

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key achievements:

2010 noted anchoring of the Country Office (CO) in the reform agenda of the social sector as well as a high level of partnership and advocacy.

- Results of the study on the impact of the economic crises on children were presented at a high level Parliament meeting, leading to major debate in the media and Government. An in-depth revision of the Justice for Children system reform was conducted, which led to the ratification of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption.
- A joint agreement between four critical line ministries and UNICEF was concluded, outlining a comprehensive approach to child protection and endorsing start-up of the models at local level in three regions indicative of major attention by the Government to marginalized children.
- Zero cases of MTCT of HIV in South Kazakhstan Region were reported in 2010, and a high national coverage of pregnant women and children by ARV therapy was achieved.
- The International Reference Laboratory on IDD for CEE/CIS was established as a centre of excellence in the region, in collaboration with CDC and the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition.

Collaborative partnership

- The positive evaluation of the Joint UN Programme in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk encouraged the Government to allocate US\$9.0 million to UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF for the continuation of the programme over the next five years.
- The CO worked on new forms of partnerships with development partners and the corporate sector. Due to strong evidence-backed lobbying, the EU, USAID and the Dutch and US Embassies included Justice for Children components into their programmes. Partnership agreements were concluded with several companies.

Shortfalls

- The great momentum of youth participation slowed down due to changes in the personnel in the MOE and the postponement of the state programme on Youth to 2011.
- Efforts to mobilise additional resources only materialised at the end of the year.

2. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Kazakhstan chaired the first OSCE Summit in 11 years, which was attended by 72 heads of states and other dignitaries including the UN SG. The OSCE chairmanship provided Kazakhstan with rich political leverage and strengthened the country's capacity and role as a key international and regional player.

During 2010, the GDP growth rate increased from 1.1 in 2009 to 7.5 per cent; unemployment decreased from 7.0 to 5.6 per cent; and inflation fell from 9.0 to 7.1 per cent. While spending on education and health decreased from 16.5 in 2009 to 15.7 per cent in 2010, social protection spending slightly increased from 19.0 to 21.1 per cent.

Kazakhstan achieved several Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets back in 2007 and the Government proposed MDG-Plus targets in the areas of poverty and hunger, primary education, and gender equality. Large differences between regions and among rural and urban areas persist. Rural poverty is twice as high as the urban, stunting of children is 4 to 5 times more in two regions in the west in comparison to Almaty and Astana, and about 40 per cent of the population is self-employed. Infants in the neonatal period are the most at risk of death, mothers die of sexually transmitted diseases and obstetrical hemorrhages, HIV-infected children remain stigmatized, and abandoned children and children with disabilities lack adequate protective measures and access to quality services. Although the share of population with income used on consumption below the subsistence level decreased from 10.2 in 2009 to 7.4 per cent in 2010, rural consumption poverty is 2.5 times higher than the urban (10.2 and 4.35 per cent respectively). Over the last 18 months, the pre-school education coverage reached an impressive 40 per cent starting from almost nil coverage. The recently adopted National Education Development Programme 2020 envisages access of children with disabilities (around 150,000) to inclusive education and aims to reach 100 per cent coverage of children with pre-school education.

The number of children deprived of parental care in 2010 declined nationally from 42,494 (2009) to 38,386 due to a lower rate of deprivation of parental rights and an increase in adoption of children aged 0-3. Institutionalization and special education schools remain a dominant choice for special education students.

The quality of maternal and child health services is still affected by system-wide weaknesses in norms, standards and practices. The IMR and U5MR decreased after the introduction of international life birth definitions in 2008 (from 20.76 and 23.52 to 16.8 per cent and 19.1 per cent, respectively). Gradual drop in MMR over the last decade continued this year (in 2009 – 36.9 and in 2010 – 23.1 per 100,000 live births). Yet the rural MMR is 1.5 times higher than the urban rate.

3. CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

3.1 CP Analysis

3.1.1 CP Overview:

2010 was the first year of a new CPAP (2010-2015). The new programme followed recommendations that were made by the Mid-term Review 2007, UNDAF and the consultations with the Government, Parliament, local authorities, academia, civil society and international organizations which helped to sharpen the country programme's focus on national priorities and strategic areas. During its preparation, particular attention was also paid to rethinking UNICEF's operation in a Middle Income Country (MIC) and on the best approaches to channel our limited resources towards the most vulnerable children in such a vast country. The equity-focused reflection exercises confirmed that the new CO programme is designed towards alleviating the situation of deprived children in Kazakhstan, though more evidence and analysis is needed to sharpen its focus and impact.

During the first year of implementation, the child protection approach was refined by focusing on strengthening the integrated and multi-sectoral child protection system, enabling it to effectively prevent and respond to identified violence, abuse and exploitation of children, address child abandonment, and prevent marginalization and deprivation of basic child rights of the most vulnerable groups of children. Data were gathered on the situation of children in institutions, and violence affecting them. The MICS-4 data collection was also initiated. The survey results will be used for developing baseline data for a new CPAP but will also contribute to assessing the well-being of children, along with the trends and disparities across the country. These and other studies and research are expected to continue in 2011, which will provide the CO and the Kazakh Government with evidence-based analysis for better policymaking.

