

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year was marked by the municipal elections. The Colorado Party managed to regain positions as the country's leading political force. The delicate state of the President's health generated uncertainty about his capacity to govern and some political instability. On the economic front, GDP is expected to increase by 9%-to-10%, the highest rate in 30 years. However, persistent inequalities and social exclusion deeply affect the poorest, especially indigenous children. Social investment is only 9% of GDP, much lower than the average for Latin America (14%).

Main achievements were: (i) evidence on the impact of government's social programmes showed how *Tekoporã* and *Abrazo* programmes have contributed to improving living conditions for the country's most vulnerable children; (ii) *Abrazo* Programme, supported by UNICEF, was expanded and became one of the government's priority social programmes within the 2010-2020 'Paraguay for All Paraguayans' Development Plan, as were identity, WASH, and the *Tekoporã* Programme of conditional cash transfers; (iii) the quantity of schools and primary health care units in indigenous territories increased as a result of institutional strengthening, supported by UNICEF; (iv) A public debate on intra-family abuse in Paraguay was sparked by the campaign "Learning Improves without Violence". As a result, the number of formal complaints of intra-family violence has increased.

The main difficulties were: (i) Confrontations in the political-electoral arena permeated the structure of various government ministries, jeopardising the continuity of programmes that are central to fighting poverty and undermining the flow of processes and communication required to effectively implement programmes; (ii) some mid-level government officials failed to view the potential of the Information and Management System (SIGPA) as common ground for exchange of social information and effective follow-up on social programmes, hampering efforts to accelerate its implementation.

UNICEF strengthened ties with the UN system through joint programmes that contribute to expanding networks of professionals and institutions, increasing the impact on social policies. Alliances with private sector companies, the mass media and public institutions have made it possible to broaden the scope of the campaign against child abuse.

## 2 COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Paraguay has a population of more than 6 million people, 40% of which is under 18 years of age. The indigenous population (2%) is the most excluded and vulnerable group and faces the worst living conditions.

Two events in Paraguay's political context are particularly noteworthy in 2010. First, the campaign for municipal elections set the pace for politics throughout most of the year. These elections were seen by the political sectors as an opportunity to test the temperature for the upcoming presidential elections in 2013. Based on the election results, political analysts agree that the Colorado Party has managed to get back on its feet, after losing the presidential race in 2008 (it had governed since 1948). Secondly, the President's health has become a matter of State ever since it became public knowledge that he has lymphatic cancer.

On the economic front, the food and financial crisis appear to be a thing of the past for Paraguay. The country is expected to register growth that is unprecedented in the last 30 years. According to estimates, the increase in GDP will be 10%. Social investment was US\$1,391 million in 2009 (9% of GDP). In 2010, estimates indicate that social investment will rise to US\$1,600 million.

Poverty declined from 38% to 35% between 2008 and 2009, but there was virtually no change in extreme poverty (around 19%). Children and adolescents, especially indigenous children, are the most affected: while on average 45% of children under 18 are poor and 26% are extremely poor, 77% of indigenous children live in poverty and 63% in indigence. This has a direct bearing on child malnutrition, which affects an estimated 4.2% of the under-five group; the proportion increases to 9.7% among indigenous children. The estimated percentage of children under five who are at risk of malnutrition comes to around 25% of indigenous children. About 30% of pregnant women are malnourished.

The Health Ministry estimates that 60% of the population is covered, which means 1.9 million inhabitants are excluded from the health system, including an estimated 760,000 children. The Health Ministry's records show progress in terms of reducing under-five and child mortality, which decreased from 40 to 18 and from 30 to 15 per 1,000 live births, respectively. Maternal mortality declined from 150 to 127 per 100,000 live births between 1990 and 2009. Institutional births rose from 83% to 93% between 1996 and 2009.

In Paraguay, 33.5% of households still do not have access to drinking water. Approximately 30% of children and adolescents are affected, as are 93.2% of indigenous children, which is even more alarming.

Net pre-school enrolment increased from 17% to 68% between 1992 and 2009, while enrolment in the first and second cycles dropped from 93% to 84.7%, and then rose from 27% to 58.5% for the third cycle in the same period. The literacy rate for the 15-to-24 age group was 98.2% in 2009, but reaches only 60% for the indigenous population.

The period between 2005 and 2009 saw an increase of 71% in the number of new HIV cases diagnosed. Access to prophylaxis for PMTCT of HIV among pregnant women increased from 31% to 74%.

Approximately 17.7% of children and adolescents in the five-to-17 age group are working, either for pay or with no remuneration. In addition, 145,000 children are involved in hazardous child labour, equivalent to 14.9% of all working children. Official statistics on violence perpetrated against women and children, who are the primary victims of domestic and intra-family violence, are scarce and not at all systematic. The results of a UNICEF-supported survey in 2010 show that 60% of children suffer some type of violence. In addition, 31% of parents said they strike their children because that is the way they were raised; 30% said they do so because they become nervous and lose control.

In terms of penal justice for adolescents, a new detention centre was built this year, demonstrating a government interest in separating youngsters from adults at incarceration facilities. However, a major challenge remains in terms of providing

adolescents with legal aid in judicial processes and improving the conditions in which youngsters are detained.

## **3 CP ANALYSIS & RESULT**

### **3.1 CP Analysis**

#### **3.1.1 CP Overview**

The Cooperation Programme is structured according to the five strategic areas of the MTSP; consequently, it is fully integrated from a thematic standpoint. The Programme attempts to link national public policy and the installation of capacity at the central level, regional and local level, depending on available resources and established priorities.

The most disadvantaged segments of the population have been identified clearly, thanks to UNICEF support to obtaining and analysing data from censuses and household surveys, and the creation of specific modules, such as those on child labour or indigenous populations. The emphasis placed on the various topics and issues stems from this approach and from the priorities agreed up on with the government.

The expansion in the coverage and diversity of social protection programmes and the State's growing investment in these initiatives have accelerated the change in UNICEF's role in Paraguay. This new context necessitates a further degree of specialisation, if technical assistance is to be appreciated and counterparts are to acquire more of a capacity to analyse disparities, make more strategic decisions, and have the management tools they need to gauge the effectiveness and impact of actions.

Data from SIGPA began to be processed for the first time in 2010. It will be used to focus more closely and precisely on the poorest districts in the country, where social protection programmes will be developed more forcefully. A more exhaustive analysis of this data should allow for targeting projects more precisely in the future and doing a better job of tracking their impact.

The UNDAF was extended by two years, until December 2013. This requires a similar extension of the UNICEF Cooperation Programme.

#### **3.1.2 Programme Strategy**

##### **3.1.2.1 Capacity Development**

The government's social policies targeted at inclusion have necessitated a series of institutional adjustments, along with specific training requirements. UNICEF has contributed in this respect in 2010 through technical assistance in management, planning and institution-building processes. It helped national institutions strengthen their capacity to run social programmes for the worst-off population (Tekopora and Abrazo) and to widely disseminate their results. It also facilitated an exchange between governmental and social actors from the region to foster a transfer of know-how and experience. The course held in Uruguay for judicial authorities, and training offered in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru on risk management, along with various initiatives to exchange information and experiences in the area of education with Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Guatemala are some examples.

At the local level, a great deal of emphasis was placed on sustained training for government officials of different echelons in order to strengthen their capacity for analysis and data management, and to improve the quality of the services they provide. In this framework, it is worth mentioning training provided to community leaders and teachers on disaster risk management, as well as training of health professionals on PMTCT, prevention of Iodine Deficiency Disorders and breastfeeding. Non-governmental

organisations received support to expand their capacity to influence public policies and to ensure that policies are applied appropriately.

### **3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy**

UNICEF has invested resources to produce information and evidence as the basis for an effective advocacy and communication strategy to highlight the disparities that exist and the impact exclusion has on children. It has worked continuously and systematically with government counterparts, civil society and allies to ensure the rights-based approach is included in their analysis and programme implementation, with special attention to the most excluded children. UNICEF also has tried to articulate and encourage opportunities for dialogue among decision-makers and rights-holders, so excluded groups can make their voices heard. Accordingly, in partnership with UNDP and UNFPA, it promoted 'Investing in People,' a Joint Programme that monitors social investment by providing information in a way that is educational for civil society, while analysing the effectiveness of the government's priority programmes and supplying technical assistance to the institutions or agencies responsible for social programmes.

