

Executive Summary

In 2013 UNICEF continued its support to the Government of Comoros for the provision of basic social services and related functions– in particular Education, Health, Nutrition, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Child Protection, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Communication – and achieved several major results. Under the leadership of UNICEF, acting as Coordinating Agency for the local education group, Comoros became the 55th member of the Global Partnership for Education, and the country was granted US\$4.6 million over three years. The pre-elementary enrolment rate remained at 14 per cent; UNICEF supported provision of 41,389 textbooks to four and five-year-olds newly enrolled in the Renovated Koranic Training program. Pass rate for the end of primary cycle examination reached 70 per cent (compared to 30 per cent the previous year), following a review and improved administration of the learning assessment tools, using the Competency Based Approach. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) was strengthened through the design of a database application that will help in the implementation of Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) in Education starting in 2014. Also, all public and private primary and secondary school headmasters (880) and pedagogical supervisors (120) on the three islands were trained on data collection instruments and methodology. The 2013 education data were collected and are currently being processed for publication of the annual education statistical yearbook in 2014.

As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy, Comoros became the 45th member of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement countries. This is an opportunity for Comoros to raise more funds from donors and financial institutions, including REACH, for use in scaling-up nutrition interventions. Also, with technical and financial support from UNICEF the Government has developed and adopted a national strategy for community health that promotes increased accountability of communities in the management of their health problems through promotion of key family practices, and management of diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria at the community level. Moreover, the Government now has a national water and sanitation strategy for the period 2015-2030 to address drinking water needs for all the population.

The Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code were revised to achieve harmonisation with the international conventions ratified by Comoros, in order to strengthen the protective environment for children against all forms of violence, abuse and neglect.

Preliminary results of the DHS – MICS undertaken in 2012 show the good quality of data collected and, consequently, the good quality of the derived results. Indeed, with a 95 per cent response rates by households, 93 per cent of eligible women and 83 per cent of eligible men, the DHS - MICS 2012 reflects good representation at the country level and facilitates comparisons at international level. These results will help assess progress in PRGS and MDGs implementation, especially in the social sector and, provide a reliable basis for the country’s new development strategy.

To support implementation of the integrated C4D strategy the Government, through the Ministry of Information, signed an agreement to establish an inter-sectoral communication committee. Its task is to oversee implementation of all activities likely to induce change in the behaviour of populations.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

Economic growth in 2013 was estimated at 3.5 per cent, with an inflation rate of 3 per cent, according to forecasts by the IMF and the Central Bank of the Comoros. The country made significant progress in stabilising the economy during 2013. Economic growth was driven by the good performance of agricultural exports, maintaining foreign direct investment (FDI) in the transport sector (roads and ports) and domestic demand, supported by remittances from emigrants.

Public investment in the economy, basic social services and infrastructure (energy, water, transport, health and education) is expected to increase by 9 per cent in 2013/2014, as a result of the country reaching the completion point in December 2012 under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC). According to the Human Development Index (HDI), the Comoros is ranked 169th of 187 countries, declining

by nine places between 2006 and 2012. Per capita income was US\$1,079 in 2012. The 4th National Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), issued in September 2013, noted that poverty and hunger are increasing in the Comoros. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line increased from 45 per cent in 2004 to 46 per cent in 2012. However, the poverty index varies from one island to another and within islands, with higher levels in Anjouan and Moheli than in Grande Comore.

The report also notes that the Comoros made significant progress toward achieving the MDGs in the social sectors; the under-five mortality rate decreased from 122 per 1000 in 1990 to 50 per 1000 in 2012. The maternal mortality rate also declined sharply, from 517 deaths per 100,000 live births to 172 deaths per 100,000 live births between 1990 and 2012. The most significant progress in health was achieved in the fight against malaria. The prevalence rate decreased from 34.5 per cent in 1990 to 9 per cent in 2012, exceeding the MDG targeted reduction to 16.5 per cent. In the field of education, net enrolment rates increased from 62 per cent in 1990 to 79 per cent in 2012. Recent trends show rapid growth of enrolment in Anjouan, with an increase from 57 per cent in 1990 to 78 per cent in 2011; slow progress in Moheli (from 72 per cent in 1990 to 76 per cent in 2011); and an increase in Grande Comore (from 66 per cent in 1990 to 81 per cent in 2011).

However, bottlenecks persist in achieving some MDGs, especially in the areas of gender parity in employment. The proportion of female employees in the formal sector was estimated at 24 per cent in 2013. The average wage of women employees remains generally low, although the trend is on the increase. Like many island countries, Comoros is experiencing environmental degradation linked to high population growth and density and poor management of natural resources. Unfortunately this leads to overexploitation of terrestrial, coastal and marine resources. Forest degradation has reached an alarming stage.

Concerning water, the proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water (treated water) increased from 5 per cent in 1996 (DHS) to 22 per cent in 2012 (DHS - MICS). With respect to sanitation, the proportion of people with access to improved latrines remained unchanged, at 38 per cent, between 2004 and 2012.

The political situation was marked by the debate over the term of the Assembly of the Union of Comoros. The Constitutional Court judgment dated 12 September 2013 stated that the power of the Assembly of the Union will expire at the opening session in April 2014. On November 8, 2013, the "Grands élus de la République" (President of the Union, Vice -Presidents, the President of the Assembly of the Union, Governors and Presidents of the islands council) met and agreed to organise harmonised elections (Parliamentary elections, councillors and mayoral elections combined) in November 2014. To avoid a legal gap between the end of the powers of the present Assembly of the Union in April 2014 and the parliamentary elections planned for November 2014, members of the Assembly of the Union adopted on 26 December 2013 a bill amending certain provisions of the Constitution. This law sets the end of the term of the present Assembly of the Union at December 22, 2014. To be compliant with the Constitution, this law must be approved, either by referendum or by two-thirds of the total number of members of the Assembly of the Union as well, as two thirds of the members of the Assemblies of islands.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

In early 2013, UNICEF and Government counterparts developed and signed bi-annual work-plans for 2013 and 2014. This biannual planning was in response to the need for a clear overview of the interventions to be implemented during the last two years of the current country programme.

While carrying out these planning activities, critical bottlenecks/barriers were identified and relevant solutions agreed upon. With regard to Young Child Survival and Development (YCSD), the main bottleneck was the lack of involvement of communities in the implementation of national programmes. A Community Health Strategy was developed to harmonise interventions for better efficiency. This strategy comprises a minimum package of essential family practices, integrated community case management (ICCM) and a network of community health workers whose capacity will be strengthened to fully play their role as defined in the strategy document. This strategy will be implemented in 2014.

Nutrition is one of the areas where there was substantial focus in 2013, following the revival of the surveillance system, which was interrupted in 2012. The aim was to revitalise nutrition interventions, particularly through capacity building for service providers in screening and treatment of malnourished children. This focus will continue in 2014, in line with the new MTSP and taking into account the results of the latest DHS – MICS surveys, which showed indicator values above the threshold of a nutritional emergency declaration. In December 2013, the Head of State played a strong leadership role in the submission of an application for Comoros to become a member to the “Scaling Up Nutrition” movement; as a result Comoros became the 45th member of the SUN movement.

Also in 2013, Comoros became the 55th member of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and was allocated a grant of US\$4.6 million for the period 2013-2015. The GPE funds will contribute to improving access to quality education for all children, including those with disabilities, as well as strengthening sector management through the timely production and dissemination of reliable data.

A survey was launched in 2013 to collect and generate data on the education system, including data on children with disabilities. A data base was also set up that will help in implementation of MoRES in Education starting in 2014.

Humanitarian Assistance

Comoros continue to experience torrential rains and floods, particularly the regions of Bambao and Hambou in Grande Comore. In May 2013 heavy rains caused flooding, however the extent of damage was much less than in 2012. The locality of Vouvouni was once again the most affected area, causing the closure of one primary school, the disruption of other school activities, and displacement of 74 families.

The United Nations System in Comoros, through UNDP and UNICEF, joined the central Government and the governor of the island of Ngasidja to provide the first response. An operation was launched on May 10, 2013 by the Directorate General of Civil Protection in collaboration with UN agencies to distribute emergency supplies, including school kits (78), mosquito nets (187), and blankets (187) to affected families. Sanitation kits were also provided for the clearing of main roads and repair of damaged houses.

Effective Advocacy

Initiating action to meet benchmarks

As a result of intensive advocacy by UNICEF and the Resident Coordinator, Comoros became the 45th member state of the SUN movement. This is an opportunity for Comoros to raise the profile of the fight against malnutrition, while providing a forum for fund-raising and capacity building to scale-up nutrition interventions. UNICEF also advocated for the introduction of a new bill regulating the sale and marketing of breast-milk substitutes, which will be presented to the Parliament in a special session in 2014.

UNICEF Comoros had supported the organisation of “operation RIYALI” in 2012, to attract funds to help the most vulnerable children. Thanks to this advocacy, an amount of US\$400,000 was mobilised. In 2013, UNICEF continued its advocacy, urging that part of these funds be used to support the child protection listening services of Grande Comore and Moheli.

Capacity Development

Partially met benchmarks

The national EPI manager and the data and logistics manager were sponsored to attend training on EPI management held in Zimbabwe. The Director of Planning participated in an international workshop to strengthen his capacities in health system management as it relates to community health.

Water treatment equipment and sanitation facilities were provided to the civil protection directorates at national and island levels. Staff from these offices were also trained on how to operate such equipment, to enable them to manage all emergency situations across the three islands, since the water and sanitation sector is usually the most affected during emergencies (both floods and volcano eruption). These staff also

received modern audio-visual recording equipment to better report on emergency situations on the ground.

In education, establishment of EMIS was the main large-scale capacity development activity carried out in 2013. It provided an opportunity to equip, train and organise education planning units both at the national and island levels. The process is still ongoing. The review of the student learning assessment system and its administration according to the Competency-Based Approach (CBA) contributed to strengthening the capacity of examiners at the end of primary cycle exam.

