

# UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

## Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section Thematic Funds Report

January- December 2016



In 1993 in China, children with hand-painted cat masks on their heads, play in the courtyard of their school, in the capital city of Urumqi, Xinjiang province.  
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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations

CCA – Climate Change Adaptation

CCT – Conditional Cash Transfer

CO – Country Office

CSG – Child Support Grant

CT – Cash Transfer

DRM – Disaster Risk Management

DSW – Department of Social Welfare

EAP – East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

EAPRO – East Asia and the Pacific

EPRI – Economic Policy Research Institute

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

LIFT - Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund

LTAs - Long-Term Agreements

MCCT – Maternal and Child Cash Transfer

MoF – Ministry of Finance

MPSAR – Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform

NSPSP – National Social Protection Strategic Plan

OPM – Oxford Policy Management

PFM – Public Finance Management

PF4C – Public Finance for Children

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

SPEA – Social Policy and Economic Analysis

SPPF – Social Protection Policy Framework

UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund

## Executive Summary

*“The most successful countries moving forward to 2030 will be those whose leaders recognise now that the future of inclusive social development and equitable economic growth depends more than ever on investments in children”*

East Asia and the Pacific is a highly diverse region, covering countries with widely varying levels of economic development and geographic and social contexts. UNICEF regional office’s Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section supports country offices and is engaged in regional work in the areas of poverty reduction, social protection, local governance and decentralization as well as public financial management.

### **Cognitive Capital**

In 2016, our Section introduced a concept – Cognitive Capital – that injected new dynamism into UNICEF’s work in the East Asia and Pacific region. The most prominent source of economic growth in the coming decades lies in cognitive capital which cannot be mined or traded but rather must be carefully cultivated by the most forward-looking of policies. Cognitive Capital denotes the aggregated results of investments during the earliest years of life, when children’s bodies and brains are evolving faster and with more important, lasting ramifications than during any later period in life. Investments during this period are not only morally imperative, but also yield high economic returns on investments. Cognitive capital represents the complete set of intellectual skills, primarily nurtured prenatally and in early childhood, that determines human capabilities. It refers to cognitive skills, as well as socioemotional and executive function skills that allow for creativity, flexibility and ability to work collaboratively; skills that will be crucial for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economies. The concept was introduced during the Third High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in Asia and the Pacific – “A Billion Brains: Smarter Children, Healthier Economies”, and resonated well with the large number of high level government officials from nearly 30 countries present at the meeting.

The growing momentum for policies promoting interventions aligning with the above concept – focusing on young children and their mothers – was reflected in the fact that an increasing number of countries in the region are making their social protection programmes more child-sensitive. For instance, Thailand’s child support grant, which after years of UNICEF advocacy was put in place in 2015 and provided cash to poor children from age 0-1, has already been extended to children in age 0-3 and also its benefit amounts has been increased.

### **Public Finance for Children**

The financial/ economic realities of growth in a region such as East Asia and Pacific are a crucial determinant of child wellbeing and equity. Without taking into account the financial side of policies, big shifts towards a more child-sensitive policy environment will not be possible or sustainable. Against this background, UNICEF is getting increasingly involved in leveraging better planning and implementation of resources – a programming area known as Public Finance for Children (PF4C). The regional office developed a method – in collaboration with UNICEF Pacific and Oxford Policy Management (OPM) – to track and monitor expenditures for children, which was successfully piloted in Fiji and Solomon. Both countries are now set to track and monitor expenditures for children in the years to come. This will help governments to understand the extent to which they are investing in their children and helps UNICEF to advocate for scaling up investments in children. In Thailand and in the

Philippines, UNICEF examined equity triggers in the government's planning and budgeting process, highlighting opportunities for steering domestic resources allocation towards the more disadvantaged families.

## **ASEAN**

Apart from supporting work at the country level, the regional office is active in regional networks, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). During a UNICEF-ASEAN meeting in July 2016, the ASEAN Secretariat agreed to include a set of joint actions on child-sensitive social protection over the first 1,000 days of life in the period 2017-21. In addition, together with ILO progress was made to strengthen social protection as a tool to prevent and respond to disasters during a tripartite seminar with ASEAN member states in November in Manila.