The Kazakhstan Development Plan 2020, setting the mid-term development goals and targets, was finalized and signed by the President. This important plan outlines the continued ambitious agenda that the Government has set in its 2030 Development Strategy. Moreover, the State Programme of Healthcare Development till 2015 and Education Development Programme till 2020 were also completed. UNICEF was involved in reviewing and contributing inputs to these critical documents shaping the evolution of the social sector. The CO's involvement was aimed at ensuring better targeting of the marginalized children through inclusion and improved access to quality health and education services.

3.1.2 Programme Strategy

3.1.2.1 Capacity Development:

The CO continued to work on capacity development of national institutions and public agencies to enable effective responses to the fulfillment of children's rights. Some examples of the work undertaken are:

- Including development and implementation of crisis communication as a response to prevent the outbreaks of Congo-Creman Haemorrhagic Fever and Poliomyelitis;
- Introducing cost effectiveness and budgeting for children in educational and social protection sectors;
- Introducing a sustainable child rights curriculum in the Judicial and Police Academies and Schools of Prosecutors as well as Law Faculties at two Universities;
- Providing the Members of Parliament and key governmental officials with international expertise on child protection, with enhanced focus on the most vulnerable children;
- Mapping of the national child protection system;
- Supporting the evaluation of the Joint UN Programme at the former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk, which provided important evidence on existing gaps and the fragmentation in the governmental system, and the measures suggested to achieve the required convergence in order to protect the most vulnerable children and children at risk, along with their families;
- Supporting the Ministry of Education and Science in the cost effectiveness and budgeting for children in education processes by introducing a per-capita approach for school financing in a target region. The model for this approach will be piloted in 2011;
- Strengthening the capacity of the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office to monitor child rights by engaging in a first ever study on violence against children in residential care institutions, and supporting revision of child rights complaints and response mechanisms by provision of international expertise.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy:

- The ratification of the Convention on Inter-country Adoption resulted in Kazakhstan's accession to the treaty, for which a joint implementation mechanism has been developed.
- High level sessions in Parliament were conducted to discuss the progress in child protection reform, along with challenges and gaps in the development of family support mechanisms and in the establishment of the Justice for Children system in the country. Members from the Government were questioned on progress.
- A high level debate in Parliament discussed outcomes of a joint study by UNICEF and the National Analytical Centre on the impacts of the economic and financial crises on children, leading to a series of discussions on social budgeting.

- A joint strategic agreement was concluded between the MoLSP, MoE, MoH, MoI, UNICEF and selected local authorities, to develop models of integrated child protection services in three regions of the country.
- Critical child protection issues were addressed in the draft Family Code and a number of legal amendments were developed by Parliament. The minimum age of criminal responsibility for a greater number of crimes was increased from age 14 to 16 years.
- In line with the CRC's concluding observations, the President transferred the centres for temporary isolation of adolescents (TSVIARNs) from MoI to MoES addressing the ongoing child rights violations and creating an opportunity for development of a country wide network of centres providing statutory child protection services.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships:

The CO's approach to partnerships consisted of: a) enhancing inter-sectoral collaboration with the Government; b) building political support and leveraging resources with donors and diplomatic missions; c) mobilizing joint projects with civil society; and d) reaching out to the private sector for long-term collaboration. Among the partnerships promoted, the following are notable:

- Building on the national consultations with youth in 2009, youth groups partnered in several communication and social mobilisation campaigns on polio vaccination and fortified flour promotion. Youth NGOs joined the alliance for fortified flour comprising a National Association of Millers, national networks of healthy lifestyle centres, and centres of sanitary and epidemiological surveillance as well as the media, which reached over 4,500 schools and 1.5 million youth and adults with messages and diverse activities.
- Partnership with Parliament was further strengthened through organizing special sessions devoted to social budgeting and child protection. This ensured high level political representation and NGO participation.
- The joint UN Programme (UNDP, UNFPA, UNV, UNICEF) on Enhancement of Human Security in the former Nuclear test Site of Semipalatinsk was highly appreciated by the Government resulting in the allocation of US\$9.0 million for next five years for the UN joint Programme.
- The EU, the US, Dutch Embassies and USAID amended their justice programmes to include juvenile justice components. The BOTA Foundation with a US\$90 million portfolio joined UNICEF in supporting the establishment of child protection systems by financing NGOs providing family support and child protection services in targeted regions.
- The establishment of the Child Protection Cluster among the international and civic organisations was another strategic partnership set up by UNICEF for a more coordinated approach to child protection as well as to better identify the needs and risks of the most vulnerable children.

Partnership with universities was expanded to cover the new Nazarbayev University, East Kazakhstan University, Euro Asian University, and the Law University of Astana.

- Building strategic alliances with the corporate sector is a new area for the CO. Agreements were concluded with Ernst&Young and Eventica Group, and agreements with HSBC, Lufthansa, and P&G are in the pipeline. The visit of UNICEF International Goodwill Ambassador, Sir Roger Moore and work of National Ambassador Batykhhan Shykanov significantly supported the brand promotion process.

3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management:

The CO generated valuable knowledge and gathered new data on the situation of children for elaborating and pursuing evidence-based policies towards children (see the Studies). The CO facilitated National partners and academia to conduct all the studies and surveys in partnership with international experts and reputed institutes such as the Overseas Development Institute, the International Legal Institute at Sussex University, experts from the Florence University, the ex-chairman of the UN CRC Committee and other renowned economic and social experts and networks.