Communication for Development

Initiating action to meet benchmarks

After validation of the national communication strategy for child survival and development, education and protection of children in Comoros, a cross-sectoral Communication Committee was established by the Government through the Ministry of Information, with technical and financial support from UNICEF. For sensitisation purposes, awareness raising materials on the 8 Essential Family Practices were developed and validated. Sectoral communication plans for child survival and development, education and protection and related kits will be developed and implemented in 2014. Communication sessions for behaviour change on child survival were organised in the 17 national health districts. The main themes developed were promotion of immunisation, hygiene and sanitation; use of maternal and child health services; prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; nutrition; and exclusive breastfeeding.

Service Delivery

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF continues to offer support to the Government in the areas of health, education, protection, hygiene and sanitation.

The YCSD programme provides vaccines such as BCG doses, measles, DTC-HepB-Hib and nutritional inputs (small bags of therapeutic milk, F100, etc.). Also, UNICEF has contributed to reinforcing technical and managerial capacity of the health ministry, with the training on EPI management offered to the national EPI manager and the data and logistics manager. Training was held in Zimbabwe and funded by UNICEF. The health information system was strengthened with the technical and financial support of UNICEF. In Education, UNICEF is working to strengthen the education management system through reinforcing coordination and improving the quality and quantity of the information system, including tools and materials. Thus, a database application was developed on EMIS software, and all public and private (primary and secondary) school headmasters (880) and pedagogical supervisors (120) on the three islands were trained on data collection. Finally, a manual on programming and budgeting procedures based on the child rights approach is being developed, in order to provide management tools that will help improve equity and cost-effectiveness for the benefit of children.

In the WASH sector, the main service supported by UNICEF in 2013 concerned the development and validation of a national strategy on water, which will facilitate mobilisation of additional resources for the sector.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the DHS-MICS survey 2012 by ICF Macro International. In 2013, ICF International assisted the national Direction of Statistics to conduct data analysis for both the preliminary report, published in March 2013, and the final report.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

The Child Survival programme maintained its partnership with WHO, UNFPA, French cooperation, GAVI and the Global Fund to support the Government's efforts to strengthen the health system. Thanks to the support of various partners, the country has developed and adopted a strategy for Community Health and a national strategy for child survival. Partnership with JICA in the area of EPI continued, and was extended to other areas including nutrition and maternal and new-born health. Collaboration with NGOs was pursued, especially with Caritas, through nutritional surveillance and case management of malnourished children at the community level. Following Comoros' admission to the SUN movement in December 2013, UN agencies (resident and non-resident) and other bilateral partners committed to support Government efforts to obtain technical and financial support from REACH to scale up nutrition interventions. Solid plans are also underway to include a major nutrition component in the upcoming 2015-2019 UNDAF. In addition, a partnership is being developed between UNICEF and "Ecole de Medecine et de Sante Publique" and UNICEF and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to collect evidence and conduct barriers/bottlenecks analysis to understand obstacles to existing Maternal New-born and Child Health (MNCH) services in rural areas.

With the admission of Comoros to GPE, a partnership has been established with this institution to accelerate achievement of universal primary education.

Knowledge Management

Mostly met benchmarks

For the second consecutive year, UNICEF Comoros disseminated its updated rolling work plan for 2013-2014, with Government, to partners on all three islands. This was an opportunity to interact with the maximum number of actors in charge of implementing the work plan on each island, and to share best practices and lessons learned from previous years. In 2013 these exchanges focused on administrative and financial management, and on key principles of public accounting that require, among other things, segregation of duties between the comptroller and the accountant for financial transactions.

The newsletter "Habari za UNICEF Comoros" launched by UNICEF Comoros continued to be issued bi-annually. The third edition was published in August 2013. Among the highlights: the arrival of the new UNICEF Comoros Office Representative, Dr Pierre Ngom, following the departure for Ghana of Mrs Susan Ngongi; the visit of the Executive Director of Dubai Care in Comoros within the framework of an education project funded by this non-profit organisation and the Comoros Universal Periodic Review.

Systematic sharing of knowledge gained from various workshops and seminars, both within and outside the country, continued to benefit the majority of staff. One of the sessions held in 2013, with participation by all staff from Operations and Programme units dealt with the establishment at ESARO of a network of advisors for a Respectful Workplace (Respectful Workplace Advisors). This is an informal mechanism designed to help prevent and better manage conflict in the workplace.

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

The Gender and Human Rights thematic Group of the United Nations agencies, chaired by UNICEF, developed in June 2013 the report on the country's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which will be submitted to the Council of Human Rights in February 2014. The report summarises the administrative, legislative and judicial measures taken by the Comoros, with UN support, to implement the recommendations of the 2009 review report. When preparing this report, members of the Gender and Human Rights Thematic Group participated in a training workshop on UPR organised in June 2013 by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, with the support of UN agencies in the Comoros. The High Commission for Human Rights and the International Organisation of "Francophonie" contributed quality expertise to facilitate this workshop.

The country report was prepared and included the measures taken by the Comoros to promote human rights

in the country, along with progress, challenges and prospects. It underlined the significant advances in the field of human rights, including the establishment of the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms in October 2012, and the measures taken to improve good political and economic governance and protect people from all forms of discrimination. The report showed that efforts have been made to ratify international and regional instruments related to human rights and to create national structures for the promotion and protection of human rights. It also pointed to the critical actions which remain to be taken to improve the legal environment in favour of human rights including: harmonisation of national legislation in relation to ratified treaties and conventions; intensification of efforts to cooperate with the monitoring mechanisms set up by the United Nations in the field of Human Rights; and implementation of the Family Code.

Gender Equality

Partially met benchmarks

UNICEF continues to support the promotion of preschool training based on the Koranic teachings in rural areas to correct disparities, since pre-school opportunities are offered mainly in urban areas. The school survey launched by the Ministry of National Education in 2013 will provide disaggregated data on the level of enrolment of boys and girls on all three islands. It will also facilitate the identification of boys and girls with disabilities who are out of school in, order to take steps to help them access school and benefit from quality basic education.

Concerning child survival and development, DHS-MICS 2012 preliminary data show that for certain health services, such as immunisation, gender disparities exist that must be addressed in the future. For example, 57.1 per cent of boys aged 12-to-23 months have completed their immunisation, compared to 67.2 per cent of girls of the same age. The final report of this survey will give further gender-disaggregated data that will help carry out gender-specific studies starting beginning in 2014.

In the area of child protection, listening services continue to record increased numbers of girl victims of abuse, violence and/or neglect. More than 95 per cent of the declared cases followed by these services concerned girls, mainly under 15 years of age. UNICEF will continue its advocacy and support to ensure that children, particularly girl victims of sexual violence, are reintegrated into school and family environments.

Environmental Sustainability

Initiating action to meet benchmarks

Sustainable management of the environment is a priority introduced in the implementation of WASH activities, with particular focus on fulfilling the rights children in primary schools and patients in district hospitals through access to improved latrines. These WASH facilities have contributed to fight poor hygiene in public primary schools and health district centres. Regarding improved access to safe water and safe storage, UNICEF has promoted the use of rain water harvesting as an alternative to meet the rights of water users. This alternative also contributed to reducing the loss of rain water in island areas where ground-water reserves are very critical. When carrying out WASH construction activities, UNICEF complied with all local rules and regulations relating to environmental protection, including prohibition of the use of sea sand and promotion of alternative measures to protect the environment. One such measure promoted by UNICEF is solid waste management, to improve the safety of water and sanitation facilities.

In response to the 2012 emergency, UNICEF restored water networks for affected populations and preserved water sources by reducing leakage from water supply systems.

UNICEF continued its technical contribution to the climate change program implemented by UNDP. Activities related to the protection and sustainable management of water resources were implemented by the water supply project in urban areas, and also for agricultural needs in rural areas.

During elaboration of the WASH national strategy UNICEF contributed by introducing the principle of environmental and social safety to promote respect for biodiversity.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) established in 1984 is a regional organisation comprising the Union of Comoros, Reunion Island, Mauritius and Seychelles. Since 2007 it has carried out interventions on gender. This crosscutting theme for all areas of IOC intervention was formalised in 2009 at the 25th Council of Ministers, the highest decision-making authority of the IOC, through adoption of a regional policy and strategy on gender. This strategy is implemented through four axes, of which one is the fight against violence against women and girls. A regional platform on this theme was launched in 2011. National Platforms have also been established in each member country of the IOC, including Comoros. The third meeting of the regional platform for the fight against gender-based violence took place in October 2013 in Moroni. Several recommendations were made, including improving the legal framework of countries in the region to better combat gender-based violence and strengthen medical and psychological support to victims of violence.

Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results

Comoros - 6620

PC 1 - Child survival and development

 On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/005 By the end of 2014, coordination and management of the health and water sectors are undertaken in an efficient regulatory framework, including in emergencies.

Progress: Since 2010 the Ministry of Health has been holding health coordination meetings, a forum bringing together senior Government officials from the health sector at both central and island levels, as well as technical and financial partners. The purpose of the quarterly meetings is to: (a) Promote collaboration and regular exchanges between different stakeholders in the health sector, (b) monitor implementation of the various recommendations and decisions, (c) identify constraints and propose solutions. In addition, to improve exchange of information between partners, a monthly coordination meeting of all health partners has been established. This meeting aims primarily to avoid duplication of activities by partners. However, these meetings have not been held regularly. Thus in 2013 only one coordination meeting took place and there was no monthly meeting of partners. Also, the quality of preparation for these meetings is insufficient. The water sector has also institutionalised a semi-annual coordination meeting, which is also not functional. However, coordinating committees at island and national levels for preparedness and emergency response are functional. In 2014, UNICEF will help the ministry to play its leadership role by ensuring that coordination mechanisms in the health and water sectors are effective.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/005/001 D'ici fin 2014, un cadre institutionnel et stratégique favorable à la mise en oeuvre <> est défini et mise en oeuvre à travers l'élaboration, la validation des documents de politique et de stratégie (y compris la préparation aux urgences), le renforcement des capacités nationales, la collecte, l'analyse et la diffusion des données relatives à la survie de l'enfant

Progress: The institutional and strategic framework in favour of child survival recorded significant progress in Comoros in 2013 with the validation of a national document on Essential Family Practices and the adoption of a national strategy for community health that covers case management of diarrhoea, ARI and malaria at the community level. In addition, a water and sanitation strategy was developed and adopted, and the PMTCT strategy was revised to better adapt to the epidemiological situation of the disease in Comoros. Thanks to advocacy led by UNICEF, Comoros became the 45th member of the SUN movement. All these policies and interventions contribute to the definition of an appropriate framework for child survival and development. The prioritisation of high-impact interventions was strengthened through the commitment of stakeholders to community-based approaches. This is an alternative way to offer better quality health services for disadvantaged women and children. UNICEF also contributed to launching the campaign on accelerating reduction of maternal mortality in Africa.