Thematic funding has been a major enabling factor for the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific to support Country Offices in their efforts to collaborate with national partners, harness resources for children and strengthen equity-oriented systems and policies. Similarly, it has been instrumental for EAPRO to collaborate with international partners and regional organizations, build partnerships and successfully advocate for adopting child-sensitive, equity oriented objectives and approaches in their policies and processes. We express our deepest gratitude to our donors and look forward to continuing our joint efforts for children in the years to come.

## Strategic Context of 2016

Countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region continue undergoing a rapid transformational period, which brings benefits as well as challenges to children. The region has been a leader in global poverty reduction, making significant progress along the Millennium Development Agenda while witnessing a dramatic demographic transition.

At the beginning of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, an estimated 700 million people are still living in extreme poverty in the region, and children are disproportionately represented among the poor. Furthermore, disparities remain high and/or have been on the rise. Available data show that with the exception of Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand household incomes have become even more concentrated amongst the better off within societies over the last decade. Children in the poorest income quintile are far more likely to be excluded from essential services, such as health care, water, sanitation and social protection, than those in higher quintiles. Girls and boys with disabilities are a particularly high risk of exclusion from services.

Moreover, high economic growth rates have been escorted by high and/or widening income inequalities and large social economic disparities, entailing a significant price in human, social and environmental terms. Estimates put the number of children left behind in rural areas by parents migrating to urban centres for work over 100 million. Many more children have been exposed to internal or external migration across the region and they often have limited access to services. Health costs of air and water pollution in China is estimated at about 4.3% of its GDP according to UNESCAP. Economic potential has also been affected by widespread loss of natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

UNICEF strives to reduce disparities and improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable children across the East-Asia and Pacific region. Harnessing national capacity and resources for inclusive social policies for children requires awareness and capacity building that strengthens governments' focus on the specific needs of children and the best policies and systems to promote children's well-being. Building on the long-standing relationships with national governments and its subnational presence, UNICEF's role in this region is to leverage national resources for children while continuing to strengthen national capacity to develop and implement child sensitive policies, programmes and systems.

While the region as a whole has achieved remarkable economic and social development progress remains fragile in many ways while it is increasingly affected by climate change in recent years. As the most disaster-prone region in the world, frequent disasters, exacerbated by climate change, threaten especially the Pacific Islands and the Philippines. Geography and extreme climate pose very different type of challenges in Mongolia. Furthermore, national capacity to implement child-friendly policies and deliver services for children remains particularly limited in countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. UNICEF's strategy in EAP takes into account the diversity of countries and specific needs.

## Results in the Social Inclusion Outcome Area

UNICEF's 2014-2017 Strategic Plan has identified Social Inclusion as one of the key global outcome areas for disadvantaged children. UNICEF's theory of change suggests that understanding the patterns and drivers of child poverty and exclusion is essential for effective responses, such as legislation, policies and budgets that reflect equity principles and the human rights of the child. Because disadvantaged families face particular barriers to demand and access essential services, social inclusion and policy responses should focus on scaling up child sensitive social protection systems which reduce vulnerability, improve resilience to external shocks and help humanitarian responses. In EAP, the on-going expansion and reform of national social protection systems offer particular opportunities for UNICEF advocacy and technical assistance to address child poverty and exclusion in holistic ways. Similarly, the importance of domestic resources for social sectors means governments are strongly interested in enhancing public financial management and the quality of local governance; objectives which hit a chord with UNICEF's focus on results based budgeting and participation.

UNICEF EAPRO's Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section's work focuses on three main areas:

### *Child poverty and social protection:*

- To be able to address poverty, it is crucial to understand *who* the poor are, *where* they are located and *why* they are poor. EAPRO's work in the area of child poverty and social protection includes direct, in-country support to child poverty research and to the operationalization of child poverty; advocacy for child-sensitive social protection, linked to Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA); and strengthening regional partnerships. Through these efforts, EAPRO contributes to increasing awareness of the problem of child poverty and the importance of social protection in the region, identifying determinants of child poverty and to the design and implementation of concrete social protection measures to lift children out of poverty.

### *Public finance for children (PF4C):*

- In order to achieve national development goals for children, it is crucial that children are explicitly incorporated in the planning, budgeting and monitoring of policies. To achieve this and as a response to the rapid decline in development assistance upon the attainment of the Middle Income Status of many countries in the region, UNICEF aims to engage Ministries of Finance in child-sensitive Public Finance Management through the regional Public Finance for Children Initiative (PF4C). PF4C intends to strengthen links between policy and planning to budget allocations. By focusing on effective budgeting for those social sectors that serve children, long-term outcomes for children are improved. EAPRO's public finance management activities include support to country-level PF4C efforts as well as scaling up of regional partnerships.

