

UNICEF ZIMBABWE

Sectoral Report for Child Protection for January to December 2016



Submitted in March 2017

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Cover Photo: UNICEF Zimbabwe/2016

Caption: Martha, one of the beneficiaries of ending child marriage related interventions, receives counselling from Lucy on gender based violence prevention and her rights.



1.0 Executive Summary

UNICEF's Child Protection Programme is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and other related international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children (CCC) also provides a guiding framework for the child protection programme. The interventions of the child protection programme seek to meet the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2016-2030. At a country level, the programme was guided by the UNICEF Country Programme (2016-2020). 2016 was the first year of implementation of the UNICEF Zimbabwe Country Programme (2016-2020). The Country Programme (CP) 2016 – 2020 is being implemented in line with the UNICEF Global Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017. Furthermore, in 2016, the final push was made to meet the commitments as per the National Action Plan (NAP) II for 2012-2015, while laying groundwork for the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) III 2016 -2020. The child protection programme contributes to the ZUNDAF (2016 – 2020) priority area on social protection.

UNICEF Zimbabwe in partnership and collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and the donors (namely DFID, SDC and SIDA) are implementing the *Child Protection Fund (CPF) II to support the implementation of the National Action Plan for Children (NAP III)*. In addition, USAID is also leveraging resources for Child Protection and Social Protection interventions through providing funding support to the DREAMS programme. UNICEF supported the development of NAP III 2016-2020 programme document and its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, harmonized M&E tools and data-flow processes. The CPF II, which commenced in August 2016 has a stronger focus on violence prevention, information management, sustainability of HSCT and governance structure/capacity.

In 2016, the Government of Zimbabwe adopted the long awaited National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF). While Zimbabwe has a long history of Social Protection Provisioning, the Country did not have a single guiding policy on the delivery of Social Protection. The policy lays firm ground to end scattered and uncoordinated social protection interventions, thereby maximizing the Country's chances of getting better returns in Social Protection investments. The approval by Cabinet will serve as a platform for not only holding the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) accountable to the vulnerable people in the country but also other Ministries so that they respond to children and provision of social protection support. The NSPPF was launched together with the NAP III and CPF II in December 2016.

Despite the limited fiscal space, the government budget allocations for social protection are spread across various programmes and have been increasing in the recent years. Further, Government release into "Harmonized Social Cash Transfer" (HSCT) has seen a significant improvement in recent years: Of the released funds in 2013, none was invested HSCT, followed by 17 per cent in 2014, 18 per cent in 2015 and a 100 per cent pledge in 2016. As the HSCT budget line includes both HSCT and Public Assistance (PA), the Ministry makes a decision of how much goes to HSCT or to PA. Previously a greater portion of released funds went to PA. Increased government contribution into the HSCT is a result of sustained UNICEF advocacy efforts and will go a long way in ensuring the HSCT financial sustainability and building donor confidence.

The HSCT programme continues to present good value for money with about 85% of the cash going directly to households while 15% went toward operations. The HSCT reached a cumulative figure of 64,274 households in 23 Districts in 2016. UNICEF also continued child protection systems strengthening with a particular focus on the national case management system (NCMS). A total of 23,944 children (11,458 Male, 12486 Female) with statutory cases were assisted through the NCMS.

UNICEF supported development of a costed Legal Aid Directorate (LAD) 5-year strategy, costed multi-sectoral protocol on management of sexual violence, and the guidelines and training guidelines on clinical management of sexual violence. 529 children were diverted from the formal justice system with a recidivism rate of less than 3%. Since June 2016, the GoZ agreed to cover the salary of 14 out of 17 Diversion Officers deployed in 5 districts, and as of end of 2016, Government is now fully paying the salaries of all 17 diversion officers.

UNICEF has been instrumental in supporting the Government and the civil society towards achieving a successful inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination to end child marriages. Both women's and children's rights coalitions came together for the initiative and worked with the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development (MoWAGCD), and other relevant an inter-ministerial committee was established to address the issue in a coordinated manner.. In January 2016, the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe outlawed marriage below the age of 18. This has resulted in an increased commitment from the GoZ to take action towards ending child marriages. With support from UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA, MoWAGCD developed a National Action Plan and a Communication Plan to End Child Marriages were developed and adopted in October 2016 by the Ministers. A complementary campaign led by Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development (MoWAGCD) with support from UNICEF and CSO partners reached more than 5,000 people. UNICEF has significantly contributed to the development of an Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy (ASRHS) led by UNFPA by lobbying for inclusion of issues related to child marriages and Gender Based Violence (GBV).

In 2016, in response to the El Nino induced drought, sector coordination was enhanced. UNICEF leads the Protection sector which has the GBV sub-sector and Child Protection (CP) sub-sector. The sector now has a humanitarian strategy and work plan and is working on mainstreaming of CP in Nutrition, Wash, Food Security/Livelihoods and Social Protection. Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for CP in humanitarian settings are also being developed. Finally, a situation and response monitoring framework has been developed for Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE), including mapping of 5W's.

UNICEF revived Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) discussions with the Registrar General Department (RGD) in charge of Births and Deaths after years of limited engagement. UNICEF, in close collaboration with UNECA and UNICEF ESARO, provided technical assistance to enable the production of long-awaited comprehensive vital statistics (VS) report in Zimbabwe. Discussions with UNECA are underway to engage the Government to conduct the CRVS Country Assessment before the next and fourth Ministerial Conference in 2017.

Zimbabwe presented its second State party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in January 2016. Following the Committee's Concluding Observations, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Government to develop an integrated plan of action to address both CRC and AU Committee recommendations.

UNICEF would like to thank all donors who contributed to the achievements outlined in this report, with a special mention to the Government of Sweden for the flexible thematic funding support. We look forward to continued collaboration in 2017 to achieve more results for the women and children of Zimbabwe.

2.0 Strategic Context of 2016

2016 was the first year of implementing the UNICEF Zimbabwe Country Programme 2016 - 2020 which is being implemented in line with the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children, UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2016 – 2030. UNICEF, through its Child Protection Programme worked towards having **more children in Zimbabwe, especially adolescent girls and children without appropriate family care, to be protected from violence, abuse and exploitation and benefit from improved response systems as per its new country programme commitments.**

The UNICEF Zimbabwe Child Protection programme is guided by the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017, UNICEF Zimbabwe Country Programme 2016 – 2020, the Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF 2016 to 2020) and also the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2016 – 2030). The specific SDGs to Child Protection (CP) are namely, **SDG 4** (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all) which emphasises the importance of providing safe, non-violent, inclusive environments for all; **SDG 5** (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) which aims to end all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, and eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage; **SDG 8** (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) which states to take immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms including recruitment and use of child soldiers; **SDG 11** (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) which talks about accessibility for persons with disabilities; and finally **SDG 16** (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) which aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths everywhere; end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children; and by 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration.

