

UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT for Maldives



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2010 concluded implementation of the three year country programme. The main thrust of the annual work plan was to transition from a response to the tsunami to upstream policy support. The development of the Maldives Child Protection Data Base is expected to strengthen the national child protection system. The MaldivInfo version 2 will eventually serve as a platform to monitor implementation of the CRC, progress of the MDGs and for evidence based advocacy.

A comprehensive analysis of existing sanitation systems was completed and is enabling a policy discussion on the choice of technology, cost recovery and access by disadvantaged households. A situation analysis update on nutrition, food security and food safety has been completed to enable consensus building on the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition and for the formulation of a strategic action plan.

The short term technical expertise embedded in the Department of Gender and Family and in the Juvenile Justice Unit has worked well not only in helping build capacity for implementation and supervision but also in the review of laws and regulations and formulating operations guidelines.

Modest progress has also been made on child participation. Children from various regions were consulted in the development of the advocacy strategy for Child Friendly Schools. Young girls and boys were key players in conveying information on the effects of drug use and HIV prevention. An "Arts for Rights" activity afforded an opportunity for children to express their understanding of child rights.

Major constraints encountered in implementation and achievement of results included inadequate resources and local capacity, and weak monitoring across all programmes. Maldives has undergone significant political and governance reform in the last three years and the transitional state of the government affected UNICEF's work in varying degrees.

The formulation of the UNDAF for 2011-2015 and the first ever UNDAF Action Plan jointly with the Government has set the stage for significant promise towards the concept of a One UN. Strengthening partnerships with the nascent civil society received high priority and is beginning to pay dividends particularly in promoting the rights of children and women.

2. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

This section of the report draws data derived from the following:

- Situation Analysis of Emerging Development Challenges and Opportunities 2010
- Millennium Development Goals – Maldives Country Report 2010
- The National Strategic Action Plan
- Universal Periodic Review submitted to Human Rights Council
- Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) report 2010
- Social Disparities in Health in the Maldives 2009.

For the women and children of Maldives, 2010 started on an optimistic note. Democratic reforms, assurance of improved service delivery through public private partnerships and a free media created a positive environment for development. Decentralization was seen as an important step for bringing development more quickly and efficiently to the

dispersed population. In a country where five of the MDGs are on track, Maldives seemed well-positioned for achieving the remaining MDGs on time.

However, progress has been slow due to some situational changes and constraints, with specific challenges to efforts directed at women and children. Among others, the Ministry of Health and Family had to contend with its expanded mandate on the one hand and lack of clarity over roles and reporting structures on the other. In child protection, institutional capacity is limited. As noted in the submission of the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives to the Universal Periodic Review of human rights, the 'national child protection mechanisms and procedures remained severely inadequate to deal with the dramatic increase in child abuse cases'. Nevertheless, positive developments are taking place. A bill proposing revisions to the Child Protection Act and a bill on juvenile justice are currently being drafted. Law no. 12/2009, 'Special Measures Applicable to Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse' has been ratified.

3. CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

3.1. Programme Strategy

3.1.2.1 Capacity Development:

In 2010, UNICEF Maldives Country Office (MCO) continued to engage with partners and communities to build capacity, consensus and promote national and local ownership to ensure adequate focus on the most disadvantaged children and women.

Given the limited technical and managerial human resource in government a sustainable approach towards capacity development was critical. Hence a multi-pronged approach was adopted. Existing capacity gaps were identified at the start of the year and necessary trainings incorporated into the relevant work plans. Based on the needs identified appropriate training programmes were developed and training of trainers conducted.

Sustainability was ensured through institutionalization of various training programmes. For example, a training module on International Standards on Juvenile Justice has been embedded into the basic training programme for police officers offered at the Police Training Academy. A further example is the Diploma Course for special needs teachers that was developed and will be offered in 2011 at the Faculty of Education.

A further approach to capacity development was through provision of national and international technical expertise to key sectors. For instance, social workers in the FCSCs received support and hands-on training through international consultants who were placed at these centres for appropriate periods of time. UNICEF also supported MHE for 3 months with a local engineer consultant to build capacity of the staff in water and sewerage department. International expertise was usually sought in the absence of local capacity for key areas. Such experts were required to work on a suitable exit strategy to ensure sustainability and local capacity is developed. In some cases, it was important to provide international exposure in order to broaden understanding of issues and gain global experience. In this regard, two staff members of the Faculty of Education received experience and support at the Institute of Education, University of London in the development of the Diploma for Special Needs Education.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy:

The overall advocacy approach for 2010 was to foster public discourse on child rights, achievement of MDGs, and UNDAF outcomes, and to ensure policy makers, civil society partners and communities were well aware of related issues. Additionally, a child

oriented participatory approach was used in several of the communication and advocacy activities.

In 2010, several high level meetings were held to voice concern over anecdotal reports of child neglect and abuse at state run institutions for children. UNICEF advocated for regular monitoring of these institutions, staff capacity building, expediting response to reports, adherence to standard procedures and working for the best interest of children. Also, UNICEF used information obtained from field visits and reports of consultants to raise concerns with relevant authorities. Advocacy meetings and discussions were held to promote child and maternal nutrition, sustaining child friendly schools as well as promoting safe water and sanitation in the country. UNICEF's inclusion in the Curriculum Reform Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Education has provided the opportunity for UNICEF to advocate for key policy reviews and improvements in education.

Development of the advocacy strategy for Child Friendly Schools (CFS) was also a priority in 2010. The formulation of the master plan was informed by research conducted to understand the current situation of CFS in the Maldives. The research has provided the data needed to develop a comprehensive communication plan that is coherent and sustainable. During the process, consultations were held with different stakeholders including students, parents as well as teachers. The implementation of the CFS advocacy campaign will begin in 2011. Advocacy for CFS will seek to inculcate an attitudinal change among educational planners and educational staff by focusing on friendliness as the core concept around which all of the dimensions of CFS and education are to be structured.

