

Guyana and Suriname

Executive Summary

In Guyana a major achievement was the convergence of health; education; adolescent; and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming, piloted in three dormitory schools in Guyana's hinterland where indigenous children pursue secondary education. This programme addressed the specific needs and challenges of indigenous boys and girls, many of whom leave home for the first time to live in dormitories that do not always consider the need for gender-sensitive cultural practices. With girls as prime beneficiaries, the menstrual hygiene (MHM) component of the work also paid attention to the special needs of boys during puberty. Respect for safe spaces and homogeneous groups for gender-sensitive discussions were ensured. Healthy nutrition for adolescent boys and girls, delaying teen pregnancy, life skills and sports and culture for development (SC4D) were also included in the programming.

Both countries completed field work for their Situation Analyses (SitAns) with considerable Government leadership, and work was aligned to ensure that the design, implementation and final SitAn templates are as similar as possible. To this end systematic consultation between consultants and technical staff of both countries took place, including a joint planning meeting of programme staff in one country. A similar meeting will take place during the final stages of SitAn preparation. This joint work on SitAns will greatly facilitate the preparation of one Country Programme document for both countries.

A major highlight for Suriname was the Country Office's support to the national Parliament. A presentation on breastfeeding was made to the Parliament, to discuss ways to increase the low exclusive breastfeeding rate (2.8 per cent), and a discussion on transportation needs for people with disabilities, including children also took place. At the request of Parliament, nationwide research on violence against children (VAC) will be conducted and an agreement was signed with the Anton de Kom University. In addition, UNICEF will also support the Ministry of Justice and Police in creating awareness around child sexual abuse. Both projects were signed on December 22, 2015 and received considerable attention from the national press, helping to bring UNICEF's total investment in VAC in Suriname to US\$250,000.

Major shortfalls were encountered during the fifth round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS5) in Suriname, due to lack of Government funding and the uncertainties resulting from planned elections. In Guyana little progress was made in the area of positive discipline as a way to abolish corporal punishment. It is hoped that in 2016 UNICEF can make more progress in this area, as the newly elected Government has stated publicly that it favours the abolishment of corporal punishment in schools.

Collaboration with civil society was considerably increased in Suriname, with a leading non-governmental organisation (NGO) coordinating a number of community-based organisations (CBOs) in executing community-level activities related to the adolescent development programme. In Guyana efforts to engage new partners proved successful: the ministries of Natural Resources, Business, and Indigenous Peoples Affairs all indicated an interest in collaborating with UNICEF in the areas of Business and Child Rights, especially in the interior of

the country. A first meeting on Business and Child Rights will take place early January 2016 and could represent the start of a new programme direction. Both countries' ministers of finance are open to a partnership with UNICEF, notably in the area of child-friendly budgeting.

Some changes were made to the focus of the Country Programme in light of UNICEF's Strategic Plan 2014-2017, including: SitAns use the life cycle approach; a stronger focus on child protection, with attention to strengthening child protection systems in relation to violence, exploitation and abuse; justice for children, birth registration and working with and within communities. Further the Country Office made a strong effort to bring innovative approaches into the programming, such as in early childhood development (ECD), climate change education, disability playparks as a tool to advance the concept of inclusion, community-based disaster risk management in indigenous communities and menstrual hygiene management embedded within an inter-sectoral adolescent programme.

Humanitarian Assistance

Through the emergency roster of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO), the Country Office was able to provide the services of the emergency officer for a period of three weeks to support the Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA) Office's emergency response for the Commonwealth of Dominica in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Erika. The officer joined the World Bank-led 'Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment' team in the field, with the responsibility of leading the process of determining loss, damage and recovery costing for the education sector and supporting the processes for determining and analysing social protection/gender cross-cutting issues.

MTR of the Strategic Plan

The Country Programme continues to fulfil the 'core business of UNICEF' in the Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC), aimed at monitoring the situation of children in all its aspects, as well as in monitoring the implementation of recommendations of the CRC and CEDAW. Such role is crucial in all countries, including upper-middle income countries such as Costa Rica, as well as in high-income countries, re-confirming the universal mandate of UNICEF. Moreover, a substantial part of UNICEF-supported actions aim at influencing (sub-) national policies and programmes. This work is complemented with the implementation of model initiatives at the sub-national level, particularly in selected areas where the most disadvantaged populations are living. Further emphasis on the combination of 'upstream' policy work together with sub-national level modelling, also in the context of middle income countries, allows for continuous learning and obtaining evidence from local experiences that could be used to design and strengthen national policies and programmes.

Increasingly, UNICEF's programmatic role is evolving and addressing emerging issues that affect the rights of girls, boys and adolescents. Such issues, which are currently not fully mentioned in the Strategic Plan, include: a) Emerging health agenda - health systems strengthening, non-communicable diseases, obesity, adolescent health; b) integrated early childhood development; c) secondary education, within LAC the particular attention to 'boys education', given their high drop-out rates in secondary education, as well as sustained attention to enhancing inter-cultural (bilingual) education; and d) prevention of adolescent pregnancy and linking such efforts with addressing (sexual) violence against girls. It was suggested that these areas be better reflected in the Strategic Plan, through specific results and indicators. Moreover, it was suggested to review the programme information data base system coding so that such emerging programme issues are adequately reflected. This will also allow for better reporting on results and funds spent.

Several programmes have identified, as part of the analysis of barriers and bottlenecks, the need to address social norms and therefore include a component of behavioural change communication (C4D). This is currently not a specific strategy in the Strategic Plan and it was suggested to reconsider reintroducing this strategy as one of UNICEF's corporate strategies. This will also allow better reflection and reporting on the type of work ongoing using C4D approaches. At the same time, a significant amount of South-South cooperation (SSC) is ongoing with other countries in the region, and beyond. Based on the 2030 Agenda and the evolving changes in the aid environment it is expected that the application of this strategy will only continue to increase. However, so far it has been difficult to demonstrate UNICEF's value-added to obtaining specific results for children through SSC. Therefore, it was recommended to continue with efforts, also as part of the MTR of the Strategic Plan, to provide global tools for measuring the results of SSC. Linked to SSC is also the need to strengthen our knowledge management function. Although efforts are made at Country Office level, it is also recommended to increase global efforts to strengthen the knowledge management function. This could also include increased emphasis on supporting evaluation of (sub-) national policies and programmes rather than focusing on UNICEF programmes only. With limited resources available, a shift in attention to the type of evaluations expected is suggested.

Finally, many country programmes in LAC are facing resource constraints, and while income from private fundraising and partnerships has been growing, and increasingly such resources are re-distributed in the region through the Regional Thematic Fund, many Country Offices remain highly dependent on income from Regional and Global Thematic Funds and Global Set-Aside funding (in addition to Regular Resource allocation). With such income, UNICEF is still in the position to deliver on substantive results and to exercise its mandate by addressing the persisting inequities in LAC countries. Therefore, as part of discussions of a potential new resource allocation system for UNICEF, it is strongly suggested to ensure that the current minimum levels of Regular Resources are maintained, while at the same time adjustments could be made to criteria for allocation of global set-aside and thematic funds, re-orienting more of such resources to 'donor-orphan' regions, such as Latin America and the Caribbean.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

AIDS - Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
CARICOM - Caribbean Community
CBO – Community-based organisation
CEO - Chief education officer
CFS – Child-friendly school
CMT – Country management team
CPD – Country Programme document
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO - Civil society organisation
DCT(s) – Direct cash transfer(s)
DRR – Disaster risk reduction
ECA - Eastern Caribbean Area
ECD – Early child development
ECCE - Early childhood care and education
GoG - Government of Guyana
GuyD_Info - Guyana's adaptation of DevInfo
HFLE - Health and family life education
HIV - Human immunodeficiency virus

HQ – UNICEF headquarters
LACRO – UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office
MINOWC - Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
MoSP - Ministry of Social Protection
MHM – Menstrual hygiene management
MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoIPA - Ministry of Indigenous People’s Affairs
MoE - Ministry of Education
MoPH - Ministry of Public Health
MTR – Mid-term review
Natcom - UNICEF National Committee
NGO - Non-governmental organisation
PAHO - Pan-American Health Organization
SDG(s) - Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SSC - South-South cooperation
STD - Sexually transmitted disease
STI - Sexually transmitted infection
ToR - Terms of reference
UN - United Nations
UNDSS - UN Department of Safety and Security
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF - United Nations Children’s Fund
VAC – Violence against children

External Communication and Public Advocacy

Following the change of Government in Guyana in May 2015, a presentation was prepared for the new President on the lifecycle approach to advancing children’s rights. A series of “one pagers” were prepared on key areas for advocacy, and shared with Government, civil society and the media. The achievements of the SC4D Programme for adolescents in the hinterland, and youth in contact with the law were documented and shared as part of an ongoing engagement with the UK National Committee (Natcom). Several engagements with the media were undertaken to amplify UNICEF’s voice on key issues for children. Two workshops were conducted with journalists and editors, focusing on ethical, human rights-based reporting on children and women. In addition, UNICEF rewarded journalists for outstanding reporting on child protection and youth and adolescent development issues, as part of the UN Media awards. UNICEF Guyana participated in the global initiative the “World’s Largest Lesson”, and selected lesson plans were recorded and broadcast in schools around the country. Meetings were held with the private sector to advance children’s rights in the business sector, and an engagement with extractive industries was organised in partnership with the UNICEF Canada Natcom.