In the first year (2016) of the Country Programme 2016 – 2020, UNICEF's child protection work continued to be strategically enshrined under the framework of the National Action Plan for Children III (NAP III) and its financial framework Child Protection Fund (CPF). The CPF centres on systems strengthening, focusing on increasing the most vulnerable families' access to child justice and social services and building back the national social protection system to emphasize children and HIV in

support of the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (NAP). The CPF's goal is to secure the basic rights of the most vulnerable children in Zimbabwe through provision of critical child protection interventions within a child and HIV sensitive social protection framework.

The 2016 UNICEF child protection programme was also informed and guided by various studies, research and evaluations. For instance, the National Baseline Survey on Life Experiences of Adolescents (NBSLEA, 2011) shows that vulnerability is not limited to orphan hood or household poverty. Data shows that violence against children is widespread and cuts across age, gender, and socio-economic status (SES). The secondary analysis of the National Baseline Survey on Life Experiences of Adolescents (NBSLEA) finalized in 2016 reveals, after controlling for age and SES, the significant risk factors for experiencing violence varied for both boys and girls depending on the type of violence they experienced. The one risk factor that was common for both boys and girls across all types of violence was having early childhood experiences (before the age of 13 years old) of abuse thus highlighting the importance of early intervention. The same study also found that all forms of violence against children place a significant burden on children and young adult's health and well-being. Emotional abuse is associated with increased suicide attempts for both boys and girls, and sexual violence was associated with reported lifetime experiences of suicide ideation, unwanted pregnancy, alcohol use among both girls and boys and smoking among boys. The study on social norms and violence against children was also concluded towards the end of 2016. Those findings will guide UNICEF Zimbabwe's violence prevention work currently being developed. The social norms study contributed to development of a Theory of Change (ToC) for the Strategy for Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health in 2016.

While Zimbabwe continued to restore and strengthen systems for child protection, the availability of services in districts remained inadequate due to insufficient funding, low staff capacity, weak referral pathways and concentration of efforts in urban areas. Despite the UN system's joint effort in 2016, the legislative/constitutional realignment process has been slow. There are still quite a number of statutes to be integrated in the national legislation such as the minimum age for marriage, defining and preventing corporal punishment and having a specialized justice system for children. On a positive note, on 19th January 2016, the Constitutional Court ruled that the Marriage Act, which allows girls as young as 16 to be married with their parents' consent, and the Customary Marriages Act which does not set a minimum age for marriage, were unconstitutional and recognized 18 years as the legal minimum age of marriage. This ruling follows the 2013 Constitution which stipulates that "*no person may be compelled to enter marriage against their will*" and calls on the state to ensure that "*no children are pledged into marriage.*" This development initiated new interest and accelerated action towards ending child marriages in Zimbabwe. UNICEF together with its partners including UN Women supported various actions, including the development and adoption by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development (MoWAGCD) of a National Action Plan to End Child Marriages.

Recovery of social systems is still highly dependent on external support, and several risks continue to threaten the sustainability of gains. These include: economic slowdown, limited ability of the Government to finance key child protection interventions, and likely resource demands in the event of a large-scale or persistent natural disaster (drought, flooding or disease outbreak). While there is a decline in the number of registered social workers, there seems to be a growing awareness of the need

to fill case management and other social service functions with social workers. Given this background, there is a serious concern on the availability and quality of supervision of social workers. This is aggravated by the lack of Advanced Degree trained social workers who can work with complex statutory cases such as abuse, violence and children with mental health issues.

In 2016, the El Niño induced drought affected most parts of Southern Africa, including Zimbabwe, where 4.1 million people were estimated to be food insecure. The drought has negatively impacted the girls and women in Zimbabwe. A rapid child protection assessment that was undertaken between February and March 2016 revealed child protection and Gender Based Violence concerns. Some families opted to withdraw their children from school, while others sent their children to work in harsh conditions such as gold panning. Not surprisingly, there has also been reported cases of children becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The February 2016 ZimVac report by the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) also confirmed an increase in sexual and physical violence, teenage pregnancies and child marriages which were triggered and exacerbated by chronic shortages of food and cash and as primary care givers left in search of job opportunities.

The increase in teenage pregnancies predisposes more adolescents and their children to risk of medical, psychological, developmental, and social problems. Poverty, lower educational level, and inadequate family support seem to contribute to a lack of adequate prenatal care, which may account for the majority of negative psychological and development outcomes for both the adolescent mother and her child. Early motherhood is generally associated with depression, poorer educational outcomes and social- economic difficulties. These include; failure to complete formal education and comprehensive age-appropriate sexuality education; intimate partner violence, which impacts on risk and health-seeking behaviour; inadequate access to good-quality sexual and reproductive health information, commodities and services.

3.0 Results in the Outcome Area

This section details the results achieved, strategies used and the bottlenecks addressed during the course of 2016 towards realising the commitments for Child Protection. **Flexible thematic funds** from the Government of Sweden were instrumental to compliment comprehensive achievement of strategic results in child protection including access to justice for children in contact with the law, prevention of gender based violence, birth registration and strengthening of the national case management system. In 2016, UNICEF focused on having better coordination between case management and the justice players as defined in the multi-sectoral protocol for management of sexual violence for which the flexible funds from Sweden were crucial. Thematic funding also aided the overall achievement of the child protection programme through staff salary support and other cross sectoral costs which have been valuable in delivering the overall results for children in 2016.

[Output 6.1 Increased capacity of Government and civil society organizations \(CSOs\) to provide safe access to quality comprehensive and coordinated child protection services that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, and are sustained in humanitarian situations.](#)

In 2016, the Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services (DCWPS) recruited provincial child welfare officers and district officers to fill in vacant positions thereby strengthening supervision and

technical support for implementation of the National Case Management System (NCMS) for child protection. UNICEF also continued to contribute towards improvement of data reporting and caseload analysis by separating child welfare and protection cases and accounting for double counting. A total of 23,944 children (11,458 Male, 12,486 Female) with statutory cases were assisted through the NCMS.

The humanitarian challenges arising from the El Nino induced drought led to the establishment of an interagency humanitarian coordination mechanism for Child Protection in 2016. The purpose of the mechanism is to coordinate humanitarian child protection interventions in the 10 drought affected districts. A UNICEF Emergency Child Protection Coordinator secured through a standby arrangement provided support for strengthening child protection surveillance and capacity building of community-based mechanisms for timely identification, reporting and referral of child protection cases.