UNICEF was invited to provide input to several key bills in Parliamentary Committees creating a significant opportunity to advocate for the rights of women and children. Considering several bills relevant to the realization of child rights are due to be tabled in 2011, UNICEF recognises the need and is committed to build on this rapport.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships:

In the Maldives, there is a nascent civil society that shows promise for growth and eventual maturity. Given the considerable potential to build on the growing civil society, UNICEF is working to increase the ways it cooperates with civil society. The Peer Drama Project with "Madulu" NGO targeting adolescents in schools is such an example. The purpose of this collaboration was to reach high school students with information on prevention of drug abuse and HIV. Based on this positive experience, the MCO plans to engage with civil society as a strategic partner in the implementation of the new country programme.

Other partnership opportunities that emerged in 2010 were those with Dhiraagu (national telecom service provider) and DhiTV and DhiFM for the third Global Handwashing Day that was celebrated throughout October and November. This experience has shown the immense value of partnering with the private sector in programmes for the realization of child rights.

With the establishment of Maldives Media Council in early 2010, a national code of ethics for media is being developed, and discussions are underway to incorporate ethical reporting on children. Since the Media Council is an independent, autonomous body mandated by law to regulate media, it is crucial to further strengthen this partnership to ensure that child rights are an integral part of their work.

UNICEF played a significant role in the formulation of the UNDAF 2011-2015 and the first ever UNDAF Action Plan jointly with Government. All resident and non-resident UN agencies participated actively setting the stage for significantly improved coordination

and collaboration and eventually a One UN. ROSA and the APSSC provided valuable and continuous support to various programmes and planning processes.

3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management:

Knowledge Management functions in the MCO have focused on building and widening the knowledge base. The office also supported scaling up staff development opportunities to improve technical skills and manage knowledge.

To build the evidence base, efforts were undertaken to generate supporting data and analysis for programming. UNICEF sought to bring into the public domain several initiatives by providing a forum for discussion of findings and recommendations. This was done, for instance, through dissemination seminars for the Demographic and Household Survey (DHS), Comparative Study on the sewerage systems available in the Maldives, and Micronutrient Policy. A case study was also developed with funding support from UNICEF HQ on the ongoing environmental education programme to illustrate the drivers of and challenges to educational cross-sectoral approaches to address climate change in the Maldives.

The Maldives Child Protection Database (MCPD) was launched in November. MCPD's purpose is to capture the work of different agencies engaged in child protection issues and covering areas of child abuse, juvenile justice and gender-based violence. The database will carry information of children as victims, witnesses and offenders. The key features of the design of MCPD include referral of cases and case management, outcomes of cases, caseworker activities, messaging and audit trails. The database can be used as a tool by managers to review progress and identify where the cases get blocked. It further allows improvement of service provision and most importantly can be used to inform decision-making.

MaldivInfo version 2 was released this year. The database has already helped in streamlining and standardizing national statistics and it is expected to continue to provide disaggregated data to help formulate evidence-based planning and policies.

The third MDG Progress Report was completed, which updates the data and analysis presented in the initial assessment of the progress of the Maldives towards achievement of MDGs released in 2007. The report was developed by the Government, led by the Department of National Planning, in close consultation with the UN system. UNICEF also provided inputs into the UPR that was submitted this year.

3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development:

The key focus of communication was to advocate for the different MTSP areas which include Young Child Survival and Development (YCSD) including Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES), Quality Education, as well as Child Protection (and drug abuse and HIV Prevention).

In **YCSD**, one of the main communication activities of the Health and Nutrition programme is to address the issue of child malnutrition. Support was provided for the roll out of the Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) campaign to the atolls to increase awareness on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding of children under five.

In light of the threat of H1N1, UNICEF supported the government to develop a communication strategy and materials to raise awareness on H1N1 prevention, with a special focus on prevention amongst children. The stakeholders comprised of members from government and UN agencies provided input for the development of the materials. Two TOT workshops have been held in 2 atolls as well as rollout trainings in 13 of the 20 atolls and in Male'.

Promotion of health and hygiene behaviours, and practices relating to environment and sanitation was the major focus under WES component. One of the key activities was to observe the Global Handwashing Day (GHD) on 15th October. It is estimated that more than 100,000 people and children across the country were reached through messages, animation spots, live and recorded programmes on TV and radio. A workshop on handwashing and hygiene promotion was also conducted for 150 girls and boys from 7 schools in the Northern Province.

Marking the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse on 19th November was a major advocacy focus under Child Protection programme. The Maldives Child Protection Database was launched during the week to commemorate the day. Human Rights Commission of Maldives (HRCM) and several NGOs carried out various activities across the country to mark the day. UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to HRCM to convey key messages to the public on this year's theme "Neglect - a form of Child Abuse" via panel discussions on national TV.

3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation:

Activities planned for 2010 can be broadly divided into two categories. These activities focused on duty bearers to fulfil their obligations through the setting up of systems, strengthening capacity of service providers and increasing skills and knowledge of parents. In addition, through increasing access to information and skills development the capacity of the rights holders to claim their rights was strengthened.

Consultations were held with stakeholders at various stages to ensure ownership and elicit their views in matters concerning them. Participation of NGOs, civil society groups and youth groups was sought together with relevant government sectors in planning activities targeting communities.

Consultations were also held with various groups in the community to understand community perspectives on emerging issues and ensure that their concerns were addressed. Successful examples include consultations with parents and students on the development of an advocacy strategy for child friendly schools (see section 2 above), and with various stakeholder groups, including rights holders as well as duty bearers, in the development of a Diploma course for special needs teachers as well as in the formulation of a report on technical vocational education.