### *Local governance and decentralization:*

- Quality service delivery at the local level is crucial for children's health, wellbeing and development. A major bottleneck for quality services for children are capacity gaps at the level of sub-national governments, which are being given increasing responsibility for service delivery as decentralisation reforms continue. Gaps exist both in financial capacity, the funding available to sub-national governments to fund services, and in administrative capacity, the ability to oversee and deliver services in a way that meets the needs of children. As sub-national

governments are responsible for large proportions of total social sector expenditures, sub-national budgeting and the allocation of resources to sub-national governments are important determinants of the resources available for services for children.

Technical support to Country Offices, assistance to enhance development effectiveness, support to research and knowledge generation, partnership-building as well as south-south intergovernmental cooperation have contributed to the following results achieved in 2016:

**The Third High Level Meeting on Child Rights – “A Billion Brains: Smarter Children, Healthier Economies”: Increased momentum among governments in the region to invest in children**

Ageing populations and climate change make it imperative to replace out-dated growth strategies with updated ones that better fit 21st Century economies in East Asia and the Pacific. In this context the regional office’s Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section in collaboration with the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) developed the concept "Cognitive Capital", framing the 3rd High Level Meeting in Child Rights in Kuala Lumpur this November. The meeting, “A Billion Brains: Smarter Children, Healthier Economies”, highlighted the moral importance and the economic potential of using an integrated set of investments during the first 1,000 days of life and in adolescence, to ensure that children’s cognitive and socio-emotional capacities are developed to their full potential.

The concept builds upon clear evidence that cognitive ability is significantly affected by childhood circumstances – right from the point of conception. Children who experience good nutrition, stimulation and secure environments are most likely to reach their full cognitive potential. Investments in cognitive capital - “the complete set of intellectual skills, primarily nurtured in a child’s first 1000 days”. Investments to ensure environments that nurture children’s cognitive capital are therefore for countries across the region aiming to participate in an increasingly competitive global economy.

The above reasoning as well as the concept of cognitive capital and its implications for countries in terms of (social protection) policies received considerable buy-in among the many high-level government officials from 26 countries across the region, such as ministers/secretaries/directors of various ministries, including Ministries of Welfare, Health, Education and Finance. The increasing interest of government to invest in their youngest population members is reflected in much of the country-level results described below, all achieved with support from the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office Social Policy and Economic Analysis section.

**ASEAN: Increased regional focus on child-sensitive, disaster-oriented social protection**

During a [UNICEF-ASEAN](#) meeting in July 2016, the ASEAN Secretariat agreed to include a set of joint actions on child-sensitive social protection over the first 1,000 days of life in the period 2017-21. In addition, together with ILO progress was made to strengthen social protection as a tool to prevent and respond to disasters during a tripartite seminar with ASEAN member states in November in Manila.



## Country level results in Social Protection and Poverty Reduction

Investing in children through social protection offers governments in the region one of the most effective instruments for realizing the rights of children and setting economies on a sustainable path. Unfortunately, in many parts of Asia and the Pacific, government spending on child-focused social protection is low in absolute terms, and low by comparison with all other regions of the world except Sub Saharan Africa. Addressing childhood and parental vulnerability and disadvantage contributes to economic growth, and the best way to do this is for greater investment in social protection programmes. An increasing number of governments in the region are committing to making their social protection systems more child-sensitive, including those in Cambodia, Indonesia, Fiji, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The results listed below have been achieved with continuous support and guidance from the regional office's Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section.

In Cambodia, UNICEF in collaboration with the key social protection government partner (CARD) and development partners, successfully collaborated with the Ministry of Finance to prioritize a cash transfer (CT) for pregnant women and children in the new Social Protection Policy Framework (SPPF) 2016-2026. This SPPF is now in the final stage of adoption by Council of Ministers. Establishment of a national CT programme for pregnant women and children is anticipated in the next three years and its expansion to reach national coverage (all poor pregnant women and under-5 children) is scheduled by 2023.