With support from the flexible funds provided by the thematic funds, UNICEF continued to support the Victim Friendly System to implement the multi-sectoral protocol which complements the NCMS. 1,729 children (96 males and 1,633 females) benefitted from justice services provided through the Victim Friendly Court System. Thematic funds were also used to support the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to have regular coordination at both national and local levels as per the multi-sectoral protocol as well as to bridge the funding gap resulted through the reduced funding to JSC by Save the Children. It should be noted, the JSC committed to take over the full salary of the VFS coordinator as of mid-2016, as result of UNICEF advocacy. Negotiations are on-going with the JSC to have this position to be funded by the Government.

Output 6.2 Increased capacity of communities and families in target districts to practice behaviours and demonstrate attitudes which protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation.

In 2016, UNICEF was closely engaged with child rights and women's rights groups to support the Government towards elimination of gender based violence (GBV) with a focus on ending child marriages. This accelerated work was partly as a result of the landmark ruling of the January 2016 Constitutional Court ruling. The awareness raising work towards ending gender based violence and informing girls about where to seek services reached 7,602 girls through different awareness raising modules. In addition, the ending child marriages campaign supported by UNICEF reached 4,696 girls with messages around the constitutional court ruling and GBV (see table below).

Intervention and partner		Children		Adults		Total
		Boys	Girls	Men	Women	
Community Dialogues	Padare	-	-	1,119	166	1,285
	AWET	-	-	-	3240	3240
	JCT	-	-	2,264	1,060	3,324
Theatre Performances	Vuka Afrika	3,461	4,696	2,365	3,110	13,632
Workshops, conferences	AWET (Gweru)	-	-	-	385	385
	JCT	-	-	-	64	64
	REPSSI	-	-	53	145	198
Total		3,461	4,696	5,801	8,170	22,128
U-report						40,000
GRAND TOTAL						62,128

The Drivers of Violence against Children (VAC) study and the Social Norms strategy for violence prevention were concluded in 2016. The child protection programme through the Joint Programme on Ending Gender Based Violence (JGBV) hosted a social norms strategy development retreat bringing together key stakeholders from across sectors to review and validate findings of the drivers of violence against children study. The cross-sectoral governance structure of the study was instrumental in securing cross-sectoral responses to the findings of the study. The strategy outlines theories of change for three key areas of intervention identified through the study:

- Prevention of child marriages
- Prevention of adolescent partner violence
- Prevention of violence in educational settings

Both the study and strategy have a specific focus on violence affecting adolescent girls. This includes child marriages, adolescent intimate-partner-violence (IPV), forced sexual debut and unwanted pregnancies. The strategy builds a strong case for inter-sectoral work (health, HIV and education) to address violence against adolescent girls. As part of the Drivers Study, several policy and data briefings have been prepared and are ready for production/distribution in 2017.

Going forward, interventions guided by the above data will be piloted under the CPF II. Even though full implementation of the strategy will begin in 2017, the findings of the study already provided strategic inputs to some policy documents and initiatives related to prevention of GBV and violence against children, especially adolescent girls, such as the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy, the School Health Policy, the National Action Plan to End Child Marriage (NAPECM) and the campaign to end child marriages.

The programme has been exploring ways to revitalize Family Clubs and other similar family-focused interventions such as parenting orientation programmes. A national assessment on Family Clubs commissioned in 2016 will greatly contribute to re-programming of Family Clubs that takes into consideration key variables like family-constellation, age and disability. This assessment will also look at potentials of parenting initiatives in preventing violence against children, with special attention to gender/age dimensions, for instance assessment of opportunities for parenting initiatives to prevent violence against adolescent girls (including child marriage, forced sexual debut and early pregnancy). Findings from the assessment will contribute to the development of training modules for Child Care Workers (CCWs) to regularly interact and engage with vulnerable families for child protection through support for Family Clubs. These will be implemented in 2017.

UNICEF has supported the development of a training curriculum for the CCWs. The curriculum development process is aimed at ensuring that the CCWs training is organized, focused on child protection and contributes to the better management of statutory cases that enter the system. The flexible funding from SIDA has been instrumental in ensuring that ending gender based violence and child marriage are targeted as priority areas within the country programme.

Output 6.3 Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling up quality rights- and gender-sensitive child protection services for vulnerable children and their families.

In 2016, the GoZ adopted the National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF). Government also adopted the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children III (2016-2020) which envisions to support the most vulnerable children and families by improving their access to child protection services reinforced by social protection strengthening household and community economic resilience. Building on the NSPPF, UNICEF has been strongly advocating for operationalizing harmonization of social protection programmes including establishing a single registry Management Information System (MIS) for social protection. In collaboration with WFP, UNDP, World Bank and FAO, UNICEF hired a global MIS expert in November 2016 to work on developing an integrated Social Protection MIS. This is ongoing.

In 2016, UNICEF along with UNFPA and UN Women supported the MWAGCD to develop a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage which was adopted in October 2016. UNICEF also supported a Communication for Development (C4D) campaign for ending child marriage. The awareness raising work as part of the JGBV programme and the campaign have reached more than 5,000 women, men, girls and boys in 8 districts.

The pre-trial diversion piloted for the last 3 years with support from UNICEF and Save the Children, has been taken over by the Government whereby as of end of 2016, all of the 17 pre-trial diversion officers are being funded by the MoJLPA. Two of the recommendations from the legislative review supported by UNICEF were included in the recently approved General Laws Amendment Act of 2016. The Children's Act Amendment Bill is awaiting Cabinet approval. Once approved, the Act will harmonize the discrepancies in the definition of a child that is currently resulting in child sexual abuse cases being given low or no custodial sentences.

UNICEF supported MoPSLSW to conduct case management business process analysis as the first step to re-design the case management MIS. A detail roadmap to redesign and pilot MIS was developed in November 2016. UNICEF also technically assisted the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZRHC) to develop training material for child-sensitive detention monitoring which will be used in 2017 in order to institutionalize the tools and approaches to ensure deprivation of liberty is a last resort.

UNICEF is actively exploring options to maintain the scope of the HSCT programme, including negotiations with the World Bank (as part of their re-engagement discussion with the Government), UNDP resilience fund and donors supporting the humanitarian response. The Harmonised Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) programme is now implementing a new grievance-handling system. This development is expected to increase grievance resolution, a weakness recorded from the previous system. The programme now has clear communication documents to guide any future beneficiary exit. To date, the programme has not exited any beneficiaries as the Government has pledged support for HSCT. UNICEF also reviewed the existing HSCT operational manual to make it more target-specific and user-friendly. Three separate draft HSCT operational manuals have been developed: one for community level stakeholders, a second for the district level stakeholders and the last for higher level clients such as policy makers. The full roll-out is pending adoption of new HSCT payment modality (e-payments) in 2017. The HSCT risk identification and mitigation continues to be prioritized, with the adoption of new risk mitigation templates that assess gross and net impacts of the identified risks.