The build-up in inter-institutional relations and joint efforts has led to more Government spending in areas that are strategic for children. Creation of the Department of Indigenous Education and the allocation of human and financial resources to apply a public policy for indigenous communities are relevant examples, as is the build-up in financial and institutional resources invested to expand drinking water coverage in poor communities, particularly in the indigenous communities of El Chaco, and a more effective response to the drought. Other examples are the allocation of resources to combat child malnutrition through food security and nutrition programmes, and the substantial increase in the Government's budget for the *Abrazo* Programme for working children, to expand its coverage and enable it to provide more services.

### **3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships**

Alliances have been strategic to the work developed within the context of the cooperation programme. Focused on mobilising will and resources in different sectors of society to achieve specific objectives, they have allowed for greater involvement and appropriation on the part of local institutions and organisations, broader impact, and more effective use of resources.

UNICEF established a number of alliances within the scope of the communication campaign against child abuse ('Learning Improves without Violence'). An organisation of creative individuals became involved and, as a result, 17 publicists from the country's leading advertising agencies came up with the creative concept of the campaign, at no cost. An international bank and a mobile telephone company made available a portion of their radio, television and outdoor advertising space. The national electricity company distributed a flyer, with their electricity bill, to 400,000 households with information about violence against children. Alliances to circulate messages were forged with the major media groups that have nationwide coverage and with community radio stations throughout the country. UNICEF also established an alliance with *Diario Ultima Hora*, a national newspaper with the second-largest circulation in Paraguay, to publish information, educational contents (posters and inserts), advertising and editorials intended to promote a public agenda on behalf of the rights of children and adolescents.

UNICEF also signed an agreement with the OEI to jointly support the Ministry of Education in initiatives to identify, define and carry out activities designed to guarantee all children in Paraguay access to good-quality education. UNICEF and Aldeas S.O.S. have worked together in Paraguay, replicating a regional agreement on de-

institutionalising children. The objective is to help children recuperates ties with their families and communities.

#### **3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management**

The production of knowledge was a strategic component of programmes targeted to vulnerable groups in 2010. Based on evidence and relevant information, action has been mounted through conditional cash transfer programmes for families living in extreme poverty, through communication for development initiatives, and through progress toward narrowing the gap in access to water and sanitation for rural communities and indigenous peoples.

The UNDP/UNICEF/UNFPA Joint Programme 'Investing in People –Social Spending in the Budget,' published a study about the impact of the economic crisis on the quality of children's and adolescents' lives in Paraguay (Electronic Bulletin N°13). The same programme also generated key information through SIGPA (Paraguayan Information and Management System). Figures were obtained to illustrate the impact of conditional cash transfers to poor families, which are dependent on school attendance. This allowed for advocacy on behalf of the *Tekoporâ* Programme, which provides monthly cash transfers ranging from US\$24 to US\$64 to around 84,000 families countrywide. Information was also provided on the whereabouts of undocumented children, to facilitate their birth registration.

UNICEF worked with other agencies in the UN System on the first nationwide survey on water and sanitation, which was carried out by the Statistics, Survey and Census Bureau (DGEEC). Through this effort, information on the current extent of national coverage was documented and updated to assess the status of compliance with the Millennium Development Goals and the budget required to achieve them.

An analysis of data on the prevalence of child abuse within families was completed, and the final report was published and presented publicly to state organisations, civil society and journalists. The same study was supplemented with a representative national survey of parents, to become familiar with their perceptions and opinions about child abuse and discipline. All this information was translated into different types of action, primarily the media campaign 'Learning Improves without Violence'. Specific contents on child-raising guidelines for parents were drafted as part of the campaign, and a website was developed ([www.sinviolencia.com.py](http://www.sinviolencia.com.py)) with relevant information and a bibliography.

#### **3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development**

C4D plays a strategic role in addressing the inequities facing children and adolescents. UNICEF has helped by reinforcing the communication capabilities of two priority government programmes that serve child victims of poverty and exclusion. The Abrazo Programme, which is intended to gradually eliminate child labour in the streets; and the Tekoporâ Programme for conditional cash transfers to families in extreme poverty.

Thanks to the communication plan developed for the Abrazo Programme, a more effective internal communication process was initiated for its beneficiaries. Children were trained to be spokespersons for the programme, pursuant to the SCREAM (ILO) model, and they publicised the programme through the mass media. Another step forward was the production of a documentary video directed to municipal mayors throughout the country. The idea is to secure their support and expand the model. This year, once again, UNICEF supported a large-scale campaign entitled 'There Are Other Ways to Help', aimed at educating the general public to positively help street children, instead of giving them money, which creates incentives for them to stay in the street. An impact

survey showed that public awareness and knowledge of the Abrazo Programme increased from 23.5% to 41.7% between November 2009 and February 2010.

UNICEF cooperated with the state-run Tekoporâ Programme for conditional cash transfers to families living in extreme poverty by implementing an important component of the plan, which involved training approximately 120 radio journalists and opinion leaders in 15 of the country's 17 departments. Micro-radio programmes and a guide for journalists were also developed. In addition to achieving broader and more effective circulation of information on the Abrazo Programme, media allies were acquired throughout the country.

The 'Learning Improves without Violence, behaviour change communication strategy had as its initial objective to influence parents' perception of what constitutes mistreatment. The second phase was intended to inspire a change in habits. The strategy was designed and implemented in alliance with a number of different sectors and included mass media, non-traditional publicity, social media, knowledge management, and educational action.

### **3.1.3 Normative Principles**

#### **3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation**

UNICEF focused its efforts in 2010 on inserting the human-right approach into public policy and the design and execution of programmes for children. It accompanied the government's representatives during presentation of the report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and supported the bid to socialise the primary recommendations, emphasising the need to improve information systems on children's issues and to shed light on the amount of the national budget that is earmarked for investment in children. UNICEF also has stressed the need for better governmental programmes to assist and care for children who are victims of abuse, violence and neglect.

Efforts to disseminate and apply ILO Convention 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as part of the UN system, were developed through initiatives to train Social Cabinet officials and to help INDI (Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous Affairs) and the Department of Civil Service draft a handbook that offers practical guidelines for working with indigenous communities. UNICEF also helped to circulate and monitor the recommendations put forth at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Affairs concerning the situation of forced labour affecting indigenous families in El Chaco.

Through the Inter-agency Working Group on Human Rights, UNICEF supported efforts to draft the Universal Periodic Review to be presented by Paraguay during the United Nations General Assembly. The report on application of the CEDAW in Paraguay is being prepared. UNICEF also is supporting the country's efforts to ratify the Convention for the Protection of Forcibly Displaced Persons, to regulate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to institute the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture, as outlined in the CAT Facultative Protocol, which has been ratified already.

#### **3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming**

The new guidelines for inserting the gender approach into UNICEF programming were analysed at meetings of the Programme Team, for subsequent application in practice. The analysis showed UNICEF team members are knowledgeable about the topic, but further specialisation and more practical tools are needed to mainstream the gender approach in work plans and analytical documents. It also was recommended that

opportunities for training counterparts be created, so they can apply the approach effectively.

UNICEF is part of the Inter-agency Group on Gender, through which it encourages other UN agencies to insert this perspective into their cooperation and to network with other cooperation agencies, such as AECID and German Cooperation, among others.

As part of the initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against children and women, UNICEF supports the National Department for Children and Adolescents in its effort to reinforce the child protection system and to improve channels for filing complaints about abuse and violence against children and adolescents. A campaign against child abuse is being promoted, and the Ministry of Education received support in its bid to reduce school violence.

In the area of health, UNICEF supported information campaigns to reduce HIV-AIDS transmission, which affects primarily women, and assisted public institutions in drafting an overall framework for providing sex education to children and young people in school.

UNICEF has urged government bureaus and other cooperation agencies to include topics relevant to child protection, on a gender-specific basis, in Joint Programmes, anti-poverty programmes and specific plans and programmes, such as those concerning education for indigenous youths, rural child labour, parenting and early childhood.

Publications on the inequalities that exist between men and women in the workplace were circulated through the inter-agency programme 'Investing in People,' and a revision of the public budget from the standpoint of gender and children was carried out.