In Suriname much progress was made in the area of external communication, due to the recruitment of a communications consultant. Relations were established with the press, and several interviews and press releases completed, such as on Breastfeeding Week, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Government ratification of the UN Convention on Persons with Disabilities. A highlight at the end of the year was the signing of two contracts on VAC, one with a university and one with the Ministry of Justice and Police, both of which were widely covered by the press. The achievements of the adolescent development programme (financed by the Dutch NatCom) were documented.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

The Guyana Suriname Country Office continued in 2015 to work on a number of programme innovations, of which four are reported on within the lessons learned and innovations section. All four examples have generated interest by LACRO and UNICEF headquarters (HQ).

The first innovation focuses on mainstreaming climate change education (CCE) within the national curricula at nursery and primary levels, with other partners focusing on the secondary school level.

The second innovation was the establishment and enhancement of community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) systems within indigenous communities. Community members and stakeholders, including youth were engaged to generate local emergency capacity through equipped and trained committees that can respond within the local hazard and vulnerability context.

The third innovation was developed through focus on a public playground /park where children with and without disabilities can play and interact together, and was recognised as a good way of fostering positive attitudes towards children with disabilities. The innovation lay in the use of the playground as a way to discuss the concept of inclusivity. The City Council embraced the model as a good example and worth replicating, and the private sector showed interest in replicating the inclusive playground in the interior of Guyana.

The fourth innovation focused on the integration of ECD services into rural health centres through increased collaboration among several ministries, enabling the provision of structured early childhood stimulation previously unavailable for indigenous children due to a lack of day care centres.

Initiated during 2015, the Country Office embarked on a cross-sectoral approach through a pilot WASH, MHM and Nutrition Project involving the ministries of Education and Health at both the national and subnational levels. This project generated much interest from all stakeholders, and will be developed further during 2016.

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

UNICEF continued its discussions with the Government of Guyana (GoG) in order to review and finalise the initial two state party reports under the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In Suriname, UNICEF prepared its confidential report and participated in the 72nd pre-sessional working group review in Geneva, providing further information to the Committee to prepare the list of issues for CRC review. UNICEF Suriname also contributed to the development of the universal periodic report (UPR) with a focus on child rights.

To improve accountability and monitoring of human rights, UNICEF Guyana continued its advocacy for a national plan of action for the implementation of the CRC Committee's concluding observations in 2013, and participated in actions related to the national dialogue on 'HIV and the Law', which provided another opportunity for sharpening the focus on children and the human immune deficiency virus (HIV).

Guyana responded to the list of issues related to its report, presented by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The benchmarks for applying a human rights-based approach to programmes sought to focus on increased access to social and health services for children with disabilities through revision of schools' curricula, access to water and sanitation facilities, assessment and certification programmes for baby-friendly hospitals and enhanced knowledge on local laws through access to user-friendly material in braille. In Suriname, the programme focus has been on improving stakeholders' capacity to provide child/adolescent-friendly services, and for rights-holders to claim and realise their rights through community participatory planning and monitoring processes in pilot communities.

All programme staff from both countries participated in the preparation of a sub-regional strategy for Amazon children. Further work in Guyana continued to focus on indigenous children, and paid attention to the right to free and prior consent as well as the right to maintain their culture and language. Key documents were translated into the main indigenous languages.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

The Country Office capitalised on its gender training in 2014 to mainstream gender in its programming. In Guyana, the integrated approach was demonstrated in the convergence of health, education, adolescent and WASH - piloted in three dormitory schools in Guyana's hinterland where indigenous children pursue secondary education. This programme addressed the specific needs and challenges of indigenous boys and girls, many of whom leave home for the first time to live in dormitories that do not always consider the need for gender-sensitive cultural practices. With girls as prime beneficiaries, the MHM component also paid attention to the special needs of boys during puberty. Respect for safe spaces and homogeneous groups for gender-sensitive discussions was ensured (e.g. for girls making homemade pads and vaginal infections and for boys self-examination of the testicles; building good relationships and respect for young girls /women). Healthy nutrition for adolescent boys and girls and delaying teen pregnancy were included. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is now offered to boys and girls, and washrooms were upgraded to ensure safety, privacy and comfort for girls and boys.

In both countries, adolescent development programmes ensured participation of boys and girls as equal partners through sports for development activities. In Guyana boys and girls used games and cultural activities to demonstrate the benefits of positive behaviours and healthy social interactions; in Suriname, in the pilot community of Moengo, the emphasis was on equal participation of boys and girls in stereotypical gender activities, such as chess and handicrafts. Another Suriname intervention was capacity building for adolescent networks at the national and community levels on how to mainstream gender in participatory planning and monitoring processes.

Following up on the 2012 concluding observations (2012) by the Committee on the 'Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women', UNICEF Guyana supported a public consultation on the development of a national gender policy.

Environmental Sustainability

As an ongoing activity, strategies to prevent or reduce the threats posed by climate change, were included within curriculum guides and training for teachers through a partnership with NGOs and the Guyana Ministry of Education, to continue to build children's resilience. To address the identified gap at nursery level for suitable learning materials, UNICEF Guyana developed and produced an innovative DVD titled, "Our Earth is heating up. Let's take Action now". The film was finalised and launched, offering young children an opportunity to play a

proactive role in reducing the effects of climate change by changing behaviours, based on an understanding of the facts. All children in nursery and initial grades of primary school (55,000) benefit from this film which is aired nationally, and DVDs were provided to all nursery and primary schools. In Suriname, significant steps were taken by UNICEF, in collaboration with sister UN agencies, to co-fund a school and a community resilience-building and climate change adaptation programme to be implemented by the Suriname Red Cross in collaboration with line ministries and the national disaster risk management agency in 2016.

During 2015, as a key component of the Country Office's development of a corporate social responsibility strategy to engage the private sector, in collaboration with the Canadian Natcom and the government of Canada, much progress was achieved through new partnerships with the extractive industrial sectors of both countries. In Guyana a Business and Child Rights conference is scheduled for January 2016, with priority focus on environmental issues, especially in relation to mercury usage and adherence to the Minimata Convention.

Environmental footprint assessments were completed for both offices; electricity consumption (at 48 per cent for Guyana and 47 per cent for Suriname) was found to be the key contributor to CO2 emissions. Mitigation methods were instituted as a priority.

Effective Leadership

In January the country management team (CMT) updated key performance indicators for the office and monitored them on a monthly basis. Special attention was paid to fund implementation and direct cash transfers (DCTs). Good progress was made in the Guyana office, allowing attention to issues in Suriname, which were resolved before year-end.

Both countries faced general elections in the month of May in this year. In Guyana there were some specific security challenges. Business continuity plans were updated. Tests of emergency equipment and telephone tree exercises were conducted and support mechanisms for emergencies, such as the alternative locations, were reviewed. Simulation exercises were conducted. Fortunately there were no security issues related to the elections in either country.

Preparations continued for the Global Shared Services Centre (GSSC) and resulting office operational changes. The CMT focused on simplifying business processes by putting into place an action plan with the assistance of LACRO.

In July 2013, the Country Office had been audited by the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations and had received a satisfactory rating with four recommendations. In March 2014, the office received confirmation that all recommendations were closed. The Office continued to monitor these areas.

A further priority for the CMT was the preparation for the multi-country sustainable framework and the Amazon children strategy, which will play a major role in defining priorities for the new Country Programme document (CPD). At the end of the year, programme staff from both countries met in Georgetown to discuss these issues during a one-day meeting. On the second day programme staff were joined by operations staff from both countries for a final discussion on GSSC preparation, and the day ended with a team-building exercise organised by the Staff Association. The two-day meeting was considered successful by all participants.

Financial Resources Management

The CMT continued to monitor key performance indicators, including measuring implementation rates for each quarter, which were then reviewed at the beginning of the year. Challenges that affected the realisation of implementation goals were discussed and actions were taken to ensure that the rates were improved by the following quarter. Prior to 2015, the CMT concentrated on outstanding DCTs within the six-to-nine and over-nine month categories. In 2015, the CMT also included monitoring of DCTs close to six months. While there were challenges with DCTs under six months, particularly in Suriname, at the end of the year these represented only 2 per cent of the total.