The mapping of the current child protection system in Kazakhstan highlighted the fragmentation of the system and the need to re-focus on family care rather than on institutionalization. After in-depth discussions, the Government decided to introduce a five-step programme which will enable better coordination among ministries, and the development and differentiation of their tasks.

The study on main causes of child abandonment confirmed that most of the cases of abandonment take place within medical facilities. The outcomes provide additional evidence of an urgent need to develop a more multi-disciplinary prevention mechanism for addressing child abandonment.

The study on the impact of the financial crisis on children led to critical analysis and public debate in the media and Government.

Documenting of the UNICEF PMTCT scaling up efforts in South Kazakhstan and the CO's successful experience in health promotion and communication proved the relevance of the intervention undertaken and provided an informed basis for recommending PMTCT for national replication.

Two major studies, (the first on violence against children in public settings, being implemented with the Ombudsman's Office, and the other profiling institutionalized children, undertaken jointly with the MoES, MoH and MoLSP) have been launched and are due to be completed in 2011.

A comprehensive review of prenatal care in East Kazakhstan Region provided local health authorities and management with a detailed gap assessment and precise recommendations, which they further used for the elaboration of action plans for improved maternity care and safe maternities in the Region.

3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development:

In 2010, the Communication for Development (C4D) work was continued through the development of a stakeholders' analysis on health communication. The above document laid the basis for a C4D Strategy. The purpose of the C4D strategy - **Every Child Counts** - is twofold: to advocate for increased social investment and systems strengthening for all children in Kazakhstan that leads to meaningful changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices among caregivers and policymakers, and to foster active participation of youth in society's efforts addressing the vulnerabilities and the needs of young people, with special focus on inclusion of the most disadvantaged youth and children, and those with special needs. Within the above goal, the C4D strategy will support key interventions at national, regional and district levels to promote and achieve sustainable social and behaviour change necessary for improving the quality of life of all children in Kazakhstan.

Given national ownership over the promotion of the Child Friendly Initiative, the C4D strategy is planned to be incorporated into this initiative. Building C4D capacity within the CFC Initiative will allow UNICEF to maximize existing funding and human resources within CFC for fulfilling children's rights in these local governance systems.

3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation:

The CO continued to work on the capacity development of institutions and public agencies responsible for ensuring children's rights. In 2010, this involved the strengthening of the capacity of Human Rights Ombudsman's Office to monitor child rights and in engaging in the study on violence against children in residential care institutions. Resulting from continued evidence-based advocacy and cooperation, the Ministers of Social Welfare, Health, Education and Science and Interior consolidated a five-step strategy for cross-sectoral coordination and support to address the most neglected, vulnerable and abused children through joint actions leading to the structural changes and modeling of integrated social services and child protection at the local level.

In 2010, joint cooperation efforts targeted the collection of data on vulnerable children and analysis of structural causes of non-fulfilment of their rights. In addition to the violence against children study, a study on identification of causes of abandonment of children aged from 0 to 3 years in East Kazakhstan Region, an evaluation of local and central level child protection systems in legislation and practice, and an assessment of the adoption system in Atyrau Region were implemented. These, as well as other critical studies and surveys such as MICS4 and a child wellbeing study, launched in 2010 and , to be continued in 2011, will strengthen the CO's and partners' knowledge on key factors affecting progress in child protection and holistic development. Importantly, they will produce evidence of disparities across a range of key indicators, including between the richest and poorest quintiles, between rural and urban populations, and between boys and girls to sharpen the equity focus in cooperation and strategically address the rights of excluded and vulnerable groups of children and youth.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming:

Kazakhstan achieved MDG 3 on gender equality three years ago. The country also ranked high in a global World Economic Forum (WEF) gender equality study, according to the 2010 Global Gender Gap Report released in December 2010. The country was ranked 41st in the world, ahead of France and Poland, for its inclusiveness of women in professional and government spheres. It ranked 12th on the WEF's Economic Participation and Opportunity index with no appreciable gender gap found in the rate of female to male workers in professional sectors. Kazakhstan is 25th in the world in terms of general education of females, and was found to present equal opportunities for females for enrollment at the primary, secondary and university levels.

As part of country efforts to further improve gender parity, UNICEF started implementation of some recommendations made by the CO Gender Assessment conducted in 2009. In particular, the CPAP now spells out specific actions needed to address gender disparities in Kazakhstan. This involves collecting and analysing data on gender equity in the most disadvantaged groups of children and women such as migrants, trafficked, exploited or left without parental care, and gender based violence. Research on some of these issues started in 2010 and will be complemented by the outcomes of the Child Well-Being study and MICS4. The CO will pay special attention to the critical rate of suicide among girls which appears to be on the rise.

