

Regional Analysis Report 2010



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East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the East Asia and Pacific Region, UNICEF continued to mobilize partners and leverage resources for the most disadvantaged children through high-level advocacy, quality studies and direct technical support to COs during 2010. An historic High-Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Beijing brought together over 100 senior leaders from 28 countries to discuss opportunities for cooperation in the promotion of child rights, within the framework of South-South cooperation. Data generated from studies and evaluations undertaken at the regional level were used strategically to advance the equity agenda, and formed the basis for the Beijing Declaration on Child Rights.

Other high profile events included the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis, the 8th Asia-Pacific UN PPTCT Task Force Meeting, the joint UNICEF-Asian Development Bank (ADB) workshop on the role of non-state providers in delivering social services for children, and the ADB-UNICEF workshop on Social Protection. High level advocacy contributed to an endorsement by South East Asia Ministers of Education of a proposal to review WASH Facilities in schools; to changes in child protection legislation; and a more child-friendly Five Year Social Welfare and Development Strategic Framework for ASEAN. EAPRO contributed analytically to key issues relating to child well-being and development through studies on equity and the MDGs, the impact of the global economic crisis on families and children; the role of non-state providers in social service provision; patterns of violence against children in the Pacific; multidimensional aspects of child poverty; and social protection systems for children affected by HIV/AIDs. Technical support was provided on systems strengthening and costing in education and health through support to the development of national standards on quality education, and Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks in health/YCSD.

UNICEF continued to strengthen partnerships with governments, IFIs, regional organizations, civil society organizations, faith based organizations, NGOs and the private sector, and national and local media to advance policies for children and enhance visibility of child-based issues. With EAPRO facilitation, the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of ADB signed a Memorandum of Understanding. A Framework of Cooperation is being developed with ASEAN which will strengthen work in the area of South-South Cooperation. EAPRO's ongoing partnership with InterPress Service newswire has been used to highlight UNICEF's equity work in South and Southeast Asia.

Regional advisers provided technical support in the preparation of five Country Programme Documents (Cambodia, China, DPRK, Indonesia and Myanmar) and two Mid-Term Reviews (Pacific and Papua New Guinea).

Main *results* achieved in 2010 were:

- Enhanced availability of strategic information and data to support regional advocacy through studies and evaluations and regionally-supported data bases
- Improved visibility of UNICEF in regional media, particularly high profile events, with extensive media coverage on children's rights and/or UNICEF
- Timely technical and operations inputs provided to MTR and CPD processes, resulting in high quality strategic planning and documentation;
- Relatively good audit outcomes for countries in the region;
- Strong progress on partnerships with developmental partners (ADB, ASEAN) and centres of excellence.

The following were main areas of shortfall:

- Availability of support budget resources to small country offices and to EAPRO is a challenge;
- Countries like PNG, Mongolia, DPRK and East Timor continuously face difficulties in attracting and retaining staff.

- Human resource and funding constraints particularly in WASH, Child Protection, Social Policy and Evaluation at the regional and national level remain significant barriers to advancing the equity agenda and to overall functioning.

2. TRENDS AND PROGRESS IN THE REGION AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Despite a global recession, most countries in the region were able to weather the global economic crisis, with many emerging markets resuming their pre-crisis growth path. Adverse effects of the global economic crisis were buffered by governments increase in social spending and provision of benefits, including, in many cases, free education and healthcare services, as well as subsidies on key food items. Average annual gross domestic product increased by 6.8% between 1990 and 2007 and most countries in the region are on track to reach **MDG 1** of halving the proportion of people living under US\$ 1.25/day. However, over 44 % of the region's population still lives below the US\$2 a day poverty line.

Juxtaposed with strong rates of economic growth and declining national poverty, are conspicuous discrimination, widening disparities and social inequity which keep much of the poor, vulnerable, and hard to reach populations outside the realm of economic progress. Economic inequality has increased in all countries except Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. Recent child poverty studies suggest a growing number of children are experiencing multiple deprivations in the lack of adequate sanitation, health, housing, water supply and nutrition. The most disadvantaged children are typically from the poorest quintile households; from rural and off-road areas; ethnic minority groups; and girls. Also vulnerable are children with disabilities, and those who are out of school, working and living on the streets, living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, orphaned, and victims of sexual exploitation and discrimination. Exclusionary practices help to keep some MDG targets out of reach.

