagement in population resilience; and 3) monitoring of funding for the Inclusive Education Strategy adopted in 2015 by the MoE

**OUTCOME 5** By the end of 2017, (1) children and women live in a protective environment where legal texts are applied or where social norms protect children, individuals, families and communities and the State protects them against violence, abuse and exploitation and (2) at least 50 per cent of vulnerable children and women identified or victim of violence, abuse and exploitation are reintegrated in society

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The Child Protection sector of Burkina Faso continued initiatives to strengthen the national child protection system. Specifically, the CO technically and financially supported the Government in strengthening the legal and policy frameworks through development of relevant policies and advocacy for the adoption of key strategic documents.

First, UNICEF and the European Union joint advocacy actions contributed to the adoption of the second national strategy (2017-2021) for the modernization of the national civil registration system in February 2017. Following the adoption, the strategy for acceleration of birth registration in the Sahel region (2017-2021) and a costed action plan were approved in July 2017.

Second, through UNICEF's advocacy and technical and financial supports, four policy documents were developed and/or validated: (i) the national strategy 2018-2025 to end the worst forms of child labour and its costed work plan for 2018-2020 (validated); (ii) a draft national strategy for child protection 2018-2027 (under review); (iii) the national programme on accelerated birth registration finalized and submitted to the Government's approbation and resources mobilization; (iv) a draft subnational child protection strategy for the Sahel region towards the equitable access to child protection services and increased resilience of families of the most vulnerable children (under review).

Finally, the enforcement of the legal framework was improved by the conviction of 58 female genital mutilation/cutting law offenders and five community-based justice courts which brought four cases of female genital mutilation/cutting and one case of child marriage to trial.

UNICEF Burkina Faso financially and technically contributed to the elaboration of a draft combining fifth and sixth periodic reports to the CRC, under review by the national commission of human rights. The CO supported the development of an initial report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, pending for validation and submission by the Government in 2018. During workshops to elaborate these reports, UNICEF advocated for the inclusion of specific situations of vulnerable children reflected in the reports.

Joint high-level advocacy events supported by UNICEF and UNFPA under the leadership of the Burkinabe First Lady led to the mobilization and commitment of the Prime Minister and nine other ministers in ending child marriage. The First Lady co-sponsored with the Minister of Social action, who oversees child protection, a series of social mobilization campaigns to promote for the female genital mutilation/cutting abandonment in the border regions, which reached 2,000 population and 100 local leaders.

The CO contributed to coordination functions of the national child protection working group, the female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage thematic groups, and the regional child protection working group for the Sahel region, for improved synergy between actors.

With UNICEF's support, 4,093,454 people (of which 1,923,000 are women and 243,769 are community leaders) improved knowledge on child rights and protection, especially on female genital mutilation/cutting, child marriage, the worst forms of child labour and birth registration. As a result, by December 2017, 600 villages in Sahel and Plateau Central regions (estimated population of more than 750,000) publicly declared the abandonment of female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.

These efforts in capacity development strengthened coordination and communication for development, led to the provision of quality child protection services to 215,630 children (117,498 girls), including 29,991 children (17,163 girls) in need of protection such as orphans and children who live with disabilities, in gold mines or on streets. The strengthened child protection system allowed provision of a birth certificate to 53,349 children (23,758 girls) and prevention services to 45,113 girls who were exposed to female genital mutilation/cutting and



child marriage, who were then followed up on their re-entry into education and child protection services.

Regarding knowledge management, UNICEF technically and financially contributed to the publication of the Ministry of Social Action's 2016 statistical yearbook. The CO commissioned a birth registration baseline study in Sahel region for which a draft report was under review. The inception report of a national study on violence against children jointly funded by UNICEF and Save The Children is under review to initiate data collection, and a final report is expected in April 2018. The CO contributed financially to the identification and incorporation of measurements on disabled children into the upcoming national census questionnaires.

Critical challenges include: (i) delayed submission of the combined CRC periodic report; (ii) delayed adoption of several draft legal and policy documents (some of these were pending since 2015); (iii) insufficient national budget allocation to the child protection-related sectors; (iv) lack of strengthened inter-operability among child protection key allies and related sectors in particular health and education sectors and the multi-sectoral coordination for justice for minors; and (v) weak and dispersed child protection data management systems.