Output 6.4 Strengthened economic capacity for the most vulnerable households, including those affected by HIV and AIDS, to protect children from practices that expose them to violence, abuse and exploitation in target districts.

The HSCT reached a cumulative figure of 64,274 households in 23 Districts in 2016. The programme did not transit to electronic payments in 2016, but procurement processes to get a service provider with the capacity to deliver electronically are nearing conclusion.

The number of CPF-supported Districts was reduced to 8 owing to funding constraints. The Government has committed to take over payments in 11 Districts. With USAID-funded DREAMS, 4 new Districts were added to the HSCT. In these 4 districts, enrolment is targeted towards labour-constrained and food-poor households with adolescent girls and young women aged 10- 24 years. The HSCT delivery modality was upgraded to include on-site provision of complimentary services like HIV and disability services (Cash + model). Further, UNICEF is working towards linking child protection service providers with WFP to provide services at the WFP food distribution points. Collaboration with the WFP in harmonisation with HSCT has progressed as far as linking databases for beneficiaries to allow for transfer of beneficiary households between the two programmes.

The Cash Plus model was used through the 23 pay points, transforming pay points to a broadened social services. UNICEF is actively exploring options to maintain the scope of the HSCT programme including negotiations with the World Bank (as part of their re-engagement discussion with the Government), UNDP resilience fund and donors supporting the humanitarian response.

Results Assessment Framework

Output 6.1: Increased capacity of Government and civil society organizations (CSOs) to provide safe access to quality comprehensive and coordinated child protection services that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect,	Standard Indicator - "Municipalities that implement local protocols for the protection of children from violence, abuse and neglect "	2016	30	Partially achieved	28	The major success for 2016 is that UNICEF supported the Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services (DCWPS) to strengthen supervision and implementation of the National Case Management System (NCMS).	On-track
	Number of children (girls/boys) in target districts receiving timely and appropriate protection services through the National Case Management System	2016	40,000	Partially achieved	23,944 children (11,458 Male, 12,486 Female)		

and are sustained in humanitarian situations.	Number of districts with a fully functioning integrated Case Management System	2016	18	Partially achieved	16		
	Percentage of districts with multi-sectoral response package of services for victims of sexual violence in place	2016	30	Partially achieved	25		
Output 6.2: Increased capacity of communities and families in target districts to practice behaviours and demonstrate attitudes which protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation.	Costed national plan/strategy on child marriage is implemented	2020	Yes	Partially achieved	An NPA was developed in 2016. It will be costed in 2017	Finalisation of the Drivers of Violence against Children study and subsequent Social Norms Strategy have been the highlight of 2016. The Child marriages campaign was launched reaching more than 20,000 people towards implementation of the NPA on Ending Child Marriages.	On-track
	Percentage of children (age, sex disaggregated) in selected districts who believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife under certain circumstances	2020	25% decrease	Data unavailable	will be updated with MICS data		
	Percentage of targeted parents reached by programmes addressing child-rearing practices	2020	75	On-track	Family clubs assessment underway to inform new parenting orientation programme		
	Availability of a strategy with and evidence-based C4D plan for preventing and responding to violence against children	2016	Yes	Fully achieved	NPA to end Child marriages and its communication strategy developed and a Social norms strategy is in place		

Output 6.3: Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling up quality rights- and gender-sensitive child protection services for vulnerable children and their families.	Incidence of violence against children reported	2016	25			The National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF), the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children III (2016-2020) and NPA to End Child Marriages were adopted by the government in 2016.	On-track
	Availability of data on violence, exploitation and abuse in the country for at least the previous year	2016	NBSLEA Reports, Case Management Reports, Social Norms Research, Childline Secondary Analysis Available	Fully achieved	NBSLEA Reports, Case Management Reports, Social Norms Research, Childline Secondary Analysis		
	Incidence of violence against children reported	2016	18 %	Fully achieved	ZDHS 2015 The VAC study yet to be finalised		
	Costed National Plan/Strategy on Child Marriage is implemented	2016	NPA developed	Fully achieved	NPA to end child marriages developed. It will be costed and implementation will start in 2017.		
	Functional management information system (MIS) on child protection rights institutionalised and used for monitoring and reporting by government (MoPSLSW and MoJPLA)	2016	Case management business process analysis is completed	Fully achieved	The system has been reviewed by Palladium as well as the data collection tools have been drafted. The MoPSLSW with support from UNICEF is in the process of finalizing the MIS business process		
	A separate juvenile justice system with clearly defined age, sex/gender-appropriate procedures and services in line	2016	No	Partially achieved	Discussions underway with the MoJLPA and MoPWLSW about a separate Child Justice Act.		

	with international norms is in place						
Output 6.4: Strengthened economic capacity for the most vulnerable households, including those affected by HIV and AIDS, to protect children from practices that expose them to violence, abuse and exploitation in target districts.	Number of labour constrained and food poor HHs receiving social cash transfers	2016	64000	Partially achieved	61,640	Districts funded by the Child Protection Fund and benefiting from Harmonized Social Cash Transfers were reduced to 8 due to funding constraints. Government committed to cover 11 districts. Nearly 85% of cash goes to households. Cash+ turns cash-points into integrated social service provision hubs. This improves efficiency and effectiveness.	On track
	Number of HHs with children receiving social cash transfers	2016	56,353	Partially achieved	51,937		
	Number of children (boys/girls) benefitting from social protection interventions	2016	145000	Fully achieved	170,113		
	US \$ value and % government expenditure on cash transfer programme that benefit children	2016	18,6	Fully achieved	500,000 has been earmarked, representing 25% of total budget of US\$2m. The funds have however not yet been released 70.5 % 1,200,000/1,700,000 of government allocated amount.		

3.1 Key Strategic Partnerships and Inter-Agency Collaboration

In order to move the child protection agenda further, UNICEF strategically partnered with different key players in 2016. Government adopted the National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) which was supported by a broad alliance of development partners, UN agencies, academic institutions and CSOs. Building on the NSPPF, UNICEF has been strongly advocating for operationalizing harmonization of social protection programmes including establishing a single registry MIS for social protection. In collaboration with WFP, UNDP, World Bank and FAO UNICEF hired a global MIS expert in November 2016 to kick start the development of an integrated Social Protection MIS.

In the area of justice, UNICEF has been a member of the Justice Law and Order Sector, and raised justice for children issues through that platform such as promoting diversion as a way towards prison decongestion. At a practical level, UNICEF promoted partnerships to strengthen the linkages between the justice sector and the welfare sector so that the rights of children in contact with the law can be addressed from both sides. To support and strengthen government capacity for delivery of service for children in contact with the law, UNICEF entered into partnership agreements with non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) for provision of specialized child protection services. UNICEF also worked in partnership with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, the Law Society of Zimbabwe and the Magistrates Association of Zimbabwe to secure commitments to child protection in their different areas of work.