UNICEF continued its support to the government in fulfilling its obligation towards reporting on progress of CRC to the Universal Periodic Review and the MDG report, and its engagement with the Human Rights Commission of Maldives in raising issues related to the protection of the rights of children and women. Awareness raising activities for 2010 focused on child neglect.

Capacity building of the newly appointed HRCM is important for them to respond to reports of violation of child rights and women's rights as well as to ensure timely reporting on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child Rights.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming:

The UN Theme Group on Gender has played a key role in the promotion of gender mainstreaming through programme activities within UN as well as those undertaken by the Government. UNICEF together with UNFPA delivered a combined training for UN staff on Gender-responsive budgeting. The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- build common understanding regarding gender equality and social inclusion (GESI)
- enhance skills of the participants to do gender and inclusion analysis
- identify ways to mainstream GESI in UNDAF Action Plan Results matrices

The 2-day workshop looked at the concepts of gender-responsive budgeting and reviewed the draft UNDAF action plan from a GESI perspective.

UNICEF together with other UN Agencies advocated for strengthening legislations to address the high rate of domestic violence. Technical inputs were provided to strengthen the draft Domestic Violence Bill.

UNICEF continued to support the Young Champions – an initiative of UNGEI. The Young Champions trained in the 2009 regional workshop played an important role in the drug abuse and HIV prevention work with adolescents from schools.

Gender equality and mainstreaming is an area of UNICEF's concern and is one of the high priority area that needs further strengthening.

3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability:

The Maldives has a history of challenging environmental management issues and many of these have gained increased attention in the after-math of the tsunami. Major environmental management issues identified by the government include: climate change, scarcity and pollution of freshwater resources, waste management, air pollution, and biodiversity conservation.

UNICEF has provided modest support to promote a safe, secure and sustainable environment. The environmental education programme has supported the Ministry of Education to steer the direction towards more student centred, activity based learning. In-service training for the primary teachers focused on creating a paradigm shift in teaching and learning environmental studies. The Programme involved the development of a new set of teacher handbooks and resources to teach environmental studies in a more practical manner. A toolkit was developed along with relevant training schemes for the teachers.

The UN Theme Group on Environment has already begun discussions on areas of joint collaboration with regard to the new UNDAF and CPD. The focus of such activities will be on encouraging children to be agents of change for stewardship of the environment. Appropriate communication strategies will be developed to strengthen the school environmental clubs to promote environmental initiatives and raise awareness on climate change issues in the island communities.

3.2 Programme Components:

Title: *Child survival and development*

Purpose:

The Child Survival and Development Programme component was designed to contribute to four overall key result areas of the CPAP and to the Social and Economic Equity Pillar of the UNDAF:

1. All children under five and pregnant mothers have sustained access to quality health services;
2. 50 per cent of caregivers of children under three apply community- and household- based care and feeding practices;
3. Environment services established following the tsunami, such as safe water and sewage treatment systems, are maintained by communities on four islands, and similar sewage treatment systems are replicated on other safe island locations through advocacy; and

4. Disaggregated data are generated, analyzed and disseminated to enhance investment in the best interests of children and to ensure more equitable planning, policy development, and Programme results for children.

The main planned outputs by each project for 2010 were:

1. Planning and Policy Development:
 - National Nutrition Strategic Plan NNSP for 2011-2015 and Micronutrient Policy (MN) developed
 - Number of under nutrition in children <5 reduced
 - Number of infants exclusively breastfed
 - Health centers submitting daily uploads of NCHSS data
 - Demographic Health Survey (DHS) results disseminated.

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: USD 286,800.00.

Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR: USD 281,600.00; OR: USD 182,000.00;

Total: USD 463,000.00

Any special allocations: Global 7% set aside HQ funds of USD 100,000.00 for H1N1

Result Achieved:

The key outcome of YCSD programme is to sustain access to quality health services for all children under five and pregnant mothers, and for communities to have access to improved water and sanitation facilities. In working towards this outcome the following outputs were achieved in 2010.

For the **planning and policy development** component, technical support was provided to the Government to develop a national micronutrient policy and strategy for the country.

Technical assistance was also provided to the Government to develop an Integrated National Strategy on Nutrition, Food Safety and Food Security (2011-2015), to scale up nutrition interventions.

Health workers in the islands were oriented to the newly approved regulations on Breast Milk Substitute code.

For the **Community Based Care** component, to address child malnutrition, IECD/BCC campaign materials were distributed to all the health facilities in 9 of the 20 atolls and Male'. TOT workshops were conducted in these 9 atolls and in 5 central health facilities where 143 health care workers were trained.

To complement the IECD/BCC programme, a Positive Deviance Hearth programme was established in 75 islands from 5 atolls. Reviews were undertaken in 3 atolls to monitor the IECD programme and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

A training programme was conducted for 40 nurses and doctors working in maternity care in 8 atolls on newborn care, neonatal resuscitation, infant and young child feeding and counselling.

The ambulance boat was handed over to Ministry of Health and Family to improve the emergency obstetric care at peripheral levels.

UNICEF continued to support the government to procure EPI vaccines and Vitamin A.

For the **Water, Environment and Sanitation** component, technical assistance was provided to ensure sustainability of the sanitation systems on 4 islands including orientation and in-house training for staff.

Technical assistance was provided to MHE and EPA to develop and finalize national standards, guidelines and regulations related to the WASH sector for effective interventions at policy level.

A comparative study was undertaken on the sewerage systems in the Maldives to determine the most appropriate system for replication. The study specifically targeted financial, technical and environmental implications of different types of sewerage systems and the findings were shared with relevant key stakeholders and policy discussions have been initiated.

UNICEF also supported MHE for 3 months with a local engineer consultant to build capacity of the staff in water and sewerage department.