Priority actions for 2018 include: (i) accelerated validation and submission of the CRC periodic report; (ii) advocacy for increased national budget allocation to child protection sectors at national and decentralized levels; (iii) finalization and/or adoption of the policy documents which are in pipeline, especially the revised version of the Person and Family Code and the Children Act which are priorities; (iv) development of a clear policy guidance for the deployment of social workers to scale up the child protection networks at municipal level; (iv) improved coordination and interoperability with key allies and sectors and (v) harmonized sector-wide data management

**OUTPUT 1** By 31 December 2015, children are protected by and have access to a functional justice system applying procedures that are sensitive to age and gender, with a focus on the Sahel, North and East regions

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

Joint advocacy by UNICEF and the European Union Delegation of Burkina Faso led to the adoption by the Government of the national civil registration system and costed Action Plan 2017-2021. The CO contributed to the creation of the national multi-sector coordination mechanism for CRVS to strengthen monitoring, capacity building and resource mobilization. The CO's advocacy to promote an equity approach to civil registration was critical in the adoption of the sub-national strategy (2017-2021) for the acceleration of birth registration for the Sahel region.

The CO technically and financially supported the development of the draft combined fifth and sixth periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child currently under review for the submission to the committee in June 2018. A similar support was provided for the development of a draft initial report of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which is pending for validation.

In terms of capacity building, the CO supported the operations of 19 police/detention and rehabilitation centres for minors in conflict with the law, enhanced technical skills on

investigation technics of 104 police officers and gendarmes (including 24 women) as well as 145 justice actors on how to better enforce the 2014 bill on protection of children in danger. This led to the provision of alternative measures to detention for 544 minors in conflict with the law (85 girls and 101 women), and justice services for 490 children, including 455 victims of violence and abuse.

The CO focused its support on increased technical capacities of 444 civil registration staff and the presidents from 100 per cent of the municipal and departmental justice courts on the new CRVS strategy. Support was provided to the local media (including radio stations) for social mobilization initiatives that enabled 3,074,654 people including 111,333 parents and community leaders (48,102 women) to become more aware of the importance of birth registration and how to register their children. These social mobilization and capacity development actions contributed to the provision of a birth certificate to 53,349 children including 23,758 girls.

Main challenges included: (i) high turnover in the management of the ministry in charge of civil registration; (ii) delay in the adoption of the draft Children's Act and the revised version of the Person and Family Code, the two key legal instrument to provide an enhanced enabling environment for the CRVS reform (inclusion of electronic registration of vital events and increased legal age of marriage to 18); and (iii) delayed implementation of the EU funded programme for the acceleration of birth registration in Sahel region due to late launching of the baseline study.

Future priorities include: (i) finalization and validation of the baseline study on birth registration in the Sahel Region; (ii) a business process analysis of the BR system/services in the Sahel region; (iii) operationalization of the national and subnational multi-sector coordination mechanisms on CRVS; and (iv) development and testing of a monitoring and reporting mechanism of birth registration through SMS messages (based on RapidPro) in the Sahel region.

**OUTPUT 2** By 31 December 2015, 45,000 children at risk or victims of violence, abuse and exploitation are protected or treated in a holistic manner within the framework of a reinforced and resilient institutional and community system, with a focus on the Sahel, North and East regions

### **Analytical statement of progress**

At policy level, UNICEF Burkina Faso technically and financially supported the development and validation of the national strategy for ending the worst forms of child labour (2018-2025) and its costed work plan. This strategy provides guiding principles on how to strengthen prevention, protection and rehabilitation initiatives in favour of children at risk or affected by the worst forms of child labour.

The CO provided support to the development of a draft sub-national strategy for child protection for the Sahel region to contribute at the decentralized level to the national effort for sustaining peace and improved resilience of the population through increased access to child protection services.

In terms of coordination, the CO supported the functioning of the child protection working groups at the national and subnational (Sahel region) levels, through the organization of regular coordination meetings and a follow-up of recommendations. This contributed to a shared vision and increased synergy among stakeholders, as well as active consultations on important

reference documents such as the national case management guidelines on child protection and a joint advocacy document which involved the key sectors for child protection such as health, education and justice.