### **3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability**

In this area, UNICEF's work is limited to promoting access to safe water and basic sanitation and creating capacity for risk management in schools.

Although the Millennium Goal on access to drinking water is likely to be met, 33.5% of the households in Paraguay still do not have this service. The most affected are indigenous children; 93.2% lack access.

In addition, the WATSAN sector still lacks a proper institutional arrangement and statistics concerning access. Although the recently created Drinking Water and Sanitation Department (Public Works Ministry) represents progress, it requires capacity-building support to lead the sector effectively.

UNICEF has helped to build national capacity for management, to define and implement policies in the water and sanitation sector, which contributed to improving water quality and access for highly vulnerable indigenous families (as part of the Joint Programme with UNDP, ILO and UNIFEM) through the installation of 37 rainwater catchment systems and training in home water purification processes. It also managed to mobilise the country in promoting hand-washing and hygiene, in partnership with PAHO/WHO and Health and Education ministries. Global Hand-Washing Day was promoted as a strategy to improve hygiene and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

Additionally, UNICEF contributed to generating capacity for risk management in the Education system, through effective participation in the DIPECHO VI Regional Project, which resulted in:

- Creation of the Risk Management Department at the Ministry of Education, and empowerment of its authorities and experts
- Thirty new instructors trained to impart the Interactive Teaching method for disaster risk-reduction workshops in the Education sector
- A national risk management plan and a documentation of experiences in risk management in the educational environment
- Development of "Chaco Rapére", an educational tool that includes a board game with accessories, a manual and a guide, to teach children about risk prevention. Developed with the help of indigenous children and teachers, the game was declared of "educational interest" by the Ministry of Education.

### **3.2 Programme Components**

**Title: *Health and Nutrition***

#### **Purpose**

The Health and Nutrition Project seeks to ensure that women and children enjoy their right to a healthy life, particularly during pregnancy and early childhood. The activities included in this programme component are tied to the MDGs; namely, a reduction in child mortality and better maternal health through projects for health, nutrition, water and sanitation.

#### **Resources Used:**

<b>Fund Reference</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Available Funds (US\$)</b>	<b>Spent (US\$)</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
GC/2006/0472-01	UNICEF (For GR Allocation Only)	147,125.00	128,260.05	87%
<b>Sub Total for RR</b>		<b>147,125.00</b>	<b>128,260.05</b>	<b>87%</b>
GC/2009/0091	UNICEF (For GR Allocation Only)	45,000.00	36,648.90	81%
SC/2006/9902	Thematic Funds	67,916.83	64,202.63	95%
SC/2009/0066	UNDP-USA Administrative Services Section	124,795.17	90,778.63	73%
SC/2009/0519	Norway	79,399.04	59,112.67	74%
SC/2010/9902	Thematic Funds	67,095.07	11,331.51	17%
SI/2009/0068	Spain	32,228.36	32,040.34	99%
<b>Sub Total for OR</b>		<b>416,434.47</b>	<b>294,114.68</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Total for Project</b>		<b>563,559.47</b>	<b>422,374.73</b>	<b>75%</b>

#### **Result Achieved**

UNICEF has helped to reinforce the country's capacity to promote and monitor progress in breast-feeding by training 30 health workers to implement the Child-friendly Hospital initiative, and 20 health workers to encourage exclusive breast-feeding and to evaluate health establishments, particularly in aspects that guarantee

the quality of care to mothers and newborns. In addition, 360 health workers were trained to manage breast-feeding from a clinical standpoint at regional health services. UNICEF contributed to improving the coverage and quality of immunisation services by supporting vaccination campaigns, improvements in the cold chain, training processes, and the addition of new vaccines to the Expanded Immunisation Programme (EPI). The Health Ministry successfully conducted the National Campaign to Eliminate Measles, Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome, for which it received a distinction from the Pan American Health Organization.

The EPI received equipment to improve the vaccine cold chain and personnel training on how to use the vaccine inventory software.

The number of cases of H1N1 flu declined, largely due to the UNICEF-supported public awareness campaign. The President of Paraguay acknowledged the important service UNICEF has provided the country through successful action to combat immune-preventable diseases.

In collaboration with PAHO/WHO, the Integrated Strategy on Prevalent Childhood Diseases was reinforced by training 120 health workers and 40 social actors from selected communities in follow-up, supervision and monitoring implementation of the strategy in the field.

UNICEF also contributed to strengthening prevention of micro-nutrient deficiencies, with support to monitor salt quality and train health professionals. A sustained system for salt quality control has been maintained at four iodizing plants, and the micro-nutrients in wheat flour are being controlled through verification at flour mills. Management of the IDD and Iron Deficiency Programme improved as a result of training and updating in management for 115 health workers.

In addition, processes were generated to reinforce indigenous health, through design of the Health Policy for Indigenous Peoples, and through institutional reforms and training for technical teams. In this context, UNICEF supported the recently created Health Ministry's General Rural and Indigenous Health Office to provide technical assistance to all areas within the ministry in terms of: including an inter-cultural approach, linking health services for indigenous people, and facilitating a dialogue between the Health Ministry and indigenous organisations and communities.

UNICEF has helped to build national capacity for management, defining and implementing policies in the water and sanitation sector. It has contributed to improving water quality and access for highly vulnerable indigenous families, as part of the Joint Programme with UNDP, ILO and UNIFEM, with the installation of 37 rainwater catchment systems and training in home water-purification processes.

UNICEF managed to mobilise the country through its promotion of hand-washing and hygiene. In partnership with PAHO/WHO and the country's health and education ministries, Global Hand-Washing Day was promoted as a strategy to improve hygiene and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

Despite the efforts to have an integrated health information system, available statistics continue to be dispersed and insufficient for gaining a precise idea of the extent to which children have genuine access to their right to health.

The WATSAN sector still lacks a proper institutional arrangement that would allow for more clarity in the way it is managed. Although the recently created Drinking Water and Sanitation Department within the Ministry of Public Works and Communication represents progress, it still doesn't have the ability to lead the sector effectively and to help draft comprehensive and coordinated public policies.

The WATSAN Special National Survey was concluded, revealing the extent of drinking-water coverage. The documentation and mapping of existing water sources and systems in Concepción provided Concepción's Government with a tool to improve the way available resources are managed. In addition, WATSAN technologies were analysed and consolidated, to promote the use of technologies that are most appropriate for rural and indigenous communities. These studies were used for advocacy and to strengthen national capacity to define and apply policies on drinking water and sanitation.

The Joint Programme with UNDP, PAHO/WHO and ILO is strategic to build skills and capacity in defining and applying policies on drinking water and sanitation, and constitutes an opportunity to realign and design public policies for the sector.

### **Future Workplan**

UNICEF will continue to support efforts to reinforce the Health Ministry's technical capacity to implement policies, plans and programmes, particularly those concerning the Comprehensive National Health Policy for Children and Adolescents, the National Indigenous Health Policy, and the National Policy on Health Research, all of which were launched in 2010. Special support and attention will be given to Family Health Units, as a strategy for addressing health issues in the poorest and most remote communities.

There will be a continued bid to strengthen the technical ability of the team at the Department of Health for Indigenous Peoples to incorporate inter-cultural approaches, particularly in child health and nutrition and with respect to handling information to monitor service coverage and quality.

UNICEF also will continue to provide support to reinforcing coordination among the various public agencies, private companies and social organisations to ensure a sustainable supply of drinking water and proper sanitation for the population.

### **Title: *Education and Equity***

#### **Purpose**

The Education and Equity Project strives to guarantee that children and adolescents, particularly those traditionally excluded from the formal school system, are able to enjoy their right to good-quality basic education that responds to the multicultural and bilingual nature of the country, with a special focus on the indigenous population. The project involves the promotion of public policies to improve permanence in school and academic performance, in addition to support for national efforts to expand the coverage of comprehensive strategies for early childhood development based in families and communities. It also backs initiatives to eliminate gender bias in the school system.