3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability:

Parts of Kazakhstan suffer from the legacy of nuclear testing from the Soviet era. A total of 468 nuclear tests were conducted in the Semipalatinsk site, in East Kazakhstan region. The area has remained one of the poorest regions in the country. The resulting fallout from the tests severely affected the people in the region, its ecosystems and the traditional way of living. Shortly after closing the site in 1992, the Government adopted measures to mitigate impacts on the affected population. Social protection and healthcare interventions were established. Recognizing the severity of the health, environmental and social problems in the Semipalatinsk and nearby regions, the UN General Assembly adopted six Resolutions between 1997 and 2009 calling on the international community to assist the Government of Kazakhstan in its efforts to

overcome the challenges of rehabilitation. UNICEF's interventions and support were initiated in 2000.

Starting from 2005, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and UNV have been implementing a joint programme, Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk, with the financial support from the Government of Japan through the UN Human Security Trust Fund (UNTFHS). The joint project assisted the Government in formulation and implementation of specialized programmes and projects targeting the affected population, and enhanced economic growth, sustainable development and human security in the affected area. UNICEF's contribution focused on enhancing access to quality social and health services for vulnerable groups of women and children. An additional phase has been developed with funding from the Government.

Access to drinking water and adequate sanitation in Kazakhstan remains a challenge. This affects nutrition and health of children and pregnant women, particularly in rural areas. The Government has invested in improving the water and sanitation system but because of the size of the country and sparsely populated areas, this remains a major challenge. With limited resources, UNICEF in Kazakhstan has not been strongly engaged in this area, though it is considered important in improving the lives of most vulnerable children and women.

3.2 Programme Components:

Title: *Social policy and alliances for children*

Purpose:

a) PCR: By end of 2015, Kazakhstan to address disparities in the realisation of children's rights

IR: By end of 2015, national authorities allocate and utilize sufficient public resources to prioritize child rights in health, education and social protection.

IR: By end of 2015, compacts for children, representing the government, the private sector, civil society and UNICEF, contribute to child- and youth-centred initiatives, the leveraging of resources and regular monitoring of children's rights.

This programme component aims to assist the Government of Kazakhstan in monitoring child well-being and in social sector reforms by enhancing policy review and budget utilization, improving knowledge management systems across sectors, and expanding partnerships for children. As a result: (a) budget processes will be more outcome-based to encourage the provision of adequate government funding for implementation of social policies equally benefiting girls and boys from disadvantaged areas; (b) a growing number of the staff at strategic planning departments, line ministries and local administrations (education, social protection, and healthcare) apply child wellbeing indicators and evidence-based data in planning, implementing and budgeting according to the MTEF; (c) local development strategies and action plans are adopted; and (d) the public and private sectors work in partnerships to uphold and safeguard the rights of children and adolescents.

Resources Used:

a) Resources Used:

The following resources were approved, available and used in 2010:

		as per CPAP	RR (US\$)*	OR (US\$)**	TOTAL
1.	Social Policy and Alliances for Children	440,000	290,000 – projected as per CPAP	150,000 – projected as per CPAP	440,000
2	Child-Focused Social Policy and Knowledge Management		56,164.66	342,402.94	398,567.60

3	Alliances for Children		26,425.34	0	26,425.34
4	Programme Support		185,593.00	0	185,593.00
	Total		268,183	342,402.94	610,585.94

*) PBA/GC/2009/0324-01

**) PBA/SC/2008/0151, Contributions from UNHSTF through UNDP to UNICEF for a joint programme on Enhancing Human Security in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan, (11.03.2008-31.10.2010), US\$34,535.74; PBA/GS/2010/0007, MICS-4, \$200,000.00; PBA/SC/2006/9905, Policy Advocacy and Partnerships (31.12.2012), US\$99,867.20 (including US\$40,000 additional for MICS-4); PBA/SC/2010/9905, Policy Advocacy and Partnerships, US\$8,000.00 (out of US\$200,000; US\$192,000.00 are rolled over for 2011 and 2012)

Result Achieved:

The CO was engaged in a high-level dialogue and advocacy with decision makers. A special session in Parliament was held on social budgeting and effective channelling of resources eventually leading to critical analysis and public debate in the media and Government.

UNICEF effectively contributed to the development of the 2020 Strategic Development Plan, Healthcare Development Programme 2015, and Education Development Programme 2020 as well as of other territorial development programmes, underlining and encouraging effective policies for marginalised children in all of the above.

MICS-4 was initiated in 2010 with strong initiative and ownership from the Agency of Statistics. The Survey cost is jointly shared between the Government, UNICEF, and supported by UNFPA. The data collection is underway and will be completed in 2011. The CO contributed to analysis and generation of knowledge on social and economic aspects that affect vulnerable children and women.

- Ministry of Finance was supported with technical expertise in reviewing the effectiveness and efficiency of public expenditures in social sectors. System gaps were identified and further policy options elaborated. Contribution was made to the development of the social budget evaluation methodology (enforced November 2010).
- Ministry of Education and Science was supported in development of a methodology for calculating funding norms on a per-capita basis (to be introduced in 2012-2013), and the respective formula modelling scheme for 2011-2012. The move towards per-capita financing, as part of a wider context of the current education reform, aims to contribute to both increasing efficiency at the school level and improved effectiveness and quality of education. UNICEF will continue support with the modeling.
- The child friendly city initiative took off reaching 11 cities (30 per cent) of cities. A national Child Friendly City Summit was held at the initiative of the Government, and UNICEF provided technical assistance in the development of frameworks and action plans and in establishing a network, among other capacity building efforts.