In most Pacific Island Countries, formal social protection programs are in their early stages of development and vary in terms of their comprehensiveness. Support is currently provided to the Government of Fiji for the establishment of a child sensitive, poverty-targeted social protection programme. In addition, UNICEF supported the evaluation design of one-off emergency cash transfers following the devastating category 5 Cyclone "Winston" that hit Fiji in February 2016. The evaluation provided critical evidence to be used for advocacy in countries considering disaster-sensitive social protection programmes, particularly in view of the Pacific's increasing exposure to hazards. However, given the state of development of formal social protection systems in countries other PICs, the strengthening of government systems to enhance resilience and reduce disparities for children will remain constrained and only one-off post-shock social protection schemes can be deployed. UNICEF Pacific will continue to increase pressure on and work with governments to establish formal social protection systems.

In Indonesia, the establishment of an inter-ministerial working group on child grants, chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs in September 2016, is an important milestone for UNICEF's vision to replace its currently fragmented child-oriented social protection programmes by a universal child grant system. The working group will oversee and discuss the results and implication of four main initiatives: (a) a qualitative study on child poverty and social protection; (b) technical support to strengthen the national bureau of statistics' capacity to analyse child poverty, including monetary and multi-dimensional child poverty; (c) a pilot on universal child grants in districts in Papua and Aceh provinces using local resources (Special Autonomy Fund); and (d) a Public Expenditure Review in Aceh and in Papua to better understand the effectiveness and efficiency of local government budgets and their responsiveness to child and social protection.

The UNICEF Myanmar office provided technical and capacity support to the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) for the appropriate program design of a universal, unconditional Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme as part of the country's National Social Protection Strategic Plan (NSPSP). Last year, the Government of Myanmar made a crucial step towards operationally implementing the NSPSP by securing US\$10 million in external funding from the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), and administratively support the rolling out of the MCCT in the Chin State from 2017. Meanwhile, UNICEF continues its advocacy to build social protection systems national-wide and expand the scheme to other regions while raising the national budget allocated to social welfare.

In 2015, after years of UNICEF advocacy, the government of Thailand introduced a Child Support Grant (CSG) providing cash to a cohort of poor children between 0 and 1 years of age. Last year, continued UNICEF advocacy contributed to the extension of the CSG to 400,000 children (0-3 years of age) as well as an increase in the grant, namely from 300 – 400 THB. The regional office expects the Thai Child Support Grant programme to exert considerable influence on other governments, especially within ASEAN member states. The careful documentation of the process and emerging key issues that is currently happening will be essential to ensure not just continued success with implementation but also with documentation and programme visibility.

In Vietnam, for the first time social assistance for young children was acknowledged as an important source of investment in human capital, and UNICEF's proposal on universal child cash benefits for children from zero to three years of age was reflected in the Government's draft Master Plan for Social Assistance Reform 2016-2030 (MPSAR). Universal benefits will be introduced in ethnic minority and mountainous areas by 2020, and will be expanded to all children up to three years of age by 2025. By 2030, all children from zero to six years to age will be covered by social assistance.

#### Country level results in Public Finance for Children (PF4C)

Government's planning, budgeting and expenditure processes and modalities are immediate determinants of the areas in which results will be achieved, and are themselves a product of political prioritization. If governments prioritize infrastructure development, planning and budgeting processes will take this priority into account and allocate money to it. The result will be that the infrastructure will further be developed. Understanding how political prioritization and its transformation into government planning, budgeting and expenditure processes and modalities works are therefore crucial for UNICEF. It will allow the organization to align the timing of its activities as well as its vocabulary with that of its key government counterparts, hence considerably improving its success in achieving results for children. Tracking and monitoring expenditures helps governments to understand the extent to which they are investing in their children and helps UNICEF to advocate for scaling up investments in children in case they are low.

Support and guidance of the regional office's Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section has been pivotal in results. To support tracking and monitoring of public expenditures for children, the regional office's Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management (OPM) developed an innovative step-by-step approach, using WB's Open Budgets Portal BOOST

database. Two publications on monitoring public expenditure on children describe the successful pilot of the methodology respectively in [Fiji](#) as well as the [Solomon Islands](#). They serve as a guide to carry out a similar exercise in other countries as well.

Moreover, the regional Social Policy and Economic Analysis section in collaboration with OPM, successfully piloted an innovative method to map the government planning and budgeting cycle and track equity in the budget. This methodology was piloted with UNICEF Thailand and UNICEF Philippines and proven to be highly useful for enhancing our political and technical dialogue. For instance, in the Philippines the assessment of national legislation, policy and rules around planning, budgeting, execution, monitoring and accounting revealed bottlenecks in effective public expenditure for children, which has informed a discussion with Government. One outcome was that the government urged UNICEF to increase its technical support for costing multi-sectoral programmes.