In preparation to transition to the GSSC, both offices progressed towards e-banking. This resulted in the Guyana office opening accounts with the bank of Nova Scotia, which was capable of satisfying the e-banking requirements. The introduction of cash management services contributed to better control of cash flow and a more efficient payment system. While this service is being currently used only for vendors with the Bank of Nova Scotia account, in 2016 all transactions will be processed using cash management services.

Transaction time for bank reconciliation was reduced and UNICEF was ready for the transition to GSSC by end-October.

A challenge in 2015 was the use of regular resources (RR), as funds were reserved for the MICS5 in Suriname, which was delayed. The office identified an alternative use for the funds (US\$250,000) at the end of the year: for research and a project on violence against children.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

Resource mobilisation gaps persist. With both Guyana and Suriname being considered middle-income countries, traditional donor resources have been difficult to mobilise and only 20 per cent of funds were mobilised, in addition to RR. The Office invested time in 2015 in engagement with the private sector, especially the extractive industries, as well as new partnerships with the ministries of natural resources and business. A meeting will be organised in early 2016 on Businesses and Child Rights, with a focus on Canadian industries, in collaboration with the Canadian NatCom.

A sub-regional effort to mobilise Canadian government funding was not successful, as the match funding from a Canadian company was not forthcoming due to reduced commodity prices. The Office was, however, successful in obtaining support from the US Embassy via a \$750,000 concept paper related to trafficking in persons, with a good chance of obtaining funding in 2016.

The Office participated in mobilising resources as part of regional and sub-regional funding mechanisms and joint UN proposals. In 2014, the primary donors included the UK Natcom for Guyana and Dutch Natcom for Suriname – both focusing on adolescent development and participation.

As part of the Guyana-Suriname resource mobilisation strategy, the Office developed nine concept papers for both countries and two draft stand-by project cooperation agreements for emergency situations.

The timely submission of donor reports was monitored by the CMT, through the monitoring of

key performance indicators. Specific attention was paid to the quality of donor reports, in line with recommendations by LACRO.

Evaluation

One consolidated integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) for both Guyana and Suriname was prepared for 2015. This consolidated IMEP was reviewed quarterly by the CMT. About 89 per cent per cent of the M&E activities in the IMEP for Guyana, and 70 per cent for Suriname, were completed or on track by December 31, 2015.

Some of the more notable achievements for Guyana were the finalisation of the MICS key findings and final reports, completion of the management response for the HFLE evaluation and a VAC data collection. Both countries embarked upon a situation analysis (SitAn), and field work was completed during the year. The Suriname IMEP included an evaluation of the multi-year child-friendly school (CFS) training programmes in the interior. A major highlight for Suriname was the Country Office's support to the national Parliament, in collaboration with the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, to conduct nationwide research on VAC. In addition, UNICEF will also support the Ministry of Justice and Police in creating awareness around child sexual abuse. Both projects were signed on December 22, 2015 and received great attention from the national press, bringing total UNICEF investment in VAC in Suriname to US\$250,000.

The Country Office made an effort to increase joint activities. National M&E officers from each country met regularly, and in the fourth quarter of the year, joint work between Guyana and Suriname consisted of the planning and implementation of the SitAn for each country. Through these activities and systematic consultation between the consultants and technical staff of both countries, the design, implementation and the final SitAn templates are as similar as possible. This joint work on SitAns will greatly facilitate the preparation of one CPD for both countries.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The Office put into place a monthly mission plan. Through this, supervisors encouraged their supervisees to rationalise missions by ensuring that a staff member would cover, if possible, technical follow-up for other colleagues. Through this the number of staff members on a given mission was reduced, while still ensuring sufficient follow-up to field activities. The mission plan also proved to be a useful tool for ensuring that all staff members travel. Of the original travel budget of \$60,000 (based on previous year experience) less than 50 per cent was spent by the end of the year. It should be noted that most travel to the interior is planes, due to the lack of roads.

The Office also made an effort to reduce spending on telecommunications by encouraging staff to use other means, such as Skype for Business. This resulted in a reduction of expenditure from planned US\$23,000 to US\$18,000. Further gains were made by reducing the use of fuel from the planned US\$11,000 to US\$6,000.

Supply Management

Programme supplies procured during the year were for WASH and MHM supplies for Ministry of Public Health workshops in Region 1, 7 and 9. The International Health Regulations Centre at the Ministry of Public Health was upgraded, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to ensure its surveillance capacity for (re-)emerging diseases. Further, the reading room of the Ministry of Education was upgraded.

Operational procurement activities in 2015 involved IT equipment for Guyana and Suriname staff, office equipment for Guyana and repairs to one vehicle.

Total procurement in 2015 for Guyana and Suriname was US\$66,063 broken down below:

UNICEF Guyana and Suriname 2015	Value in US\$
Programme	21,531
Operations	44,532

Security for Staff and Premises

Based on the 2014 annual management review, the 2015 annual management plan (AMP) prioritised the undertaking of business continuity simulations for both Guyana and Suriname, to improve emergency and disaster readiness levels of staff. With national elections in both countries in May 2015, security simulations, including agency-specific telephone trees, were undertaken by the Office. The outcomes and recommendations guided the processes of updating and finalising the business continuity plans. UNICEF staff also fully participated in the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)-led staff security information sessions and inter-agency telephone tree exercises. Emergency supplies for both offices were procured, in case staff had to remain on premises due to rapidly emerging situations, and all staff were briefed on UNICEF and UNDSS protocols relating to staff and dependent security in such events.

The emergency risk management plan was updated with full staff participation guided by the 2014 annual management review; mitigation actions to enhance programme and operations delivery were included in the 2015 review. The rating for residual risk #10 “Safety and Security” remained at medium; the 2015 mitigation action for the Guyana premises involved installation of a new security system and training for all staff in its usage. For Suriname, there was continued representation by UNICEF through the UN Country Team to have a UNDSS country presence. All staff were required to complete the basic security in the field and advanced security in the field e-learning courses prior to being granted travel authorisations.

The rating for residual risk #9 “ICT systems and information security” was lowered from high to medium with the relocation of the server room to the second floor, significantly addressing the risks posed by flooding.

Oversight of security for staff and premises was undertaken by the Office’s security and emergency committee, with members from both Guyana and Suriname, which reports annually during the annual management review.

Human Resources

The Country Office had some vacancies due to lack of funding for international posts and lack of qualified candidates for national officer posts - this was the case in Suriname, as many have Dutch nationality. Alternative strategies were sought, such as using regional thematic funding for an international temporary assignment for child protection, or placing consultants within ministries. The latter strategy did not seem to be effective. Abolishment of posts due to the GSSC had some impact.

As the Country Office has started preparations for new CPD for 2017, a critical review of posts

in both offices will be carried out.

Training this year focused on security (in view of elections in both countries, with particular risks in Guyana) including simulation exercises and GSSC training. One staff member was released to respond to the crisis in Dominica. Another went to LACRO for a six-month stretch assignment and the Country Office received a colleague from Bolivia on a one-month stretch assignment.

In 2015 management and the staff association continued working together to address issues of concern, especially the outcomes of the most recent Global Staff Survey. Monthly staff association meetings and joint consultative committee meetings were among the mechanisms used to discuss staff issues.

Staff training goals were included in performance evaluation reports (PERs) and monitored during PER discussions; the Office took steps to ensure that PER reporting met the relevant deadlines.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The Guyana and Suriname office migrated to Office365 in mid-2014, and users in both offices are now using Office 2013, Outlook and Skype for Business. Greater collaboration was facilitated by using a new polycom device between Guyana and Surinam.

A SharePoint collaboration site was created for the Guyana/Suriname offices and is used for collaboration between Guyana and Suriname offices. One Drive is being used by some staff.

Since the migration to virtual servers in 2014 the office can now easily deploy IT services that require new servers (e.g. In the case of new DHCP servers), without investing in additional equipment or increasing energy cost to operate and cool physical servers.

VOIP and video conferencing have continued to be the primary option for communication between offices, and resulted in keeping telecommunication cost down.

All ICT equipment meets the minimum hardware standard, and BGAN and other emergency telecoms were tested regularly for both offices and ICT. The server room was move to a higher level to eliminate the risk of flooding.

The communications section took advantage of social media by creating UNICEF Guyana/Suriname Facebook and Twitter pages.

Programme Components from Results Assessment Module

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

OUTCOME 1 Governments of Guyana and Suriname have in place systems for continuous monitoring of the situation for boys, girls, and women in the general population and in the hinterland and rural areas of Guyana and the interior of Suriname based on reliable disaggregated data and are using the data to formulate and continuously update equity-and gender-sensitive national and sub- national plans to guide continuing progress in the survival, development, protection and participation of children and women at the aggregated level and among disadvantaged groups based on CRC and CEDAW.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

2015 was an important year in terms of UNICEF's support for strengthening data collection and dissemination capacity in both countries, as well as supporting evidence based policy development. In both countries comprehensive, equity-focused SitAns began, with in-depth reviews, interviews and visits to provide a clear picture of child rights realisation, specifically as to highlighting disparities – especially for children and families living in the Amazon. This is an innovative joint activity, as the design methodology and the report format for both countries are similar. In both countries the exercise was conducted in close partnership with government counterparts, to ensure the analysis will be a country-owned product.