#### **Resources Used:**

<b>Fund Reference</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Available Funds (US\$)</b>	<b>Spent (US\$)</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
GC/2006/0472-01	UNICEF (For GR Allocation Only)	139,200.00	129,307.10	93%
<b>Sub Total for RR</b>		<b>139,200.00</b>	<b>129,307.10</b>	<b>93%</b>
SC/2006/9901-73	Thematic Funds	170,453.88	143,797.16	84%
SI/2009/0068	Spain	193,886.44	193,503.79	100%
<b>Sub Total for OR</b>		<b>364,340.32</b>	<b>337,300.95</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Total for Project</b>		<b>503,540.32</b>	<b>466,608.05</b>	<b>93%</b>

## **Results Achieved**

During 2010 greater emphasis was placed on the goals of the 2024 National Education Plan: The Education We Want for the Bicentennial Generation. UNICEF helped to mainstream the rights-based approach in education by promoting inclusive education that recognises diverse cultural identities. It helped to improve initial and basic education quality, so that it is more relevant to the most disadvantaged children. In this respect, UNICEF has provided support to comprehensive early childhood development, as well as to initiatives to keep children at school, improve their academic performance and promote democracy, peaceful coexistence and participation in school communities.

### **Basic Education**

UNICEF contributed to improve bilingual education quality by reinforcing children's literacy in their mother tongue and by helping them to develop basic skills in Spanish and Guaraní. The network of bilingual teachers received technical assistance for training teachers to apply the bilingual education proposal adapted to the community's socio-linguistic context.

UNICEF also provided technical support for designing and validating six learning materials for children and two teaching handbooks to guide the development of linguistic skills in Spanish and Guaraní for children in the first stage of basic education. These materials will be published by the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) in 2011.

The capacity of MEC technicians and teachers to deliver appropriate initial literacy teaching has improved through reinforcement of the teaching sequences methodology in language and mathematics. These teaching methods were applied at 17 targeted schools and technical academic debate on the methodology was conducted, as well as on the theoretical trends that support literacy teaching, where school failure is one of the priority issues. The results of the evaluation are being processed and analysed for decision-making purposes.

### **Comprehensive Early Child Development**

With UNICEF's technical support, the National Plan for Early Childhood Comprehensive Care was drafted, under the leadership of MEC, MoH and the National Department for Children. It is now being discussed with key government institutions and civil society.

Progress was made towards producing indicators of early child development to be used in designing public policies. So far, there are indicators of children's skills and abilities, and a nationally-validated tool to evaluate child development in the 0-to-five age group. There also are indicators of parenting practices, health and nutrition, among others, and indicators for access to basic services such as health care, schooling, water and sanitation and food security.

### **Education for Indigenous Children**

UNICEF helped to reinforce institutional and technical capacities within the MEC and NGOs to apply the law on indigenous education, as was the capacity of NGOs to influence education policy.

The General Department for Indigenous Schooling has a strategic plan and a set of rules and regulations to guide its operation. It has reinforced its organisation at the regional level, and has a training proposal for practicing teachers. It also has begun to design continuing education modules for young people and adults who are members of the Qom and Ayoreo communities in El Chaco.

With UNICEF support, the MEC and indigenous organisations received technical assistance in linguistics, teacher training and organisation, provided by indigenous professionals from Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia and Brazil. At least 200 indigenous teachers from the 20 indigenous communities have begun training in strategic topics,

and a manual on cultural research methods was published, as were five studies on the science and culture of the indigenous peoples of Paraguay.

UNICEF contributed to reinforce indigenous leaders' capabilities to impact the national agenda for education. In this framework, the Guaraní people of Paraguay, together with NGOs and universities, socialized the Guaraní map and organized the first continental congress of the Guaraní Nation to reinforce their demands and proposals on behalf of Guaraní children and youths.

### **Constraints**

The past year has seen changes at the executive and technical levels within the Ministry of Education and Culture, which have caused delays in the established work plan. Consequently, a number of cooperation components are still in their initial phase and will be completed during 2011.

### **Partnerships**

UNICEF and the Ibero American States Organization (OEI) signed a MOU to help achieve national education goals, especially those concerning initial and basic education. It is entirely consistent with the agreement signed later by the OEI and UNICEF Regional Office, in September 2010.

### **Future Workplan**

The emphasis next year will be on the following:

- Improving academic performance and reducing failure in school by making increased use of the "learning sequences" method, holding technical discussions within the framework of the initial education project, and expanding and consolidating bilingual education
- Finalising and implementing the National Plan for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care
- Encouragement of a new culture of coexistence in schools, founded on the rights-based approach
- Strengthening the production of real-time data on education indicators, such as school attendance and the delivery of nutritional supplements and school kits.
- Reinforcing indigenous education in four areas: (1) teacher training, (2) generation of information to construct curricula, (3) structuring the national council on indigenous education, and (4) designing of tools to measure the coverage and quality of services provided to children.
- Strengthening the MEC Risk Management Department, and reinforcing the National Network of Instructors, in addition to positioning "Chaco Rapére" and training more teachers to use it; having a map of schools in risk areas; and advocating and circulating INEE standards.

**Title: *HIV/AIDS***

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the UNICEF Cooperation Programme with respect to HIV and AIDS is to strengthen Paraguay's response to the HIV-AIDS pandemic by ensuring universal access to preventive measures, treatment and comprehensive care. The emphasis is on support for national capacity to design and implement public programmes and policies on the prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child, comprehensive care for children and adolescents affected by HIV, and access to adequate information, particularly for adolescents.

### **Resources Used:**

<b>Fund Reference</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Available Funds (US\$)</b>	<b>Spent (US\$)</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
GC/2006/0472-01	UNICEF (For GR Allocation Only)	154,200.00	127,583.68	83%
<b>Sub Total for RR</b>		<b>154,200.00</b>	<b>127,583.68</b>	
SC/2009/0475	United States Funds for UNICEF	10,221.45	-154.62	-2%
<b>Sub Total for OR</b>		<b>10,221.45</b>	<b>-154.62</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>Total for Project</b>		<b>164,421.45</b>	<b>127,429.06</b>	<b>78%</b>

### **Results Achieved**

The results are linked to Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PTMTC) and among adolescents and young people, as well as to increasing capacity to guarantee protection, care and psychosocial support for children and adolescents who are infected and/or affected by HIV& AIDS.

In this framework, UNICEF supported training of 345 health workers and professionals to apply the HIV and syphilis PMTCT protocols, which has contributed to improve community-level care provided by the Family Health Units in the most vulnerable regions. Thanks to continuous technical assistance and comprehensive supervision from regional primary health care unit coordinators and from the National AIDS Control Programme (PRONASIDA) professionals, it has been possible to maintain national standards of services quality in 100% of the country's health regions. The capacity created within the health services in providing patients with adequate information and pre- and post-test counselling has contributed to maintaining pregnant women's access to PMTCT prophylaxis.

It is worth mentioning that, as a result of continuous advocacy by UNICEF and its allies, this year the Health Ministry started to purchase, with its own budget, all the required HIV and syphilis rapid test kits for pregnant women, which is an important step to ensure sustainability in the future.

UNICEF also helped to create favourable conditions for transmission of the prevention of HIV framework among adolescents and young people. The draft of the Framework for Sex Education was completed and is now being reviewed by the Education National Council. In addition, young people's involvement in the fight against HIV & AIDS has been encouraged through youth leaders' participation in the international network of young human-rights activists.

There was an improvement in the capacity to ensure protection, care and psychosocial support for children and adolescents infected and/or affected by HIV. With UNICEF support, 31 children received psychosocial support and learning strengthening support. This allowed those of school age to enrol in regular institutions of learning and to have some kind of tie with relatives. A nutrition handbook for children and adolescents with HIV and a guide for parents, relatives, teachers and health workers on diagnostic disclosure and counselling for HIV-positive children and adolescents were produced as well.

### **Constraints Affecting Performance**

PRONASIDA has been adjusted in line with the recommendations of the 2009 PAHO/WHO assessment of the National Response to HIV, which advocated situating the directorship at the highest policy-making level within the Health Ministry, to preclude the programme from operating as a separate or parallel entity to the ministry. However, despite an effort in this respect, the system remains centralised and further work is needed to fully integrate this initiative with the other programmes of the Health Ministry.

There are still insufficient statistics on certain high-risk groups, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men, indigenous people and others. The result is a lack of appropriate intervention to address these specific situations.

The Health Ministry has taken steps to overcome problems in the provision and distribution of medicines and supplies. However, it still needs systematic planning to improve accuracy in estimating demand and a financial plan to avoid service shortages and the risk of having to interrupt treatment.