Child malnutrition rates are unacceptably high given the region's growth, with stunting the most pernicious of these effects. One quarter of the region's children are stunted and will never reach their full physical and cognitive potential with some countries showing increasing trends. A 2008 survey in Cambodia showed significant increases in the rate of acute malnutrition among poor urban children, from 9.6% in 2005 to 15.9% in 2008. In Indonesia, DPRK, and Timor-Leste, greater percentages of the population was more undernourished in 2005 than in 1996. Rising food prices and inflation, and food insecurity from natural disasters, threaten to increase levels of undernutrition. Sentinel site monitoring by UNICEF has shown that the poor and marginalized are disproportionately affected to shocks and crises. A majority of families in the Pacific reported greater difficulties in meeting daily expenditures as a result of the economic crisis. Budget cuts, particularly in education (24% cut in Kiribati, 35% cut in Solomon Islands) are beginning to place considerable strains on provision of basic services.

Although the region is on track to meet the **MDG2** target on universal primary education and gender parity, completion of the basic cycle of education remains a significant challenge across the region. Even among countries that have managed to attain high net enrolment, such as Cambodia and Lao PDR, over 35 to 40% of the students starting grade 1 do not reach the last grade of primary education. Getting all children into school and preventing children from dropping out before completing a full primary cycle remain major challenges. At the same time, national enrolment figures hide substantial inequities both between and within countries. In Cambodia, for example, the net enrolment in Kampong Cham was at 96.6% whereas Ratanak Kiri reported at 67.5% compared to the national average of 91.3%. While progress towards **MDG 3** on gender parity in primary education has made a notable progress in closing gender gaps, significant gaps remain in some countries such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. In Mongolia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, boys are disadvantaged in education. Disaggregated data reveal the range in the levels of disparity that exists within countries which may not fully be reflected in national data.

While the region continues to make progress on **MDG 4**, one third of the poorest children still die before age five, largely from preventable diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia. The Pacific Island Countries, in particular, have made little or no progress on child mortality. Across the region,

immunization against measles is widespread, with 80 to 100% of one year olds in most countries having been immunized. Exceptions include Lao PDR, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea (PNG), and some of the Pacific Island states, all of which have lower rates of immunization. Progress on **MDG 5** on improving maternal health has stagnated for many countries with proposed targets for reducing the number of maternal deaths off-track in Lao PDR, Cambodia, and PNG. A recent census in Cambodia indicated no change over the past decade in MMR, which remains at over 400 deaths per 100,000 live births. Geography and poverty remain strong determinants of a woman's access to quality health services and are the strongest drivers of inequity overall in the region.

Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand are early achievers of **MDG 6**. China, Mongolia and Philippines are on track and countries such as Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Vietnam are showing no progress or regressing according to the MDG criteria (UNESCAP, ADB & UNDP, Asia-Pacific Regional Report- Achieving the millennium development goals in an era of global uncertainty, 2009/2010). Although HIV & AIDS is driven primarily by transmission among injecting drug users, men having sex with men (MSM) and sex workers and their clients, the epidemic in parts of EAP region is characterized by transmission among intimate heterosexual couples. The proportion of women living with HIV in Asia-Pacific rose from 21% in 1990 to 35% in 2009 (UNAIDS Report on Global AIDS Epidemic 2010) an indication of the feminization of the epidemic. A gradual increase in new HIV infections among low-risk women is seen in China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as well as Fiji; and consequently, a growing incidence of mother-to-child transmission. As of 2009, an estimated 22,000 children under the age of 15 years were newly infected with HIV in Asia-Pacific. The small, although still growing number, provides optimism for the region to eliminate new HIV infections in young children as a major contribution to MDG 6 and the vision of zero new infection by 2015.

Only a few countries are on track for meeting **MDG 7** targets on sustainable development. The region needs to direct greater effort towards reducing or reversing the loss of forestation, considering that there has been a 10% loss of forested land between 1990 and 2005. The region is on-track for meeting targets for drinking water, but intra-regional differences remain: the proportion of households with access is only 50% for the Pacific Islands. **The region as a whole is off-track for sanitation.** Just over half of households in East Asia and the Pacific are using improved sanitation sources. There are also striking wealth-based and area-based disparities. Across the region, the rich and those living in urban areas have disproportionately better access to water and sanitation sources than the poor and those living in rural areas. The rich are four times more likely than the poor to use improved sanitation facilities with about one-third more likely to use improved water sources than the poor. Almost all urban households have access to improved water, compared with about a third of rural households. Whether or not children and their families are using improved sanitation facilities has a bearing on the achievement of other MDG goals, including nutrition, education, gender equality, and child mortality.