The participation of the Minister of Health in the Addis Ababa conference and her statement to her peers gave greater visibility to child survival on the agenda of Comoros' Government. UNICEF also supported international technical missions of MoH staff members in charge of maternal and child health to strengthen their planning and management capacity. UNICEF printed and distributed data-collection tools for the National Health Information System to ensure availability of reliable data for decision-making and planning.

IR 6620/A0/04/005/005 Appui au Programme/Assistance technique

IR 6620/A0/04/005/006 2013 IR1. Information à mettre après le PTA 2013

 On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/006 D'ici fin 2014, dans la zone de concentration des interventions, 70% des enfants de moins de 5 ans, 80% des femmes enceintes et au moins 50% des nouveaux nés souffrant de difficultés respiratoires et de petit poids à la naissance bénéficient d'un paquet intégré d'interventions à haut impact.

Progress:

A package of high-impact interventions for child survival and pregnant women was defined and validated in 2013. For the first phase, the package aims to promote eight essential family practices. Data for monitoring these eight practices were not available in 2013. However, the DHS-MICS 2012 provides some useful information, such as: 12 per cent of children practice exclusive breastfeeding for six months; 44 per cent of pregnant women sleep under an ITN; 42 per cent of children under 5 sleep under an ITN; 44 per cent of children with pneumonia were treated; 62 per cent children are fully vaccinated; 42 per cent of children are protected against tetanus at birth.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/006/001 A la fin de 2014, 90% des enfants de moins de 1 an (garçons et filles) et plus particulièrement ceux qui résident dans la zone de concentration du programme (Nioumachoua, Wanani, Mbeni, Ousioini, Domoni, Mremani, Pomoni, Sima, Ouani) sont complètement vaccinés aux 8 antigènes et 70% des femmes en âge de procréer ont reçu le VAT2.

Progress:

In relation to immunisation, the CO planned to support the Government in the planning, implementation and monitoring of EPI activities, with a focus on the Reaching Every District (RED) approach, vaccine supply and immunisation material, strengthening cold

chain, and capacity development of the staff. By end-December 2013, the following results had been achieved: routine coverage rate of DPT3/HepB3/Hib3 was 83 per cent, and 77 per cent for the measles vaccines. According to the National Health Information System, 87 per cent of boys and girls under one year old have been fully immunised. Sixty-two per cent of pregnant women received at least two doses of TT vaccines. An integrated campaign against measles was carried out and 83 per cent of children aged from 9-to-59 months were reached during this campaign, 91 per cent of children aged 12-to-59 months were dewormed, and 94 per cent of children aged 6-to-59 months received 1 dose of vitamin A. Available statistical data are not disaggregated by sex, unfortunately. The RED approach was implemented in the seven lowest-performing districts in terms of immunisation services.

All planned vaccines in the 2013 forecast, including new vaccines, were received by the Government counterpart, which procured the new vaccines through UNICEF's supply division.

Cold chain capacity was strengthened with the acquisition of 11 solar refrigerators. The central cold room was installed. Some difficulties were encountered during 2013, among which shortage of stock for the Pentavalent vaccine (DTP/HepB/Hib) due to the delay of the Government's financial contributions. These shortages of stock affected the continuity of immunisation services.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/006/002 IR2.2 D'ici fin 2014 au moins, 80% des enfants cibles (garçons et filles) reçoivent 2 doses de Vitamine A, 2 doses de l'Albendasole bénéficient d'un dépistage périodique de la malnutrition et 90% des enfants malnutris dépistés sont pris en charge à un niveau des formations sanitaires publiques ou communautaires (y compris en situation d'urgence)

Progress: Acute and chronic malnutrition remain a major public health issue in Comoros with rates of 11 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, for children under 5 years. UNICEF supported the country to revitalise the nutritional surveillance system and provided a supply of nutritional products (F100, F75, RUTF) as well as anthropometric equipment. Community health workers in the country's 17 health districts were provided refresher training on screening and treatment of malnourished children at the operational level. Through the monthly screening system and integrated outreach activities, 5,061 children under 5 were screened using the MUAC. Among them, 186 suffered from severe acute malnutrition and 538 from moderate acute malnutrition. All of these malnourished children received appropriate care through provision of RUTF, vitamin A and deworming tablets. UNICEF cooperated with the NGO Caritas to implement these interventions. With regard to preparedness and response to humanitarian crises, the contingency plan was updated and nutritional inputs and micronutrients pre-positioned. Some constraints were identified during 2013, which included: the country's island status, which makes delivery time very lengthy and a lack of qualified health workers on nutrition. In 2014 the focus will be on developing a national protocol for malnutrition case management, training of health workers and establishment of a multi-sectoral platform for nutrition, to follow up on the country's membership in the SUN movement.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/006/003 D'ici fin 2014 80% des femmes enceintes et les nouveaux-nés (filles et garçons) vues en consultation dans les zones de concentration du programme (Ousioini, Fiombouni, Mbeni, Pomoni, Sima, Wanani, Nioumachoua), reçoivent le paquet complet de services (y compris en situation d'urgence)

Progress: Although maternal mortality and under-five child mortality rates have declined in the past 10 years, from 380 deaths per 100,000 to 172 per 100,000, and from 74 deaths per 1,000 to 50 per 1,000 live births, respectively, the proportion of neonatal mortality (24 per cent) and infant deaths (36 per cent) remains high according to the 2012 DHS-MICS preliminary report. According to that report, 44 per cent of pregnant women and 42 per cent of under 5 children sleep under ITNs. Interventions related to maternal, new-born and child health focused on improving the quality of ANC services through the provision of necessary inputs and equipment for the care of pregnant women and new-borns. UNICEF supported ANC services by providing vitamin A, Albendasole, sulfadoxine pyrimethamine, iron and folic acid, ITNs, reagents for STIs/HIV and vaccines against tetanus.

Under the coordination of the National Programme to Fight Malaria, a total of 5,000 LLINs were distributed to pregnant women through antenatal services. A community health strategy was developed to enable local populations to participate in the promotion, prevention and management of common diseases. These activities have contributed to the following main results: 74.3 per cent of pregnant women used ANC services at least twice and 68.3 per cent of deliveries were attended by skilled personnel. In 2014, emphasis will be placed on training health personnel in maternal and neonatal care, community health workers on the recognition of danger signs in pregnancy and the new-born, and the integrated management of childhood illnesses (diarrhoea, pneumonia and malaria) as well as the supply of inputs and provision of equipment.

 Constrained

PCR 6620/A0/04/007 D'ici fin 2014, 50% des ménages des zones de concentration des interventions du programme appliquent au moins 50% des comportements favorables définis dans le paquet d'interventions en matière de santé, nutrition et utilisation de l'eau propre à un niveau de la famille

Progress: The Comoros developed a national communication strategy for child survival, education and protection, with technical and financial support from UNICEF. For the effective implementation of this strategy, the Ministry of Health selected eight essential family practices to be promoted through various communication channels, including: immunisation, promotion of breastfeeding, infant feeding, ANC, hand washing, use of mosquito nets, recognition of danger signs. Communication campaigns were developed to ensure wide dissemination of messages. Although the Comoros have an extensive network of community radio and community leaders trained by the Comoros Red Crescent, advocacy and leadership is still limited due to the lack of a framework for collaboration with these entities. Health facilities also lack qualified staff to conduct communication activities. For rapid adoption of household practices favourable to child survival, the Government and its partners should strengthen activities and develop a community-based collaboration with existing communication networks.

On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/007/001 IR3.1 2012 Communication pour Sur stratégie de communication intégrée pour la survie et le développement de l'enfant les outils de communication simplifiés sont, testés, validés et multipliés.

Progress:

The national integrated communications strategy document for child survival, education and protection was approved but will not be implemented until 2014. In the meantime, communications and awareness-raising activities in favour of child survival were carried out within the health sector. Communications materials relating to malaria prevention, diarrhoea-related illnesses, malnutrition, hygiene and sanitation were developed and disseminated through national and community radio and television.

Awareness-raising meetings were organised in the affected areas and involved religious and traditional leaders. The main constraints are the absence of reliable data and the limited human resources capacity at every level. The emphasis in 2014 will be on strengthening community networks to carry out awareness-raising and social mobilisation activities on the basis of the integrated communications strategy document.

Constrained

IR 6620/A0/04/007/003 D'ici fin 2014, 60% des responsables d'enfants de moins de 5 ans dans les zones de concentration du programme) connaissent et adoptent 7 comportements favorables à la survie de l'enfant (vaccination, allaitement maternel exclusif, alimentation du jeune enfant, lavage des mains, dormir sous moustiquaire imprégnées, connaître les signes de danger, recourir aux soins)

Progress:

The DHS-MICS 2012 shows that only 12 per cent of mothers practice exclusive breastfeeding until six months, 44 per cent of mothers seek care when their children have fever, 41 per cent of children sleep under mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide, and 62 per cent of children are fully immunised. In terms of expected behaviour change, these data are well below the target. In 2013 a national community health strategy was elaborated and validated with the financial and technical support of UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA. It focuses on promoting key family practices including: hand-washing, exclusive breastfeeding, seeking care, sleeping under an ITN, and management of cases of diarrhoea, ARI and malaria at the community level. The implementation plan for this strategy will be developed early in 2014. Collaboration with NGOs/civil society, private radio and TV will be strengthened in 2014 through programme cooperation agreements (PCAs) with these entities. This will facilitate the organisation of training of health workers on technical communication and dissemination of educational messages. The regional Health Directorate, in collaboration with UNICEF, organised regular community health workers meetings at the district level. Routine C4D activities for behaviour change in favour of child survival were organised in 17 health districts. They focused on the promotion of immunisation, hygiene and sanitation, use of child and maternal services, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, nutrition and breastfeeding. Community health workers are involved in the organisation and implementation of these activities. UNICEF contributed to the celebration of Malaria Day, HIV/AIDS Day, and Hand-washing Day events aimed at educating local populations on these interventions.