Future Workplan:

The main focus of the 2011 work plan will be to ensure socially inclusive maternal and child nutrition, and hygiene programmes. This will entail upstream policy support, advocacy and capacity building in critical areas related to nutrition and hygiene. Some key activities planned with the resources available are:

- Formulate an integrated nutrition, food security, and food safety strategic action plan
- Develop and implement a nationwide campaign to raise awareness and promote maternal and child nutrition combined with hygiene promotion
- Strengthen school sanitation and hygiene initiatives in all schools through advocacy and education.

Title:

Quality education

Purpose:

The Quality Education Programme was designed to contribute to the following results in the CPAP under the Social and Economic pillar of the **UNDAF:**

CPAP Key Results:

- 1.** All children aged 3 – 16 have improved access to quality education, universal primary education enrolment is sustained and transition rates from primary to secondary education are sustained at 95 %.
- 2.** Disaggregated data are generated, analysed and disseminated to enhance investment in the best interests of children and to ensure more equitable planning, policy development, and programme results for children
- 3.** 95 per cent of adolescents (10-18) have correct knowledge of HIV and AIDS, know how to reduce risks and protect themselves against the disease, and 75 per cent of identified most-at-risk adolescents receive targeted comprehensive HIV prevention services

The main outputs planned for 2010 under the three components of the Quality Education Programme are listed below:

Child Friendly School (CFS)

- Schools initiate self assessment for CFS
- Teachers/Leading Teachers of preschools and primary schools trained on all components of a child-friendly learning environment
- Stakeholders aware of key messages for child friendly education
- Preschool curriculum piloted in 5 schools

- Degree Course for Early Years developed and ready for delivery
- Life skills package modified and piloted in 10 schools

Inclusive Education

- Policy & Strategy for Special Needs is developed

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: USD 301,000.00

Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR USD 212,700.00; OR USD 560,843.27;

Total USD 773,543.27

Any special allocations: (list)

List of donors: Thematic funds

Result Achieved:

The key outcome of the education programme is to ensure that child friendly approach enables all children to be independent learners who actively participate in learning and develop to their full potential. In working towards this outcome the following outputs were achieved in 2010.

Training was provided to over 500 key personnel on the use of standards and indicators for **Child Friendly Schools** for self assessment.

An additional 486 personnel (264 females, 222 males) were trained for CFS implementation at school level. Those who participated in CFS training to date constitute more than 95 % of preschool teachers and about 50 % of teachers up to grade 5.

An advocacy strategy for CFS was developed and will be implemented in 2011. Consultations were held with students (girls and boys), parents, teachers, school heads as well as policy makers in the development of the strategy.

Technical assistance was provided to the Educational Development Centre (EDC) to develop outcomes, standards and indicators and pilot the preschool curriculum. The activity will be completed in 2011.

Through collaboration between the Centre for Open Learning, the Faculty of Education and UNICEF, a degree course for teachers of early years has been developed and is scheduled to begin in 2011.

Under the **Inclusive Education** component, UNICEF rendered technical assistance to analyse the data on mapping of children with special needs. The report is expected to be ready by end December.

Two staff of the Faculty of Education travelled to the Institute of Education, UK and developed a Diploma Course for teachers of children with special needs. The course will begin in the first semester of 2011 at the Faculty.

Notably, 44 teachers (44 females and 2 males) and 47 parents (44 mothers and 3 fathers) in 2 different schools where special education units have been established have been trained in use of sign language.

Under the **Secondary Education** component of the programme, technical support was provided for curriculum reform in the areas of technical and vocational education, language development and assessment.

The life skills education programme and development of a school management information system are two critical outputs that had to be dropped due to funding shortages.

Limited local capacity and inability to raise funds have been the major constraining factors in implementation of planned activities.

The main thrust of the 2011 work plan will be on ensuring that the most vulnerable girls and boys have equitable access to education. This will require upstream policy support and capacity building in critical areas related to inclusive child friendly education. The key activities planned with the resources available are:

- technical assistance for development of policy and strategy on inclusive education
- training on use of CFS standards and indicators at national level
- implementation of CFS advocacy strategy and
- development of a package for life skills education and BCC strategy for environment education.

Title: *Child protection*

Purpose:

The **Child Protection Programme** was designed to contribute to the following results in the CPAP under the Social and Economic pillar of the **UNDAF**.

The Child Protection Programme contributes to the following CPAP results:

- i) Vulnerable and marginalized children, with an emphasis on the girl child, are identified, referred to appropriate social protection services and monitored by a multi-sectoral national child protection system in Malé and target atolls;
- ii) Disaggregated data are generated, analysed and disseminated to enhance investment in the best interests of children and to ensure more equitable planning, policy development, and programme results for children;
- iii) 95 per cent of adolescents (10-18) have correct knowledge of HIV and AIDS, know how to reduce risks and protect themselves against the disease, and 75 per cent of identified most-at-risk adolescents receive targeted comprehensive HIV prevention services.

As the results planned under Child Protection Programme for 2008 and 2009 were not fully achieved, efforts in 2010 focused on achieving those and other results as follows:

Child Protection Services:

- 1.1 Reported cases of children exposed to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation are documented, profiled and tracked
- 1.2 Children have access to selected protection services
- 1.3 Communities in target atolls are aware of child protective environment and available mechanisms for care and support.

Justice for Children:

- a. A National Child Protection Plan is developed and implemented as per CRC Observations
- b. The Police and Judiciary have increased capacity to implement child friendly legislations
- c. Child offenders receive restorative justice in accordance with the best interest of the child principle.

Resources Used:

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: USD 426,700.00

Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR USD 65,568.00; OR USD 596,656.10;

Total USD 662,224.10

Any special allocations (list)
List of donors: Thematic and UNAIDS

Result Achieved:

The key outcome of the Child Protection Programme is to ensure that children of Maldives are protected from violence, exploitation and abuse, including substance abuse. To accomplish this outcome, the following outputs were achieved in 2010.