On **MDG 8**, as most donors have been hit hard by the economic crisis in the last year, some donors have withdrawn or postponed commitments in ODA, affecting a small number of countries where ODA is still an important source of resources. Donors have also decreased ODA in light of rising average incomes and growing government capacity to address development issues directly. However, increasing inequality provides a compelling reason to remain involved.

UNICEF continues to elevate the issue of inequity through regional and national partnerships. A historic High-Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Beijing in November 2010 brought together senior leaders from 28 countries to discuss opportunities for mutual cooperation in the promotion of child rights, within the framework of South-South cooperation. Inaugurated by the Vice President of China, and with the participation of the UNICEF Executive Director and the Regional Directors and Representatives from EAPRO and ROSA, the meeting concluded with the adoption of the Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights. Early success in organizing the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis and the Pacific Food Summit opened doors for UNICEF to engage with leaders and decision makers at subsequent national and regional fora. In 2010, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of

Understanding with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A Framework of cooperation is also being developed with ASEAN which will strengthen the gains of regional advocacy work in the area of South-South Cooperation.

With the extensive reach and societal impact of the private sector in the region, business is an important stakeholder in the fulfilment of children's rights. Yet, irresponsible corporate behaviour has been seen to persist including human rights abuses (e.g. by mining companies), use of child labour in supply chains, the irresponsible marketing of infant formula, safety issues in products consumed by children and sexual exploitation of children in the workplace, acting as a brake on developmental progress for children. UNICEF is seeking to leverage the resources of the private sector towards the fulfilment of children's rights, and also advocate for responsible, child-friendly corporate behaviour. In 2010, the Thailand office was able to leverage the communication resources of a leading Thai corporation to accelerate progress towards the adoption of legislation for Universal Salt Iodization (USI). The Malaysia office published a guide for companies on how to set up child care centres in the workplace, as part of its partnership with the Companies Commission of Malaysia to promote child-friendly business practices. There is a need to strengthen organisational capacity to engage with the private sector on child rights. This will begin to be addressed in 2011 with a study on extractive industries, and the 2012-13 Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP) will feature corporate engagement as a significant programme strategy.

As a result of UNICEF's high-level engagement, China, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam and others are increasingly recognizing the importance of systems-based approaches to **child protection and child welfare**, and are developing and reforming policies, laws and services to prevent and address child maltreatment. Challenges remain in raising awareness amongst government, UN agencies and civil society partners on the pervasiveness and impact of child abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation, and the necessity of adopting a systems and evidence-based approach to ameliorate child protection concerns over the long term. Research by UNICEF and other organizations has documented high prevalence rates for the maltreatment of both boys and girls in various countries. In four Pacific Island Countries (PICs), findings indicated high levels of violence against children in homes, communities and schools. A 2010 survey of secondary school students in Viet Nam showed that at least one in five children had experienced some form of child abuse or neglect, with half of all the responding children reporting physical abuse. Lack of legal documentation including birth registration, and child statelessness remain considerable issues of concern, particularly in countries with high levels of cross-border migration or restrictive legal provisions for civil registration and the conferring of nationality.

In the area of child rights, UNICEF has continued to advocate with and provide technical support for the adherence by governments in the region to the obligations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the adoption of international standards and guidelines for child rights promotion and protection. The Regional Office collaborated with UN agencies to strengthen the development of the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Committee for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). Significant breakthroughs were achieved in Malaysia and Thailand with the removal of key reservations to the CRC. UNICEF worked with governments on supporting country reports to the CRC Committee.

Key challenges and opportunities

1. Growing disparities along different dimensions

Though national averages show an overall improvement, disaggregated data reveal distinct, and in some cases growing, inequalities between urban, peri-urban and rural areas, females and males, ethnic minorities, and the disabled and other disadvantaged and marginalised groups. Differences in development between urban and rural areas are contributing to increased migration from rural to urban centres. Growing urban populations are placing considerable strains on natural resources and government ability to provide adequate social services and employment opportunities for increasingly younger (e.g. the Philippines) or older (e.g. China) workforces. Political, socioeconomic, and discriminatory forces often segregate the poor and the socially excluded into communities with

already high urban poverty, material deprivation and higher levels of exposure to environmental hazards and toxic pollutants. These forces and social customs further prevent many women and children from accessing vital treatment and services, ensuring women remain powerless and poor and exposing children to possible sexual exploitation and violence. However, across the region, governments are showing a greater consciousness and willingness to address issues of social disparity through expanded social protection measures and legal protections.