Another issue is that comprehensive care for HIV+ abandoned or orphaned children is still the realm of religious organizations. The public sector has yet to act in this respect.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The results of a 2010 study conducted with assistance from UNICEF, PAHO/WHO and Harvard University, focusing on socio-economic and cultural barriers in access, prenatal care and HIV-syphilis detection during pregnancy point to the vertical structure of the Health Ministry and that of other national programmes, including PRONASIDA, as the primary weakness. The study also indicates a lack of supplies and test kits in the health services. In consequence, health regions and hospitals now are budgeting for these needs, so as not to depend solely on the PRONASIDA budget. Moreover, services are now being organised within health centres that are better distributed geographically.

### **Key Partnerships and Strategic Alliances**

UNICEF strategic partners and allies in fighting HIV are the Ministry of Health and other public sector institutions, as well as UN agencies and civil society organisations.

### **Future Workplan**

Some of the priority actions planned for 2011 are to:

- Carry out a study on the situation of children and adolescents affected by AIDS in Paraguay, and develop research on specific vulnerable groups, in coordination with UNAIDS and other partners
- Consolidate the initiative to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis
- Develop a strategy for working with adolescents to prevent HIV, based on the proposals put forth at the meeting of youth leaders held in Brazil
- Initiate a process to introduce the subject of HIV prevention in indigenous communities, especially among young people.

### **Title: *Public Policies***

#### **Purpose**

The project supports the design, application and monitoring of public policy based on human rights. It is part of the fight against the poverty and inequality that affects children and adolescents, and also advocates for greater and more effective social investment in this segment of the population. There are three specific objectives: a) produce information on the national budget that is accessible and understandable to the general public, particularly with regard to social expenditure; b) advocate for increased government social spending and facilitate agreement and consensus on priorities in the national budget; and c) promote efficient and equitable management of public resources by supporting the implementation of a mechanism to monitor social programs, in a timely fashion, through the Paraguayan Information and Management System (SIGPA).

## **Resources Used**

<b>Fund reference</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Available funds (US\$)</b>	<b>Spent (US\$)</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
Regular resources		172,048.20	120,557.26	72%
<b>Sub total for RR</b>		<b>172,048.20</b>	<b>120,557.26</b>	<b>72%</b>
Other resources				
SC/06/9905	Thematic funds	120,220.15	96,206.55	80%
SI/09/0068		37,701.12	33,515.25	89%
<b>Sub total for OR</b>		<b>157,921.27</b>	<b>129,721.80</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Total for Project</b>		<b>329,969.47</b>	<b>250,279.06</b>	<b>76%</b>

## **Results Achieved**

The UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA Joint Programme 'Investing in People', monitors the implementation of the Government priority social programmes (and its sources of funding), focusing on their impact on children. The idea is to encourage efficient use of funding, measure the impact and engage in better planning, to ensure respect for and exercise of basic human rights.

This year civil society and counterparts received regular information on social investment as a share of the Government's budget. This information was used to advocate for maintaining or increasing budget allocations for priority government social projects.

With the Joint Programme's support, SIGPA was expanded and utilised to make specific programmes as effective as possible. In this framework, the Social Action Secretariat (SAS) now has a Comprehensive Beneficiary Management System, used to manage data from the Single Registry of Beneficiaries. As a result, for the first time, there is information on compliance with education conditions for the Tekoporá conditional cash transfer programme, and the Identification and Civil Records Bureau regularly receives censuses with information on the identity status of nearly 400,000 students and their families, which facilitates the development of birth registration campaigns and the issue of identification cards. The Health Ministry also uses the SIGPA Healthy Schools module to monitor students' health and nutritional status and the delivery of nutritional supplements at 48 schools in Asunción; the system is also being used by a private company, as part of its social responsibility programme.

As part of the support provided to the Government by the Joint Programme, priority programme Ñamba'apó Paraguay, the National Employment Office has a labour liaison platform to link job offers with the demand for labour.

With UNICEF support, a preliminary report was produced on compliance with the 2015 MDGs. It includes a new cost estimate for some MDG objectives, which is currently being validated by the respective public institutions.

## **Constraints Affecting Performance**

Through an agreement with Finance Ministry, the Joint Programme has direct, online access to the Financial Management System of Paraguay (SIAF). However, there are problems with access to the Monthly Expense Plan, which is the document that permits comparison between the information on spending obtained through SIAF and the authorised monthly spending ceiling.

It has yet to be understood that SIGPA is, in essence, a common space where institutions in the social sector deposit information on their beneficiaries. The idea is to provide an overview of the data on beneficiaries of all social programmes, to avoid

duplication and overlapping. This constraint may be due to the fact that public agencies usually do not share the statistics they generate.

### **Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations Completed in 2010**

- Three follow-up reports were done that monitor social spending
- Bulletin 12 is a case study of the Prenatal Check-up and Birth Kit Programm
- "Investing in Paraguay's Children during Times of Crisis" estimates the repercussions of the financial and food crises on children in Paraguay
- "Poverty and the MDG in Paraguay: Scenarios and Public Policies" analyses the impact of the financial crisis and the mechanisms through which it was passed on to the Paraguayan economy
- "Social Spending and a Bigger Tax Burden Allow for Human Development," demonstrates that more resources are needed to progress towards sustainable human development.
- The impact of the Tekoporã Programme on school attendance was measured through a survey of turnout at schools in the Yhú district, using SIGPA.

### **Key Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration**

'Investing in People - Social Spending in the Budget' is a programme supported jointly by three UN agencies in Paraguay (UNICEF-UNDP-UNFPA). Additionally, an agreement was signed with Plan International in the context of Identity and Civil Records support.

### **Future Workplan**

- Continue to monitor the implementation of social programmes and to measure impact, with the help of SIGPA
- Support both the Social Action Secretariat and the Ministry of Education in measuring joint responsibility in Education
- Help to link the Social Action Secretariat module and the Health Ministry Information System to measure responsibility for health in the conditional cash transfer programmes
- Expand the census of students' registration ID
- Support development of the Second Indigenous Household Survey
- Include the anthropometric module in the 2011 National Household Survey.

### **Title:**

### ***Child Protection***

### **Purpose**

This project is intended to build national capacity to guarantee the right of every child and adolescent to be protected against violence, exploitation and abuse. It helps to perfect systems designed to safeguard the rights of children and adolescents on a local, regional and national scale and to bring about legislative and institutional changes and improvements.

### **Resources Used:**

<b>Fund Reference</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Available Funds (US\$)</b>	<b>Spent (US\$)</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
Regular Resources		156,200.00	136,182.88	87%
<b>Sub Total for RR</b>		<b>156,200.00</b>	<b>136,182.88</b>	<b>87%</b>
Other Resources				
SC/06/9904-32	Thematic Funds	38,471.06	37,045.76	96%
SC/06/9905	Thematic Funds	7,658.95	6,307.17	82%
SC/07/0255	Swedish Committee	11,436.02	11,436.02	100%
SC/07/0902	Swedish Committee	205,086.88	195,403.31	95%
SC/09/0063	Spain (UNDP)	50,100.00	39,178.17	78%
SC/10/0414	New Zealand Committee	44,865.69	12,376.60	28%
SC/10/9904	Thematic Funds	8,500.00	6,462.45	76%
SI/09/0068	Spain	0.00	0.00	
<b>Sub Total for OR</b>		<b>366,118.60</b>	<b>308,209.48</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Total for Project</b>		<b>522,318.60</b>	<b>444,392.36</b>	<b>85%</b>

### **Result Achieved**

The main results were related to reinforcing the institutional mechanisms and public awareness to ensure that all children enjoy the right to an identity and to protection against all kind of violence and abuse. The programme helped to design public policies in key protection areas, such as juvenile justice and child trafficking.

The recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the guidelines for child-care alternatives were printed and distributed nationwide. These materials are important tools for the dissemination of CRC recommendations and for advocacy purposes.

The issue of identity was included in the main Government programmes, thanks to the momentum sparked by the inter-institutional table on the right to identity. The programmes have three main components: birth-registration campaigns, birth registration at health centres and registration at the community level.

The problem of violence against children was afforded visibility, through the campaign 'Learning Improves without Violence'. Also, the child protection against abuse networks, which encourage official complaints, case detection and care to victims, received technical support from UNICEF for training and for strengthening links among the various Government and non-governmental organisations that comprise these networks.