3.2 Value for Money

UNICEF continuously seeks opportunities to improve on value for money. One way of pursuing this has been to undertake independent reviews of the efficiency and cost effectiveness of child protection services delivery partnerships. This includes independent reviews of UNICEF's technical support to civil society partners and government, as well as regular reviews of UNICEF's internal processes for quality, accountability and for improving cost effectiveness. UNICEF conducts thorough programmatic and financial reviews for all service and supply contracts so as to ensure that the services or supplies procured are in line with programme objectives and are of the highest quality. Throughout 2016, the HSCT programme continued to present good value for money with 85% of the cash going directly to households while 15% went toward operations. UNICEF, in 2016, continued its shift in programme emphasis where more capacity building work of government agencies was supported as opposed to direct service provision. By capacity building of government, more vulnerable populations can be reached with available resources, while a sense of government ownership is sought which is a foundation for building a culture of sustainability within government structures.

3.3 Constraints, Challenges and Lessons Learned

Despite an increase in child protection caseload intake in the national case management system, a referral pathway analysis revealed that the case management and referral processes as defined in the multi-sectoral Protocol need to be strengthened. Similarly case management business process analysis conducted in 2016 also suggests that some cases coming into the case management system are not properly categorized according to Statutory or Non-Statutory status. This leads to some cases not being referred to the responsible Government Department, hence they are less likely to receive the statutory support required as per the legal frameworks. UNICEF has been addressing these risks at both policy and strategy levels as well as operational/field implementation level with respective partners.

The programme has identified fragmented decentralized data and lack of a central system (such as case management MIS) to offer a national picture on child protection violations as a serious challenge, which is being addressed through the development of the MIS system under the NAP III.

While strides had been reported in enhanced government social welfare workforce, the number of social workers available to service statutory cases remains very low. Recent developments have seen government moving towards cutting down on the civil service wage bill, which will likely impact more on the child welfare department where vacant positions cannot be filled despite an increase in resignations by incumbent staff. There is also uncertainty over the proposed merger of the child welfare department and the social services departments where the fear of job losses has also negatively impacted government capacity to deliver services linked to its mandate.

The overwhelming majority of the National Case Management workforce are Community Child Care Workers (CCWs) in communities affected by the El Nino induced drought. There are no special measures for supporting community cadres to mitigate drought impact on them, which is an area UNCIEF will focus on in 2017.

More investigation is required to understand why only a small proportion of child protection cases are reaching the System (despite the specialized Victim Friendly Courts being available). This will also guide what is needed to improve the quality of service for children survivors processed through the Victim Friendly System (VFS). The VFS sub-committees remain untapped potential for identifying bottlenecks and activating trouble-shooting protocols at a district level.

Although there are strong aspirations within the existing response mechanisms to provide necessary support for survivors of GBV and violence against children (VAC), a gap remains in terms of operationalization of Place of Safety for adolescent mothers. Necessary harmonization of the standard operation procedures for shelters and places of safety and the Children Act's Safe Placement Procedures for Children are yet to be reached. While establishing shelters, and community based options for places of safety can be an expensive undertaking, the first step would be for the two line ministries to agree on a way forward with clear roles and responsibilities.

The National Action Plan to End Child Marriages has been adopted by the MoWAGCD but awaits approval at the higher level before being launched. There are many actors (with different level of competencies and capacities) involved in efforts to end child marriages. Bringing those actors together through a coordinated approach has been quite an undertaking. The coordination capacity of MoWAGCD needs to be enhanced and the inter-ministerial committee should be more actively engaged.

Programme financial sustainability still remains a major challenge owing to government's constrained fiscal capacity and space to allocate and release funding to child protection. The fiscal space is getting even more constrained and government's capacity to support staff costs is likely to be compromised, at least in the short to medium term.

3.4 Risk Assessment and Risk management

In order to address financial risks, UNICEF applies the UN Standard Framework called the "Harmonized Approach of Cash Transfers" (HACT) to Implementing Partners (IP). This approach calls for a closer alignment of development aid with national priorities and needs. The harmonised approach allows efforts to focus more on strengthening national capacities for management and accountability, with a view to gradually shift to utilizing national systems. The first stage of the HACT is to conduct a Micro-Assessment of the IP's financial management systems. The findings of the Micro-Assessment primarily guide the frequency and coverage of assurance activities (spot checks) and capacity building for enhancing financial systems of the IPs. The results of the micro-assessments informs UNICEF's 'risk mitigation measures' which will determine the level of cash disbursement and the frequency of financial verification – spot checks that can be disbursed to IPs.

In addition to this, in 2016, UNICEF Zimbabwe continued to implement Results Based Programme Management (RBM) to ensure that all available financial and human resources support achievement of planned results. In 2016, UNICEF staff participated in a mandatory RBM training in order to strengthen internal capacity for better implementation of the RBM in UNICEF programming. Risk management practices in decision making, planning, and programme implementation were used following the best practices that facilitate integration of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) into the key business processes, and support effective decision making. UNICEF proactively and systematically identified, assessed, managed key risks, and assigned ownership for risks. A Risk Implementation Plan was established with clear indication of targets, indicators and reporting mechanisms. The implementation of the planned risk mitigation actions were reviewed by the office management team as well as during Mid-Year and Annual Programme Reviews. UNICEF has a financial disclosure and conflict of interest declaration policy for key staff. Staff go through ethics and integrity awareness training and the organisation has a zero tolerance policy on fraud and corruption

In 2016, UNICEF continued to strengthen risk mitigation within the CPF Programming. As part of systems strengthening, UNICEF assisted the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare (MoPSLSW) to develop a broad risk mitigation strategy for its programmes. The initiative was borne out of the work that initially commenced from financial management capacity building. Recommendations from the financial capacity building pointed to the need for broad risk mitigation strategy for the Ministry. This strategy provided a framework that gave greater appreciation for programme specific risk mitigation measures such as for the HSCT.

For the HSCT, building on the existing risk mitigation matrix, UNICEF utilised the DFID risk registry template. The template, provided a deeper appreciation of risk through identification of risk, gross consequences¹ and net consequences². The appreciation of gross and net consequences enhances informed decisions on risk tolerance. Further, UNICEF supported the development of an HSCT complaints and grievances mechanism. The system is designed to strengthen the response mechanism to all raised grievances and complaints. Grievance and complaints handling is an important component in building accountability to beneficiaries. During 2017, UNICEF will strengthen the grievance handling system with a view of linking the grievances to the MIS. Also, in 2017, some districts will be moved from the Cash in Transit (CIT) modality to the electronic payments. To mitigate for the possible risks, UNICEF will develop a complementary risk mitigation strategy designed to deal with this new modality.