Regarding capacity building, the CO supported 36 data collection agents of the upcoming national census to enhance their technical skills on disability measurements. The CO supported the operations of key child protection mechanisms including the child protection helpline and 210 foster families. A total of 122 members of the child protection networks developed their capacities on child protection and case management. The establishment of 11 provincial child protection networks and the operationalization of 30 existing networks were financially supported by UNICEF, bringing the local-level child protection services to 41 provinces (national coverage of 91 per cent). Total 10 child protection municipal social services were newly established in the Sahel region.

These output-level results enabled the provision of integrated and multi-sectoral responses to 23,198 children including 10,191 girls who were in need of child protection services. Specific attention was given to 501 child victims or exposed to trafficking; 4,654 children working in artisanal gold mining (2,253 girls); 3,205 children with disabilities (1,641 girls); 400 children victims of violence (215 girls); 1,220 children living on the street (179 girls); 3,365 Malian refugee children (1,522 girls); and 750 refugee adolescents/youths who benefited from life skills and peace-building education.

The implementation of the integrated communication plan on the worst forms of child labour reached 2,546,572 people (1,294,770 women) in eight regions with key messages on worst forms of child labour, risks and needs of the most vulnerable children through local radios and educative talks.

Main bottlenecks included: the absence of social workers at municipal level and the insufficient decentralization of the ministry in charge of social affairs that delayed the implementation of activities on the ground; and a weak data management system resulting in insufficient reliability of data on the children who were assisted through child protection services.

Upcoming priorities include: (i) scaling-up of the child protection networks at municipal level; (ii) improved national data management system; and (iii) integration of children on the move in child protection programming.

**OUTPUT 3** Improved knowledge and communication for protecting children against child marriage and female genital cutting

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The joint advocacy between UNICEF and UNFPA helped maintain high-level commitments to end female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage under the leadership of the First Lady. A Youth Caravan for female genital mutilation/cutting abandonment ran by the First Lady, involving 500 youths and the population in five border communities with Mali. She led bilateral advocacy meetings with eight key line ministries through the Association of Ministers' spouses on child marriage. These initiatives resulted in the public declaration of engagement for ending child marriage by the Prime Minister and eight ministers. The First Lady organized a panel discussion session to advocate on child marriage at the National Youth Forum in November, where she successfully enhanced knowledge of 983 youth on the topic.

UNICEF Burkina Faso financially supported the prosecution of 58 law offenders, of whom 32 were sentenced for imprisonment for a period between two months to four years and payment of US\$360 – US\$ 900 penalty. Five community-based justice courts brought four cases of female genital mutilation/cutting and one case of child marriage to trial.

A validated national training package for a harmonized community empowerment approach based on changing social norms has become available through UNICEF's technical and financial contribution. The CO supported strengthening knowledge and skills of 1,602 child protection actors (including 600 women) on social norms, community empowerment approach and life skills education for adolescents. Together with GIZ, capacities of 98 parliamentarians and institutional actors including 26 women were strengthened on gender and child rights-based budgeting.

Throughout the Ministry of Woman, National Solidarity and Family (social affairs), UNICEF supported psychosocial care and/or surgical repairs for 78 girls or women affected by female genital mutilation/cutting and psychosocial and educational supports to 5,667 girls at risk of child marriage from eight regions with bursaries or school fees to keep them in schools.

The CO provided life skills education to 61,618 adolescents (31,089 girls) exposed to child marriage or extremist violence groups, especially in the Sahel region. A total of 29,779 male adolescents developed their knowledge on male engagement against child marriage and responsible masculinity.

In partnership with two NGOs, community dialogue, media campaigns and empowerment activities reaching 1,141,600 people led to the public declarations of female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage abandonment by 600 villages with the estimated population of 750,000.

Estimated 16,886 girls aged 10-19 years throughout the country are out of school and therefore, at high risk of child marriage. This may jeopardize efforts to end child marriage in the targeted villages. Another challenge is that the law on gender-based violence is not properly applied regarding child and forced marriage.