PC 2 - Education

On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/008 D'ici fin 2014, 65% des enfants de 3 à 8 ans, surtout les groupes vulnérables*, accèdent de façon équitable et participent en majorité à l'éducation en mettant l'accent sur la réduction des disparités et les inégalités scolaires

Progress:

Enrolment rates of children aged 3-to-8 improved slightly over the past two years, from 52 per cent in 2010 to 55 per cent (55 per cent for girls and 56 per cent for boys) in 2012. According to the 2013 school survey preliminary data, available for Anjouan Island only, this rate is still on the rise and has now reached 57 per cent (57 per cent for girls and 58 per cent for boys). This progress is mostly due to the impact of the Dubai Cares-sponsored "Support to quality education in Comoros" project, implemented nationally by the Ministry of Education with support from UNICEF and its partners from 2008-2012. It focused on providing access to elementary school for young children in rural areas by scaling-up the Renovated Koranic Teaching (RKT) programme, with the aim of preparing these pupils for primary school and improving the quality of education through support to the Competency- Based Approach (CBA) introduced in the education system. An external evaluation of the project impact is planned for 2014.

On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/008/001 25% des enfants de 3-5 ans, y compris ceux souffrant d'handicap, suivent le programme d'enseignement coranique rénové, et 40% des enfants de 0-3 ans bénéficient de soins de santé, d'éveil et de protection sociale à travers le programme d'éducation parentale.

Progress:

The Government of Comoros passed a decree introducing new Koranic teaching into the education system. The aim is to improve developmental conditions for young children through parental education and pre-elementary education, as well as to prepare them for primary school. In 2012, awareness-raising and training campaigns on good care and hygiene practices and child protection reached many parents. The number of children aged three-to-five years, including those suffering from a disability, following the new Koranic teaching programme in the target schools is estimated at around 6,960. Compared to 2010 (with 5 per cent), the pre-primary rate

tripled in two years (to 16 per cent). The increase in the level of enrolment can be explained in part by the innovative nature of the approach, since parents find that children are learning more compared with a traditional schools. The RKS is a preschool program that aims to give children a solid foundation for development and enhance capacity for learning, while facilitating children's integration into society. Four areas are developed: language, motor skills, community life and religion.

In addition to teaching about Islam, new Koranic teaching also teaches them to read, write and sing in French and Arabic. Furthermore, the implementation strategy adopted, which consists of creating new Koranic teaching classes within primary schools under the supervision of the head teacher, encourages parents to entrust small children to the care of their older brothers or sisters, who are already enrolled in primary school. UNICEF has supported the production of new text books (22,850) for children to reflect the context in the Comoros and curricula and guides (500 and 700 respectively) for teachers, as well as training them and their supervisors in using the materials in target schools. Refurbishment programmes will continue in 2014, alongside training teachers to use the text books.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/008/002 IR 1.2, 90% des enfants de 6-8 ans, y compris ceux souffrant de handicap sont admis à l'école dans les sonnes pédagogiques retenues chaque année.

Progress:

The wave of enrolments in pre-school with the introduction of the new Koranic teaching initiative has had a significant impact on enrolments in primary school. In 2012, 45.1 per cent of children newly enrolled in the first year of primary school were six years old. It is estimated that the majority (50.3 per cent), are following an official new Koranic teaching programme. UNICEF supported the provision of school furniture to increase the number of places offered not only for children coming from new Koranic schools but also others who are fully enrolled, but did not attend a new Koranic school. If this approach continues it will contribute to improving the quality of education in primary schools, in particular from the point of view of acquiring fundamental skills in reading, writing and oral expression, which is one of the major challenges of the system. Furthermore, pursuing the participatory approach that puts the learner at the centre of the learning process used in new Koranic teaching classes will also help children to adapt rapidly to the teaching system in place and strengthen their acquisition of knowledge.

The focus on training teachers and providing teaching materials will continue in 2014.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/008/003 IR1.3 100% des écoles primaires publiques cibles dans les sonnes pédagogiques retenues chaque année sont entretenues ou réhabilitées suivant un schéma d'aménagement conforme aux principes et normes officiels.

Progress: 47 per cent of schools offering ECR classes (68 of 145 schools) have benefited from minor refurbishment/repair works) with support from UNICEF. These actions have helped to improve children's safety and hygiene and increase the number of places available. Repairs were also carried out on play areas in schools. Gradually bringing ECR classrooms, and schools in general, up to standard will contribute to children's development and improve learning conditions.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/008/005 2013 IR 1.1 : 25% des enfants de 3-5 ans, y compris ceux souffrant de handicap, suivent le programme d'enseignement coranique rénové, et 40% des enfants de 0-3 ans bénéficient de soins de santé, d'éveil et de protection sociale à travers le programme d'éducation parentale.

Progress:

14 per cent of children aged 3-to-5 years had access to preschool in 2012. Since the introduction of the RKT programme in public primary schools, as a strategy to provide access to elementary school, many young children (estimated at 6,500, both boys and girls, especially in rural areas) are enrolled each year. Thus, according to 2013 preliminary school survey data available for Anjouan Island only, the level of 14 per cent was maintained (15 per cent for girls, 13 per cent for boys). To promote health in school, medical examinations for children were pilot-tested in a few preschools. The results of the initiative led the Ministry of Health to set up an inter-sectoral committee to design a policy framework for health in the school environment. Concerning 0-3 year-olds, a parental education guide was developed to promote the integrated development approach. The document will be finalised in 2014.

Demand for elementary education is high but supply is limited as more infrastructure, equipment, pedagogical materials, teachers etc. are required. Yet, UNICEF is the only partner supporting interventions in the preschool subsector in Comoros, with the end of the Dubai Cares sponsored "Support to quality education in Comoros" project. It is essential to raise additional funds to sustain the development of preschool education in Comoros.

 Constrained

IR 6620/A0/04/008/006 2013 IR 1.2 : 90% des enfants de 6-8 ans, y compris ceux souffrant de handicap sont admis à l'école dans les sonnes pédagogiques retenues chaque année

Progress:

According to 2012 data, 50.3 per cent (49.4 per cent for girls and 51.1 per cent for boys) of children aged 6 years enrolled in the first grade of primary school have followed the RKT program, mostly in rural areas. There are no new data available yet to analyse the trend in 2013. However, assuming that the upward trend continues, a progressive reduction in repetition rates could appear as young children

enrolling in primary education are more and more prepared for school.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/008/007 2013 IR 1.3 : 100% des écoles primaires publiques cibles dans les zones pédagogiques retenues chaque année sont entretenues ou réhabilitées suivant un schéma d'aménagement conforme aux principes et normes officiels.

Progress: In 2013, 43 per cent (62 of 145) of primary schools integrating RKT classes benefited from small-scale rehabilitation (repair of doors, windows, toilets, playground, etc.) to provide a safe and conducive learning environment for children. Communities identified the schools to be rehabilitated and were closely involved in the rehabilitation work, under the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

 On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/009 D'ici fin 2014, 81% des élèves achèvent le cycle primaire avec une maîtrise suffisante des compétences de base requises et poursuivent une éducation post primaire D'ici fin 2014, 81% des élèves achèvent le cycle primaire avec une maîtrise suffisante des compétences de base requises et poursuivent une éducation post primaire

Progress:

In 2013, around 70 per cent of students completed the end of primary cycle exam, (74 per cent in Grande Comore island, 69 per cent in Moheli island and 67 per cent in Anjouan island). This constitutes a major achievement, as the target for 2014 was already reached. This progress has to do with the review of the student learning assessment system and its administration according to the Competency Based Approach. Actually, it appeared that although students were trained according to the CBA approach in the classroom, learning assessment tools had not been revised accordingly and examiners were not trained either, which was unfair to the pupils. However, despite this improvement in the system there is concern about whether students really achieve adequate mastery of the basic skills required. Therefore, it is essential to focus on student learning by strengthening teacher capacity, teaching and learning methods, and providing textbooks to help children acquire basic skills.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/009/001 IR 2.1 : Chaque école primaire publique bénéficie des matériels pédagogiques et des manuels scolaires adaptés aux programmes officiels d'enseignement .

Progress: During the first quarter of the 2012-2013 school year UNICEF provided all public primary schools (310 in total) with educational materials (chalk, geometry equipment, class registers, exercise books etc.) to improve the working conditions of current teaching staff (around 3,500 primary school teachers).

Furthermore, primary school curricula were reviewed and organised in terms of skills in order, on the one hand, to comply with the new competency-based approach (APC) and, on the other, to make them more relevant to the country's actual situation. Teaching programmes based on the new curricula were distributed and applied in all primary schools. Early learning text books reflecting new official teaching programmes were designed by national teams to offer, amongst other things, a solution to the dispersion of content between disciplines (sciences, history, geography, etc.) that teachers are confronted with. These early learning text books are being piloted in 30 primary schools. Support from UNICEF is vital for the roll-out of educational activities, as schools do not receive operational funds from the Government to purchase essential equipment to ensure that teaching and learning take place in good conditions. The trial of early learning text books will continue in 2014, so that they can be finalised and gradually rolled out at the start of the new school year.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/009/002 2013 / IR 2.2 : Chaque enseignant des écoles cibles, et les encadreurs pédagogiques du primaire bénéficient d'une formation continue et des échanges pédagogiques

Progress: The education reform underway in the country aims to promote a minimum period of schooling of eight years for every child in the Comoros. This means there is a need to develop capacity amongst teachers and supervisory staff, particularly given that in its ECR implementation strategy, the Government opted to redeploy primary school teachers in preschools.

Some 190 primary school teachers were trained, to prepare for piloting the new early learning text books (in 30 public primary schools and two private schools). Thanks to support from UNICEF, all teachers in ECR classes (around 200 people) have benefited from ongoing training on supervising young children and the use of the educational materials was made available to them (curriculum, guides and manuals).

In addition, all educational supervisors in primary schools currently in post (around 120) were also trained on both approaches (ECR and APC) to ensure that educational supervision is closely aligned with teaching approaches for better performance in the classroom.