With UNICEF's support, a national policy on juvenile justice was drafted, and concrete actions to denounce unfair treatment in prisons were carried out. This year saw the closure of an adolescent detention centre that was located inside a prison for adults, demonstrating Government interest in progressively separating children from adults in national prisons.

The proposal for a policy against human trafficking was presented, drafted within the framework of the Joint Programme on Youth, Employment and Migration. As part of the same initiative, an agreement was reached with the MEC aimed at developing a new schooling model tailored to the needs of domestic employees.

During the past year, 1,519 children were able to cease performing hazardous work on the streets of the country's major cities. Comprehensive care and attention was provided

to children and families as part of the Abrazo Programme, which has its goal to keep children off the streets and in their communities. It benefited 2,126 children (55% boys and 45% girls), of whom 72% stopped working on the street and 28% reduced by half the time they work on the street.

The Presidency's Social Cabinet selected Abrazo as a Government priority programme, which means it will be taken to national scale within 18 months. This implies an estimated 21 new districts, setting up and placing in operation 50 new open, protective or community centres, and reaching 3,830 additional children under 14 years of age who work on the streets and have no protection or coverage.

### **Constraints**

Government efforts are underway to improve children's access to basic services. However, these initiatives continue to be insufficient in terms of caring for children who are victims of violence and abuse.

Despite expansion in the Abrazo Programme and the fact that it now has more funding, further efforts are required to combat the worst forms of child labour. For example, the National Department for Children (SNNA) could take steps to intervene in the brickworks and the quarries, the garbage dumps and the agricultural fields where children are working. In spite of the arduous effort by SNNA, stewardship of public policies needs to be reinforced, as does coordination of the National System for the Promotion and Protection of Children Rights.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

For the first time, the country developed a baseline survey on the incidence of violence against children, which provided the technical elements for designing the campaign 'Learning Improves without Violence'. It shows that 60% of children suffer some type of violence. Hitting children with objects, like belts, sticks, shoes, kicking, burning (35%), light physical punishment (13%) and psychological punishment (13%) are most frequent. Parents indicated they didn't recognise their violent behaviour as abuse, demonstrating ignorance about its consequences and impact. They indicated they hit their children because they are reproducing the way they were educated and also because they lose control.

### **Partnerships**

UNICEF works in partnership with UNDP, ILO, UNIFEM and UNFPA on the 'Employment, Youth and Migration' Joint Programme, focused on eradicating hazardous child labour. Also, the alliance with Aldeas S.O.S. allowed for building awareness nationwide concerning the significance of the UN guidelines on alternative forms of child care.

### **Future Workplan**

#### *Support to Gradually Eliminate Child Labour*

- Technical support to expand the Abrazo Programme, particularly in terms of developing the capacity to network, to produce educational and teaching materials, to publicise and impart information on the programme, and to coordinate with local government authorities
- Training SNNA personnel to maintain the level and quality of the work being done on the street and at open centres, the support being provided to families, and the work with communities

#### *Reinforcing the Protection System and Promoting Children's Rights*

- Help new municipal authorities to strengthen the system to promote and protect children's rights at the municipal level.
- Promote activities and opportunities for children and adolescents to exercise their right to participate
- Train special units of the National Police to deal with children and adolescents who are victims and perpetrators in a way that ensures respect for the rights particular to their age and for their human rights.
- Advocate with government authorities to create public services that provide comprehensive care and attention to victims of sexual exploitation, based on existing experience from civil society organisations
- Encourage a situation in which the system for juvenile justice works in coordination with the National Promotion and Protection System to keep adolescents out of the penal system
- Lend continuity to programmes that support prevention and attention to abuse, corporal punishment and violence towards children and adolescents in their immediate environments, at home and in public places.
- Document experiences on child protection and reinforce the educational component for indigenous children and adolescents in urban contexts.
- Favour cooperation on initiatives for attention to other forms of labour exploitation facing children and adolescents, such as work in rural areas, sorting garbage, industrial production of construction materials, and child domestic labour.

**Title: *Cross-sectoral***

### **Purpose**

This component was related to costs for rental of facilities, utility bills, vehicle maintenance, and salaries and related support expenses for staff. These costs also include expenses for technical assistance in support of the country programme and a portion of the operational costs related to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

### **Resources Used**

<b>Fund Reference</b>	<b>Donor</b>	<b>Available funds (US\$)</b>	<b>Spent (US\$)</b>	<b>% Spent</b>
Regular Resources		114,000.00	96,424.26	85%
<b>Sub Total for RR</b>		<b>114,000.00</b>	<b>96,424.26</b>	<b>85%</b>
Other Resources				
<b>Sub Total for OR</b>				
<b>Total for Project</b>		<b>114,000.00</b>	<b>96,424.26</b>	<b>85%</b>

## **4 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT**

### **4.1 Governance & Systems**

#### **4.1.1 Governance Structure**

The management and coordination mechanisms established by the organisation have operated systematically in the Office during the year: the Contract Review Committee (CRC), the Property Survey Board (PSB) and the Local Training Committee. The Programme Board (made up of the Deputy Representative in his/her role of Programme Coordinator, Project Officers and Operations Officer) meets weekly to ensure appropriate coordination between the different programme areas, and the effective implementation of the Annual Work Plan and financial resources. The Country Management Team (CMT) met on a monthly basis and addressed the following core issues: the Survey on the Work

Environment and the response; implementation of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT); and the global audit findings to prepare the Paraguay Office for an eventual audit in 2011. The Management Reports produced by PRoMS were also reviewed to make adjustments in operational and programme practices, such as the reduction in the number of cash requisitions and small-scale cooperation.

#### **4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management:**

Risk management has been present in several areas of action of this Office, especially in the processes of revision and selection of counterparts and allies. This year the Risk Library and the risk profile of the Office were prepared, with participation of all staff members. Throughout the processes, potential risk areas were identified and activities were defined to suppress or minimise them. For example, management of the delivery of supplies to government counterparts was evaluated and measures were taken to check on the use of donated inputs, ensure appropriate documentation of the supplies and the entry of the supplies into the inventory of public institutions.

The Business Continuity Plan was revised, tested and adjusted. Training sessions were provided on remote access to IT systems using Citrix. In this regard, staff have worked at home using PRoMS and Lotus.

#### **4.1.3 Evaluation**

Regarding the evaluation of the work of the Paraguay Office, we can point out: re-design of key processes to adjust the flow chart, in view of the departure of the previous Deputy Representative, the mid-year and end-of-year programmatic review processes and the evaluation of the Annual Management Plan carried out in late 2010.

Regarding human resources, the performance of local staff was evaluated using the Personnel Evaluation Report (PER), and the programme assistants team was evaluated in order to implement corrective actions and optimise their support to the cooperation programme.

#### **4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication:**

The corporate objectives of Technology of Information and Telecommunications area in 2010 were achieved. The upgrading of Lotus to Citrix was successful; the migration to Briefing Book 570 and PRoMS version 9.1 was carried out, which is the first requirement for the implementation of Vision/One ERP.

In order to renew ICT equipment and purchase the equipment required for future migrations, the scarce resources of the Support Budget were complemented with programme funds. In this way, our Office is ready to implement Windows 7, Office 2010 and Vision-One ERP on the desktop.

SITA has functioned correctly and with high availability. The quality of the VoIP service has improved considerably. The contract with the local Internet Service Provider was extended for a year, based on the positive results in response, quality and speed. The availability of the ICT infrastructure was 99%; the remaining 1% was due to outages of the service provider which were rectified.

The Emergency Telecommunications system is supported by VHF and HF radio equipment, satellite telephones and BGAN satellite equipment. The staff is using GSM service for cellular telephony. The UN Security Officer is in charge of the maintenance, implementation and coverage of the HF/VHF radio equipment. Our Office is prepared up to MOSS phase 3, although the country is in Security phase 1.

During 2010, demand for the use of the video-conference service increased. UNICEF have supported other UN agencies that used the CO's service and infrastructure. Technical assistance and support was extended to the inter-agency project 'Investing in

People' (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF), which generates further demand that is met by an ITC consulting firm every year.