Maldives Child Protection Database (MCPD) was launched and currently 4 agencies are linked to it. Training of trainers was conducted for 7 staff from 3 key agencies and users from 7 agencies were trained. The MCPD is still in its infancy and will require continued support to enable collection of comprehensive information.

Supervision guidelines for social service workers were drafted and selected FCSC managers and case workers were trained. Technical support was provided to review internal procedures at DGFPS.

Consultations with key stakeholders were carried out for establishment of the Island Child Protection Committees.

Support for the drafting of the Juvenile Justice Bill and the Children's Rights, Child Care and Protection Bill continued in 2010.

UNICEF supported the development of the JJU. A rapid assessment was carried out by the JJU to understand the trends and types of juvenile crimes. The findings will provide the basis for future programmes.

A total of 20 male and 5 female Investigation Officers were trained on Family and Child Friendly Investigation. A module on international standards for dealing with juvenile offenders was developed and 3 officers from Police Training Academy were trained.

In all, 550 adolescents and youth (including recovering addicts) and parents were reached with information on harmful effects of drug abuse and HIV prevention by Empowered Youth in Fuvah Mulaku Atoll. Additionally, 250 adolescent girls and boys from 3 schools in Malé were reached through peer drama initiative. An additional 175 adolescents from 5 islands selected atolls are planned to be reached by end of December. Awareness programmes on drug abuse prevention were conducted in 6 islands.

NGOs from 5 atolls and Male' were trained on programming for MARA and EVA.

A total of 20 recovering addicts participated in a pilot vocational training programme. A strategy for delivery of vocational training will be available by end December.

The child protection programme faced numerous challenges in implementation by the lack of coordination and collaboration between key government partners, as well as lack of leadership and decision making at critic

Future Workplan:

The main thrust of the Child Protection Programme in 2011 will be to ensure that the most vulnerable children and families are protected from violence, abuse and exploitation. The Child Protection Programme will emphasise up-stream work together with some aspects of capacity building. This will entail:

- System development
- Strengthening legislation
- Capacity building of service providers

- Strengthening NGOs and communities for development of community based prevention and rehabilitation programmes
- Continuing the dialogue on the Minimum Social Protection Programme.

Title: *Communications, advocacy and planning*

Purpose:

The Communications, Advocacy and Planning Programme is crosscutting and contributes to the following key result areas of the CPAP under the Social and Economic pillar of the UNDAF:

1. Vulnerable and marginalized children, with an emphasis on the girl child, are identified, referred to appropriate social protection services and monitored by a multi-sectoral national child protection system in Male' and target atolls
2. Disaggregated data are generated, analysed and disseminated to enhance investment in the best interests of children and to ensure more equitable planning, policy development, and programme results for children
3. 95 percent of adolescents (aged 10-18) have correct knowledge of HIV and AIDS and know how to reduce risks and protect themselves against the disease, and 75 percent of identified most-at-risk adolescents receive targeted comprehensive HIV prevention services.

Outputs planned for CAP programme for 2010 are:

Programme Communication:

- caregivers with malnourished children <5 practice 5 IECD behaviours in 5 target atolls
- increase in number of H1N1 awareness raising activities to which assistance is provided
- increase in schools adopting and practising CFS standards nationally
- increase in EE and WASH campaign activities

Advocacy for Children:

- primary school and secondary school children have knowledge of the CRC
- increase in media articles/stories related to CRC
- increase in advocacy activities conducted to promote women & children's rights
- UNICEF MCO website content updated and maintained

Policy Planning for Children:

- MaldivInfo v 2 is released and incorporates latest data including NSAP indicators.

Resources Used:

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: Total: 146,000

Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR 78,000; OR 158,088.81; Total: 236,088.81

Any special allocations (list)

List of donors: Thematic Funds

Result Achieved:

The key outcome of the CAP programme is to ensure communities have access to evidence based information and knowledge and an enabling policy environment that contributes to their empowerment and inclusive social development. In working towards this outcome the following outputs were achieved in 2010.

In programme communication, support was provided to individual programmes for the achievement of results. These include the development of CFS advocacy strategy, H1N1 communication campaign, materials for promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, Global Handwashing Day and World Child Abuse Prevention Day activities, all of which have been reported under individual programmes elsewhere in this report.

In advocacy for children, a key focus was to advocate for the realization of children's rights in the Maldives. In this respect, more than 100 girls and boys between the ages of 1-18 participated in an art workshop titled, "Art for Rights" to commemorate the anniversary of CRC. To enhance the role of media in advocating for child rights, Department of Information of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture was supported to conduct training of journalists on the CRC.

For policy planning for children, result based management was one of the priority areas in 2010 and was included in the Basic Statistics Course conducted in the Upper North and South Provinces. Result based management was also included in the training on MaldivInfo for staff in the central government offices and 3 provincial government offices. These have led to the development of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the government in the form of Managing for Development Result (MfDR) funded mainly by UNDP, ADB and UNICEF coordinated by Department of National Planning (DNP) under the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT).

MaldivInfo version 2 was released on 20 October 2010. The new version caters information for 417 indicators and includes preliminary results of the Demographic and Health Survey 2009. Four training sessions on MaldivInfo 2 were carried out for government staff. During the World Statistics Day celebrations, open training sessions were carried out. Together with the Resident Coordinator's Office, sessions for UN agencies were also conducted. Additionally, advocacy activities were carried out in the atolls targeting government and private sector organizations to encourage the use of MaldivInfo.

In coordination with MoFT, a mid-year review was organized to evaluate implementation. The review examined results achieved, key constraints and lessons learnt, and provided recommendations for planned activities. The review demonstrated high level of ownership of projects by the Government. A major issue raised was with regard to implementation delays caused by the transitional state of the Government and merging of former Ministry of Health and Ministry of Gender and Family.