The Devinfo platform was launched in Suriname, and efforts went into raising awareness and developing stakeholders' (including youth) ability to access and use it. While in Guyana, the Country Office continued its efforts to strengthen stakeholders' capacity to use Guy-info (Guyana's Devinfo version).

In Guyana MICS 5 (to be officially launched in January 2016) will provide the most up-to-date, disaggregated data and comparative analyses across recent household surveys. However, in Suriname MICS implementation was significantly delayed.

In Guyana UNICEF provided technical support to the review of administrative data on violence against children and women. In Suriname, a comprehensive research on VAC, in cooperation with the National Parliament and the University of Suriname, was launched. Both studies will provide important evidence to inform programmes and policies in an area in which data are scarce and hard to gather.

UNICEF Guyana and Suriname led a multi-country study on a situation analysis of children in contact with the law and a review of juvenile justice legislation involving Belize and Jamaica as well as Guyana and Suriname. A national conference on 'Justice for children and the family court' in Guyana, with participants from other countries, provided an optimal environment for UNICEF and partners to advocate for the adoption of juvenile justice legislation. As a consequence, the review process made important progress and should be submitted for approval early 2016. In Suriname the criminal code was revised, and the age of criminal responsibility was raised from 10 to 12 years of age.

The Country Office provided significant support to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the development of a youth monitoring framework, which will be hosted on the same platform as the children's monitoring system (developed in 2014). This will allow CARICOM to track the achievement of results for youth in member states. In both countries UNICEF supported governments to make important advances in developing evidence-based legal frameworks for the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, and to adopt policies and legislation favouring breastfeeding over formula.

The Country Office played an important role in both countries by providing evidence of certain specific vulnerabilities faced by youth and adolescents, which led to the development of a national youth strategy in Guyana and strengthened partnership with the National Youth Parliament in Suriname.

UNICEF continued to play an important convening role with both national and international actors. In Guyana brought together five ministries to discuss and jointly advocate for budgetary increases for ECD services and convened regional players (such as Canada, Mexico, and

Argentina) to provide strong support for MDG Acceleration Framework/ARP.

In both countries UNICEF provide important support for reporting to human rights treaty bodies (especially to the CRC in the case of Suriname), and supporting the countries to follow up on recommendations received from human rights bodies.

Overall there was important progress towards all three indicators in this outcome, and the Country Office made steady progress toward achieving the targets by the end of the current Country Programme (2016), while establishing a foundation for making evidence-based decisions, together with stakeholders in both countries, for the upcoming Country Programme cycle.

OUTPUT 1 Policy makers have increased access to disaggregated data available periodically and enact equity based national policies and legislations in fulfilment of Guyana's child rights obligations

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Training on GuyD_Info continued in 2015, with training for senior technical officers of the Ministry of Public Health, the private sector commission and the gender equality commission. The Facebook page continued to be managed by the GuyD_Info support group.

The MICS final report, was ready for printing and will be published in the first quarter of 2016; it will provide up-to-date data for decision making at the national and sub-national levels. In addition, UNICEF is currently partnering with the Ministry of Communities to prepare profiles for all 10 regions, using MICS data.

In 2014 UNICEF provided significant support to CARICOM through the development of a monitoring system to track progress on the 'Regional Framework for Action for Children', currently in use by member states. A similar monitoring system for youth was developed and will be hosted on the same platform. This will provide opportunities for CARICOM member states to share their outputs for their youth programmes (policy documents, strategic plans, reports, evaluations, etc.) against the framework.

A situation analysis on women and children in Guyana was being implemented under the leadership of the GoG's Ministry of Social Protection. The availability of recent MICS data will contribute to the SitAn.

To ensure increased capacity of implementing partners to monitor performance and to lead reviews and evaluations of joint projects/programmes, UNICEF conducted, in collaboration with other UN agencies, an M&E clinic for staff from 15 partner organisations. The content of the clinic included the principles of monitoring and evaluation, results-based management, theory of change and conducting evaluations.

OUTPUT 2 Priority gaps in Health, Nutrition and WASH are addressed through the development of evidence based plans, guidelines and M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

As a result of joint advocacy efforts, the Nutrition Strategy (2016-2020), including iodine deficiency disorder and the use of iodised salt was revised. The Country Office additionally provided technical support for the drafting of the legal framework of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. The latter was not finalised due to the pending legal review by the

Solicitor General's Office, but is expected to be finalised in 2016; UNICEF will advocate for its prompt adoption.

The CO played an important role in convening actors (such as Canada, Mexico, and Argentina) in providing technical and financial support to MAF/APR. Some concrete results are expected to be demonstrated in 2016 as part of the MDG evaluation and planning for the country roadmap to achieve SDG 3.

OUTPUT 3 Priority gaps in Early Childhood Development and Child Friendly Schooling are addressed through the development of evidence based plans, guidelines and M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The major activities that did not take place were: (a) the coordination and management of ECD nationally, which targeted major issues of planning, budgeting, and resource mobilisation; (b) research to identify barriers to and priority issues for quality ECD programmes, which seriously affected the continuation of a planned pilot of mother-tongue education as the language of instruction in nursery and Grades 1 and 2 in indigenous populations; (c) ECD institutional capacity building the lead Government agency (Child Care and Protection Agency); (d) research to identify barriers to optimum participation and performance in secondary school, inclusive education and WASH; (e) institutional capacity building in school welfare departments.

UNICEF's advocacy led to a high-level meeting attended by five ministries with responsibilities in ECD, with full representation from three ministers (Social Protection, Public Health, and Indigenous Peoples) and senior management from the ministries of Education and Communities. The meeting reviewed Government's overall engagement in ECD. It was agreed during the meeting that ECD is important in providing the basis for ensuring that children can reach their full potential and that all ministries have a role to play. The Minister of Social Protection, having the lead for ECD, proposed that UNICEF make a similar presentation to Cabinet.

The Country Office played a key role in supporting central and regional education departments to better identify inequalities in the secondary school system. Through analysis of examination results and linkages to reports from school welfare departments, areas for improved cross-sectoral response to challenges faced by adolescents attending these schools were identified.

OUTPUT 4 Improved access to timely and quality disaggregated data and analysis (MICS, Census, SurilInfo, SITAN)

Analytical Statement of Progress:

An equity-focused SitAn of girls and boys in Suriname is being implemented in a parallel manner (in terms of timing and structure) with the one for Guyana, to ensure they can feed equally into the development of the new Country Programme. The final SitAn is expected in March 2016.

UNICEF continued to support data dissemination and promote the use of data for decision-making on matters related to children's and women's rights. Jointly with UNDP, the Environment Info database using the DevInfo platform was launched in October 2015 on World Statistics Day, followed by a one-day Statistics Fair displaying key government statistical publications. An estimated 300 persons, including students from junior secondary schools and the University of Suriname, visited the Statistics Fair, which increased public awareness (including young people)

on statistics and the use of data. A two-day users training in DevInfo/ SurInfo/ and Suriname CensusInfo was jointly organised by UNICEF and the General Bureau for Statistics, with participation by 60 Government officials and UN agency staff.

A major study was initiated in 2015 on violence against and by children. This was undertaken at the request of the Chair of Parliament, and will support their work in legislation and advice to Government. It will also support further work by UNICEF and partners on VAC. The study will be conducted by the University of Suriname (Institute of Graduate Studies Research), completing their earlier work on VAC.

The planned MICS5 survey could not be started in 2015 due to uncertainties about the Government's financial contribution.

OUTPUT 5 Education sector plans and policies are evidence based, incorporating child friendly principles and innovative strategies, and supported by strengthened monitoring systems to track progress

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The evaluation of the 'I Believe in You' in-service teacher training was conducted in 2015; this was a Surinamese version of child-friendly education. The evaluation looked at UNICEF-supported programme since 2010. While the preliminary findings of the evaluation noted that the training cycles were very relevant and necessary, and have likely contributed to increased awareness and knowledge of teachers in the interior on child-centred teaching, this was not found to have translated into structured behavioural change for teachers, due to lack of follow-up and monitoring. The evaluation was nearly finalised by end-2015, and its recommendations will guide the development of future CFS programming in Suriname.