In 2018, the CO will implement a high-level advocacy plan to monitor the commitment of the high-level authorities, including advocacy for an increased national budget to end female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage, and the accelerated adoption of the revised Persons and Family Code which will raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years old. The CO will support the finalization and implementation of the strategic communication plan for the acceleration of elimination of female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.

**OUTCOME 6** By the end of 2015, 40 per cent of men and women adopt the six key family practices (exclusive breastfeeding, sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets, handwashing with soap, treatment of diarrhoea using ORS, PMTCT of HIV, and complementary infant feeding) for child survival and development, with at least a 30 per cent increase in each practice nationwide.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

To accelerate the reduction of maternal, new-born and infant mortality, UNICEF's C4D interventions focused on technical support and promotion of essential family practices targeting five regions (Est, Nord, Centre-Nord, Sahel, neighbourhood of Ouagadougou). The CO provided

technical support to MoH and implementing partners with development of communication strategic plans and mainstreaming of communication in key strategies in health (e-MTCT, health in emergency).

Another focus was the community-driven approaches implemented in 10 villages of Centre-Nord region to improve child survival and development to ensure sustainability of communication activities and results. In addition, multimedia communication plans including interpersonal/group communication and radio programmes were implemented to strengthen individuals and family knowledge and practices with focus on malaria prevention (use of mosquito nets), sanitation and hygiene promotion (use of toilets and hand-washing with soap), exclusive breast-feeding and malnutrition prevention.

UNICEF-supported C4D interventions in health and nutrition reached out to the communities through advocacy with 666 leaders and decision makers at regional and community levels who were committed to support communication interventions to promote child health and nutrition. To reinforce the advocacy efforts, the CO supported the capacity building of 1,093 health workers, community relays, school clubs, and radios workers on communication and related issues such as child health and nutrition.

Results from the radio programmes and the interpersonal/group communication activities together reached estimated 2.1 million people, representing approximately 48.8 per cent of the population aged 10 and older in the target regions. Among them were community leaders, parents, adolescents and children who participated in dialogue and radio messages to promote good practices in breastfeeding and malnutrition prevention, malaria prevention and hygiene and sanitation. In the Centre Nord region, 300 new households built their own latrines from September to November as result of the CLTS approach implemented in 10 villages with UNICEF support. Evidences from field visits conducted by UNICEF staff showed growing engagement and involvement of local authorities, men, mothers, community and religious leaders in favour of behavioural and social change for essential family practices in health, nutrition and sanitation in these target zones.

In promoting social norms and behaviours in favour of child protection, the C4D programme ensured technical support to partners in implementing communication plans on birth registration, ending child marriage and elimination of child labour in artisanal mining. The interventions were carried out in six regions (Est, Sahel, Nord, Boucle du Mouhoun, Centre Nord, Sud-Ouest and neighbourhood villages of Ouagadougou) including 226 villages for child marriage and 110 villages for child labour in artisanal mines.

The CO supported advocacy to engage local and community leaders while providing capacity building to community relays and school children through training on interpersonal communication and child rights. Globally, the multimedia strategies combined with interpersonal channels and radios programmes brought information and knowledge on the importance of birth registration, ending child marriage/female genital mutilation and child labour to estimated 2.8 million people (46 per cent of the total population of 10 years or older in target regions).

In the north region, UNICEF's support to communication allowed the reporting of 86 cases of female genital mutilation and child marriage by community members and a 13 year-old girl was rescued from child marriage. As per official data, 78 girls under 14 years were reported as victims of female genital mutilation in 2017 (106 cases in 2016). In Koubri municipality in the Centre region, 347 children received a birth certificate as a result of the communication

campaign.

To enhance youth participation in decision-making, the CO continued its support to U-Report initiative. The number of U-Reporters increased from 25,000 in 2016 to 34,000 in 2017, representing 0.45 per cent of the population aged 10-29 years in Burkina Faso. This year, priority was given to the implementation of gender-sensitive strategies that were designed based on the results from an action research on how young people are using U-Report, implemented by youth organizations. Female U-reporters reached 31 per cent (29 per cent in 2016) of the all U-reporters, equivalent to 10,500 girl reporters including 3,250 newly recruited in 2017. About 15,000 adolescents and young U-Reporters were actively engaged and shared their opinions and ideas through 11 opinion polls on dengue fever, HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, SDGs, migration, climate change and menstrual hygiene.