In [Malaysia](#), the UNICEF-driven initiative “Developing an Integrated Planning, Budgeting Monitoring and Reporting Model for Child-focused Outcomes in Malaysia” was approved and launched with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning Unit (EPU). The initial focus will be on public spending on children with disabilities. The significance of this model initiative lies in the fact that Malaysia is a leader in EAPR in outcome based budgeting and related PFM practice in the Ministry of Finance – but social sector ministries are struggling to implement this result-based approach to planning, resourcing, monitoring reporting and evaluation in their work in meaningful ways. UNICEF hopes to demonstrate how results-based management could work - even when more than one sector (Ministry) is involved in child outcomes and demonstrate how the outcome-based budgeting model could be used for strengthening the result-orientation and efficacy of social sector programmes.

In [Timor-Leste](#), UNICEF successfully advocated for increases in budget allocation for nutrition, child protection and cash transfers in social protection. During the General State Budget 2017 discussion, UNICEF and Commission for the Rights of the Child organized a budget consultation with the Commission of Health, Education, Culture, Veterans and Gender Equality of National Parliament on 3 main topics: high stunting rare among children under 5 years old; CRC Concluding Observation (COBs) and the National Action Plan for Children in Timor-Leste 2016-2020. Following the meeting and other advocacy efforts by UNICEF and other development partners, child related expenditure was increased from 2016 to 2017 by 68% for nutrition, 207% for child protection and victim of abuse, and 17% for the Bolsa Da Mae Programme (conditional cash transfer program targeting female-headed poor households with children under 17). Furthermore, the Government of Timor-Leste launched a new phase in public financial management reforms focusing on decentralization and performance to “ensure that public resources are used as efficiently and effectively as possible in order to provide quality public service”. In the recent approved 2017 General State Budget municipalities receive funding for the first time.

#### SDG localization

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda officially came to force. Over the next fifteen years, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals, “mobilizing efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities

and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.” (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>). In order to make sure that countries are making progress, monitoring where there are in relation to their baseline and targets is essential. Countries are therefore expected to adjust the various targets and indicators of each goal to their national contexts and help governments to plan and programme with the aim of achieving targets. It goes without saying that the more children are reflected in national SDG monitoring framework, the more they will be prioritized in national planning, programming and eventually implementation. The regional office provides continuous guidance and support to country offices in their endeavor to help governments in this process.

Various countries in the region have begun to develop national SDG monitoring frameworks. UNICEF Indonesia has been a global leader in providing technical support to the Government for planning and implementation of priority SDG targets and indicators for children in Indonesia, including an analysis of priority SDG targets and guidance on how related indicators can be measured. UNICEF support has substantially increased the visibility of children in the national systems for SDG implementation and monitoring, including by successfully advocating for the inclusion of relevant indicators that are not part of the global SDG monitoring framework, such as exclusive breastfeeding. Technical guidance was also developed for the SDG plan of action at national and sub-national levels. A partnership with the Ministry of Villages helps to bring SDG implementation to the village level.

## Financial Analysis

In 2016, UNICEF EAPRO received a planned budget of a total of US\$ 763,900 for its work in Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion. The amount of US\$ 293,900 was contributed from Regular Resources, and US\$ 470,000 originates from Other Resources-Regular. After the deduction of the overhead cost, UNICEF EAPRO has received the programmable balance of US\$190,476.21. The funding utilized from grant SC149907 in 2016 amounted to US\$ 140,331. Contributions for the thematic fund originate from UNICEF Malaysia and UNICEF Thailand.

*Table 1: Planned Budget by Outcome Area 7*

### Outcome Area 07: Social Inclusion

#### East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

#### Planned and Funded for the Regional Office in 2016 (in US Dollars)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type <sup>1</sup>	Planned Budget <sup>2</sup>
07-02 Social Protection and Child Poverty	RR	293,900
	ORR	470,000
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>763,900</b>

<sup>1</sup> RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources – Regular

<sup>2</sup> Planned budget for ORR does not include estimated recovery cost

*Table 2: Regional-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2016*

Outcome Area 07: Social Inclusion  
East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

Thematic Contributions Received for Outcome Area 7 by UNICEF EAPRO in 2016 (in US Dollars)