## **4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship**

### **4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations**

The development of a fundraising strategy and funding proposals to be submitted to potential donors was planned at the beginning of 2010; however the absence of the Deputy Representative during the entire year was a major obstacle to fulfilling this plan. Although the Office was able to cover its needs in terms of financial resources, it has been heavily dependent on Thematic Funds to meet its programmatic goals. Thematic funds allocations were received in the areas of Health, Education and Protection, and the Swedish Committee maintained its support for the fight against child labour. Additionally, a small donation was provided by the New Zealand Committee, as a result of hosting the visit of one of their Ambassadors.

Five donor reports were due in 2010, all of which were submitted on time. The Communication section contributed by producing materials to respond to the special needs of the UNICEF Committees, such as life stories and/or audio-visuals.

### **4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets**

Coordination between the Operations and Programme areas was strengthened during 2010. The systematic participation of the Operations Officer in the weekly meetings of the Programme Board, as well as permanent interaction prior to decision-making and on-the-job training of programme and operations assistants to be at the forefront in terms of the guidelines and regulations on financial, administrative aspects, have contributed to make transactions more fluent and avoid reprocesses.

A large percentage of administrative and financial activities are already being adjusted in view of the implementation of VISION and IPSAS; some staff members already received training on these topics.

The self-audit exercise, which had been planned for this year with the support of the Regional Office, was postponed for the first quarter of 2011 due to the emergency in Haiti and re-location of human resources at the RO.

Weaknesses in financial monitoring of project implementation in 2009 were tackled during the year, but there is still room for improvement. It will be a priority of the 2011 Annual Management Plan, under the leadership of the Deputy Representative.

PIDB codes are reviewed regularly and adjusted to reflect with greater precision the object of the activities carried out. Follow-up of pending outstanding liquidations was carried out regularly; both the Programmes and Operations areas work synergistically to achieve timely and quality liquidations. The most important indicator of this is that pending liquidations at the end of 2010 did not exceed 1.42% (between six and nine months) and 0.0% (more than nine months old).

The Paraguay Office determined that the general CRQs received from the Regional Office to implement specific activities through the DCTs, contracts, purchase of supplies, etc. were a weakness and obstruction to the good use, monitoring and reporting of the funds. It would be advisable to maintain a homogenous system and receive all the funds through PBAs (regardless of the origin, donor and person responsible).

### **4.2.3 Supply**

As in previous years, procurement of supplies (off-shore and direct order) was minimal. However, local procurement processes have improved substantially, even bearing in mind the most common constraints: insufficient providers in certain areas; administratively weak providers in terms of complying with all the documentation requested by UNICEF. An added value of great importance was the training of the Operations Assistant in the Introduction for Procurement workshop in Copenhagen; it was the first time that a staff member of the Paraguay Office attended this kind of training.

For 2010, about 18% of the Regular Resources were allocated to operational costs, complementing allocations from the Support Budget, which are consistently insufficient to cover all necessary costs.

The building's maintenance costs continue increasing in spite of efforts to reduce them. The building is rather old and its air conditioning system and elevators need repairing. Regarding efforts to reduce the building's common costs (UN House), for the first time at the end of 2010 we were able to report a reduction in the electricity bill as a result of certain important factors: continuous awareness-raising of the staff on the rational use of electricity as one of the objectives of the Green Office Initiative and administrative procedures with the State electricity provider to lower the contracted power supply from the commercial rate to the Government rate, maintenance of the capacitors, revision of the connections and power circuits, etc.

Several call for tenders and bids were held on an interagency basis; this optimized the time required for the entire process and gave these proceedings greater transparency (for example, travel agencies, housekeeping, etc.).

### **4.3 Human Resource Capacity**

The work environment continued to be favourable for compliance with the objectives proposed for the year.

After informing and discussing the results of the Global Staff Survey with staff members and management, needs and proposals for improvement were defined. The first action was to hold a workshop to strengthen the social ties of the team, optimise sectoral linkages, incorporate generic competencies and jointly review the institutional vision and country scenarios. However, training courses on leadership for supervisors, stress management, etc. are still pending. There was agreement on the need to foster neutral spaces for the exchange of ideas, build capacities and create an environment of trust to improve the work environment and enable effective interaction in the workplace and staff wellbeing.

Staff members received support in the form of training provided by the organisation and staff exchanges; however, the challenge remains to bring together learning needs with the actual time the staff has for these activities.

Regarding security, The UNICEF building is equipped and prepared for situations of risk, and officials are oriented on how to act in such situations; in the case of trips to the

interior of the country, the established recommendations and necessary equipment are taken into account.

#### **4.4 Other Issues**

##### **4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement**

The most significant saving in 2010 was the replacement of SITA MPLS service by SITA IPsec over public ISPs. For 2009 the annual cost was about \$31,200 and for 2010 it declined to \$10,500, representing more than 60% savings.

##### **4.4.2 Changes in AMP**

The most significant changes planned for 2010 were carried out, among them the redistribution of tasks and responsibilities among Project Officers. Finally, the request for a two-year extension of the present Programme of Cooperation until the end of 2013 was submitted to the Regional Director for clearance, taking into account that UNDG recently approved the request from Paraguay's UNCT for a two-year extension of the 2007-2011 UNDAF, in order to harmonise UNDAF strategies and duration with national priorities and the five-year national development planning cycle (August 2008-August 2013).

## **5 STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

- 1. First national survey specialized in W&S coverage at the national and indigenous level*
- 2. Systematization and analysis of technologies used in Water and Sanitation for rural and indigenous communities*
- 3. Study on child abuse in the family environment. Survey of school-attending children*
- 4. National survey of parents on child abuse and education of their children. Baseline for the communication campaign*
- 5. Investing in Paraguay's Children during Times of Crisis*
- 6. Systematization of experiences in risk management in the education sector of Paraguay. Final Report*
- 7. Rapid Assessment of Water Quality at the national level*
- 8. Study on the legal framework and financial investment instruments throughout the Water and Sanitation sector*
- 9. Social Spending and a Bigger Tax Burden Allow for Human Development*
- 10. National survey of parents on child abuse and education of their children. Impact study for the communication campaign*
- 11. Poverty and the MDG in Paraguay: Scenarios and Public Policies*
- 12. The impact of the Tekoporá Conditional Cash Transfer Programme on school attendance - Yhú case study*

### **5.2 List of Other Publications**

- 1. Guide for parents and facilitators: How to set limits to children. Series: "Se educa mejor sin violencia" (Without violence you educate better)*
- 2. Report on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CODENI) to Paraguay*
- 3. Compilation of the Child Rights Convention and the Children's Code (national law).*
- 4. Health Policy for Indigenous Peoples*
- 5. Methodological research guide with intercultural approach + five booklets with research on the Ayoreo, Qom, Avá Guaraní, Nivaclé and Sanapaná peoples.*
- 6. Brochure with information on the cooperation of UNICEF with the country*
- 7. Flyers of the campaign "Without violence you educate better"*

8. *Poster of hand washing technique.*
9. *Poster on Children's Rights*
10. *Magazine on Investment in children in Paraguay in times of crisis*
11. *4 TV spots + 6 radio spots (4 in Spanish + 2 in Guaraní) of the campaign "Without violence you educate better" for the prevention of child abuse.*
12. *1 documentary video on the Abrazo programme*
13. *4 documentary videos on the system of drinking water in rural, scattered and indigenous communities.*
14. *Study on child abuse in the family environment*
15. *Guidelines for planning Participatory Communication processes*
16. *Conclusions of the II Congress on Indigenous Education*
17. *Cystic Fibrosis Manual*
18. *Brochure on the treatment of children's issues in the Paraguayan press*
19. *2011 UNICEF calendars on child abuse. Campaign "Without violence you educate better"*
20. *Poster on breastfeeding techniques*
21. *Commemorative posters of the Week of Children's Rights*
22. *Magazine of the Paraguayan Association of Paediatricians + 3 Printed Advertisements on the importance of breastfeeding.*
24. *Promotional flyers, posters and of the Solidarity Walk (against child labour).*
25. *UNICEF digital bulletins on the activities carried out*
26. *2 TV spots + 2 radio spots to promote H1N1 influenza vaccination of risk groups and the preventive habits.*

## **6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED**

**Title:** *"Without violence you educate better" (communication actions for the prevention of intrafamily violence)*

**Contact Person:** Cecilia Sirtori, Communication Officer

### **Abstract:**

The innovations of this C4D initiative are: a) evidence-based work with measurable impact; b) a strategy to impact behaviour, in stages, to generate new guidelines for child-rearing without violence, considering the motivations of the parents; and c) mass dissemination with a media plan financed by two companies, as well as contributions of the mass media themselves (multiple alliances). The design of the strategy in different stages enabled work along two lines of action: first, awareness raising and mass dissemination to demonstrate the problem, its impact and the existing alternatives (setting limits for children without using violence), and second, workshops and training for parents on guidelines for child-rearing without violence with different institutions and organisations; this work will continue in 2011. Actions are based on a study of intra-family abuse with school-aged children and complemented by an opinion survey of parents or tutors.