Ongoing training for teachers and supervisors will continue in 2014.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/009/004 2013 / IR 2.1 : Chaque école primaire publique bénéficie des matériels pédagogiques et des manuels scolaires adaptés aux programmes officiels d'enseignement

Progress: 100 per cent of public primary schools (310 in total) received school materials. Contrary to past school years, when the Government was not able to provide essential supplies and equipment to schools, the situation was different in 2013. Thus, in Grande Comore Island, the governor donated school materials to all primary schools under his jurisdiction. UNICEF complemented these efforts by providing essential school materials to all public primary schools on the other two islands, Anjouan and Moheli. However, the

materials did not include textbooks, since their development (French and Math) according to CBA is in process under the supervision of the General Inspectorate of National Education (IGEN). Other textbooks on life skills that were developed according to CBA and experimented are being finalised.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/009/005 2013/ IR 2.2 : Chaque enseignant des écoles cibles, les directeurs d'école et les encadreurs pédagogiques du primaire reçoivent une formation continue et un soutien pédagogique approprié, axés surtout sur le système d'évaluation des compétences des élèves

Progress:

In 2013, MoE chose primarily to support experience and sharing of good practices to strengthen pedagogical and school management skills. These exchanges took place on Anjouan Island and reached all teachers (1,496) and headmasters (115). Similar exchanges will be organised on the other two islands in 2014.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/009/006 2013 / IR 2.3 : Le niveau de maîtrise de compétences de base des élèves en 2ème et 5ème années d'études primaires est amélioré progressivement pour favoriser l'achèvement du cycle primaire

Progress: The 2012/2013 school year started at the intended date and went smoothly, without disruptions such as teachers' strikes. This created favourable learning conditions, as evidenced by progress in internal efficiency rates. Thus, according to annual school survey preliminary data, particularly for Anjouan Island, 70 per cent of the students (71 per cent for girls and 70 per cent for boys) on average were promoted from one grade to another in primary school. This represented a survival rate of 68 per cent (67.3 per cent for girls and 68.7 per cent for boys) in 2013. It is noted that the average promotion rate is higher in the target schools where the CBA and steps to eliminate repetition between cycles are applied. This contributes to improving school retention and completion of primary education. The drop-out rate on this island is almost the same for girls (5 per cent) and boys (4 per cent).

 On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/010 D'ici fin 2014, mise en œuvre d'une approche sectorielle (SWAp) en éducation de manière à augmenter de moins 50 % les fonds destinés à l'EPT et assurer une gestion efficace et harmonisée du système

Progress:

The sector-wide approach (SWAp) applies to the implementation of the Interim Education Plan (2013-2015), which comprises three projects: GPE, AFC and PrePEEC. Under MoE leadership, approximately US\$13 million are being mobilised through these projects, representing 43 per cent of IEP funding for the primary school and sectoral management subsectors. Comoros admission to GPE helped reinforce the cooperation between the Government and its Education partners who have endorsed the Interim Education Plan. Joint coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established to achieve the IEP results.

IR 6620/A0/04/010/004 Appui au programme qui comprend l'appui direct aux partenaires et l'appui à la gestion interne du programme

IR 6620/A0/04/010/006 Education en urgence

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/010/007 2013 / IR 3.1 : La gestion du système éducatif est améliorée aux niveaux central et décentralisé.

Progress: The first action taken by MoE to strengthen planning and coordination capacities was to establish an Education Management Information System. Thus, a database application was developed which will be an important component of MoRES in education. Also, all public and private (primary and secondary) school headmasters (880) and pedagogical supervisors (120) on the three islands were trained on data collection. The 2013 school survey is ongoing with the expected publication of the annual education statistical soon. This is crucial to strengthen coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all partners' interventions in the education sector.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/010/008 2013 / IR 3.2 : L'équité, l'efficacité et l'optimisation dans l'utilisation des ressources publiques mises à la disposition de l'éducation sont améliorées dans les zones pédagogiques d'intervention à travers la gestion de la carte scolaire.

Progress:

A manual on programming and budgeting procedures based on the child rights approach is being developed in order to provide management tools which will help improve equity and cost-effectiveness for the benefit of children.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/010/009 2013 / IR 3.3 : La continuité des activités éducatives est assurée dans toutes les situations d'urgence et les dispositions de réduction de risques de catastrophes sont mises en place dans les écoles à risque

Progress: In 2013, Comoros was not affected by emergencies and hence very little education in emergency (EiE) activities were conducted in schools. However, there was EiE capacity building with the participation of two MoE officials to the regional training

workshop on resilience in education held at ESARO in Nairobi in June 2013. For 2014, 5-to- 6 MoE staff will participate in a distance training on EIE focusing on planning resilience in education organised by IIEP/UNESCO.

PC 3 - Social policy, advocacy and communication

 On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/011 YY 1 Environnement protecteur en faveur au profit des enfants est développé pour qu'ils soient protégés par les institutions étatiques, non étatiques et les communautés contre toutes les formes de discrimination, de violence, de négligence et d'exploitation par le travail afin que leur droit soit promu et respecté

Progress:

The protective environment for children was strengthened to protect them against all forms of violence, abuse and neglect. Thus, the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code were revised for harmonisation with international conventions ratified by Comoros. A monitoring group was set up by the Government to ensure that the country's commitments in the fight against trafficking of persons are implemented.

After the national conference against child labour, participants adopted a number of recommendations, among which the recent ratification of the Additional Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. One of these recommendations deals with the signing and implementation of the legislation of the Family Code as well as the compilation, publication and dissemination of texts relating to child labour, exploitation and trafficking.

Listening and protection services for abused children continued their efforts to provide legal and medical assistance to child victims of violence. They organised awareness-raising meetings on violence against children. The Board of Directors of the Riyali Organisation decided to fund listening services in Mohéli and Grande Comore for KMF44 million to strengthen their capacities. The capacities of national institutions working on child protection have been strengthened to ensure the rights of children are protected, including in emergency situations.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/011/006 2013 / IR 1.1 : Les institutions étatiques assurent la formulation, la vulgarisation et l'application du cadre juridique en conformité avec la CDE et la CEDEF et jouent pleinement le rôle de garant du respect des droits fondamentaux.

Progress:

The review workshop on the draft Criminal Code and of the Code of Criminal Procedure was organised by the General Directorate of Judicial Affairs in November 2013. The aim of the workshop was to harmonise the country's criminal legislation with the international conventions ratified by Comoros, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code in force in Comoros, which date back to 1972 and 1982, respectively. Since then, no major reform to update these codes were conducted by the Government. Some laws have been adopted, especially to complete the Penal Code or amend certain provisions, like the law of 30 August 2007 replacing and modifying certain provisions of the Penal Code. The two bills on the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code were approved by the Government in November 2013 and transmitted to the Assembly of the Union for adoption.

The national policy on Solidarity validated in 2012 was disseminated during a workshop with national and island authorities. A roll-out plan of this policy was developed by the National Directorate of Solidarity. It takes into account all of the programme priorities necessary for this roll-out over a period of five years (2014-2018).

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/011/007 2013 / IR 1.2 : Les enfants victimes de violence ont accès aux structures de prise en charge adéquate et les utilisent

Progress: A national conference on child labour was held in November 2013. It aimed to sensitise authorities, partners and civil society on the extent of child exploitation, and to define actions with specific deadlines for the fight against child labour and against trafficking in persons. Following this meeting, participants formulated several recommendations, including the integration of a section on the fight against child labour in the draft Penal Code and implementing the legislation of the Family Code as well as the national strategy for the protection of the most vulnerable children.

Coordination and monitoring of listening and protection services of children victims of violence were strengthened. With Hifadhu NGO advocacy, a number has been assigned to the listening and protection service of children victims of violence in Grande Comore. Listening services continued their activities in support of child victims of violence. Medical and legal assistance were provided to child victims of abuse and neglect. Technical support was provided to the Board of Directors of the Riyali Organisation to elaborate a framework document for submission of projects to be funded. The organisation decided to fund up to KMF 44 million listening services in Grande Comore and Mohéli.

Trainings on the protection of children, including in emergency situations, were held. About 80 people from Committees on Vulnerable Children were trained in Mohéli and Anjouan. Two officers of the National Police and Gendarmerie took part in the 5th workshop on the integration of key skills adapted to children's rights, organised in Côte d'Ivoire in November 2013.

Six Committees on vulnerable children (3 in Grande Comore, 2 in Anjouan and 1 in Mohéli) received computer equipment and office furniture to facilitate their work.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/011/008 2013 / IR 1.3 : Le Ministère de la justice assure aux enfants l'amélioration de l'accessibilité aux services judiciaires et celles des conditions de détention.

Progress:

Sixteen prison officials at jails in Moroni, Koki and Badjo, members of the National Commission of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the General Delegation of Human Rights were trained in October 2013 on human rights and the rights of the child in detention settings. This two-day training aimed to improve the knowledge of prison staff on international standards for human rights and the rights of children in detention settings. It was funded by UNICEF with technical assistance from the regional delegation for the Indian Ocean International Committee of the Red Cross. Participants were trained on several modules including those on the administrative and organisational management of penal institutions; the introduction of international standards in prisons; and principles, procedures and characteristics of juvenile detention. The capacity of the care unit of the Moroni house of arrest was improved by the provision of medical staff to ensure that detainees benefit from health services.

 Constrained

IR 6620/A0/04/011/009 2013 / IR 1.4 : Le Ministère en charge de la solidarité, de la Cohésion sociale et de la promotion du genre assure l'intégration du genre, de l'équité dans programmes nationaux et veille à l'adoption et à la mise en oeuvre d'une politique de protection sociale.

Progress:

Review of the social protection situation in Comoros shows that the formal social protection system only covers civil servants' pensions and other employees in the private sector, including coverage in case of accident and occupational disease. Thus the vast majority of the population, including workers in the informal sector and rural livelihoods, are not covered in case of loss of income due to disease, old age, disability or death of a breadwinner.

To support the development of a social welfare policy, consultations were held with the National Directorate of Solidarity, which led to the drafting of terms of reference for developing a national social protection policy. Additional meetings were held with consultants from the World Bank in relation to the situation of social protection policy in Comoros.

 Met

IR 6620/A0/04/011/010 2013 / IR 1.5 : La Direction Générale de la Sécurité Civile assure le respect des droits des enfants et des femmes dans les situations d'urgence.