Donor	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
UNICEF Malaysia	SC1499070011	100,000.00	95,238.10
UNICEF Thailand	SC1499070020	100,000.00	95,238.11
<b>Total</b>		<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>190,476.21</b>

*Table 3: Expenditures in the Outcome Area*

Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion  
East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

2016 Expenditures by Key-Results Areas (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources –Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
07-02 Social protection and child poverty	19,604	142,827	490,829	653,260
07-05 Human rights institutions	20,670	213,648	11,996	246,314
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,274</b>	<b>356,475</b>	<b>502,825</b>	<b>899,574</b>

\*Total Utilized figures obtained from UNICEF Performance Management System (CUBE)

*Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area*

In 2016, Social Policy and Economic Analysis Section utilized US\$ 140,331 for programme activities and interventions related to technical, quality assurance and advisory support to regions and country offices. The funds utilization is summarized in the table below.

Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion  
East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

Summary of Financial Implementation in 2016 (US Dollars)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type*	Total Expenditure
07-02 Social Protection and Child Poverty	ORR	140,330
07-05 Human rights institutions	ORR	1
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>140,331</b>

\*Total Utilized figures obtained from Performance Management System (CUBE)

*Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes*

The main interventions in 2016 funded using the thematic fund focused on research on social policy and public finance related issues, providing technical assistance and capacity building to Country Offices and capacity building and advocacy for governments in East Asia and Pacific countries to enhance national capacity and resources for services for children.

Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion

East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

Major Interventions Using Thematic Funds based on Specific Intervention Code in 2016

Specific Intervention Codes	Total Utilized (US\$)
07-02-02 Social Protection# support to social protection programmes and systems	988
07-02-03 Social Protection – costing and financing	5,304
07-02-13 Child Poverty # technical assistance to regional/country offices	94,999
07-02-15 Child Poverty # General	88,594
07-05-05 Child-centred policies and services in disability-friendly formats that are appropriate for children at different ages	200,215
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>390,100</b>

\*Total Utilized figures obtained from UNICEF Performance Management System (CUBE)

## Future Work Plan

During 2017 follow-up on HLM initiative and turning the Cognitive Capital approach into clear programme results will receive priority. EAPRO Social Policy and Economic Analysis section will collaborate with the Emergency Section to build resilience into this programmatic approach and work closely also with other UN agencies advising governments on resilience-oriented, adaptive social protection. Technical support to country offices will centre on strengthening public finance for children while knowledge sharing in regional and global meetings on child poverty and equity will stay important. Particular attention will be given to the role of research in making national progress along the SDGs serve children better. Preparations will start for co-organizing with ASEAN a major conference on child-sensitive social protection in early 2018.

Table 6: Planned budget for 2017

Outcome Area 7: Social Inclusion

East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2017

Immediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget <sup>1</sup>	Funded Budget <sup>1</sup>	Shortfall <sup>2</sup>
07-02 Social Protection and Child Poverty	RR	100,000	100,000	0
	ORR	200,000	170,232	29,768
<b>Total for 2016</b>		<b>300,000</b>	<b>270,232</b>	<b>29,768</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Planned and Funded budget for ORR excludes recovery cost. RR plan is based on the total RR approved for the Country Programme duration

<sup>2</sup> Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2016

## Expression of Thanks

The thematic grant for social inclusion has enabled EAPRO to make a significant contribution to the improvement of the lives of children in East Asia and Pacific Region (EAP). UNICEF EAPRO and Country Offices in the region would like to extend sincere and heartfelt thanks to the donors of the thematic funds. With your kind support, UNICEF EAPRO and EAP Country Offices have successfully strengthened government capacity and earmarked resources for sustainable improvements in children's lives, especially in the area of public finance management; governance and decentralization; child poverty analysis and social protection and programme planning and monitoring. We truly appreciate your commitment to the long-term development of children and look forward to continuing our joint efforts for children in the years to come.



## Annex: Donor feedback form

**Title of Report/Project:**

**UNICEF Office:**

**Donor Partner:**

**Date:**

### **Report Feedback Form**

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report. Thank you!

**Please return the completed form back to UNICEF by email to:**

Name:

Email:

\*\*\*

**SCORING:**      5 indicates "highest level of satisfaction" while  
0 indicates "complete dissatisfaction"

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

2. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we could do better next time?

4. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

**Thank you for filling this form!**