MICS encountered several challenges. Original plans foresaw full government funding. However, due to some budgetary oversight the allocated funds could not be used for MICS activities. The unexpected shortage of funds was made up with UNICEF mobilizing the remaining resources from the HQ and UNFPA. The 2009 Census data base was not fully completed by the time of development of sampling frame for the MICS.

Given its stage of economic development and MIC status, Kazakhstan has no donor community. However, the CO successfully mobilized partners to mainstream child protection issues in their regular programmes. The EU, the US, Dutch Embassy and USAID graciously amended their justice programmes to include juvenile justice components. The BOTA Foundation, with US\$90 million portfolio, joined UNICEF in supporting the establishment of child protection systems by financing NGOs providing family support and child protection services in targeted regions.

The establishment of the Child Protection Cluster among the international and civic organizations was another strategic partnership for a more coordinated approach to child

protection as well as to better identify the needs and risks of the most vulnerable children.

Partnership with universities expanded to cover the new Nazarbayev University, East Kazakhstan University, Euro Asian University and the Law University of Astana. Efforts are underway to match renowned international institutes with local universities in carrying out analyses on the situation of children and vulnerable populations, and to improve the much needed research capacities.

Building a strategic alliance with the corporate sector is a new area for the CO not only for fundraising but for the promotion of child rights within these sectors, given the fact that they are the major employers in the country. For example, UNICEF engaged with tobacco producer Philip Morris as a follow-up to the Human Rights Watch report on the use of child labour in tobacco plantations. UNICEF's discussion with the company's management on improving their internal policies and practices resulted in a proposal for investment of up to US\$2 million for establishing community educational child friendly space for the children of parents employed in tobacco farms.

Continued cooperation was pursued with the National Goodwill Ambassador and singer Batyrkhan Shukenov, who featured in three PSAs on promoting Youth Friendly Services, the poliomyelitis campaign, and the inclusion of children with special needs.

Future Workplan:

This programme component will focus on the following interventions in 2011:

- Finalize, launch/present, analyse and disseminate MICS-4 results and findings;
- Pilot the per-capita financing model in the education sector to better understand the implications of the new funding scheme and wider needs of the sector in terms of effectiveness of spending and the best way to formulate and reach strategic objectives around quality and provision of special needs in education;
- Partner with MoF and MoLSP on the unified PFM-social protection agenda to offer policy relevant insights into the design and reform of the social protection system and the targeted resource allocation in social sectors for better child outcomes at central and local levels;
- Launch a child well-being study to better understand disparities and inequities across regions, rural and urban areas and income/ethnic groups in Kazakhstan that will also help in developing the monitoring system required to track and assess the quality of life of all children;
- Further support the Child Rights Committee, local governments and civil society organizations in developing the CFC-relevant wellbeing indicators, criteria to determine the level of child friendliness of cities and towns, accreditation/award process, alternative reporting mechanisms (including youth reports), and the mechanisms for more active participation of children in all relevant decision-making at the local level.
- Finalize agreements with at least three additional corporate partners for a total contribution of at least US\$400,000. Develop a programme for advising extraction companies to pursue internal policies for enhanced child protection and family support.
- Maintain already developed relations with key donors, the EU and USAID in particular, to further leverage their resources for children. Expand the network of diplomatic missions to gain strong support for child rights agenda.
- Expand the network of cooperating universities and NGOs as provider of additional expertise and knowledge on situation of children in Kazakhstan, especially on the most vulnerable as well as strengthen their educational, advocacy and response capacities for promoting child rights.

Title: *Strengthening systems for a protective environment for children*

Purpose:

IR: By end of 2015, national authorities monitor the quality and access of children and women to integrated MCH, ECD, HIV services.

IR: By end of 2015, the national child protection system responds to individual needs of each child deprived of parental care and in conflict with the law and prevents/responds to abuse, neglect and exploitation of girls, boys and women.

This component aims at strengthening of the quality of health, nutrition, education and child protection services. The programme seeks to assist the Government in strengthening the social sector system so that improvements are made in access, quality and effectiveness of care and preventive and protection services for children, adolescents and women. The two key elements of the programme are child and adolescent health and development and child protection. These aim to achieve the following results: (a) a comprehensive health system is in place enabling the holistic and integrated delivery and monitoring results of MCH, ECD, life skills-based education and HIV prevention and care services; (b) transformed and optimized childcare systems are in place that rely on community-based social services, prevention of family separation and various forms of family substitute care; and (c) the juvenile justice system provides rights-based solutions to the situation and of each child in conflict with the law, in accordance with the best interests of every child.

The Child Protection Programme is divided in three crosscutting priority areas: 1) Family Oriented Child Care, 2) Justice for Children, 3) Independent child rights monitoring

Planned results for 2010

- Models of integrated child protection services designed based on the mapping of child protection system.
- The agreement on profiling institutionalized children for development of a master plan for transformation reached with the Government.
- The establishment of coordination mechanisms for JJ is placed on the political agenda and legislation for development of JJ framework revised.
- Study on Babies TQM conducted.
- Set of standards to ensure quality of WFF drafted.
- The IRLI resource laboratory in the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition for the CEE/CIS is prepared for establishing a system to monitor and evaluate IDD elimination programme's impact and track iodine elimination status of the Kazakhstani population.