2. Food price fluctuations

As of February 2011, global food prices have reached record levels, above previous highs set in 2008. China, Thailand and South Korea have all increased interest rates particularly in response to increasing food price inflation. Severe weather events and relatively loose monetary policy are helping to drive up prices across the region. As in 2008, the poor and most vulnerable are most at risk. On average, the poorest 30% pay almost 50% of their household income on food compared to the national average. An increase in the price of staple foods is the equivalent of a decrease in real income. There is a risk families may withdraw children from school, forgo health treatment or cut food expenditure. Continued economic growth offers the potential to create specialized funds and social protection to guard against these effects.

3. Emergencies, disasters and climate change

Asia and the Pacific is the most hazard prone region in the world, with 70 per cent of lives lost to natural hazards located in the region. Impact tends to be greatest on the poorest and most vulnerable, as witnessed in 2010 in China in the Yushu earthquake, Zhouqu mudslide and southwestern China drought emergencies, all of which struck poor areas where development indicators lag behind national averages. Other events included a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Indonesia which triggered a local tsunami in West Sumatra, and eruption of Mount Merapi which forced 400,000 people to evacuate. The 2010 Dzud in Mongolia contributed to a doubling of the child mortality rate and an increase in the maternal mortality rate, while annual floods in Thailand and Viet Nam caused substantial casualties and disrupted the livelihoods of farmers and fishermen. Fiji and Solomon Islands were both hit by a category four cyclone, as was Myanmar which launched an international appeal for assistance as a result of cyclone Giri. The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is likely to increase due to climate change. At the same time, environmental problems associated with rapidly growing urban populations, lightly regulated industrialization are contributing to worsening air and water pollution. Government capacity to address emergencies has increased in many countries. There is potential to share lessons learned and support capacity development for smaller countries.

4. Conflict and political unrest

Despite peaceful changes in power in the Philippines and Lao PDR, violent social unrest continued in many countries across the region. Violence between pro and anti-government forces led to 90 deaths and over 1,800 injuries in Thailand. Over 20,000 refugees fled to Thailand as a result of post-election clashes between the government troops and ethnic rebel groups in Myanmar. Violence in the far south of Thailand, in Mindanao (Philippines) and parts of Myanmar continue, with substantial impacts on children in terms of their family situation such as loss of parents and relatives, lack of access to essential services, and anxiety and stress due to the daily fear of violence among others.

5. Growing political and economic diversity complicates progress for children

The development field in EAP is changing with governments increasingly able to implement development programmes, relying less on development partners for support. Formal and informal private providers, civil society organizations, NGOs, international financial institutions, and global philanthropic entities have also gained greater prominence in policy development and service delivery and are increasingly influencing country agendas. Investment agreements between governments and extractive industries (copper mining in Mongolia, oil and gas in PNG) threaten to sideline humanitarian, social and development concerns and raise significant issues with regards to security, environmental sustainability and the protection of children and their families from potential exploitation. High commodity prices, primarily from minerals, have artificially elevated GNP growth in some countries despite significant development issues and overall lack of capacity and governance infrastructure. Some countries have set up special funds to channel revenue for domestic investments,

but these are not yet effective and it is not clear to what extent they will actually benefit children. In many instances, these developments have exacerbated inequalities. These developments, along with new donor relationships and more unified UN functioning, challenge the role of UNICEF in maintaining its strong independent voice for children. Country offices are identifying new strategies to influence policy but some environments have proven more challenging than others in terms of securing political buy-in and developing the political, legal and institutional space to ensure positive results for children.

3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME STRATEGIES AND RESULTS IN THE REGION

3.1 Programme strategies

A. Evidence-based policy advocacy for achieving the MDGs

Policy and advocacy efforts in 2010 focused on sharpening the region's equity message and technical support. A draft advocacy framework was developed following a two-day regional workshop on strengthening UNICEF's advocacy and overall messaging on key upstream issues in the region, including on equity. This work will continue in 2011. UNICEF supported national and local governments to address disparities in access to social services by reforming budgetary practices, expanding partnerships with non-state actors, developing protection systems and enhancing policies to improve services for children, and make them more inclusive. An important contribution has been the recognition by many government of the importance of child-sensitive social protection systems, the recognition of non-monetary dimensions of poverty in understanding child poverty, and the importance of establishing social work as a profession as integral to effective social protection. Additional support was provided to systems strengthening and costing in education and health through support to the development of National Standards in quality education, and Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks work in health. Child Protection will continue to be a priority for the region, with focus on enhancing strategic investment in nationally driven and locally operationalized, multi-sector cooperation and prevention strategies to prevent child maltreatment and its long term consequences and costs to socioeconomic development.