Several advocacy activities for the promotion of CRC were postponed due to transitional state of the government as well as insufficient capacity within the programme. These include sensitization of parliamentarians on the CRC, dissemination of a child friendly version of CRC summary in Dhivehi and updating the country office website. While strengthening relationship with civil society to promote for child rights was a key result planned, partnerships were limited. The participation of journalists in training of media was limited and maximum impact was not achieved. The change in staff with limited overlap, compounded with considerable staff time spent on preparation for Donor Conference in March as well as CPD and UNDAF 2011-2015 resulted in implementation delays.

Activities of policy planning for children were delayed considerably because of limited ownership by some key counterparts due to the uncertainty resulting from the transitional phase of government, and high turnover of staff to fit the new Government's requirements. The lack of strategic sustainability of trained staff resulted in loss of institutional memory of programme activities.

Future Workplan:

The primary focus of the workplan 2011 will be to ensure disaggregated data is available for evidenced based planning, and media and civil society actively participate in the realization of children's rights. The above will be ensured through capacity building of relevant bodies. The key activities planned with the resources available are:

- Support NGOs for the preparation of CRC alternative report due in 2011.
- Train media personnel from selected atolls on child rights.
- Capacity building on evidence-based decision making, monitoring, evaluation and use of data.
- Strengthen existing databases and establish additional databases.

4. OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure:

Initiatives undertaken during 2008 and 2009 were continued during 2010 to improve operations and programme management performance, and move forward towards their seamless integration. This included addressing areas of weakness, reviewing and redesigning work processes, review of internal control mechanisms, imparting training to all staff on rules, regulations and procedures, improving the records maintenance for easy access etcetera. Efforts during 2010 led to improved use of correct and valid PIDB codes and of ProMS and Cognos as tools for programming and monitoring; the strengthening of guidelines for Field Visits for programme monitoring and the follow-up of field visit recommendations; improvements in contributions management, budget control and financial transactions procedures, including bank reconciliation; greater efficiency in funds management through improved liquidation of cash assistance; and improved staff and office security as well as preparedness planning for potential crisis situations. An effort was made to reconcile all GL accounts, which resulted in clearing all long outstanding amounts in PAR a/c, reconciliation and submission of UNGLI return to New York from January 2000, closing of all requisitions in ProMS, streamlining of OBO process, roll-over of additional unutilized RR funds (more than stipulated 20%) with exceptional approval from NYHQ.

The CMT reviewed the management indicators to monitor key programme and operations transactions and came up with a set of indicators and their periodicity for reporting, to address areas of weakness identified during the last internal audit exercises and to work towards achieving each of the specific best practice targets delineated for achievement on a monthly basis. This practice has highlighted inherent workflow bottlenecks where management decisions are made to mitigate negative impact and also systemic fund management and logistical problems. The indicators were further refined to monitor key programme and operations transactions and functions during 2010. Effective from January 2010 Business Information Reports were generated on a monthly basis and the fund utilisation of each programme and status of DCT were reviewed and necessary follow up action initiated. Any issue requiring direct intervention/decision by the Representative was presented at the CMT. UNICEF MCO has been taking pro-active actions to improve the country programme and operations.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management:

As part of operations initiative, an advisory audit exercise was conducted during September 2009 on Risk and Control Self Assessment with facilitation from OIA, NYHQ and ROSA to assist MCO strengthen its risk management process and enhance its potential for achieving planned programme results and operational objectives. The recommendations that emerged out of the RCSA exercise were reviewed and necessary action is being taken to strengthen risk management. The office proposes to conduct peer review in 2011.

The Office updated its Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and has continued to update its inputs to the Early Warning Early Assessment website. Emergency Preparedness activities were more clearly articulated in AWP. Training opportunities in Emergency Preparedness, response and coordination were requested by the office several times but were denied by EMOPS due to limited space. Additional training opportunities are strongly urged if UNICEF is to ensure a consistent and timely emergency response globally. In-country capacity remains one of the key constraints to a timely response; should an emergency occur the Maldives will likely need to rely heavily on a regional roster of technical specialists. This requirement for training must be flagged as a priority action point by MCO and ROSA in 2011.

This process of EPRP and BCP has been a significant contribution to emergency preparedness in the country but additional work will be necessary in 2011 to sustain the momentum achieved. Also, the role of UNDP in this initiative requires clarification. While UNICEF has taken the lead in the context of its role as cluster lead for many of the rapid response sectors, the RC Office should be driving the initiative much more significantly than at present, and this will be a point for UNCT discussion in 2011.

The year 2010 also saw the H1N1 pandemic plan being developed and UNICEF facilitated procurement of H1N1 vaccines for all UN staff and their dependants.

4.1.3 Evaluation:

Considerable attention was given to ensure that the planned studies/evaluations had the necessary validity and reliability and that they were conducted in an objective and fair manner. Due to limited staff, it is often necessary for MCO to depend on consultants to undertake most of the studies and evaluations. Staff capacity for evaluation needs to be enhanced.

Amongst the evaluations and studies identified in the IMEP, the following were completed:

- The Demographic and Health Survey report published for wider dissemination, and a dissemination workshop was held for key stakeholders.
- The Micronutrient survey report published in 2010.
- KAP studies on environment awareness and IECD practices could not be undertaken due to funding constraints.
- CFS evaluation was not undertaken due to funding and time constraints. However, the research undertaken for development of the CFS advocacy strategy provided some extremely useful insights into the programme.
- An UNDAF review is planned for January 2011 in place of the end of country programme review.
- The Online Nutrition and Child Health Surveillance System (NCHSS) is being revamped.
 - The Maldives Child Protection Database was launched.
 - UNICEF supported the compilation of the 3rd MDG report
 - A sustainable Field Monitoring system is being developed for easy access and use.