Resources Used:

The following resources were approved, available and used in 2010:

PROGRAMME / PROJECT	RR (US\$)*	OR (US\$)**	TOTAL (US\$)
Child/Adolescent Health and Development	57,765	551,916	609,681
Child Protection System	92,653	341,594	434,247
Programme Support	370,400	58,635	429,035
Total	520,818	952,145	1,472,963

*) PBA/GC/2009/0324-01

**) PBA/GS/2009/0075, Set-Aside Funds on health promotion and communication - US\$199,993.13

PBA/SC/06/9901-A7, Thematic Funds - US\$20,477.00

PBA/SC/2006/9903, UNICEF thematic funds for HIV - US\$70,969.74

PBA/SC/2006/9904, UNICEF thematic funds for child protection - US\$243,895.55

PBA/SC/2008/0151, UNTFHS - US\$86,162.52

PBA/SC/2008/0542, GAIN, FF - US\$83,732.56

PBA/SC/2009/0552, Italian Government, US\$26,289.74
PBA/SC/2009/0681, CDC, nutrition - US\$70,457.38
PBA/SC/2010/0542, CDC Nutrition (2nd round) - US\$16,855.66
PBA/SI/2009/0121, Global Budget on Polio Eradication (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) - US\$92,000
PBA/SC/2010/0799, UNTFHS - US\$9,364.69

Result Achieved:

UNICEF study on the current child protection system revealed considerable fragmentation of the system with a high number of bodies with overlapping responsibilities. It also noted insufficient mechanisms to protect children against the risk of abuse and exploitation. A high level debate in the parliament led to a breakthrough action plan signed between four line ministries and UNICEF to develop a multi-sectoral integrated child protection statutory service.

A major exercise to profile all institutionalized children in the country has been initiated to help develop a strategic action plan for transforming the state child care institutions into community based and family oriented care services.

In lieu of ratification of the UN Convention on People with Disabilities, UNICEF supports the MoLSP in the development of a cross-sectoral implementation action plan for 2011–2020.

Kazakhstan ratified the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption. The MOES and MoFA, with support from UNICEF, are developing its implementation mechanisms. An assessment confirmed some gaps in domestic adoption including lack of transparency, inadequate child-family matching, and complicated judicial procedures. The development of the inter-country adoption system is being closely linked with strengthening domestic adoption.

A Special Parliamentarian hearing on juvenile justice enhanced progress in the implementation of Justice for Children reform. It resulted in a decree to: strengthen reform coordination; develop Justice for Children Code; establish Juvenile Courts in all regions; increase capacities of justice professionals; and seek alternatives to imprisonment. In support of the juvenile justice reform programme, UNICEF has created a unique partnership with the EU, USAID, Dutch Embassy and the OSCE.

With the new President's decree on the reform of the Law Enforcement Agencies the rate of deprivation liberty of children has slightly decreased but children serving sentences have still no adequate rehabilitation and social integration support. The minimum age of prosecution was increased from 14 to 16 for more categories of crimes. The decree ordered transfer of centres for temporary isolation of children (where child rights are at risk and their violation is known to occur) from MoI to MoES to enhance protection of children.

With UNICEF support, the MoJ is developing models of probation system; the Supreme Court is drafting a mediation law; the Ombudsman's Office is developing procedures for independent monitoring of facilities for imprisoned children; justice bodies are developing child rights curricula for judges, police and prosecutors; and a model for alternative sentencing was developed (which has to date benefited 30 child offenders). The Ombudsman's Office was assisted to develop a specialized report on child rights situation for the President; strengthen internal capacities on child rights monitoring and complaints management; and launch a comprehensive study on violence against children in public settings.

Several studies were initiated to understand gaps and actions required to improve the quality and access of children and women to MCH, HIV and ECD services. The findings revealed inadequate information systems and indicators, insufficient involvement of patients, and the need for quality leadership with improved capacity. The studies supported mainstreaming critical MCH activities into the Action Plan of the new State Programme on Health. Four critical maternities (maternity centres), accounting for 65 per cent of all IMR cases, were identified for major capacity building interventions. The national coverage of pregnant women and children with ARV treatment was

increased to 97.6 per cent. Zero HIV transmission cases were reported in South Kazakhstan Region (SKR). The experience will be documented and used, along with a retrospective PMTCT Survey, to strengthen the national PMTCT programme.

Supported by UNICEF, a baseline study was undertaken and a regional plan developed to address the high level of morbidity and mortality of children due to infections and poor hygiene in SKR. The above study and its recommendations, along with findings of the analysis of health promotion and communication stakeholders' analysis, is an important contribution to Government efforts to develop public health policy and strengthen community action.

The efforts aimed at reducing the prevalence of anaemia among mothers and children from 40 to 15 per cent led to development of procedures and capacity building of government regulatory bodies and flour millers to operationalize the legislation on mandatory flour fortification (FF). The FF initiative was supported by a strong public-private alliance and a nation-wide advocacy and communication campaign.

A Reference Laboratory on Iodine was established at the Kazakh Academy of Nutrition. National Child Growth and Development Standards were adapted to the local setting. The national programme on vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6–59 months was formulated.