In support of the Government's priority on ICT for Education, UNICEF started an assessment of the computer aid learning project. The final results will be available in February 2016. The assessment has embedded a capacity development component, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Department of Research and Planning, especially when for quantitative data analysis. Although this has made the whole exercise lengthy, it will have an impact on improving the Department's capacity to conduct similar assessments independently in the future.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (MINOWC) in the preparation of a national study on school drop-out and out-of-school children. Four ministries (MINOWC, Ministry of Sports and Youth, Ministry of Social Wellbeing, and Ministry of Labour) have expressed an interest in being involved in the study. A working group will be set up involving the four key ministries and other important stakeholders. The study will be carried out in a parallel manner in both Guyana and Suriname in 2016.

OUTPUT 6 Effective national legislations, policies, structures, plans and M&E systems for Child Protection and Gender Based Violence in place, including Gender mainstreaming in sectors

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Changes to the criminal code were approved by the National Parliament in March 2015, raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12 years of age. It is the result of continuous advocacy based on the last CRC recommendation and various UNICEF-supported studies, including a review of national legislations for children. Unfortunately, UNICEF's advocacy to ensure that the criminal age was set at 14 was not adapted.

UNICEF Suriname participated in a multi-country (Guyana, Suriname, Belize, and Jamaica) legislative assessment of children in conflict with the law. The juvenile pre-detention centre Opa Doeli in Paramaribo was presented in the report as a best practice of the four jurisdictions visited, with a child-friendly layout, several facilities available including education, and doctors' visits and an interview studio where interviewing judge is not the same judge who conducts the substantive hearing of the case.

Implementation of the law on institutional care (Raamwet Opvanginstellingen) was limited in 2015; only 25 per cent of institutions registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs. UNICEF emphasized the importance of the new legislation to the Child Ombuds bureau, however this has not led to its adoption.

OUTPUT 7 Priority issues in child protection are addressed through the development of evidence based plans, legislations, guidelines and M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Country Office provided technical support for a report on the review of administrative data on violence against children and women. Overall, there is still a need to improve data collection and the report underscored the large extent to which women and children are still the main victims of physical violence. The report was also undertaken as a means of strengthening the evidence-based platform for children and women; follow-up actions include achieving consensus on the definition of violence and training in data collection, planning and monitoring (in all sectors) for greater use in advocacy and programmes.

Further, UNICEF articulated a situation analysis on children in contact with the law, in partnership with the concerned governments and UNICEF Country Offices (Suriname, Belize and Jamaica) to a review of juvenile justice legislation. Both reports demonstrate that there is still a significant amount to be done to prevent children from being in contact with the law, and a need for investment in justice for children. These actions, along with the national child rights conference on 'Justice for children and the family court' contributed to need for an evidence-base to strategically and systematically strengthen this area in Guyana, since the last report on children in contact with the law was produced in the 1990s. The results of the conference and reports will provide some impetus for the elaboration of a draft Juvenile Justice Bill.

Additionally, the draft Juvenile Justice Bill, 2015 was revised and discussed at a multi-sectoral meeting headed by the Ministry of Public Security. This has gained momentum under the new Government, and is now with the Attorney General's office for review, before being submitted to Cabinet. The draft is aligned with international standards and technically sound. The Country Office will focus on further advocating for its adoption in 2016.

Finally, based on UNICEF advocacy on birth registration (the recent MICS showed that birth registration remains at around 90 per cent), several key agreements for advancing universal birth registration were made: development of a multi-year communication plan for birth registration and review of legislation on birth registration, with a view to influencing policy reforms and agreement for community mobilisation for birth registration especially in the interior regions of Guyana.

OUTPUT 8 An evidence based national adolescent strategy is developed, implemented and evaluated

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Country Office, in partnership with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation provided support to the ministries of Education and the Presidency for the preparation of the final draft of Guyana's youth policy. Building on the involvement of youth in development of the policy last year (when UNICEF ensured that youth from hinterland, rural and urban views were captured), the first draft was shared at a Youth Forum organised by the Office of the Presidency. This policy is awaiting final governmental approval.

Using data collected from research for the study of most at-risk adolescents/ young key affected populations, UNICEF and the Adolescent Unit of the Ministry of Health, embarked upon the development of a structured programme – the Youth Empowerment Programme – which is being implemented in selected areas and health centres to address and stem incidences of teen pregnancy. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, joint visits were conducted in three hinterland regions for future the expansion of the programme. The limited capacity at regional level to implement and monitor youth empowerment programmes constitutes a bottleneck that will have to be addressed in the coming years for the programme to be effective in every part of the country.

Recognising that certain NGOs are well-placed to meet the social needs of at-risk populations, UNICEF partnered with two NGOs to reach vulnerable youth with structured programmes. It provided support to an urban NGO, which sensitised and increased the knowledge of 80 youth in institutions on stigma and discrimination, alcohol and drug use, sexual and reproductive health, gender roles and norms, abuse, bullying and conflict, HIV/AIDS/STIs and sexuality and sexual orientation. This was achieved through structured, interactive empowerment programmes. Additionally, the NGO developed the capacity of 20 house mothers of these institutions to better relate to, interact with and jointly discuss sensitive topics with the institutionalised youths, through educator-training sessions.

The Country Office also supported a rural NGO to engage 25 vulnerable girls, 35 young men who have sex with men and 10 adolescents living with HIV, in HIV prevention education, edutainment and mentorship programme. The programme in the rural area reached a total of 140 young people (instead of the proposed 70) due to the great interest displayed, especially by vulnerable girls. Several of these girls opted to leave sex work and are now gainfully employed in the areas of cosmetology and as day care assistants. These young people are now equipped with knowledge, life-skills and livelihood skills to reduce their vulnerability to risky behaviour.

OUTPUT 9 Strengthened evidence based health policies, strategies and improved Health M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

A rapid assessment on disease burdens as part of the PAHO-led Health in All Policy initiative revealed significant gaps in health data collection and an urgent need for improvement of the Suriname's health information management system. UNICEF continued its support to immunisation data collection through training at urban health facilities in data collection in 2015.

The Country Office continued working with partners to implement the safe motherhood and neonatal health action plan. In particular UNICEF provided technical support for implementation of the infant and young child feeding communication strategy. A study of the 'Initiative for a national code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes' was carried out to assess the current situation and develop a roadmap for a national code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes. In

November, a Parliamentary discussion on health economics and the need for prevention was organised, with UNICEF support. UNICEF's contribution consisted of a presentation on the economic benefits and health aspects of exclusive breastfeeding. It is hoped that this will result in a clear action plan for the removal of current subsidies for breastmilk substitutes. It is to be noted that the Government has undertaken efforts since 2011 to remove the subsidies, but had to reinstate them.

In addition, a mapping of NGOs working in the health sector was conducted.

OUTPUT 10 Policies and plans for Youth and Adolescent Development and Participation are formulated, implemented and monitored

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF strengthened its partnership with the Ministry of Sports and Youth. The Ministry demonstrated its commitment to fulfil its coordinating role with regard to the integrated adolescent development programme, and a number of activities were jointly developed and implemented. As an example, a project 'Prisiri, Leri, Wroko' (Fun, Learn, Work), was organised for adolescents during the summer vacation allowing them to learn and work in a playful way. The project was very well received by adolescents and the public. Despite these encouraging results, the Ministry will need additional support to strengthen its coordination role.

The Country Office supported a national NGO to pilot a community-based participatory planning and monitoring project. A national dialogue workshop was organised to share with all stakeholders the pilot experience in two communities and the draft module with senior Government officials, including the chair of the Presidential task force and the vice chair of the national Parliament.

Twenty officials from ministries responsible for implementation of the integrated adolescent development framework (Ministry of Sports & Youth, Justice & Police, Education, Health, Regional Development and Social Wellbeing) were trained in policy and project planning and implementation at the local level, including on how to develop a social and institutional mapping of local communities. Officials were also trained in programme monitoring and reporting, as a result of which they developed reporting and monitoring templates for monitoring policy at the national level and project implementation at the local level. The capacity of national Government officials was further strengthened in the areas of fundraising, networking, project and programme coordination, dialogue and networking, from a gender, human rights and adolescent- friendly perspective.

The Country Office further strengthened its partnership with the National Youth Parliament (NYP) by means of information-sharing and dialogue (e.g. on breast feeding, children/persons with disabilities and Parliament's request for data on VAC). Together with other UN agencies, UNICEF supported the NYP to organise an SDG knowledge-sharing workshop for all 29 NYP members, CARICOM ambassadors and MDG youth ambassadors.

OUTPUT 11 Enhanced national capacity for designing legislation and to implement improved governance strategies in line with international human rights standards [CRC compliance monitored regularly. Finalisation of the 3rd and 4th CRC report. Update action plan for children based on CRC recommendation.]

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The UNICEF confidential report to the CRC Committee was prepared and submitted. In October 2015, UNICEF participated in the 72nd pre-sessional working group review of the State Report to the CRC. The list of questions from the Committee to the State Party is available.