Due to constraints of time, funding and in-house capacity, it has not been possible to undertake all of the activities planned in the IMEP.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication:

2010 was a busy year in terms of changes in information technology. According to the global rollout IT work plan, ProMS and Briefing Book upgrades were successfully implemented. Lotus Notes servers and clients have been updated as per the global standards. As per the requirement of Business Continuity and for implementation of VISION, our server has been connected to an independent internet connection since January 2010. Hence the SITA connection has been discontinued.

Antivirus both at server/clients end are updated and checked intermittently, which has worked very well without any noticeable high risk issues. All IT hardware and software in the UNICEF CO meet ITD standards and compliance is monitored from the IT unit. Backup of ProMS, Lotus Notes and other common folders are carried out regularly. Video conferencing facility was set up and tested and is fully functional.

Where MOSS is concerned, in terms of IT/Telecom, the backup data link is up and running, Operational Thuraya Sat phones are used in the office and UNDP maintains the VHF radio network. For backup power, UNDP which handles the maintenance/security in the UN house, also houses a small backup generator with enough fuel stored for a one week period.

IT Backup and Disaster Recovery plan was drafted and shared with the RO for further updates and standard compliance. We have not been able to conduct an exercise to simulate IT/Telecoms Disaster Preparedness and Recovery in coordination with the Regional Office IT support unit. This will be part of the 2011 IT work plan and Business continuity Plan.

In terms of regional events, regional IT meeting held in 2010 was attended by the IT Assistant. In addition, regular communication was maintained between the CO and RO on general IT aspects as well as during the establishment of the programme-related IT activities. Keeping in line with the forthcoming IPSAS and VISION and to equip for the Business Continuity, the hardware at the server end as well as the client end was upgraded in early 2010.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship

4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations:

No donor reports were due in 2010.

Considerable support was provided to the Government of the Maldives for the successful implementation of the Maldives Donor Forum held during March 28-29. UNICEF supported the development of communication and advocacy tools to highlight key areas that needed urgent attention in the Maldives. While the initial success of the conference can be a measure of donor pledges received, concrete financial aid has yet to materialize.

With impending graduation to middle income status and a global perception of the Maldives as a luxury tourist destination, MCO faced several challenges in acquiring necessary funds for planned activities in the social sector. Donor interest is focused mainly on responding to climate change issues and supporting the transition to democratic governance.

The YCSD programme was constrained due to non-availability of funds. A proposal from YCSD Section was submitted to Japan National Committee to support activities related to nutrition and environmental education in early 2010. The Committee subsequently had a pre-campaign visit to Maldives in September to gather fund raising communication materials. Following their visit, the Japan Committee indicated potential funding commitments for the next three years amounting to a sum of US\$ 374,500.

The funding committed and expressed in a public statement by Dubai Cares, meant to support the Quality Education (QE) programme did not come through, which put critical activities on hold.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets:

UN Operations Management Group representing all UN agencies resident in the UN House meets on a monthly basis. HACT is one major issue addressed during 2010. This involved intensive orientation and training for Government and NGO counterparts to facilitate clear understanding of procedures and efficient programme funding expenditures. Spot verification of accounts of one key government counterpart was carried out as part of assurance activity.

Security of the Common Premises has been enhanced by creating fire escape doors, single point controlled access to the building and x-ray screening equipment. The external perimeter and interior key locations of the building are now covered by CCTV. Radio checks were conducted on two occasions with an average response rate of 80% sustained by all agency heads and wardens who are provided VHF radios as part of MOSS compliance requirements.

4.2.3 Supply:

The functioning of the supply component was enhanced through supply planning, quality and timeliness of supply inputs, supply related services from Supply Division, and the smooth functioning of direct offshore deliveries. Efforts were made to enhance links with the local market and facilitate local procurement, along with establishment of Long Term Arrangements (LTA) to ensure timely delivery to end-users. MCO also promoted better supply chain management as part of the supply chain initiative from Supply Division moving towards implementation of IPSAS.

Supply planning initiated in 2008 was sustained during 2010 with the plans being included in the AWP and draft PGMs reaching Supply Section by March /April. Even so, there were delays in the finalizing of the PGMS to enable supply processing for firm orders to be placed. The section established 2 LTA's during 2010, one for clearance and transportation of supplies to islands and the other for transportation by speedboat. A supply monitoring system was developed and all PGM files were updated to provide at-a-glance information of status of each PGM. Quality and timeliness of supply inputs were strengthened further in 2010. An effort to have an LTA in place for supply of office stationery and for providing travel and ticketing service did not succeed due to limitations of the service provider. MCO has successfully identified a travel agent and negotiated for providing all travel related services. An effort will be made to have an LTA in place for event management in 2011. The supply monitoring system which was put in place will be reviewed and further strengthened in 2011. Operations will also work towards establishing a database of local suppliers/vendors in 2011.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity:

2010 saw a reduction in the number of single source individual contracts and Institutional contracts (SSAs). A revised common negotiating fee range for local consultants was established. The different statutory committees were reconstituted and members oriented on their roles and responsibilities. As part of inter-agency collaboration, the Operations Officer provides professional support to UNDP and UNFPA serving on their Selection Advisory Panel.

All new staff were oriented on HR policies and procedures. The Staff Learning Plan was developed and shared with the Regional Office. Learning activities largely focussed on capacity building, skill and knowledge development. In 2010, the office had invested in a total of 178 days spent in training of professional and support staff. Briefing was given to all staff on the implementation of IPSAS, VISION, E-recruitment, E-PAS etc. Staff members were encouraged to undertake IPSAS in October 2010.

With the new Country Programme for 2011-2015 made in line with simplified results structure, a new staffing structure was proposed.

In 2010 the Staff Association of Maldives (SAM) conducted activities to boost staff morale and motivation. Substantive inputs were provided to the formulation of the new staff structure under the new CPD. The staff retreat reviewed the action plan developed in 2009 to strengthen the work environment. The new Executive Committee for 2010-2012 was elected in July. Similarly, the office PSV provided necessary support to staff members.