UNICEF successfully supported the polio response activities in two rounds of the Supplementary Immunization Activities at both national and sub-national levels. Over 98 per cent coverage was reported.

Future Workplan:

- Integrated child protection system model in two regions of Kazakhstan will be tested and documented;
- Data collection on the profiles of children in institutions will be completed and a national strategy on transformation developed;
- In-depth analysis of the situation of the most vulnerable groups of children will be conducted;
- Actions for strengthening preventive measures on violence against children in state run institutions will be discussed based on the findings of the study;
- Complaint mechanisms on child rights monitoring will be reviewed and strengthened within the HR Ombudsman's Office;
- Different models of inclusion into pre-school (rural, semi-urban, urban) will be evaluated;
- Policy documents on inter-country adoption will comply with the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption and domestic adoption system provided with clear recommendation for ensuring the best interest of the child;
- Transformation of temporary isolation centres for minors in two regions will be tested and evaluated;
- Documenting and assessment of the juvenile courts' operations and diversion scheme in Astana will be completed;
- The model of alternative sentencing will be documented and presented for the Government for national replication and inclusion in law.
- Main results of and bottlenecks in the child protection reform will be assessed and presented during a national child protection conference in Kazakhstan and at the Regional Child Protection Forum in Turkmenistan.

In Child and Adolescent Health and Development:

- Advocacy for the development and implementation of integrated and sustainable mother and child health, ECD and nutrition policies as well as revision of the national framework on management of quality in health care to be conducted;
- A regional MCH strategy for East Kazakhstan Region with a component on the development and testing of quality monitoring tools and approaches to be elaborated;
- Monitoring over the quality and availability of Fortified Food in Kazakhstan on the basis of existing systems and recourses to be established;

- A KAP analysis about the prevention of anaemia and consumption of fortified flour in an anaemia prevalence group of reproductive age women to be carried out;
- A marketing analysis carried out of the capacity and availability of laboratories dealing with iodine in urine and salt in the CEE/CIS Region, and further support given to the IRLI to ensure it is fully operational by end of 2011.

Title: *Cross-sectoral costs*

Purpose:

Cross-sectoral costs covered cross-sectoral staff salaries as well as travel and training and also included additional operational support for country office management and administration.

Resources Used:

The total amount of funds spent for these purposes was USD 66,000.

4. OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure:

In 2010 the Country Management Team (CMT) met four times. The CMT's agenda included review of programme and operational goals and priorities, office performance indicators, management of resources and guidance on PBR decisions, staff learning and development, staff welfare, safety and security, and other programme and operational issues. To effectively support office governance, and to optimize staff participation, and widen representation of different sections and clusters, the structure of statutory committees was reviewed twice, and the Table of Authorities was updated during the year to reflect the office emerging requirements. The office statutory committees were functioning on an 'as needed' basis, providing recommendations and advice for decision making and risk management. PCA review was separated from CRC mandate and new committee was established to review programme cooperation aspect, while CRC limit was increased from US\$20,000 to US\$50,000.

Regular staff meetings were held to review office priorities and to highlight planned and ongoing activities, to observe the progress against work plans implementation, to get update from colleagues involved in UN and external developments or training, and to discuss staff concerns and other relevant issues. Separate section meetings of programme and operations staff as well as fundraising team were held regularly to share information, define individual roles and responsibilities, and sharpen the team's goals and objectives. The monthly programme meetings were devoted to sharing information among the sections and agreeing on cross sectoral approaches.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management:

The CO defined its risk profile and conducted self assessment exercise to determine existing control mechanisms and to address residual risks. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan was updated and followed while responding to a localized emergency in south part of Kyrgyzstan, where the office provided support with surge capacity, logistics and coordination of emergency response. The lessons learned from these activities were summarized and will be reflected in the next year's EPRP.

The Business continuity plan was updated in 2010, and tested by conducting radio drills and exercising remote access to systems in condition of restricted movement and limited physical access to the office facilities. VHF license was obtained and radio sets were handed to critical staff to use in case of emergency as per BCP provision. BCP implementation, however, remains limited to each agency's priorities and agenda,

lacking interagency coordination in developing common strategies, testing and assessment.

4.1.3 Evaluation:

The office has an updated IMEP, which is used to plan and implement evaluations in key programmes, strategies and management areas. In monitoring and evaluation special attention was paid to quality of ToRs and selection of the based expertise. The Evaluation of the joint UN Semipalatinsk project was completed at the end of 2010. Its findings encouraged the government to allocate US\$ 9.0 million to the joint programme for five years.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication (ICT):

In the ICT area the office implemented several initiatives: speed of internet connectivity was increased to 2000 Kbps that significantly improved quality of Almaty connectivity, facilitating access of zone office' users to Lotus Notes mail on the Domino server located in the Astana Office. As part of preparation to installing Windows 7, the office IT equipment was upgraded to meet the requirements of new operating system. The key annual IT work plan objectives were successfully implemented and major systems were set up to UNICEF standards.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship

4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations:

The total OR ceiling for 6 years 2010-2015 approved in CPD is US\$ 4,540,000. OR allocation for 2010 - US\$450,000; 2011 - US\$830,000; 2012 - US\$950,000; 2013 - US\$1,080,000; 2014 - US\$680,000; 2015 - US\$550,000.