To manage the partnerships with civil society organisations (CSO), UNICEF continued using quarterly progress review meetings to ensure that programmatic issues are addressed as they arise. In order to enhance partnership and collaboration between CSO partners of child protection services and MoPSLSW, an emphasis was made throughout the year that all child protection statutory cases be referred/reported to statutory workers in the MoPSLSW as part of the national case management system. Despite having the protocols and procedures in place, the frontline workers do not always know or adhere to them. Some bottlenecks can be loss of knowledge as a result of high turnover of staff, transportation and high costs associated with some of the services. The draft National Case

¹ Gross consequences refers to the loss that programme will likely suffer if risk mitigation measures are not put in place

² Net consequences refers to the loss the programme may suffer in the event of the occurrence of the risk in spite of measures put in place.

Management Workforce Curriculum to be piloted in 2017 will address the accountability framework for case management.

4.0 Financial Analysis

The planned budget in 2016 for the Child Protection Outcome Area from UNICEF's Regular Resources, and Other Resources (Regular and Emergency) was **US\$17,340,001** as shown in Table 1 below

**Table 1: Planned Budget for Outcome Area 6: Child Protection
Zimbabwe**

Output Areas	Funding Type ³	Planned Budget ⁴ (US\$)
06-07 Child Protection # strengthen families and communities	RR	600,001
	ORR	16,740,000
Total Budget		17,340,001

The Government of Sweden remained committed to supporting UNICEF Zimbabwe with country specific thematic funding for the year 2016. The thematic funds from Sweden were central to the far-reaching achievement of strategic results in case management, access to justice and disability specific work under the Child Protection Fund II. Thematic funding also aided the total achievements of the child protection programme through staff salary support.

Table 2 below illustrates that the country specific thematic funds received in 2016 for outcome area 6. These amounted to **US\$2,305,700**

**Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to Outcome Area 6: Child Protection
Zimbabwe**

Donors	Contribution Amount ⁵ (US\$)	Programmable Amount ⁶ (US\$)
Sweden	2,305,700	2,154,881
Total	2,305,700	2,154,881

Within the Child Protection outcome area, the greatest expenditure incurred in 2016 related to activities for enhancing capacities of children and their families to protect themselves and eliminate practices and behaviours harmful to children. Expenditure under this organizational target accounted for 60% of the total expenditure for the outcome area as shown in table 3 below

³ RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources – Regular, ORE: Other Resources – Emergency.

⁴ Planned budget for ORR and ORE does not include estimated recovery cost.

⁵ Contribution amount: This is the total amount received from SIDA - Sweden

⁶ Programmable amount: This is the amount available for programming which is derived from contribution amount less cost recovery

Table 3: Expenditures by Programme Area for Outcome Area 6: Child Protection Zimbabwe

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount ⁷ (US\$)			
	Other Resources - Emergencies	Other Resources – Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
06-01 Data and Child Protection		195,700	54,028	249,728
06-02 Child Protection systems	38,185	5,997,738	765,350	6,801,273
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse		295,179	333,272	628,451
06-04 Justice for children		204,878	9,819	214,697
06-07 Child Protection # strengthen families and communities	660,797	10,985,008	270,632	11,916,436
Total	698,982	17,678,502	1,433,100	19,810,584

The total expenditure for the outcome area was **US\$19,810,584** (as shown in Table 3 above). Table 4, below, shows the components of this expenditure that were directly supported by thematic funding. Table 4 shows that the total 2016 expenditure on thematic funding was **US\$732,940**. The funding was key in enhancing the national capacity of child protection systems.

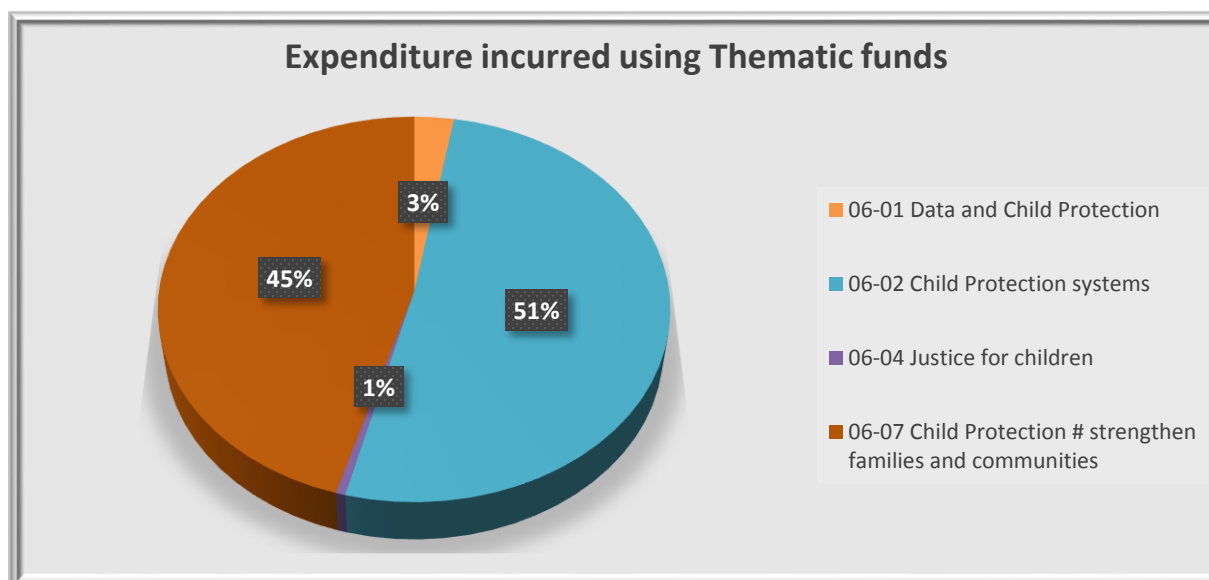
Table 4: Thematic expenses by Programme Area for Outcome Area 6: Child Protection Zimbabwe

Organizational Targets	Total Utilised ⁸ (US\$)
06-01 Data and Child Protection	20,058
06-02 Child Protection systems	375,381
06-04 Justice for children	3,989
06-07 Child Protection # strengthen families and communities	333,512
Grand Total	732,940

The pie chart below illustrates the expenditures incurred using thematic funds in 2016

⁷ Expenditure figures provided do not include recovery cost, and are indicative figures obtained from UNICEF Performance Management System

⁸ Total Utilized figures exclude recovery cost and are indicative figures obtained from UNICEF Performance Management System