A schedule was drawn up for timely issuance of PAF. A monitoring system was initiated for renewal of VISA, UNLP, entitlement of home leave etc.

The Regional HR Meeting was attended by the HR assistant.

The UNICEF Representative had to shoulder the added responsibility of the role of UN Resident Coordinator a.i. for over 6 months. In a small office without a Programme Coordinator, this created challenges in office management. The change in leadership towards the end of the year exacerbated these challenges.

Despite the salary increment, recruitment of qualified local candidates for consultancies posed a challenge. Also timely planning and completion of individual staff KRAs and PERs was limited and requires improvement.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement:

With reduction of staff strength to 22 in 2010 from 65 in 2008, the office aligned the work processes accordingly to improve efficiency. Pre-review of PRQ prior to payment helped in ensuring completeness of document and correctness of GL coding bringing down the number of transactions rejected by FLS to NIL.

Review of the rent paid to UNDP, resulted in elimination of payment of rent to the tune of US\$ 24,000 per annum. Review of maintenance charge resulted in bringing down the maintenance cost from US\$ 62,000 per annum to US\$ 26,000 per annum.

4.4.2 Changes in AMP:

Maldives Country Office will be starting a new country programme covering 2011-2015. Staffing structure has been adjusted to match the new country programme. Work plans will be developed to meet the results taking into consideration the resources available.

Strategic partnership will be established with the UN system, civil society and the corporate sector. UNICEF will advocate for UN coherence, efficiency and effectiveness through joint programmes, UNDAF thematic groups, and management of a UN common fund.

UNICEF Maldives will gear up for the change management initiatives which include implementation of IPSAS, VISION and ERM.

5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:

- 1. Maldives Demographic Health Survey (MDHS)*
- 2. A Comparative Study on the Available Sanitation Systems in the Maldives*
- 3. Research Report for the Masterplanning of CFS Advocacy Campaign*
- 4. Maldives Demographic Health Survey (MDHS)*
- 5. Case Study on Drivers of and Challenges to Climate Change and Environmental Education Across Sectors*

5.2 List of Other Publications

1. **Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.** *National Micronutrient Survey 2007*

6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED:

Title: *Development of Maldives*

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Abstract:

The development of the Maldives Child Protection Database (MCPD) was initiated in 2009 with technical inputs from Illuminaries Ltd of UK. Four key Child Protection agencies are linked to MCPD. The database will carry information on child abuse, juvenile delinquency, and gender based violence. The key features of MCPD include referral and case management, case relationships, outcomes, caseworker activities, messaging, and audit trails.

As a management tool, it can be used to review progress of cases, identify delays and bottlenecks, thus helping plan interventions and improve service provision. Further, it allows the respective child protection agencies to identify and analyze data by looking into trends and develop appropriate and effective interventions.

Possibilities of linking the database with other statistical databases in the Maldives such as, MaldivInfo are being explored.

The database went live on June 20, 2010.

Innovation or Lessons Learned:

The MCPD enables coordination between the key agencies for child protection. It has the potential to be linked to other databases enabling comprehensive data collection and sharing of information. This will enable strengthening of the national child protection system by identifying gaps, enhancing accountability and expediting action.

The MCPD is still in its infancy and it is too early to comment on strengths and weaknesses.

Potential Application:

It is premature to comment on its potential usage beyond national level. The system needs to be carefully evaluated before it can be replicated in other settings.

Issue/Background:

Collection of data on child protection issues has been ad hoc and uncoordinated. Compilation of national and regional data has been hampered by the absence of a comprehensive data collection mechanism. Furthermore, each agency has developed its own classification and codes, making it difficult to analyse and extrapolate data. The lack of systematic data collection has prevented the development of appropriate strategies. The development of a database such as MCPD has been long overdue.

Strategy and Implementation:

A situation analysis, completed in 2005 covering 10 atolls, highlighted many of the problems relating to child protection.

A scoping exercise in 2007 was undertaken to understand the existing databases, assess sectoral needs and determine the specifications for the database. The assessment

covered 13 sectoral databases. In addition, a one-day consultative workshop was held to identify the existing mechanisms for sharing of information, and verify the findings from the assessments of the existing databases.

Necessary training was provided for staff from key agencies.

Possibilities of linking the database with other statistical databases in the Maldives such as MaldivInfo are being explored.

Progress and Results:

The MCPD is a planning and monitoring tool. It has the capacity to capture all types of cases ranging from victims to offenders. It can thus identify and target children and families who require support. It will also show trends of child abuse and patterns of juvenile crimes.

Foreseen challenges for the functionality of the database include lack of resources and capacity that will be needed for the continuous maintenance and upgrading of the system.

Next Steps:

Currently the database is accessible only in the capital. Hence, it is a priority to expand the database to sub-national levels.

Although the Maldives Police Service currently has sole responsibility for regular monitoring and maintenance, it is necessary for the newly formed multi-sectoral management committee to take over this responsibility.

7. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION:

In April 2010, Government counterparts and UNICEF participated in discussions on social protection and the role of non state providers in delivering basic services for children, held in Manila, Philippines, organized by the ADB and UNICEF. As the Maldives has just initiated social protection programmes and public private partnerships for delivering social services, both meetings proved to be informative and timely.

In November 2010, a High-Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region was held in Beijing, China. This meeting created a unique opportunity to further develop South-South cooperation initiatives for fulfilling children's rights and achieving the MDGs. Maldives delegation, represented at the Ministerial-level, used this opportunity to share Maldives' experience and show how a small country can tackle the challenges faced in achieving MDGs with equity. The opportunity was also used to raise concerns and challenges faced by a small country, graduating to a middle-income status, and to underline the importance of sharing lessons learned in progressing towards and achieving child rights and MDGs with equity.**Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.**