In terms of evidence generation, the CO and Ministry of Communication conducted a mapping of community radios to get information on their capacities, coverage and audiences. The potential to use community radio as a platform for social change was demonstrated, which can be leveraged to enhance and sustain communication results. The CO provided technical and financial support to University of Ouagadougou to conduct research on descriptive, subjective and imposed social norms related to essential family practices and children's rights at community level. Finding from the study will improve the development, implementation and evaluation of C4D interventions addressing social norms that hinder the full realization of child rights.

As a lesson learned, advocacy at local and community levels including the involvement of community leaders and local government is key to engage and mobilize communities for behaviour and social change. In addition, establishing a direct dialogue between political leaders, government's technical services and the communities is essential for social accountability and social change, proven during the communication campaigns on malaria, sanitation and hygiene in the East region.

**OUTPUT 1** At 31 December 2015 the rate of knowledge of six essential family practices aiming to significantly reduce infant mortality has increased by 30 per cent for each of these practices

### **Analytical statement of progress**

To increase mothers' knowledge on exclusive breastfeeding, UNICEF Burkina Faso implemented communication plans in the Sahel and North regions with the highest malnutrition rate among under five children. These plans focused on transmitting messages on breastfeeding, complementary infant feeding and prevention and detection of malnutrition through local radio networks. Total 182 journalists and community relays strengthened their capacity on communication and infant and young child feeding to deliver radio programmes, door-to-door and focus groups messages to children, parents and communities. Following the training, interpersonal communication and radio programmes disseminated by 10 radio stations reached nearly 850,000 men, women, children and community leaders with key messages on breastfeeding and IYCF (46 per cent of total population above 10 years old in two regions).

The C4D continued to support the Health and WASH programmes with focus on prevention of malaria among children and pregnant women through utilisation of long-lasting insecticidal nets, improved hygiene and sanitation, promotion of immunization and PMTCT. Globally, about 1,700,000 individuals in the eight target regions were sensitised on malaria prevention, hand-washing, immunization, hygiene and sanitation.

Four integrated communication plans were implemented in the North, Centre-North and East regions and neighbourhood villages of Ouagadougou to sensitise the population through radio programmes (by 15 radio stations), door-to-door visits, video screenings, theatre and community dialogues. These interventions reached the population through advocacy with 666 leaders and decision makers at regional and community levels.

In the East region, a direct, real-time dialogue between authorities and the population on community's health issues was jointly organized by three radio stations. The event gathered 200 regional leaders, health services, community members to discuss the access to health services and prevention of malaria and other child diseases. This interactive session was the opportunity for thousands of populations to directly interact with local authorities and health workers, contributing to their strengthened knowledge on child health, as well as social accountability.

Proximity activities carried out by community relays and school children reached 70,623 people (43,014 women) and 12,200 children with key messages mentioned above, through peer-to-peer communication in schools and communities. A pilot of community-based approach to sustaining EFP practices in 10 villages (Centre-North) reached 10,452 people and households who built new household latrines and acquired handwashing kits.

The CO supported Government health service capacity-building by training of 156 health agents from 48 health districts and regional directorates on communication for immunization. The CO, through quality assurance on the C4D aspects, contributed to the development of the three key strategies in health: 1) the 2018-2020 Strategic communication plan of the MoH, 2) the strategic plan for eMTCT 2017-2020 and 3) the epidemic preparedness and response plan.

The complexity of measuring the results of C4D interventions was a challenge. For the CPD 2018-2020, the CO will add qualitative data about behaviour and social change to the evidence base, in addition to quantitative process or output-level results

**OUTPUT 2** Output 2014-2015: By the end of December 2015, four ministries (MENA, MASSN, MATDS, MESS) in collaboration with national NGOs and civil society and media undertake more initiatives to promote PFE+ for the respect of the right of the child to education and protection

Output 2011-2013: By 2013, at least 50 per cent of stakeholders (local authorities, CBOs, opinion leaders, young men/women, and the media) commit to promoting the six key family practices.