The Country Office also contributed to preparations for the 2016 Universal Periodic Review on Human Rights. It specifically contributed in areas related to children's right to the highest attainable standard of health and education, the rights of children with disabilities and of minorities and indigenous children and families.

Supported by UNICEF, 60 programme coordination group members from both the Government and the UN benefited from a results-based management training organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the coordinating ministry for implementation of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The training further strengthened their capacity to monitor and report on the UNDAF Action Plan in Suriname.

OUTCOME 2 Guyana and Suriname have completed implementation of respective evidence-based and equity and gender-sensitive programmes of action to achieve the MD/MDGs targets on survival and development, protection, and participation for boys, girls, and women in the general population and in the hinterland and rural areas of Guyana and in the interior of Suriname AND both countries are implementing a post MD/MDGs target date (2015) programme of action for achievement of continuing progress in the survival, development, protection, and participation of children and women with equity based on CRC and CEDAW principles.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

At the downstream level, the Country Office specifically focused on a set of strategic approaches, which included capacity development, communication for development and strengthening of rights holders' capacity to claim their rights.

Targeted communication activities were used in both countries, such as initiatives aimed at enhancing breastfeeding rates in Suriname and increasing awareness on violence against children and children rights in Suriname. In both countries efforts were made to provide training (including institutionalisation of tailored pre- or in-service training for professionals) in areas of education, child protection, ECD, health, HIV and nutrition.

In both countries specific activities were developed and implemented aimed at increasing adolescents' knowledge of their rights, and hence capacity to claim their rights. A series of interesting programmes were implemented together with partners with a special focus on adolescent health and healthy behaviours, such as the MHM Programme in Guyana, which brought together health, education and adolescents sectors to work directly with girls and boys attending dormitory schools.

In both countries UNICEF's equity focus guided the development and implementation of activities, always prioritising harder-to-reach children and adolescents. A clearly marginalised group is constituted by indigenous children and adolescents in both countries and Maroon children (descendants from runaway slaves) living in the interior of both countries, but also in coastal areas. The Country Office supported further expansion of ECD services in the interior, through development of such services as part of local maternal/child health centres in Guyana, since day care centres are not available in that part of the country.

Additionally, UNICEF supported Guyana in the area of inclusiveness. A particularly interesting

initiative was the partnership created between the Ministry of Social Protection, the Georgetown City Council and the National Commission on Disabilities. The City Council embarked on a large-scale initiative to improve Georgetown, and has created some playgrounds; the partnership will aim to make those playgrounds accessible to children with disabilities. This initiated discussions on inclusion of children with disabilities, which sparked interest by the media and stakeholders. UNICEF agreed with partners to provide technical support in the coming years to make Guyana a more disability-inclusive country.

In Suriname new teachers developed capacity to use the 'I believe in you' approach and the country showed interest in learning from the Guyanese CFS initiative through an exchange between the two countries. This will help Suriname in its 2016 exercise evaluating the 'I believe in you initiative' (local version of child-friendly schooling) against CFS standards.

The Country Office provided notable support to Guyana for preparing the groundwork for operationalising the newly established Family Court, foreseen for the beginning of 2016.

OUTPUT 1 Evidence based programmes for child and maternal health and nutrition are developed and implemented in rural, hinterland and low performing areas.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF collaborated with the US President's Emergency Fund for AIDS (PEPFAR) and US Centres for Disease Control, as well as the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), to support commitments to eliminate HIV/AIDS and mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) through a participatory process to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for an integrated service to HIV- exposed Infants (HEIs) and HIV-positive mothers. The project was piloted at 10 selected health centres/maternity units in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. The SOPs were implemented at selected pilot sites and encompassed capacity development of 89 frontline health workers to utilise this tool correctly and consistently at antenatal clinics (ANC)/PMTCT services while 18 supervisors became trainers to sustain this initiative. Also, UNICEF and the MoPH developed a male partner involvement communication plan for spouses/partners at ANC/PMTCT services. Additionally, UNICEF supported revision of the PMTCT policy to incorporate Option B+; finalisation is due in 2016.

In terms of MAF/APR, 16 community health workers were trained in upgraded midwifery skills and care of new-borns. Also, 13 health workers were trained in emergency obstetric care to prevent maternal, neonatal and child deaths in the hinterland regions.

The Country Office provided technical support for capacity building of health workers, and assessment of baby-friendly hospitals (BFHs). To date 12 hospitals were assessed using global standards, and six were accredited as BFHs, including two hinterland facilities. The six hospitals that achieved the BFH status met all standards, while the remaining hospitals did not meet some important standards in regard to initiating and correct breastfeeding, which indicates that there is still considerable work to do.

In relation to adolescent health, UNICEF provided technical support to the MoPH to implement a health and nutrition education workshop on preventing iron-deficiency anaemia, preventing second pregnancies and advocating for re-integration into schools. Some 50 pregnant/lactating adolescents (aged 12-to-16 years) benefited from this activity. Additionally, UNICEF and the MoPH celebrated national breastfeeding week activities with a public awareness programme to promote breastfeeding, using print media.

The Country Office promoted an important cross-cutting initiative aimed at increasing personal health skills and promoting behaviour change among indigenous girls and boys vis-a-vis health, hygiene (especially menstrual hygiene) and nutrition practices. A multi-disciplinary team from the MoPH and MoE engaged 246 indigenous girls and 151 boys in the training. The awesome responses from adolescents, key stakeholders and government counterparts resulted in new commitments to mainstream this initiative to other regions. Moreover, this initiative accumulated additional resources and increased partnerships between UNICEF and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, resulting in the establishment of kitchen gardens at schools and promoting healthy eating among adolescent girls to prevent iron-deficiency anaemia.

OUTPUT 2 Enhanced national capacity in the implementation of quality culturally appropriate ECD services and basic education programmes in rural, hinterland and low performing areas

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In partnership with the MoH, UNICEF introduced structured ECD stimulation activities at health clinics in regions populated largely by indigenous peoples (Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9) and where there are no ECD stimulation programmes. The activity aimed to contribute to smoother transitions from home to school. A total of 85 indigenous community health workers in about 50 villages were trained. The new ECD in MCH programme has actively engaged parents, health and education officials, village leaders and central Ministry personnel in the programme either at their homes, at clinics or both. Posters with key ECD messages were developed using the three indigenous languages spoken by local communities. This programme adds more value to the maternal/child health clinics, as health professionals can now observe children in interactive play, noting muscle development and control independently of responses by parents.

UNICEF and the MoE began working on strategies for incorporating the SDGs into current curricula; including climate change and safe and strong schools;

UNICEF provided strong technical support to the MoE and regional education officers as part of the goal that 80 per cent of target schools in the country are meeting CFS standards (infrastructure, teaching/learning quality, material, WASH facilities, etc.) and are representative across the country. Falling below the 80 per cent target, there was nonetheless an average improvement of 50 per cent among schools in each region that met CFS minimum standards. The range of achievement across regions was between 40 to 75 per cent.

There was a slight increase (5 per cent) in schools with disability-friendly washrooms and showers. These achievements were realised through the supported, structured, sequential approach to capacity building for regional education officers (REDOs). who are responsible for visioning and monitoring their regions to ensure results for children; and the certified coach teams in CFS principles and practices (through Agora CFS e-learning) that now represent an added layer of coaches and trainees in creating and monitoring CFS spaces in all 11 education districts. The enhanced competencies of the REDOs in analysing assessment data and employing strategies to respond to barriers to children's optimum participation were instrumental to the progress achieved.

OUTPUT 3 Enhanced national capacity in the development and implementation of evidence based child protection programmes with attention to areas of disparities

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Training in Family Court rules for 50 members of the Bar – including 10 members of the Judiciary – was completed, as a means of preparing for the operationalisation of the Family Courts, expected in early 2016.

Awareness-raising for 100 social workers and child protection officers, including on mental health, counselling and court report writing were the three priority capacity-building actions agreed with the Government, and took place according to plans and – according to the trainings’ evaluation – were deemed effective and notably increased service providers’ capacity in child protection. Further, in partnership with CSOs, UNICEF supported community action (including capacity building for 50 persons, identification of champions in communities and the drafting of protocols) in three communities, following the ‘Break the Silence’ model, to ensure capacity in prevention, treatment and response to violence and stronger child protection systems at the local level.

OUTPUT 4 Expand and strengthen key national programmes for adolescent development

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Country Office, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the CARICOM Secretariat, supported the initial workshop to draft the “National Integrated Health and Family Life (HFLE) Policy” and “The HFLE Programme Document”, which are intended to guide policy-makers and programme implementers into more effective programme development and provide guidelines for conceptualising the newly integrated HFLE. Further, support was provided to the Ministry of Education for capacity building of 95 primary and secondary school teachers in one of the hinterland regions, and 145 primary and secondary teachers in Georgetown, thus ensuring that teachers’ skills are further strengthened to implement HFLE programmes.