The funds raised in 2010 were 327% above the target in 2010, and those expected in 2011 are likely to be 136% above the target set for 2011.

Compared to the total 6-year CPD budget, what the CO raised in 2010 and to-date already constitutes 57% of the total ceiling for six years. In the event all funds projected for 2011 (under negotiation) will be fully mobilised in 2011, based on the cumulative amount for two years, the CO will be able to reach 87% of the total CPD OR ceiling.

The office set a task force responsible for establishment of corporate partnership and fundraising, which reports to the Representative. A corporate partnership and fundraising strategy has been developed the first year of which was devoted mainly to increase brand awareness in the corporate sector and likely corporate donors as well as in the general public. A new website and Face book portal was developed, with a user friendly design, and regularly updated content that includes information for donors, and serves as potential tool for online fundraising. Support of the national good will ambassador, a fund raising Ball, and the notable visit of the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Sir Roger Moore to Kazakhstan contributed to excellent coverage and awareness generation. The CO successfully entered into a partnership agreement with two corporate partners (Ernst&Young and Eventica Group), and agreements with three others (HSBC, Lufthansa, P&G) are in the pipeline. More than 50 companies were approached the majority of which are from in the oil extraction business which puts considerable limitations on wider fund raising from oil sector.

UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA entered into a cost sharing agreement with the Government of Kazakhstan for funding for joint programming in the Former Nuclear Test Site of Semipalatinsk. A total amount of USD9.0 million was allocated for five years for the UN, of which USD3.4 million was assigned to UNICEF.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets:

Office property and equipment was counted and reconciled with the database records. The functions of the office property custodian were segregated from recording and reconciliation to reinforce asset control and mitigate risk of human errors. Effectiveness of safety and security measures for staff and assets were assessed by internal audit

conducted remotely in February 2010 as well as by UN security mission held by in October 2010, when UNICEF was rated as compliant with standards.

4.2.3 Supply:

Reports to international public sector donors were reviewed for quality assurance and submitted on time with no outstanding reporting during the year. The Office continues to improve the management of cash assistance. Principles of HACT were introduced in 2009 and micro-assessment was conducted prior to transition to FACE. Though the office started FACE implementation this year, it was agreed that risk assessment will be regularly undertaken and appropriate assurance activities will be introduced in 2011 in order to ensure ownership and accountability of partners, and to mitigate risks. DCT training for partners is planned for January 2011.

Progress continues to be achieved in cash flow forecasting and management of cash resources which kept cash balances at optimal level. Bank reconciliations have been done within first week of the following month. DFAM has categorized UNICEF Kazakhstan as "low risk" based on the timeliness and accuracy of bank reconciliation statements submitted and the office was included in the list of countries required to submit bank reconciliation documents on a quarterly basis instead of monthly.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity:

Staff well-being and security, learning and development issues were discussed at general staff meetings and CMT. Office held a retreat to discuss plans for the year which was also aimed at strengthening of the team spirit and improving work relations. Several staff members used flexi-time during specified periods of time, three staff members benefited from using a 10-day learning policy, and three staff members were seconded to the other offices (Moscow, Bishkek, New York) to provide temporary support that was also a development opportunity.

There were six staff appointments and two resignations during the year. The recruitment process was improved by using competency based interviewing and increased number of CBI certified members of the selection panel, reducing time for processing and broadening sourcing of candidates. UNICEF staff members frequently participated in recruitment process of UNDP.

The Office continues to restructure and identify opportunities to combine or merge functions, redistribute tasks and/or enrich posts in operations with the objective of enhancing capacity by focusing on current staff strengths and balancing, as well as complementing deficiencies in specific competencies, and reducing costs in anticipation of a smaller budget and programme scope in the next biennium.

The Local HRD Committee was convened to develop the Office Learning and Training Plan that was implemented for more than 80 per cent of staff, though the rate of completion of on-line learning programmes remained low.

The Staff Association was active and initiated staff socializing events, consolidated staff views and brought them to the attention of the management. One of the issues of concern was inadequate level of salaries of GS staff, which was put on freeze as a result of comprehensive salary survey in 2009. In 2010 the interim salary survey was conducted whose results await clearance.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement:

Ninety three per cent of the non-post support budget (SB) has been spent on office operating expenses (58%) and travel (35%). The highest portion of operating expenditures was for office maintenance and telecommunication. To optimize cost savings, office maintenance is carried on cost sharing basis, with OSCE in Astana and ESCAP in Almaty office premises. Telecommunication costs are partially subsidized from regular and other resources (RR and OR), and the CO strives for reduction of expenses through encouraging staff to use IP telecommunication provider for land line calls.

Overtime tended to reduce by minimizing drivers' official travel on weekends and holidays. Inter-agency initiatives were supported and facilitated by UNICEF to reduce transaction costs, and new LTAs for printing service, pouch delivery, transportation and hotel accommodation were concluded

4.4.2 Changes in AMP:

No significant change is envisioned as this is the first year of the new country programme.

5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:

- 1. Evaluation of existing local and central level child protection system in legislation and practice/Mapping of Child Protection System*
- 2. Violence against children in state run institutions*
- 3. Identification of causes for abandonment of children aged 0 to 3 in EKR.*