Progress:

The capacity of the Directorate of Civil Security was strengthened to ensure the rights of children in emergencies are protected. A database was set up at the General Directorate of Civil Security. Evaluation forms and registration of claims were printed. Four cameras were made available by UNICEF, one to the central level and the other three to the regional directorates of civil security to better document claims. Awareness-raising brochures on the most frequent types of disasters occurring in Comoros (flood, epidemics, volcanos, etc.) were developed and distributed. Training on prevention against abuse and exploitation of children and women was held on the three islands.

 On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/012 D'ici 2012, l'administration comorienne dispose des capacités suffisantes pour la collecte et la mise à jour des données relatives à la situation des enfants permettant une planification stratégique, un suivi et évaluation fondés sur les droits et l'approche résultat et assurant la préparation et réponse adéquate en situation d'urgence

Progress: Comoros organised in 2012 the second demographic, health and multiple indicators survey (DHS -MICS 2012), following the first DHS (1996) and MICS (2000), whose data are largely out-of-date. This survey was co-funded by the Government of Comoros and the United Nations System (UNS) in particular, UNICEF and the UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). On the technical side, the DHS-MICS 2012 benefited from the assistance of ICF Macro International, which is in charge of the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) programme at the international level. This survey (DHS-MICS 2012) was intended to provide good statistical and updated data on the socio-demographic and health status of the Comorian population, in particular children and women. These data will allow progress assessment in relation to implementation of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (PRGS) and MDGs, and provide a reliable basis for the country's new national development strategy.

The final evaluation of the PRGS conducted in December 2013 revealed low economic (activities) and financial performance, despite the relevance of the strategy. Limited planning and targeting of interventions as well as lack of national capacities in monitoring and evaluation of the strategy are cited among the main constraints encountered in its implementation. It was also found that during the period of implementation of the PRGS 2010 - 2014, the conditions required for strong economic growth and favourable environment for investment were not met. The findings of this evaluation and sustainable development principles suggested retaining four strategic pillars for the new strategy of accelerated growth and sustainable development (SCA2D): (i) consolidation of political, economic and administrative governance, (ii) development of economic clusters for strong and inclusive growth, (iii) development of human capital and social protection, and (iv) promoting environmental sustainability and rational management of natural resources.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/012/001 IR2.1 2012 Systeme intégré de gestion : Le Commissariat G. au Plan dispose d'un système intégré de gestion d'informations socio-économiques, démographiques et environnementales, opérationnel.

Progress:

Preliminary results of the Demographic, Health and Multiple Indicator Survey (DHS-MICS 2012) were published in March 2013, with the support of ICF Macro International, whose technical assistance contract was renewed and extended to May 2014. Preliminary results show that the data collected through this survey were of good quality and hence the findings in the final report will be useful for policies and programmes. Indeed, with response rates of 95 per cent of all households (93 per cent of eligible women and 83 per cent of eligible men), the DHS-MICS 2012 is representative at the national level and useful for comparisons at international level.

The chapters of the final report of this survey were prepared and validated technically during a retreat, with the participation of national experts from different sectors, facilitated by ICF Macro. However, the final report will not be available before the first quarter of 2014. Consequently, an extension of ICF Macro's technical assistance contract was signed with UNICEF Comoros. Meanwhile, abstracts were prepared for each area of intervention.

Finally, the Comorian Government launched the organisation of a new population census (GPHC) in order to update the national database, which dates back to 2003. A project document was developed and validated in a workshop, with technical and financial support from UNICEF. A roadmap has been proposed describing the main phases of this exercise, with the start of data collection planned for September 2015. This project document, once approved by the competent authorities, will form the basis for advocacy, including for mobilisation of the required technical and financial resources.



On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/012/002 IR2.2. 2012 Capacités en planification. Le Commissariat G. au plan, y compris les DR Plans des Iles disposent des capacités en planification et gestion de développement incluant un cadre de suivi évaluation

Progress:

A joint mission of UNICEF and the General Commissioner of Planning, organised in early 2013, helped to disseminate their joint work plan for 2013-2014, to ensure greater ownership by the partners on the three islands. Administrative and financial procedures and monitoring and evaluation matters were discussed to strengthen the capacity to implement work-plan activities.

The half-yearly review of the Comoros-UNICEF work plan 2013-2014 was organised at sectoral level in order to prioritise activities to be implemented in the second half of the year. The annual review was held via a two-day workshop during which the Government and UNICEF assessed results achieved in 2013, the constraints encountered and adjustments that need to be introduced in the 2014 work plan. The annual review was coupled with a consultation with stakeholders on priorities for the next country programme (2015-2019), the results matrices of which were revisited and validated.

The monitoring report of PRGS implementation for 2012 indicates that some actions of Government departments do not target the priority outcomes of this strategy. Thus, the report called for aligning all the missions assigned to the Government on PRGS results for better implementation in 2013.

The UNDAF evaluation was combined with PRGS final one with the technical and / or financial contribution of UN agencies. It is a comprehensive process that has already led to the definition of the priorities of the new strategy of accelerated growth and sustainable development. The SCA2D document will be developed over the first half of 2014 under the lead of the General Commissioner of Planning.

IR 6620/A0/04/012/004 IR2.1 le CGP dispose d`1 dispositif de Systeme Intégré de Gestion d`information socioéconomique, démographique et environnementale, opérationnelle

IR 6620/A0/04/012/005 2013 IR2.2 CGP et DRP disposent de capacité planification et gestion de développement incluant un cadre de suivi et évaluation opérationnel



On-track

PCR 6620/A0/04/013 D ici fin 2012, 70% des familles ayant des enfants ont adopté des habitudes et des pratiques favorisant la survie, le développement, l'éducation et la protection des enfants

Progress:

After the validation of the communication strategy for child survival, development, education and protection, following a participatory, multi-stakeholder process initiated by the Government of the Union of Comoros with technical and financial support UNICEF, the Government, through the Ministry of Information, signed an agreement for the establishment of an inter-sectoral communication committee in charge of coordinating implementation of the integrated communication strategy. The committee was put in place, procedures were adopted and its officers were elected. The communication strategy document was then disseminated to committee members, who represent a diverse array of areas related to children. With respect to advocacy, awareness-raising materials on essential family practices, together with different communication plans for child survival and development, education and protection sectors, were developed and implemented in the field. In the area of external communication, UNICEF supported a number of international days celebrated every year. These received wide coverage by audio-visual media and the written press. UNICEF Comoros continued to publish its bi-annual newsletter Habari Sa UNICEF Comoros.

The establishment of regional committee for Grande Comoros concerning the implementation of the communication strategy for the development was completed. Establishing regional committees for Anjouan and Mohéli is planned for February 2014, and will be combined with implementation of the strategy for both islands. Partnerships with community media and local NGOs are planned for the

first quarter of 2014.

 Constrained

IR 6620/A0/04/013/003 D'ici fin 2102, 50% des menages dans les zones les plus vulnérables des 3 îles, bénéficient d'un appui renforcé de proximité pour l'adoption d'un comportement favorable définis dans le paquet d'intervention en matière de santé, nutrition et utilisation de l'eau propre au niveau de la famille

Progress:

No new CAP survey has been carried out since 2009 to evaluate household behaviours in relation to health, nutrition, water and sanitation. Nonetheless, awareness-raising campaigns aimed at changing behaviours and other communications activities are organised on the ground with parents, communities, religious leaders and the media. Communications, information and awareness-raising activities were carried out during and after the emergency caused by severe weather that struck the Comoros in April 2012. Communications tools on maternal and infant health were developed and distributed throughout the islands. Similarly, communications tools on hygiene, maternal and infant health and nutrition were being developed and distributed to schools and communities, particularly in affected areas throughout the three islands.

 Constrained

IR 6620/A0/04/013/005 3.1.1. Vulgariser la stratégie intégrée et intersectorielle de communication basée sur le développement de l'enfant

Progress: The long and participatory multi-stakeholder process initiated by the Government of the Union of Comoros with technical and financial support from UNICEF has resulted in the validation of the communication strategy for the survival, development, education and protection of Comorian children.

To support implementation of the document and achieve behaviour change among the population the Government, through the Ministry of Information, signed an agreement for the establishment of an inter-sectoral communication committee. Once the committee was set up, rules and procedure were adopted and officers elected. The mission of the Communication Committee is to coordinate and oversee implementation of the integrated communication strategy.

Operational communication plans for the areas of child survival and development, education and protection were developed and will be implemented on the ground. Communication materials on essential family practices were also developed.

 Constrained

IR 6620/A0/04/013/006 2013 / IR 3.2 : D'ici fin 2014, 50% des ménages dans les zones plus vulnérables des 3 îles, bénéficient d'un appui renforcé de proximité pour l'adoption d'un comportement favorable définis dans le paquet d'intervention en matière de santé, nutrition et utilisation de l'eau propre au niveau de la famille.

Progress: For sensitisation purposes, a national community health strategy was developed and validated with technical and financial support from UNICEF and UNFPA. To facilitate its operationalisation, an action plan will be developed in 2014.

The adoption and validation of the eight Essential Family Practices will enhance communication activities in favour of child survival. Awareness-raising tools related to these practices will be produced and disseminated in 2014, and trainings will also be organised at community level.

Communication for Development sessions for behaviour change on child survival were organised in the 17 health districts, through a network of community health workers. The sessions dealt with: promotion of immunisation, hygiene and sanitation, the use of maternal and child services health, prevention of transmission of HIV from mother-to-child, nutrition and exclusive breastfeeding.

An integrated campaign against measles was organised; UNICEF contributed technically and financially to achieving the expected results

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/013/007 2013 / IR 3.3 : Les structures étatiques, les organisations de la société civile, les partenaires au développement et les adolescents contribuent au plaidoyer et au respect des droits des enfants et de la femme.

Progress: In terms of external communication, UNICEF was highly visible in the media as a result of international days on malaria, hand-washing and water and HIV/AIDS, which are celebrated annually with technical and financial contributions by UNICEF.

Wide coverage was provided by radio, TV and print media. UNICEF Comoros also continued to publish its biannual newsletter "Habari Za UNICEF Comores". The plan for 2014 is to establish agreements with NGOs/civil society, private radio and TV to broadcast well-targeted messages on children.