In partnership with the UK Natcom, UNICEF scaled-up the SC4D programme to include two separate institutions (the Sophia Holding Centre and Sophia Care Centre), which cater to children detained because they are in conflict with the law, and children who are in a State home as a consequence of violence and abuse, respectively.

The sports and culture for development programme complements the HFLE programme as they both focus – with different methodologies - on the development of the whole, resilient person.

OUTPUT 5 Enhanced national capacity to formulate and implement integrated programmes for Mother and Child Health and Nutrition

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2015 the focus was on the development of materials to be used in outreach activities. A series of communication materials, four episodes of a talk-show (Uma Tori) and two documentaries (on physical examinations of new-borns and breastfeeding) were produced. The first episode of the talk-show (Uma Tori) was aired during World Breastfeeding Week and received positive feedback. The printed communication material and Mavis “merchandise” were used at the Pregnancy Fair (1-3 May). UNICEF’s Breastfeeding Counselling Card was introduced and is being translated into Dutch. However progress was slow because of limited human capacity; hopefully the strategy will be fully implemented in 2016.

Training of Bureau of Public Health (BoG) staff at the MoH continued in 2015 through on-the-job training in the areas of public engagement and effective communication to improve outreach in communities. Eight BoG staff members benefited from this process.

Regarding implementation of the safe motherhood and new-born health action plan, 10 priority activities were identified to be implemented during the reporting period, of which follow-up of the pilot implementation of obstetric protocols and two CBE training sessions were carried out. Some 5,000 mothers and new-born children benefited from the “Baby & Toddler” booklet and the CB growth charts printed in 2015 with UNICEF’s support.

UNICEF and PAHO supported the MoH in switching from OPV to IPV for prevention of polio and other diseases.

OUTPUT 6 Enhanced national capacity to implement Child Friendly School approaches and innovative strategies (e.g. ICT) to enhance access to quality education

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Three rounds of in-service teacher training on “I believe in You”/Child-Friendly Education were completed in 2014 for over 800 teachers in schools in the interior. The Suriname “I Believe In You” vision for education was developed some years ago and is based on CFS principles; however, the Ministry of Education has no means of measuring whether schools are child-friendly and how they are progressing. Therefore, in early 2015, the Country Office organised an exchange visit to Guyana for Ministry officials and staff of UNICEF Suriname, with the objective of learning from the Guyanese CFS Standards Initiative. A concept note and proposal were developed with three key components: 1) to draft minimum CFS standards and build school management capacity in self-assessment and school/community level improvement plan; 2) to establish school WASH Clubs to improve water, sanitation and hygiene behaviour change; and 3) to strengthen parent-teacher associations and encourage participation by parents and local communities in school management. The project will be implemented in 2016.

A feasibility study on distance education was planned this year, however, due to other priorities in the ICT unit of MINOWC, it could not be implemented.

OUTPUT 7 Adolescent/Youth development and participation programmes, including Sports, are developed and implemented.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With support from the Dutch Natcom, UNICEF continued its support to the Moengo community. Strengthening coordination at the local community level continued in Moengo with, among other things, the training of local service providers in project implementation, monitoring and reporting. Seven of the nine CBO project proposals submitted to UNICEF in 2014 as a result of trainings for Moengo network members in project planning, design and management are being implemented, supporting the development of approximately 700 adolescents in Moengo and surrounding areas with life skills, sports, cultural and arts expression. Implementation of activities also began in the other two pilot communities. A social and institutional mapping of the second pilot community, Sophia’s Lust, and an action plan were drafted. As in Moengo, these were generated through participatory community planning with significant contribution from adolescents. During the process a model for an integrated approach to adolescent development was developed.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Sports & Youth, a ‘training of trainers’ on basic computer skills and social media use for adolescents (in- and out of school) began in Gujaba (the third pilot community). The Training of Trainers was part of a project entailing the establishment and operationalisation of four youth clubs (basic ICT, scouting, arts & crafts and dance & music) in Gujaba. Another project implemented with the same ministry was ‘Prisiri, Ieri, wroko’ (Fun, learn

and work). In this project, adolescents did their own research and developed their own radio programme, featuring key development issues and healthy life-style, and shared the information with their peers, demonstrating that working and learning are also enjoyable.

Shortly before the general elections held in May 2015, UNICEF and other UN agencies seized the opportunity to sensitise adolescents on the democratic process of elections; raise awareness and increase youth participation in the general elections, and provide an opportunity for adolescents to debate issues of their concern as a way to influence party programmes. This was done through organising 'Krutus' (traditional village-level consultations practised by Maroon populations). Such 'Krutus' had been organised by an NGO during elections in 2011 and were viewed by a large part of the population. Due to popular demand, UNICEF and the UNDP decided to support the NGO to organise a similar programme in 2015. Four 'krutus' were organised and aired during prime time for a couple of days on two of the largest television networks, reaching approximately 70 per cent of the youth and adult population nationally.

OUTPUT 8 Targeted vulnerable communities have improved access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and national plans prioritize underserved communities

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Suriname supported a local community-based NGO, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Regional Development, to set up low-cost water filtering systems in several schools in the area of the Marowijne, Coppename and Upper Suriname river in the interior of Suriname. As a result, an estimated 2,400 children in primary schools in the interior have access to clean drinking water and received training on the use of clean water and safe hygiene practices. UNICEF also supported the printing of WASH booklets adapted to local conditions and training materials used to create awareness among children and villagers on healthy WASH practices.

In collaboration with the Rotary Club and the UNDP small grants programme, a water system was built in a school in Apetina, an indigenous village in the far south of Suriname (total population around 600). The water system was built using as much as possible local (community) labourers and provided around 200 children, teachers and villagers with clean drinking water. The water source was also connected to toilets, which should impact positively on sanitation and hygiene practices in the village. Villagers have requested further support for WASH, as well as training and awareness-raising on the importance of clean water and sanitation.

OUTPUT 9 Child Protection and Gender Based Violence programmes are developed and implemented

Analytical Statement of Progress:

As part of the adolescent development programme being developed in three pilot communities, UNICEF provided support to Moengo – one pilot community with a mixed population and high unemployment due to reduced bauxite operations – for developing community radio programmes aimed at increasing awareness on violence against children and child rights. Radio programmes were developed in both Dutch and the local language and aired in the community. Guest speakers (including service providers from both the community and the capital) shared information on adolescent participatory approaches. A total of 2,500 Moengo adolescents and their parents benefited from the radio programmes.

Children were involved in the programme with weekly question sessions. Additionally a well-

known local artist guided a drawing competition among children, with the theme “raising awareness on violence against children”. The winning drawings will be used as posters to raise awareness on VAC and disseminated through social media.

An initiative to introduce a child protection service provider network in the community as part of the local child protection system is still under development. The purpose is to improve access of adolescents to child protection services, including counselling, consultation and responses to issues related to their rights.

Child protection activities at the community level could not be completed, as some logistical issues constituted a bottleneck and the electoral period slowed down local-level programmes.

OUTPUT 10 Improved implementation of evidence based programmes to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS in Most At Risk Populations and vulnerable groups

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Country Office, in partnership with PAHO, supported national authorities and civil society to develop the ‘National Strategic Plan for a Multi-Sectoral Approach for HIV/AIDS’. Based on this plan, the country developed a concept note for an application to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, requesting US\$4 million, which was approved. UNICEF provided support for preparation of a concept note, including use of a ‘joint assessment of national strategies’ tool, as requested by Global Fund in relation to the national strategic plan.

The Country Office continued supporting efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission, including improvement of the HIV surveillance system.

OUTCOME 3 Cross Sectoral

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In an attempt to objectively assess progress towards the realisation of outcomes and outputs in the Country Programme, both Guyana and Suriname developed annual work plans that were reviewed and adjusted at mid-year to assess programme performance and determine, among other things, what accomplishments could be expected by the end of the reporting period. Both countries made significant progress in all areas of cross-sectoral work. A consolidated IMEP was prepared, with details by country. This IMEP was quarterly reviewed by the CMT. A management response was prepared for the HFLE evaluation finalised in 2014.

To increase understanding of priority children's issues among key decision-makers and communities, and in line with the advocacy and communication strategy for the Guyana office, partnerships with the media were strengthened and maintained throughout the year, thus increasing the visibility and understanding of UNICEF Guyana and its work for children. In Suriname a communications’ consultant was recruited and assisted in a new partnership with journalists and civil society to provide greater visibility for UNICEF’s work and important issues for children, in particular breastfeeding, children with disabilities and violence against children. Several advocacy events and activities for children, and training of media operatives were supported, in line with the Country Office strategy, including collaboration with the parliaments in both countries.

The Country Office actively participated in discussions, consultations and preparation of the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework 2017-2021.