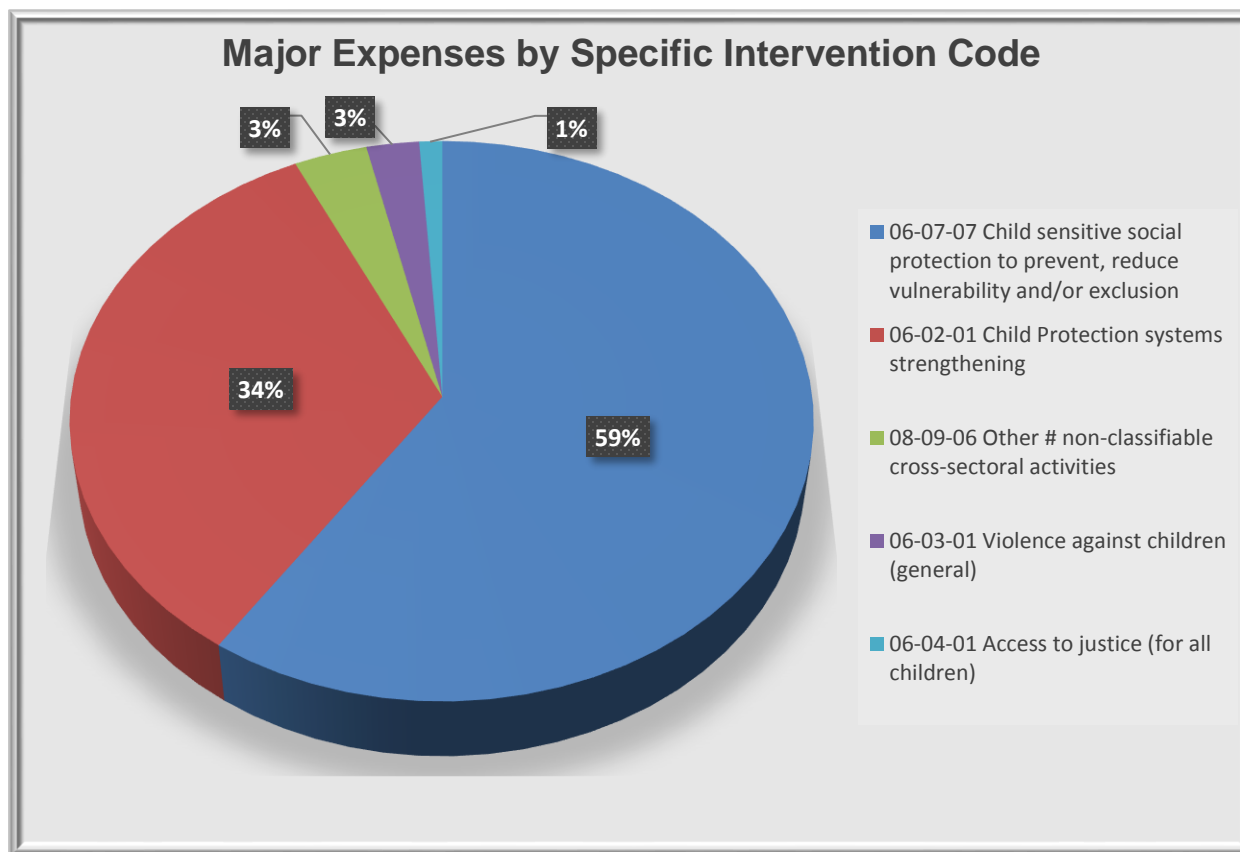


UNICEF also analyses expenditures using Specific Intervention Codes (SICs). Specific Intervention Codes refer to one of four codes that are used to identify an activity in UNICEF's Performance Management System. In 2016, the following were the major expenses incurred in the child protection outcome area, analysed using Specific Intervention Codes.

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes for Outcome Area 6: Child Protection Zimbabwe

Specific Intervention Code	Total Utilised (US\$)
06-07-07 Child sensitive social protection to prevent, reduce vulnerability and/or exclusion	11,330,871
06-02-01 Child Protection systems strengthening	6,392,188
08-09-06 Other # non-classifiable cross-sectoral activities	658,875
06-03-01 Violence against children (general)	473,304
06-04-01 Access to justice (for all children)	206,527
Total	19,061,764

The pie chart below illustrates the major expenses by specific intervention code.



5.0 Future Work plan

In 2017, Child Protection interventions will be guided by the Theory of Change developed for the CPF II (2016-2020). This has four key focus areas:

- Supply side of child protection system: improving child protection services to meet specific needs of vulnerable children (age, gender, disability, etc.)** This component aims to improve the national case management system to timely and appropriately respond to violence against children. Interventions will be guided by systematic caseload analysis as a foundation to understand the situation of violence against children in Zimbabwe as well as the level of performance of the national case management system.
- Demand side of child protection system: Increasing capacity of children, parents and communities to prevent and respond to violence against children.** This component will be guided by a series of violence against children studies carried out in 2015-16. The programme will develop evidence-informed violence preventions in pilot districts – particularly targeting parenting orientation and adolescent girls and boys peer-support groups.
- Enabling environment for child protection:** Strengthening institutional capacity to generate and use evidence for policy, programming and financing. One of the key milestones for 2017 is the development of case management MIS. UNICEF Zimbabwe has been using recommendations from

the case management business process analysis to plan the development of a new case management MIS. The development of a robust MIS is critical for improving the NCMS and reducing risk. The main conceptual difference in the revised MIS is a fundamental understanding of the business processes involved in case management, and the need for an MIS that can reflect and support these. Some of the key functions include:

- Supporting essential case management roles, such as identification, triage, allocation and tracking
 - Improving efficiency through standardized data collection and automatic reporting
 - Addressing systems risks at the individual case level (e.g. identify cases in need of review/lost to follow up) and system level (e.g. case type disaggregation, avoid double counting)
 - Increasing accountability mechanisms by providing mechanisms to accurately monitor the timing and quality of key case management events
- **Social Protection for violence prevention:** a Cash Plus model to link HSCT and the national case management system. The programme will continue support a Cash Plus model in 8 HSCT districts, introducing an active screening of ‘at risk’ households amongst the HSCT beneficiaries and link them with different services and support – including parenting orientation and adolescent girls support groups.