At the celebration of international days, several media communications were produced and broadcast on national television and radio and the press. Press kits were distributed to the media for each event, in order to circulate information, promote child-to-child communication and sensitise different segments of the public (parents, decision-makers, and religious and community leaders). Leaflets, brochures and posters were produced to inform and sensitise the population.

An educational film on the HIV International Day was developed and disseminated through the media to inform and educate the public about this disease. A media message was also placed on a billboard in the centre of the capital.

PCR 6620/A0/04/800 Management of Human Resources, Supply, ICT, Finance, Administration, Security in support of Country Programme implementation

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/800/001 UNICEF Systems and processes are functional and sustained.

Progress:

The Office statutory committees (such as CMT, CRC, PCARC, JCC, and HRDC) continue to function effectively. The Office has frequently reviewed and revised VISION role mappings, TOA, DCT management and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). ITt has also conducted briefing sessions on the segregation of duties, TOA and VISION work processes (travel and procurement) and actively participated in the WEBEX sessions from HQ, SD and Regional Offices. Delegation of Authority memos were signed and documented. The Office has completed clearing of SOD conflicts, mitigated and had zero conflicts as of December, 2013. The Last MOSS assessment conducted by UNDSS rated UNICEF as 92 per cent MOSS-compliant. The Office has an updated BCP but has not yet tested it.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/800/002 Contribution to UN Common Services is efficient and effective and support to implementing partners is given through monitoring, assurance visits, and training. HACT activities are reinforced

Progress:

UNICEF continues to play an important role as part of the common services.

 On-track

IR 6620/A0/04/800/003 Salary and benefits are fully paid and staff development activities are carried out.

Progress:

Salaries and benefits are paid on a regular and timely basis.

Effective Governance Structure

In early April, UNICEF Comoros organised a staff retreat to review and plan the key Office priorities for 2013-2014, follow up on the concerns raised in the last staff survey, build team spirit and improve the working environment. The retreat also led to the update of the 2013-2014 Biennium Management Plan (BMP), a key instrument to ensure that human and financial resources are directed towards planned results. The BMP of 2013-2014 was developed because of the extension of the current 2008-2012 country programme to 2013-2014, to align it with the new 2015-2019 UNDAF and National Development Plan. Key management and operational priorities included: mechanisms for quality assurance (oversight and review) and coordination for programme and operations functions exist and are sustained; strategic risk management is embedded in regular activities and ICT objectives support the Office's business continuity and improvement plans; financial resources and assets are efficiently and effectively managed; safe and enabling environment is created and human resource management (including recruitment, learning, staff morale, performance appraisal, gender parity) is effectively managed; road map for new country programme for 2015-2019 is developed and the CPD/CPMP approved by the Executive Board and the PBR. These priorities were monitored through Office meetings (such as weekly All staff Monday meetings, CMT, JCC and Friday Senior Management Meetings).

The Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) met four times during the year to further enhance a participatory and enabling work environment. The Country Management Team (CMT) met five times and reviewed Office management indicators and programme implementation. It also validated the road maps for the development of a new country programme for 2015-2019. Weekly meetings were conducted to review and plan weekly programme and operations priorities. The minutes of these meetings were regularly shared with all staff. Statutory committees (such as CMT, CRC, PCARC, JCC, and HRDC) were also updated and continue to function effectively. The Office reviewed and updated the Table of Authority (ToA) twice (January and October). Delegation of Authority memos were updated, signed and documented.

The Office drafted key VISION Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the absence of global SOPs in critical business areas such as Travel, Individual Contracts, Institutional Contracts, Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) and payments. However some of these work processes were not finalised due to turnover of key staff members. Staff members continue to participate in WEBEX sessions from HQ, SD and Regional offices.

Joint assurance activities supporting the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) were planned with other UN agencies. However regular programme monitoring and financial spot-check visits were mainly conducted by UNICEF, due to inadequate commitments from other UN agencies on joint assurance plans.

Strategic Risk Management

The Office updated the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) profile during 2013. The emergency specialist from the regional office was invited to Comoros and staff were briefed on Early Warning Early Action (EWEA). As a result, the Office reviewed the status of its EWEA profile and updated it in March 2013. UNICEF Comoros shares office premises with other UN agencies resident in the country. It closely works with UNDSS and other participating agencies for strengthening MOSS compliance and staff security. UNICEF continued to remain the leading agency for MOSS compliance. With the help of ESARO, UNICEF Comoros completed for the first time ever the installation of anti-blast films for all glass doors and windows of its two office buildings. Work is also ongoing to reinforce the main gate to the UN compound as well as improvements in the screening of visitors.

The BCP was reviewed at mid-year and updated. However the change of BCP site delayed further its test. The alternate site, which was the residence of the UNICEF Representative, was changed to that of the new head of office after the former one was reassigned to another country office. As part of Operating as One, the Operations Management Team (OMT) is exploring the idea of having one common UN alternative site. Such a site is yet to be identified by participating agencies.

Evaluation

The Comorian government, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, assessed the extent of coverage after the vaccination campaign against measles in June 2013 and immunisation of routine antigens during the year to determine the socio-demographic factors influencing immunisation of children and pregnant women in the country. This evaluation showed that 93 per cent of children aged 9-to-59 months received the VAR during this campaign, which is slightly below the target of 95 per cent. The reasons given in the survey to explain why some children were not vaccinated include: ignorance about the importance of vaccination, lack of communication on the campaign and lack of information about the time of vaccination.

The internal evaluation of the competency-based approach (APC) under the Education programme was not realised because of the workload at the Ministry of Education. It will be carried out in 2014 and will provide reliable information to facilitate the decision about whether or not to generalise the application of APC at the public primary education.

Similarly, the delay in the publication of DHS-MICS 2012 final results did not allow for complete analysis of the situation of women and children in the Comoros, as expected. The Office intends to realise specific analyses when the database is available in 2014, to better understand the progress and challenges in specific areas such as nutrition, social protection to improve programming.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In collaboration with M&E staff, the ICT unit identified two initiatives for Technology for Development (T4D): "TOUNDA" and "WEBSMS". TOUNDA is a computerised database management system which will be used by the Education Commissions on the three islands. The system will collect information to track pupils in primary and Koranic schools. It will help the education commissions to better plan, coordinate and strengthen the Education Management Systems (EMIS) on the three islands.

WEBSMS is a Web-based platform to disseminate SMS messages on emergency-related information to users in different parts of the country. The system is already operational in other countries, such as Benin, and it will be rolled out in Comoros, and handled by the centre for emergency and disaster management (COSEP). It will allow better information-sharing and rapid response to various emergency situations in the country.

The local market is fairly under-developed, hence quality ICT supplies are not always available. Consequently, the Office continued to depend mainly on offshore procurement of ICT materials and services, frequently making use of global LTAs. This year, based on global LTAs, a contract for emergency backup telecommunications (BEGAN) was issued.

For emergency response and preparedness, all staff members were given VHF handheld radios, and three Thuraya Satellite Phones were provided to key staff members. UNDSS radio room conducts weekly VHF radio checks (on Fridays) and most UN staff participate in such checks.

The Office continued to participate in the DAO approach in the area of Information and Communication Technology. There is currently a common ICT room in which services of PABX and fiber optic backbone are shared between all UN agencies. The Office was sharing common VSAT with UNDP and UNFPA until recently, when UNDP decided to change its service provider, EMC. ITSS intervened in a timely manner and UNICEF service provider EMC installed a separate new VSAT for UNICEF, without additional charges. As a result, the Office benefited from a reduction in the running costs from the service provider. Nevertheless for sake of Operating as One, the Office initiated discussions within the OMT for agencies' VSATs to serve as backups to each other, to ensure business continuity for the UN as One.

ICT equipment and systems were regularly maintained and the Office fully participated in global IT projects and upgrades. Additional ICT equipment was purchased to upgrade and replace obsolete equipment. Work is also ongoing to extend Office connectivity to the residences of critical staff and other offsite locations. This will improve business continuity and boost access to critical services and corporate applications when Office

premises are inaccessible. For instance, Office connectivity was extended to the residences of Operations Manager, security focal point and Chief of CSD/Emergency Focal point during 2013.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

In recent years, not many donors have expressed interest in the UNICEF Comoros programme. Indeed, despite the submission of multiple requests to donors, very few have been approved. In 2013 the main sources of funds raised were thematic funds and One UN Programme funds. However, the Global Partnership for Education approved the request for funding submitted by the Government and its development partners (UNICEF, French Cooperation, World Bank, UNESCO, European Union, Arab Committee, Chinese cooperation, NGOs...) to strengthen the education system in Comoros and accelerate achievement of universal primary education. A grant of US\$4.6 million was allocated over a period of three years. UNICEF was designated both Coordinating Agency and Managing Entity by its peers. The first tranche of the grant in an amount of US\$1.8 million was allocated in 2013, representing about 75 per cent of the budget of the Education program. In its efforts to raise more funds to complement GPE support and further strengthen the education system – more specifically ensuring that no child is left behind and improved learning – UNICEF submitted a proposal in the amount of US\$3,336,036 to the Qatari "Educate a Child" foundation. The Office has great hopes for obtaining these funds in 2014.

The Office has set up a monitoring mechanism for donor reports and grant monitoring through Insight and SAP. For all grants that expired during the year, more than 95 per cent of the amount allocated was used before the expiry date. Of the 12 donor reports due in 2013, 7 (58 per cent) were submitted on time with the required quality, and 4 (33 per cent) failed to meet the prescribed deadline because they had to go through the Resident Coordinator's Office for consolidation with other reports produced by other UN agencies. One report was not submitted on time because it did not meet quality standards. In addition, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Health in preparing and submitting the report to GAVI.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

The last audit for Comoros was carried out in 2006. OIAI planned a remote audit during 2013, but due to lack of resources it was cancelled, and then re-scheduled for 2014. UNICEF Comoros continued to improve internal controls and financial management processes. The staff retreat held in April 2013 highlighted the need to revise work processes related to VISION. Thus, in the absence of a global VISION work process, draft work processes related to local and off-shore procurement, transportation, institutional and individual contract agreement, Direct Cash Transfer, payments, travel and PCA/SSFA were presented and discussed with all staff. However, the work processes were not all finalised due to turnover among key staff members involved.