In Suriname, the One UN approach remains a continuous success through the leadership and coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. A HQ visit was paid to the One UN office for preparing a business case on best practices, to be presented to the Global Management Team .

In Guyana efforts were undertaken to strengthen the Civil Defence Commission's capacity to fulfil its coordination role in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency preparedness. Community- based disaster risk management projects were successfully implemented in indigenous areas. The Office positioned itself as an important interlocutor in preventing and reducing the effects of climate change in the country, through communication tools addressing children and advocacy efforts. One of the channels used to achieve this end was its new partnership with the private sector in Guyana. Discussions were held on engaging the private sector in advancing child rights, especially in relation to extractive industries in the interior. Similar discussions began in Suriname in 2015.

OUTPUT 1 Increased understanding of children's priority issues among key decision makers and communities, including opportunities for children to express their views

Analytical Statement of Progress:

A strong partnership with the media was established and maintained throughout the year, thus increasing the visibility and understanding of UNICEF and its work for children in Guyana. Several advocacy events and activities for children were supported as part of programme activities. These included the launch of the 'World's Largest Lesson', in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and engagement of youth in support for the national youth policy, through a Youth Expo.

Key issues affecting children in Guyana were documented through videos and human interest stories, with special focus on Sports for Development and ECD/MCH programmes in the hinterland. Child-friendly materials were also produced and disseminated.

Other activities were supported in collaboration with national partners, providing an opportunity to highlight important issues for children's rights, such as: Breastfeeding Week, Child Protection Week and collaboration with the Rights of the Child Commission on a compendium of case studies to support advocacy for juvenile justice.

Communication tools for the Guyana Office were updated and maintained, and the Office successfully launched its Facebook page, allowing for increased social media engagement. Meetings were held with the new Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Business, and also with the Private Sector Commission and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss plans for private sector engagement. A meeting with the private sector on Children's Rights and Business was organised. The agenda was prepared in partnership with the Canada Natcom; the meeting will be held early in 2016. A mapping of extractive companies in Guyana was also undertaken.

Preparations were made to undertake a review of the resource mobilisation strategy. Cross-cutting considerations of children's rights, gender, equity and human rights were incorporated into all activities.

OUTPUT 2 National plans for Emergency Preparedness and Response are in place for key sectors, including UNICEF's capacity to respond in line with CCCs

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Civil Defence Commission (CDC), with UNICEF technical and financial support, facilitated a review of the national disaster platform's function as the forum for coordination of disaster risk management, including recommendations based on the findings. The subsequent report will guide future coordination mechanisms.

The Country Office, together with the CDC, supported the Ministry of Social Protection (MoSP) in its review of the social protection sectoral EPRP. The plan also has a specific section on child protection. As a result of this activity, clearer delineation of the Ministry's responsibilities and accountabilities within the national response framework were determined, with focus areas for training of staff and pre-positioned supply items identified for 2016.

With UNICEF technical and financial support, CDC launched a community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) project in two adjoining indigenous communities. Community members and stakeholders were engaged to generate greater understanding of local hazards and vulnerabilities and existing risk management systems. Particular attention was paid to the vulnerabilities of households with young children and individuals with disabilities, and the importance of incorporating indigenous and local knowledge to reduce risks. Equipment and resources to maintain the function of CBDRM were handed over at an event co-hosted by UNICEF, commemorating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Advocacy for adherence to national WASH standards was facilitated through CDC platform meetings. The Ministry of Health led meetings of the committee on international health regulations and pandemic preparedness and other WASH stakeholder forums. Interactions with the Ministry of Communities provided openings for cross-cutting WASH interventions at the sub-national level, which mesh with the decentralised framework being established through the national disaster risk management strategy. Equipment and supplies were procured for the international health regulations command centre for DRR.

Staff members actively participated to ensure that the Country Office 'Early Warning/Early Action' (EWEA) platform site was reviewed and updated for 2015. Within UNICEF's ongoing global preparedness and EWEA review, the Country Office actively participated in the January ideation session held in New York, and the prototype validation of the new EWEA platform in Kenya in June.

Through the LACRO Emergency Roster, the Guyana Country Office was able to provide the services of an emergency officer to support the ECA Office's emergency response for the Commonwealth of Dominica.

OUTPUT 3 UNICEF/GoS Country Programme 2012-16 monitoring mechanisms and tools in place

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Office participated in consultations on the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework, together with Resident Coordinator's Office and other UN agencies. A national consultation workshop to identify key national priorities was held in October 2015. In this country consultation workshop, stakeholders from different sectors in Suriname were invited to provide their input for proposing priorities, using the Caribbean multi-country analysis, national priorities, and in the context of the SDG's. More than 100 government officials participated in the workshop.

In consultation with UNDP and UNFPA, the Country Office supported an internal UN review of the harmonised approach to cash transactions (HACT), with the objective of preparing an overall assessment report capturing the current status of HACT implementation by UN agencies, common HACT processes in use and challenges being experienced. A capacity-building session on HACT procedures, related to the Single Treasury Account of the Ministry of Finance was also organised, including hands-on training for completion of forms. The training was attended by an estimated 40 staff from several implementing partners. As a result of this training, a manual of SOPs will be developed for partners, to facilitate the process of cash disbursement through the Single Treasury Account.

The UN Partnership Team dispatched a consultant with a UNICEF HQ team member to Suriname, to collect a field office story on UN coherence and how UN entities in Suriname are working together for results for children. The field stories will be used to: inform donors of good country examples of UN coherence results and inform staff members about our newly established wiki platform of good Country Office results and will also contribute to UNICEF's input in fit for purpose discussions. The story of Suriname's UN collaboration will be presented to the Executive Board at the end of January 2016.

OUTPUT 4 A coherent behaviour change communication and advocacy strategy is developed and implemented

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In July 2016 the Country Office was able to recruit a consultant for communications, which led to increased visibility of UNICEF Suriname's activities. Highlights were:

- Joint advocacy between the Ministry of Health, the Chair of Parliament and UNICEF to underline the importance of exclusive breastfeeding, which is just 3 per cent in Suriname. The three entities also called for popular support to end subsidies for infant formula.
- UNICEF's participation in the September 2015 Arts Festival in Moengo, organised by world-famous artist Marcel Pinas. UNICEF is working with this artist through the Dutch NatCom-funded adolescent programme, of which Moengo is one of the three pilot areas. Through UNICEF's collaboration in the Festival, children were able to create art objects for the exhibition, as well as street painting on the morning of the launch. Pictures of the children's participation will be used for the UNICEF Suriname 2016 calendar.
- A UNICEF-proposed advocacy session in Parliament on exclusive breastfeeding and the removal of Infant formula subsidies was accepted by the Chair of Parliament, who then proposed a whole-day session on health and economic costs.
- UNICEF took the lead in organising communication events during UN Week. A reception was organised, as well as the launch of a UN corner at the national library.
- UNICEF took the lead in creating a child-friendly corner at the One UN building. This will also serve in the future for mothers who want to breastfeed.

With the help of the communications consultant, the Country Office was able to launch the joint Guyana/Suriname Facebook page

OUTPUT 5 Improved national emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2015 ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Education regarding developing DRR interventions for schools constituted a key component of the CFS strategy. As a key member of

the Suriname United Nations Emergency Technical Team , the Country Office engaged with the national disaster risk management agency, the Ministry of Education and the Suriname Red Cross Society to scope a jointly funded disaster resilience intervention proposal for implementation in 2016, to link DRR in schools in eight communities.

Staff members actively participated to ensure that the Country Office EWEA platform site was reviewed and updated for 2015. Within UNICEF’s ongoing review of global preparedness and EWEA processes, the Country Office actively participated in the January ideation session held in New York, and the prototype validation of the new EWEA platform in Kenya in June. The emergency officer also drafted the 2014 EWEA Report for UNICEF’s Emergency Operations Division, which was finalised and disseminated in mid-2015.

Through the LACRO Emergency Roster, the Guyana Country Office was able to provide the services of an emergency officer for three weeks to support the ECA Office’s emergency response in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

OUTPUT 6 Human Resources for effective delivery of programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the annual review, the status of this output is on-track as all activities were implemented as planned

OUTPUT 7 Human Resources for effective delivery of programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the annual review, the status of this output is on-track as all activities were implemented as planned

Document Centre

Lessons Learned

Document Type/Category	Title
Innovation	Establishing a Disability Friendly Play Park in Guyana: A best practice and tool for Inclusiveness
Innovation	Integrating Early Childhood Development (ECD) in the Standardized training for Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Midwives in Indigenous Communities through active participation of the Local, Regional and Central Governments: Enabling parents and community
Innovation	Establishment and enhancement of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) systems within indigenous communities.
Innovation	Keeping Hoppy Happy: Sustainable Education for Development (SED)-innovative DVD focused on nursery and primary grade children “Our Earth is heating up. Let’s take Action now”