**Analytical statement of progress:**

With the objective of ending child marriage, the C4D section in collaboration with the child protection section supported advocacy and communication activities for social and behaviour change in five regions (East, Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel, Centre Nord and North). Partnership and synergies were built between five implementing partners (NGOs, associations and radios) to implement complementary sensitization activities in communities. Nearly 680 community leaders in the five regions committed to promote child rights and protection. In the same regions, 430 trained "change agents" (community relays and school children) on communication and child rights directly brought the information and knowledge to over 17,556 individuals (6,547 women; 3,611 children) and families to promote practices and social norms favourable to protect children against marriage and excision.

To promote birth registration, sensitization activities were implemented in six regions (North, East, Centre-North, Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel and neighbouring villages of Ouagadougou) through a network of eight civil society organizations which worked in synergy and implemented proximity activities and radio programmes to transmit messages on birth registration to over one million individuals including parents, children and communities. As a result, birth certificates were delivered to hundreds of children in the North region and neighbourhood villages of Ouagadougou.

Communication interventions for prevention of child labour in artisanal mining areas reached 110 villages in Centre-North and South-West regions where 550 community relays were trained on social mobilization technics and consequences of child labour. Communication activities run by the community relays, out-door radio programmes involving communities, theatre and video projections directly reached 48,007 people including 19,051 children and 12,881 women with messages on prevention of child labour in artisanal mines. In addition, eight radio stations in the two regions produced and broadcasted information on child labour. The radio networks in the South-West region went beyond the borders and reached the population in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. In these two regions, nearly 1.2 million people were reached by radio programmes on elimination of child labour in artisanal mines.

Overall, the C4D interventions in support to child protection contributed to strengthening enabling environment for children as communities became aware of issues related to child rights violation and abuse and exchanged their ideas to tackle these issues, facilitated by religious leaders.

Within the strengthening of the capacity of the Government, UNICEF in partnership with UNFPA led the development of the Triennial Strategic Communication Plan 2018-2020 on ending child marriage and female genital mutilation/cutting by drafting a document based on the CO's experiences and data from partners. This strategic communication plan will be the basis of communication interventions for the next three years.

Persistent negative social norms for child rights constitute the main bottleneck for achievement of communication results. The CO will continue partnering and building networks with communication actors, and supporting advocacy at community level and capacity building of the Government and implementing partners on the C4D approaches, social norms and child protection

**OUTPUT 3** Output 2014-2015: By the end of 2015, activities for visibility and promotion of the rights of the child are developed to create a large mobilization around childhood  
Output 2011-2013:

### **Analytical statement of progress**

Through the U-Report platform launched in 2016, 34,000 youths and adolescents (including 10,500 girls) can now be reached bi-weekly through opinion polls and sensitisation messages. In 2017, 11 opinion polls on selected topics (dengue fever, HIV/AIDS, SDGs, migration, climate change, hygiene of menses, child rights) were sent out, with an average response rate of 35 per cent mainly due to poor quality of mobile networks. Young people continue to trust the formal health system as their preferred place to get advice on sexual and reproductive health. During the Dengue fever outbreak, U-Report was used to send out relevant messages to over 33,000 young people, while collecting data on their knowledge and practices about Dengue.



A new partnership was built with four major youth organizations, including creation of 20 new U-Reporter's clubs, training sessions with 100 girls, information campaigns in girls' schools and group discussions. Female U-Reporters reached 31 per cent of the all reporters. A total of 10,500 female U-Reporters, including 3,250 newly recruited, were active. Efforts helped to select U-Reporters as representative of adolescents and youth of the whole country. U-Report has become a potential tool for real-time data collection and analysis, counselling and outreach with key child right messages.

Data collected through opinion polls were used by line ministries, UNICEF and partners to improve communication messages to youths and communities, provide evidences to public conferences and forum debates and contribute to global and national reporting on child right issues. Within the elaboration of the alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child supported by UNICEF, 9,000 U-Reporters (10-25 years) were consulted on child rights and the effectiveness of state's responses to fulfil child rights at different levels (community, family and schools). The information was incorporated in the report as a part of the children's and youths' opinions and perspectives on child rights.