### **Innovation or Lessons Learned**

#### ***Innovation***

To generate new guidelines for child-rearing without violence, taking into consideration the motivations, perceptions and feelings of parents.

#### ***Lessons Learned***

Is very important to design the communication strategy and the messages based on evidence about parents' perceptions and needs.

It is also critical to think big and build partnerships to do the job thoroughly (companies, civil society and Government organisations).

Social media (Facebook) was very useful, as was the web site [www.sinviolencia.com.py](http://www.sinviolencia.com.py) , to maintain a fluent feedback from people and parents during the campaign.

### **Potential Application**

The main potential for replication of the strategy lies in the possibility of working on different issues of violence against children and adolescents or changing habits in general, providing adults with alternative ways of behaving, through communication strategies for the development or impact on behaviour, linked with the generation of knowledge on the issue. Awareness-raising on the issue and its impact is not enough: it is necessary to provide adults with other ways of relating to their children based on their motivations. For example, in the case of corporal punishment, parental motivation is to educate their children and set limits, so they need tools for education and limit-setting other than corporal punishment, as well as a better understanding the negative impact that violence has on children. This calls for the development of programme concepts and contents, such as guidelines for non-violent childrearing.

### **Issue/Background**

A survey of children in schools across the country showed that six of every 10 children interviewed (average age 12) stated that their parents used physical and verbal punishment as a form of discipline. This violence is more frequent among children between two and five years of age. The most frequent type of punishment (35%) was serious physical punishment involving hitting children with objects such as belts, sticks, shoes, kicking, burning, among others. Light physical punishment was mentioned by 13% of children as was psychological punishment. Yet parents did not recognise their violent behaviour as abuse (survey 2010).

### **Strategy and Implementation**

The main elements of the strategy were:

- To design a strategy in different stages and periods of time, first to raise awareness on the issue (massive), second to disseminate the contents on childrearing alternatives (massive), third to work in workshops and with groups of parents on childrearing alternatives.
- To understand and consider the motivation of parents, to have an impact on their behaviours.
- To develop contents on childrearing guidelines and limit-setting providing alternatives to physical punishment and verbal violence for parents.
- Enter into multiple alliances and partnerships with companies, social society and Government organisations.
- Ensure a media plan granted by enterprises from their annual advertising plan
- Utilise social networks (Facebook) rather than traditional communication channels.
- Measure the impact.

### **Progress and Results**

The main results of the impact study indicate that 70% of people remembered the campaign spontaneously. Approximately 90% of this group mentioned that the campaign made them think and analyse the way they are educating their children. The number of people who accept the possibility of educating without violence, increased from 76.6% (baseline study) to 88.9% (impact study-post campaign) and 47.8% recognise changes in their personal attitude.

During the campaign, the reports of child abuse recorded by the Specialized Police Stations increased, as well as the consultations received on toll-free telephone line (Fono Ayuda) of the Secretariat for Children and Adolescents.

The mass media disseminated the campaign, as per the media plan, with radio and TV airtime and space in the written press granted at no cost to UNICEF, worth over US\$180.000. The web page received about 3,700 visits since the onset of the mass campaign (September 22), and most visited of all was the section on how to set limits to one's children without using violence. More than 1,900 persons follow the campaign on Facebook.

### **Next Steps**

At present we are firming up alliances with social institutions and organisations in order to hold workshops and provide training to parents on childrearing without violence across the country. Two publications were produced to support this process: a guide for parents on how to set limits for one's children without violence and a guide for facilitators to create and replicate workshops with parents, which will be made available to teachers, psychologists and social workers. The workshops will be held during 2011. All the materials will be printed and also posted on the campaign's web page: [www.sinviolencia.com.py](http://www.sinviolencia.com.py)

**Title: *Measurement of co-responsibility in education of the conditional cash transfers.***

**Contact Person:** Andrés Osorio, Public Policies Officer, [aosorio@unicef.org](mailto:aosorio@unicef.org)

### **Abstract**

Measurement of the co-responsibility in education through an IT system that links the follow-up of school attendance in educational institutions, in charge of the Ministry of Education, with the list of school-aged children of families that receive conditional cash transfers of the Tekoporã Programme of the Secretariat for Social Affairs.

### **Innovation or Lessons Learned**

The system relies heavily on the use of ITCs. The Paraguayan Information & Management System (SIGPA) developed a module that allows online loading of information and printing of the required forms. It is based on the restructuring of processes starting with data-gathering of all those registered in a given school at the beginning of the school year. With this information the system prints redesigned non-attendance lists (in lieu of the attendance list drawn up manually) in which each student has a single student registration number (RUE) associated with a barcode that facilitates one-to-one identification of students and data uploading. Then the data are compared with the beneficiaries of the Tekoporã Programme in order to verify whether the condition of sending children to school is being met.

### **Potential Application**

Potentially this system can be expanded to the national level; the Ministry of Education would then be able to follow-up on school attendance, transfers, drop-outs, etc. in real time.

### **Issue/Background**

At present the measurement of co-responsibility in education or health is performed by facilitators of the Secretariat for Social Affairs, who regularly visit the schools attended by children of the Tekoporã Programme to gather data on their attendance. Given that

this programme has already expanded from 13,000 to 110,000 families, at present it is impossible for the facilitators to gather the data on the school attendance of all these families' children.

### **Strategy and Implementation**

Pilot tests were made in the Yhú district of the Department of Caaguazú. The stages were: (i) data-gathering on student enrolment in the schools of the district, (ii) printing of the lists of non-attendance, (iii) data-gathering on absences of all school children, (iv) crossover of this information with the database of the beneficiaries of the Tekoporã Programme.

### **Progress and Results**

The measurement process began in the Yhú district, where the results show an attendance rate of 98% for students of families receiving cash transfers, in comparison with 86% attendance of students of families who do not participate in the Tekoporã Programme.

### **Next Steps**

Progressively extend the experience to more districts where the Tekoporã Programme is operating.

## **7 SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

UNICEF is part of the Lazos Sur-Sur (South-South Ties) alliance between Brazil and eight countries: Paraguay, Bolivia and Nicaragua in TACRO; Timor-Leste in Asia; y Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and *São Tomé-Príncipe* in Africa, for the eradication of the vertical transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother-to-child and the promotion of prevention of HIV transmission among adolescents and youths.

In addition, UNICEF has supported South-South cooperation between the Ministries of Education, Indigenous Peoples and universities to provide quality and timely technical assistance while the Department for Indigenous Education was being set up.

Participants included: the Directorate of Intercultural Education of Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala; the University of Cuenca; the Universidad Mayor de San Marcos; the Educational Councils of Bolivia, the Mayan Educational Council and the Coordinating Commission of Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador.

In addition, the training of indigenous linguists was initiated with support of the Government of Brazil and the University of Sao Paulo. The Guaraní Map has been disseminated and the meeting of the Guaraní Nation was held at the continental level with the participation of Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia.

Cooperation between the ministries of education of Paraguay, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela has been fostered. UNICEF also contributed to building capacities to teach initial reading and writing skills in rural contexts, through technical cooperation between Paraguay and Argentina.

Through the Abrazo Programme an exchange of experiences was fostered between public officials of Paraguay and Brazil in relation to programmes for working children and street children.

Furthermore, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health for the formulation of projects and follow-up of their approval by the Structural Funds of Mercosur (FOCEM), which consists of the contributions from the member countries of

Mercosur: 70% Brazil, 27% Argentina, 2% Uruguay, 1% Paraguay, for the water and sanitation sector in rural and indigenous communities.