**Table 6: Planned Budget for 2017 Outcome Area 6: Child Protection
Zimbabwe**

Output	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
06-01 Increased Institutional capacity	RR	120,000	100,000	20,000
	ORR	4,000,000	3,123,000	877,000
	ORE	1,000,000	960,000	40,000
06-02 Capacity for Community CP	RR	115,000	100,000	15,000
	ORR	1,847,000	1,328,000	519,000
	ORE	232,000	200,000	32,000
06-03 Capacity for CP policy, Data	RR	200,165	165,000	35,165
	ORR	2,345,445.00	1,545,000.00	800,445
	ORE	65,000	27,000	38,000
06-04 Social Protection	RR	0	0	0
	ORR	16,800,000	11,370,000	5,430,000
	ORE	733,555	555,300	178,255
Sub-total Regular Resources	RR	435,165	365,000	70,165
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular	ORR	24,992,445	17,366,000	7,626,445
Sub-total Other Resources - Emergency	ORE	2,030,555	1,742,300	288,255
Total		27,458,165	19,473,300	7,984,865

6.0 Expression of Gratitude

UNICEF Zimbabwe would like to extend its gratitude to the Governments of Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for supporting the results achieved through the child protection programme in 2016. Special thanks goes to the Government of Sweden for providing country specific thematic funding that enabled the country office to be more responsive to the issues affecting children with greater flexibility. The flexible support enabled innovative quality assessment models and investments in capacity building as explained in the progress report. Finally, UNICEF is grateful to the Government of Zimbabwe for providing leadership in the implementation of activities within the thematic area.

List of Acronyms

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1999
Fad	Africa Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AMTO	Assisted Medical Treatment Orders
A2J	Access to Justice
AU	African Union
CA	Convening Agent
CCW	Community Childcare Workers
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women Case
CMO	Management Officer
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CFP	Community Focal Person
CPEA	Criminal Code, Criminal Procedures, and Evidence Act
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DANIDA	Denmark's development cooperation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DCWPS	Department of Child Welfare and Protection Services
DCWPSO	District Child Welfare and Protection Services Officer
DSS	Department of Social Services
EFZ	Evangelic Fellowship of Zimbabwe
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FST	Family Support Trust
GBV	Gender based violence
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSCT	Harmonized Social Cash Transfers
ICT	Information and Computer Technology

ICMF	Integrated Case management framework
ISAL	Internal Saving and Lending
JCT	Justice for Children Trust
JGBV	Joint Programme of Gender Based Violence
JSC	Judicial Service Commission
LCCW	Lead Community Childcare Workers
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoJLPA	Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
MoU	MoU Memorandum of Understanding
MoPSE	Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
MPSLSW	Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
MWAGCD	Ministry of Women's Affairs Gender and Community Development
NAP	National Action Plan for OVC
NBSLEA	National Baseline Survey on Life Experiences of Adolescents
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSPPF	National Social Protection Policy Framework
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PCA	Partner Cooperation Agreements
PCWPSO	Provincial Child Welfare Protection Services Officer
PSSO	Provincial Social Services Officer
PTD	Pre-trial Diversion
RBM	Results-based management
SADC	Southern African Development Cooperation
SAYWHAT	Students And Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team
SDG	SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
ToR	Terms of Reference
UDACIZA	Union for the Development of Apostolic Churches in Zimbabwe Africa
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UoE	University of Edinburgh
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VFC	Victim Friendly Court
VFM	Value for Money
VFU	Victim Friendly Unit
WHO	World Health Organisation
WLSA	Women and Law in Southern Africa
ZDHS	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey
ZGC	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
ZNASP	Zimbabwe National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan
ZWLA	Zimbabwe Women's Lawyers Association

Annex 1: Human Interest Stories

Second chances: The importance of Pre-trial Diversion (PTD)

I am 16 years old and the first born of three. We stay with our parents. One day, I went to Jet clothing store in Harare where I stole clothes. The guard did not notice that I had stolen so I was able to leave the store with the clothes. I then decided to go to another Jet store outlet where I again stole more clothes. However, as I was leaving the store, the security guard asked to check my bag. On seeing the clothes, he asked me if I had paid for them and I lied that I had. However, since I did not have the receipt, he took me to the manager's office. They told him to take me to the other store to verify whether I had actually paid for them or not. On the way to the store, I confessed to the guard that I had stolen the clothes and that he should forgive me. He was too angry and took me to the manager of the other store.

They called the police who came and arrested me. They called my mother and told us about the Post trial diversion (PTD) programme. A diversion officer was called. When she arrived she referred us to Contact Family Counselling Centre (CFCC). They counselled me every Friday for three weeks. After the third session, I asked my counsellor if it was ok for me to go back to the store and apologise to them. She agreed and even transported me there. I apologised for my actions and asked for forgiveness. I felt I really needed to.

I am sorry for my actions. I am glad I was caught because this experience has taught me five major lessons: that what I did was very wrong, that my actions not only have an impact on me but my whole family especially my mother; that I should be content with whatever I have; that I need to choose my friends carefully and; that being a first born I need to be a role model to my siblings which I cannot do if I end up in prison.

A survivor of abuse supported by through the Victim Friendly System (VFS)

Netsai (not her real name) is now 18 years old. After getting her O Levels, she stopped going to school. Her parents separated a long time ago. She lives with her father and step mother in Harare. Her mother is married to a peasant cotton farmer in Gokwe and has two children out of that union. In November 2015, after getting the blessings from her father, Netsai visited her mother in Gokwe.

There are two huts at the homestead of her mother, one used as a kitchen and the other one used as a bedroom. Netsai did not intend to stay for a long time in Gokwe. She requested her mother to provide her money to go back to Harare but the step father said that they didn't have money for the bus fare. One day, Netsai's uncle, brother to her mother, fell sick in Harare. Her mother wanted to go to Harare to check her brother together with Netsai but her husband refused saying Netsai should stay behind

and care for the little ones. On the first day her mother went to Harare, Netsai wanted to sleep in the kitchen, but the stepfather told her that she had not come with blankets as such she should sleep in his room with her siblings.

Nothing happened on the first day. On the second day, her stepfather started smoking dagga in the bedroom. The other children were asleep when the step-father force carried Netsai onto the bed. She screamed but he choked her. He removed her pants and raped her twice during that night. The following day, her mother came back from Harare and Netsai reported the matter to her mother. Her mother told her not to tell anyone for the sake of her siblings, and sent her to Harare immediately.

After she was back in Harare her relatives started noticing some changes in her. She started vomiting and exhibiting pregnancy symptoms which forced her relatives to take her to a clinic where she was tested for pregnancy. The result came out positive. She was asked about the pregnancy and she pointed out her stepfather as the culprit. She revealed the sexual abuse matter. A medical affidavit was compiled and a report made to the police in Harare where she was attended by a victim friendly police officer. Immediately, the nurses requested for Termination of Pregnancy from the courts.

The docket was transferred to Gokwe and an arrest was made. The Netsai had to come to court on numerous occasions as the trial was underway and she was beneficiary to witness expenses which are provided by the courts. The perpetrator was represented by a defence lawyer and the matter took a long time to reach a conclusion. Finally, in September 2016 this matter was finalized by a Magistrate who sentenced the perpetrator to 18 years in prison, of which two were suspended on conditions of good behaviour.



UNICEF/2016/Beneficiaries of UNICEF GBV prevention work