The main challenge continues to be gender disparity among U-Reporters and reaching illiterate young people for them to participate in U-Reporting. The CO visited Côte d'Ivoire to learn from their experiences promoting more equitable gender representation among U-Reporters. Following this mission, the CO reviewed its U-Report strategy to include live chat sessions with adolescents and young people especially with girls on selected topics that are of great concern to girls (HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, child marriage, gender-based violence) and building a partnership with Girl Scouts, with the objective of reaching more girls from 2018.

**OUTCOME 7** Ensure efficient and effective programme management and operations support to programme delivery

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

The CO ensured participation of wider range of staff members from different categories in governance and decision-making via office committees. Issues and standing topics discussed during the management team meetings and decisions were timely shared with all staff. Care was taken to staff related issues at the JCC meetings.

The table of authority was standardized by UNICEF Headquarters and the CO to ensure quarterly review and issuance. The segregation of duty conflict report is regularly generated and the office maintains no high-risk conflict,

Work processes were developed and shared with all staff.

**OUTPUT 1** Ensure effective and efficient management of human resources including staff capacity development, security and well-being to enable the implementation of Program results.

#### **Analytical statement of progress**

A total of 35 new positions were recruited during 2017 using the new TMS site. Overall gender balance declined from 44 per cent females to 38 per cent between 2016/2017, despite the CO effort to improve gender balance during the recruitment. The gender balance remained stable for general service staff (45 per cent females) but continued to be low among national officers (26 per cent females).

As of April 2017, 91.8 per cent of 92 staff had completed their performance planning in Achieve. During the staff retreat, an action plan was established to address the outcomes from the Global Staff Survey 2017 with focus on staff professional and career development, accountability and security. The action plan was approved by the CMT and will be monitored by JCC.

In terms of learning and development, staff registered for 939 courses on Agora, of which 257 (27 per cent) were completed and 383 are in progress. On the other hand, 92 staff benefited from on-site training (internal or external, national or international); 25 staffs participated in regional or international meetings/conferences (internal or external) and eight staffs completed a stretch assignment within other offices.

The 10 standards on HIV in the workplace were implemented by the UN Cares Committee and three focal points; 30 per cent of staff completed the “HIV in workplace” online course.

The CO was developing the Emergency Preparedness for Response plan, including the Human Resources preparedness in emergency, to be finalized early 2018.

The CO faced a funding shortfall for seven OR-funded positions for which RR funds were used to bridge the gap. OR funds were later on identified to cover these positions and RR funds were released subsequently.

**OUTPUT 2** Effective and efficient Management and Stewardship of Financial Resources: staff salaries (non-core) and related costs, administration, rents, equipment and office security, logistics, purchasing, storage and distribution to beneficiaries, vehicle maintenance and other costs administrative staff were on time and efficiently.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The CMT examined the key financial and resource management indicators monthly to identify bottlenecks and take corrective actions. The CO’s financial implementation rate was 100 per cent for the Institutional Budget; 100 per cent for RR; and 97 per cent and 94 per cent ORR and ORE respectively as of the end of 2017. The remaining OR balance was re-phased for 2018. Monthly bank reconciliation was regularly submitted via My Case to GSSC within the required deadline and did not have a negative balance against the cash forecasts.

The cash summary disbursement in 2017, Direct cash transfer and reimbursement to partners, was US\$12,079,724, of which direct cash transfer six to nine months was 1.5 per cent and over nine months was 0 per cent as of end 2017.

The finance unit contributed to the HACT quality assurance plan 2017 by overseeing five audits and 14 micro-evaluations undertaken by external firms, and 92 spot checks carried out by the finance and programme assistants and an individual consultant. The unit organized capacity-building workshops on HACT with the programme sections and the Supply unit, through which 199 out of 230 implementation partners were trained.

The CO was excellent in responding to all the requests from GSSC in a timely manner. The only constraint was the delay in electronic transfers to beneficiaries’ banks. To overcome this, the office with support from GSSC updated the vendor master database by ensuring that the exact number of digits for each beneficiary.

