

In 2015, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued working to protect the rights and improve the well-being of every child, especially the most disadvantaged. Eleven of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals—adopted in September to build on the Millennium Development Goals and guide global development efforts through 2030—were specifically relevant for the health and well-being of children and adolescents. They also represented a renewed responsibility for UNICEF to work with partners around the world to find new ways to meet the needs of children in the most difficult circumstances and to make the big-washing practices. In both humanitarian and non-humanitarian contexts, UNICEF focused on system strengthening so that communities could anticipate and absorb shocks in the event of disasters.

In February, the UNICEF Executive Board increased the ceiling of the UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund to \$75 million per annum, to improve the ability of UNICEF to provide an immediate, effective and predictable response to the needs of children and women affected by humanitarian emergencies. It also increased the authorized capitalization of the revolving fund of the Vaccine Independence Initiative to \$100 million, and approved the utilization of the fund to support the procurement of non-vaccine commodities, including for health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and education supplies, and to support contracting arrangements for a secure supply or reduced prices of vaccines and other commodities.

61/272 [YUN 2007, p. 1201], the Secretary-General submitted his thirteenth report on the follow-up to the Assembly's twenty-seventh (2002) special session on children [YUN 2002, p. 1168]

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of Action: promoting healthy lives
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violence; and combating /A D.

In the area of health, the Secretary-General reported that the global under-five mortality rate had fallen by 50 per cent since 1990. Globally, the number of children under the age of five of reduction had more than tripled since the 1990s, and the accelerated progress had reached 100 million children below the age of five worldwide died before their fifth birthday. In Saharan Africa shouldered the greatest burden, with 11 children born in that region die before the age of five, which was nearly 15 times as many as in 159 children in high-income countries. In many countries, children still lacked access to quality health services and affordable life-saving medicines, such as antibiotics, oral rehydration salts, and insecticide-treated nets to treat malaria. In 2013, pneumonia and diarrhoea accounted for approximately 25 per cent of all under-five deaths, and pneumonia was responsible for 13 per cent of under-five deaths. The share of neonatal deaths in all deaths under the age of five had increased from 10 per cent in 1990 to 44 per cent in 2012. By 2013, 129 countries had achieved at least 80 per cent national coverage for measles and diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis immunization for children under the age of one year of age. Regarding polio, while the number of global polio cases had fallen from 359 in 2014, with 29 cases in Nigeria in 2013 to 6 in 2014, insecurity had led to a sharp increase in cases in Afghanistan and other countries. Serious forms of undernutrition were posing a major barrier for the healthy development of children. In 2013, one in four children under the

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In August [A/70/265], pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 58/282 [YUN 2004, p. 1175] and

often bypassed people who were very poor, lived in isolated rural areas, lived with disabilities, or were members of indigenous groups or other marginalized

Innovation for equity—as endorsed by UNICEF and its partners—aimed to reach children not reached by traditional approaches; addressed the needs of marginalized and vulnerable children and families; anchored its approach on children’s rights, so that all children and their families had an equal chance to enjoy high-quality goods and services; engaged children, young people and their communities as agents of change; and stemmed from local social, cultural, economic, institutional and political circumstances

and the timely collection and dissemination of disaggregated data were likewise essential for the delivery of high-quality services. He noted the importance of being flexible to adapt CE programming to diverse settings, and of the continued application of results-based management principles to CE work, while strengthening systems for tracking performance at the national level. Going forward, CE would address the remaining gaps from the SDs while also pursuing partnerships across the UN system, the private sector and civil society to respond in an integrated way to the challenges to child well-being highlighted by the 2030 Agenda, including climate change, urbanization, displacement, the demographic transition and growing challenges in the second decade of life.

Strategic plan (2014–2017)

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The Executive Board, at its second regular session in September, had before it the four-year financial framework [E/ICEF/2015/AB/L.4] of the CE Strategic Plan (2014–2017), in accordance with Executive Board decisions 2000/3 and 2013/20. Total revenue was forecast to be \$4.71 billion in 2015, a decline of 9 per cent from 2014. Revenue was projected to decrease a further 9 per cent in 2016 compared to

countries to prepare country programme documents, and to present an analysis for the consideration of

by stressing the importance of creating the right enabling environment for innovation that could cultivate a greater, more inclusive impact; establishing partnerships; and strengthening cooperation and sharing within the UN development system.

Gender equality

In response to Executive Board decision 2014/8 [YUN 2014, p. 1312], UNICEF reported [E/ICEF/2015/8] on progress in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and on implementation of its Gender Action Plan (2014–2017). Programmatic work at the field level had advanced on all four of the targeted cross-sector gender priorities—ending child marriage; advancing girls' secondary education; promoting gender-responsive adolescent health; and addressing gender-based violence in emergencies—with three-fourths of UNICEF-supported country programmes adopting at least one targeted priority as a core part of their country programme. Progress in the area of child marriage in 2014 included greater focus, resources and national commitments to addressing the 18.8 (06.9 (e (o)7.8) (n2i)-14(n)84 (

access to sanitation. The SitAn and the D Survey also showed a clear decline in indicators in most sectors since the start of the political crisis. For the new country programme cycle, CE priorities and strategies were guided by the SitAn; lessons learned from the past cycle; DA outcomes; and the priorities of central, regional and local governments and non-governmental and other partners.