The Office continued to improve its contributions management, budget control and financial procedures with strict monitoring of expenditure and grant expiry. As a result 100 per cent of the IB budget was utilised. The Office received \$64,260 from the Regional Contingency Fund, which was fully committed before the end of the year. Also, 99 per cent of RR was utilised and 95 per cent of ORR funds in grants expiring at the end of 2013 were committed.

HACT assurance activities were carried out by both programme and operations staff. Programme monitoring and financial spot-checks visits to different partners were carried out). Due to lack of human and financial resources, no scheduled/special audits were conducted in 2013.

In order to improve the management of DCT, specific measures were put in place to assist partners submitting requests and reports for cash advances. This effort did reduce the outstanding DCTs. For instance, outstanding DCTs of nine months or more were less than 4 per cent; 8 per cent were outstanding for 6-9 months.

The HACT Committee held discussions with a number of partners on all islands about HACT procedures and

guidelines. This work highlighted the need to strengthen further the capacity of our partners. It was therefore recommended that more orientation/training sessions for partners be included in the 2014 assurance plan. This will be an annual requirement, due to high staff turnover among Government employees.

In the absence of a micro-assessment for new partners, a quick assessment on financial management capacity was conducted for a new partner (Ministry of Labour). In 2014, UNICEF Comoros is planning to undertake micro-assessments of new implementing partners identified for the new country programme cycle (2015-2019).

Year-end closure of activities, including Bank reconciliations, was completed as per the established DFAM deadlines.

To better manage Office property and equipment (PP & E), a number of obsolete items were disposed of after recommendations by the PSB committee and approval of the Representative. Some of these items, such as ICT equipment, were donated to partners and schools, while others (such as vehicles) were sold. Total revenue from such sales was US\$7,518.09. In addition, two of the vehicles on loan were transferred to implementing partners. Disposal, donations and transfers were recorded in the asset management module of VISION.

Supply Management

The only staff member working on the Supply function for UNICEF Comoros resigned at the end of March 2013. A senior supply assistant was recruited in April to replace him. However, after four months, the new staff member also went on extended leave. The Office had to recruit a TA/supply for six months. This has caused a staffing gap in the supply unit. Nevertheless, the supply plan was finalised, together with programme sections, in April 2013. Actual total value for essential goods procured during the year 2013 was US\$2,057,222. This represents 99 per cent of the supply plan (\$US2,080,274).

CCO continues to make efforts to engage local suppliers and encourage local procurement as much as possible to avoid long delays in delivery and high freight costs, but the capacity of the local market is still inadequate and locally available supplies are limited, which compels the Office to continue to depend on offshore procurement.

This year, the value of off-shore procurement represented 38 per cent of total procurement; local procurement accounted for the remaining 62 per cent. This is mainly due to printing of primary school manuals for the education section, which represented 46 per cent of the total value of local procurement. Six institutional contracts were issued, with a total value of US\$253,084.33. One of these contracts alone (MIC/DHS ending June 2014) amounted to US\$243,527. In addition, the Office has issued a total of nine LTAs for printing, transportation and office supplies. The majority of local suppliers fail to meet target delivery dates, making supply work very challenging.

It is important to highlight that poor infrastructure, limited shipping transport between the islands and expensive airfares and sea freight rates continue to be major challenges affecting in-country supply logistics. Long delays are often experienced even for transportation of goods within Comoros islands.

The Office does not maintain a warehouse, and programme supplies are directly delivered to implementing partners. The Office uses Government warehouses for transit and pre-positioning of emergency supplies. These supplies are also handed over to the managing Government entity, the centre for emergency and disaster prevention (COSEP - Centre des Operations de Secours et de la protection civile). The MOU with COSEP for managing and prepositioning emergency supplies was updated and signed in December, 2013.

Total value of Budget used for procurements by section:

Programme	Value in US\$
Health	757,024
Education	596,094

Social Policy, Child Protection and Communication	261,157
ICT/Office Supplies/Operations	442,948
TOTAL	2,057,223

Total of Local and Offshore Value of Budget used by section:

Programmes	Local Value in US\$	Offshore Value in US\$
Health	274,850	482,174
Education	596,094	0
Social Policy/Child Protection and Communication	17,630	243,527
ICT/Office Supplies (Operations)	396,666	46,281
Total	1,285,240	771,982
Percentage of Total Value	62 %	38%

Human Resources

During 2013 three posts became vacant after long-time serving staff members left the duty station. The Senior Supply Assistant resigned from UNICEF at the end of March; the Representative's driver retired, and the Administrative and Finance officer was transferred to another office at the end of July. The Office spared no effort to identify and recruit suitable candidates, advertising widely in different fora to attract competent staff. The positions were all filled within established KPI period. The Office also recruited two staff members on TA in 2013. Four of the newly recruited staff members were females. The Office continued to closely monitor gender ratios and is fully committed to achieving gender parity. Currently, CCO gender statistics are 24 staff members (nine females, 15 males).

The learning committee provided guidance for the preparation and implementation of the 2013 staff learning plan. The committee met several times to validate and monitor the implementation plan. The learning plan was based on global, regional and office priorities. In accordance with organisational principles, staff members were encouraged to undertake e-learning courses and to identify other opportunities for career development and self-learning. The Office managed to implement three of four planned group trainings, including: Training on Pension Benefits, Competency-Based Interview (CBI) and Emergency Preparedness and Response. Thirteen of 20 planned individual trainings courses were also completed. For the first time, the Office has trained a PSV counsellor and a Respectful Workplace Facilitator (RWF). Both staff members organised briefing sessions for all staff members to ensure that staff are aware of resources that are locally available. The total amount spent on training in 2013 was US\$39,995.81.

Comoros is francophone, and majority of staff experience challenges in training opportunities which are mainly available in the English language. With the assistance of regional HR team, the Office has made an effort to encourage staff to enrol in the online Rosetta English courses. Currently eight staff members are benefiting from this training. All staff have completed Integrity Awareness Training. Two staff members completed DLC courses and another one completed SLDP course. One staff member completed a UN Coherence Course organised by United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC).

The Office continued to strengthen monitoring of the completion of staff PERs. As a result, 100 per cent of 2012 PERs and 100 per cent individual work plans for 2013 had been completed by March, 2013. The Office also developed and updated annual leave plans, and the CMT regularly monitored the plan to encourage work-life balance.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The Office continues to participate in the Common Premises and Common Services with other UN agencies (UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, IMF) as part of Operating as One. A common Genset was installed and shared by all

agencies. This reduced fuel consumption for individual agencies. In 2013, UNICEF chaired the UN Operations Management Team (OMT) and presented its work plan, budget and progress to the UN Country Team (UNCT) for endorsement. This gave an opportunity to expose UNICEF staff members to the UNCT operating environment, to lead initiatives that benefit UNICEF and the UN System while understanding the complexity of Operating as One and reducing transaction costs for all UN agencies.

Changes in AMP & CPMP

2014 will be the last year of the current Comoros Country Programme, which was extended from 2012 to 2014. Last year the Office developed a BMP to bridge the 2103-2014 extension. In 2014 the Office will be completing a new CPMP for 2015-2019. The proposed changes will be effective from 2015; otherwise no significant changes are expected in the 2014 BMP/CPMP.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

BCP – Business Contingency Plan
 BMP – Biannual Management Plan
 C4D – Communication for Development
 CBA – Competency-based Approach
 CBI – Competency-based Interview
 CMT – Country Management Team
 COSEP – Centre des Opérations de Secours et de la Protection Civile (Emergency Operations and Civil Protection Centre)
 CPD – Country Programme Document
 CPMP – Country Programme Management Plan
 CRC – Contract Review Committee
 CSD – Child Survival and Development
 DAO – Delivering As One
 DCT – Direct Cash Transfer
 DHS / MICS – Demographic and Health Survey / Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
 DLC – Dynamic Leadership Certificate
 EiE – Education in Emergencies
 EMC – Emerging Market Communications
 EMIS – Education Management Information System
 EPI – Extended Program of Immunisation
 ERM – Enterprise Risk Management
 ESAR – East and South Africa Region
 EWEA – Early Warning Early Action
 FDI – Foreign Direct Investment
 GAVI – Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation
 GPE – Global Partnership for Education
 HACT – Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer
 HDI – Human Development Index
 HIPC – Heavily Indebted Poor Country
 HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
 HRDC – Human Resource Development Committee
 ICCM – Integrated Community Case Management
 ICT – Information and Communication Technology
 IDRC – International Development Research Centre
 JCC – Joint Consultative Committee
 JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency
 KPI – Key Performance Indicators
 LTA – Long-term Agreement
 M&E – Monitoring and Evaluation

MDG – Millennium Development Goal
 MNCH – Maternal, New-born and Child Health
 MoRES – Monitoring of Results for Equity System
 MOSS – Minimum Operating Security Standards
 MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
 MTSP – Medium-term Strategic Plan
 NGO – Non-governmental Organisation
 OIAI – Office of Internal Audit and Investigation
 OMT – Operations Management Team
 PCA / SSFA – Program Cooperation Agreement / Small-Scale Funding Agreement
 PCARC – Program Cooperation Agreement Review Committee
 PRGS – Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy
 PSV – Peer Support Volunteer
 RWF / A – Respectful Workplace Facilitator / Adviser
 SCA2D - Strategy of accelerated growth and sustainable development
 SLDP – Senior Leadership Development Program
 SOP – Standard Operating Procedures
 SUN – Scaling Up Nutrition
 TOA – Table of Authority
 UN – United Nations
 UNCT – UN Country Team
 UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework
 UNDP – United Nations Development Program
 UNDSS – United Nations Department of Safety and Security
 UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
 UNFPA – United Nations Fund for Population Activities
 UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund
 UNS – United Nations System
 UPR – Universal Periodic Review
 VHF – Very High Frequency
 WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
 WHO – World Health Organisation

Document Centre

Evaluation

	Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
1	Rapport Preliminaries EDS - MICS	2013/001	Survey
2	Enquete de couverture vaccinale	2013/002	Survey

Other Publications

	Title
1	Habari za UNICEF-COMORES - Les nouvelles de l'UNICEF- COMORES