The CO has not been subject of an internal audit since 2012 but is expecting an external audit in January 2018. All the recommendations from the previous audit were implemented and closed. In terms of efficiency gains, the CO will be able to report accurate statistics once BOS is operationalized in 2018.

**OUTPUT 3** Effective and efficient Governance and Systems: Governance structures and management systems are appropriately defined and take into account risk management.

### **Analytical statement of progress**

The CMT and the Programme Management meetings were opportunities to review key performance indicators such as HACT assurance plan, scorecards, financial and supply implementation, direct cash transfers, donor reporting and funding gaps. The office and staff security was one of the priorities for the AMP and was discussed every month given the deteriorating security in the Sahel region. Within the global effort for simplification of the office processes, the CMT examined the existing statutory office committees and minimized the number of the committee to seven as compared to 13 in 2016. Terms of reference of the committees were revised accordingly. The CMT approved the terms of reference for the new Publication Committee to strengthen the quality assurance of the publications.

As the office concluded CPD 2011-2017, the CMT played a role in organizing the staff consultation processes on the new office structure, preparation of the required documents for PBR and development of the CPMP 2018-2020.

With on-site support from the Regional Office, the CO organized a workshop to update the Enterprise Risk Management for the new CPD 2018-2020. This exercise fed into the finalization of the CPD and CPMP, as well as UNDAF.

The business continuity plan was updated in February 2017 and two trainings were undertaken for critical staffs to develop their capacity. Regular checks by the ICT unit on the connectivity of the five alternated (business continuity plan) sites helped to ensure that they are operational at any time. Following the attack in a popular restaurant in Ouagadougou in August 2017, business continuity plan was tested in the real situation and did not experience any difficulties.

No audit recommendation was followed up as the last internal audit goes back to 2012. The CO is expecting an external audit early 2018.

## **Document center**

### **Evaluation and research**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sequence Number</b>	<b>Type of Report</b>
Analyse de la Situation des Enfants et des Femmes au Burkina Faso	2017/010	SitAn
Analyse de l'équité en immunisation au Burkina Faso	2017/009	Study
Étude sur les causes des faibles performances des Elèves du Primaire en mathématiques : cas du Namentenga, Ganzourgou et Soum	2017/008	Study
Étude sur les Enfants et Adolescent(e)s en Dehors de l'École au	2017/007	Study

Burkina Faso		
Profil des adolescents et adolescentes et facteurs de leur entrée en vie féconde	2017/006	Study
Genre et Pauvreté au Burkina Faso	2017/005	Study
Étude Diagnostique, Stratégie et Plan d'Actions pour le Renforcement des Capacités Évaluatives au Burkina Faso	2017/004	Study
REVUE CONJOINTE DE LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DES PROJETS PILOTES ATPC DANS DEUX REGIONS	2017/003	Review
Bilan de la Mise en oeuvre de l'approche ELAN pour l'apprentissage rapide de la lecture et de l'écriture	2017/002	Review
Evaluation de la mise en œuvre des activités génératrices de revenus par les associations de mères éducatrices.	2017/001	Evaluation

### Other publications

Title
Flyer
Advocacy Videos
Analyse de la Situation des Femmes et des Enfants du Burkina Faso
Etude Diagnostique, Stratégie Nationale et Plan d'actions pour le Renforcement des Capacités Evaluatives au Burkina Faso
Programme Briefs
COAR 2016
UNICEF Burkina Faso : Pour chaque enfant, un avenir radieux

### Lessons learned

Document Type/Category	Title
Lesson Learned	Building the innovative partnership for child rights and local development: lessons learned from the country-level engagement with the mining industry
Lesson Learned	Action research on a private sector management model for rural water supply in Burkina Faso

### Programme Documents

Document Type	Title	Name
Reference Documents	Action Plan for GSS2017	Action Plan GSS 2017 BurkinaFaso final.docx
CPD	Country Programme Document: Burkina Faso	CPD-2018-2020.pdf
CPAP	CPAP Burkina Faso UNICEF 2011 - 2015	Burkina_Faso_CPAP_2011-2015.doc