A delegation comprised of the Executive Boards of D / A / , CE , UN-Women and visited Jordan (24 April–2 May 2015) [DP/FPA/OPS-ICEF-UNW-WFP/2015/CRP.1] for a first-hand view of how those agencies were responding to the regional crisis and cooperating to support the resilience of host communities in Jordan through ongoing development programmes. With the conflict in Syria entering its fifth year in 2015, the country and the region faced significant humanitarian, environmental, security, political and developmental challenges. Jordan was hosting approximately 1.4 million Syrians, more than half of them children, of whom 18 per cent were under the age of five. The delegation visited Za'atari refugee camp and undertook site visits of various agency-specific and joint projects in Baqaa, East Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq and in Azraq refugee camp. The report contained observations and lessons learned from the field visit and made recommendations for action by the UN country team, which included strengthening coordination among UN agencies; increasing the number of fluent Arabic speakers among international staff to improve the efficiency of deliveries to refugees; broadening access to financing; strengthening child protection; addressing education challenges and the high rate of youth unemployment; and enhancing market-driven job opportunities and income-generating opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian refugees.

Expenditures in the health sector. In 2015 [E/ICEF/2016/6/Add.1], CE

Adolescents who were in the second decade of treatment or being infected through unsafe behaviours. To address those challenges, UNICEF led “All In”, the global partnership to end AIDS among adolescents, which focused on 25 priority countries across seven regions with significant epidemics.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

At the regional and global levels, UNICEF pursued strategic partnerships with major global water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiatives, including Sanitation and Water for All, to support countries in accelerating action towards the Sustainable Development Goals. At the country level, significant progress was registered against key outcome indicators, particularly in the improvement of access to drinking water and sanitation and the fight to end open defecation. During the year, more than 70 million people were reached with (w)71-21 (158 (p)-7.6 (o)10

plementing the revised evaluation policy [YUN 2013, p. 1145], submitted in accordance with relevant Board decisions [YUN 2014, p. 1315]. The report considered the governance of the function, outlined the efforts to promote evaluation coherence within the UN system and reported on the performance and results of the function across the . It also covered actions taken in response to decisions of the Board and reviewed the utilization of evaluation evidence in the . The report noted the importance of strengthening national evaluation, particularly in light of General Assembly resolution 69/237 [YUN 2014, p. 1036] and in the context of preparations for the D's and the new global agreement (

inter-organizational arrangements, with contributions of \$432 million, and other sources, with contributions of \$97 million.

UNICEF expenditure amounted to \$5,112 million. Expenditure on development, including programme and development effectiveness totalled \$4,675 million. The balance included expenditure on management (\$312 million); other costs, includ-

internal audit activities in 2014. O A completed 39 internal audit reports in 2014, 9 audit reports were in draft form and 6 more were in the fieldwork or planning phase. The 39 audits included 33 country office audits, 2 regional office audits, 2 headquarters audits and 2 inter-agency audits. The reports issued contained a total of 525 actions, of which 127 (24 per cent) were rated as high priority and 398 (76 per cent) as medium priority. In 2014, the three most significant risk areas identified for continuing management action included results-based management and reporting, governance and accountability, and supply and logistics. These areas accounted for 72 per cent of all agreed actions. At the end of 2014, there were 20 outstanding recommendations older than 18 months, 2 related to country offices and 18 to headquarters and thematic areas. O A also managed 124 investigations in 2014, including 45 cases carried over from 2013 and 79 cases involving allegations received in 2014. At the end of 2014, 34 of the 45 cases carried over from 2013 and 38 of the new cases received in 2014 had been closed.

In June [E/ICEF/2015/AB/L.3], the Executive Board had before it the O A management response to the annual report of O A for 2014, which contained management actions and plans to address the overall findings; recommendations of country-office audits; recommendations regarding headquarters and thematic areas, regional offices, joint audits and advisory services; findings from investigations; and concluding observations in the 2014 annual report of the O A Audit Advisory Committee.

On 18 June [E/2015/34/Rev.1 (dec. 2015/11)], the Executive Board took note of the O A 2014 annual report (E/ICEF/2015/AB/L.2), the O A management response to that annual report (E/ICEF/2015/AB/L.3) and the O A Audit Advisory Committee 2014 annual report. The Board requested that O A include in future annual reports an opinion, based on the scope of work undertaken, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organization's framework of governance, risk m(f w)1.6 (oe9.6 (a)-28c O

Cash and investments of \$4.43 billion constituted a significant portion of the assets. The total budget utilized in 2014 was \$4.87 billion, 89