B. Support to national capacity development in advancing the equity agenda

EAPRO continued to support UNICEF country offices in shifting from a more traditional service delivery role to upstream advocacy on achieving the MDGs with equity. UNICEF COs are already engaging governments and partners in equity-sensitive research and data analysis; supporting national and sub-national dialogues on enhancing social protection and budgets for children; and working with partners to strengthen government capacity to deliver vital social services to those most in need. A variety of capacities and skills in social policy, statistics and demography are needed to address the multidimensional aspects of inequity. Lack of capacity to access, analyze and consolidate data both within UNICEF and in national counterparts continues to be a significant barrier to advancing the equity agenda. South-South Cooperation is viewed as a key strategy for enhancing national capacity, building on previous initiatives and on the momentum generated by the Beijing High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific region.

C. Strengthening the human rights based approach to cooperation

Human rights based approach to programming and partnership underpins the core of UNICEF's work in the region. Successful advocacy by UNICEF helped to ensure that inequality was explicitly referenced in the Beijing Declaration, and action plans with the ADB and ASEAN explicitly reference actions for addressing disparities. UNICEF will continue to consult relevant partners and stakeholders in preparation of the 2012-2013 Regional Office Management Plan to ensure a stronger focus on fulfilling the rights of the most marginalized children, within a strong Human Rights Based Programming approach. There is need for strengthening the capacity of both EAPRO and country offices in facilitating programming using human rights approaches. EAPRO would plan for a regional training in 2011.

D. Knowledge generation

Efforts to build a stronger knowledge base on children progressed with several key initiatives. In 2010, EAPRO and UNICEF's Regional Office in South Asia jointly commissioned a discussion paper on "Achieving the MDGs with Equity in Asia and the Pacific" for the High Level Meeting in Beijing on South-South Cooperation for Child rights. The regional paper has helped advance collaboration and dialogue with governments, UN Agencies and other partners around issues of equity. Other studies have analyzed the impact of the global economic crisis on the economies and societies of East Asia and the Pacific; the role of non-state providers in delivering basic social services to children; the effects of decentralization on child related outcomes; the impacts of climate change on children; multidimensional aspects of child poverty; and a review of social protection systems. As evidence of UNICEF's increasing influence, data from the UNICEF-UNAIDS-ADB HIV/AIDS Data Hub was used as reference for UNESCAP's statistical yearbook. Workshops on KM and M&E issues have been held to support UNICEF programme staff and this will continue in 2011. A key emphasis for 2011 will be on gathering data, analyzing it, and packaging it for governments to help provide a clearer picture of where government spending needs to be directed, what policies need to be created or changed, what systems need establishing or reforming, and what specific populations need targeting for additional support. The Regional Office provided technical assistance to COs on developing or enhancing KM proposals, developing situation analyses, devising knowledge products and documenting and disseminating good practices.

E. Strengthening partnerships and leveraging results for children

Economic growth and lower barriers to markets is allowing for greater private sector growth and investment. Private sector engagement is beginning to be tapped in view of this potential. Local fundraising programmes in China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines are growing rapidly, yielding resources as traditional sources of Other Resources decline. These resources have also allowed EAPRO to leverage additional funding through other partners including government. For example, the Government of China scaled up UNICEF's initial investment of US\$1.6 million for maternal and child health to reach 420 million people (US\$160 million Government investment). There is also an opportunity to leverage the rise of Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Private Partnerships to help UNICEF achieve its strategic objectives. UNICEF has continued to strengthen partnerships with governments, IFIs, regional organizations, civil society organizations, faith based organizations, NGOs and the private sector, and national and local media to advance policies for children and enhance visibility of child-based issues. Collaboration is already underway with the ADB, UNICEF and UNAIDS jointly managed HIV/AIDS data hub. Discussions are also underway with ASEAN on holding an international meeting on social welfare capacity and welfare systems to build on the commitments made at the HLM in Beijing and within ASEAN. A key feature for the coming year will be developing and communicating advocacy messages that resonate with a variety of actors – especially the private sector – to motivate them to engage in activities that advance children's rights.

F. Communication for development

UNICEF continued to refocus C4D initiatives build on earlier examples from direct implementation towards support government and relevant partners to lead and manage C4D. Most countries in the region placed a strong effort on capacity development for government and partners, especially in Mongolia, China, the Philippines and the PICs. And while half of the countries reported using an evidence-based approach, it was reported that monitoring and tracking to support this remains a gap. The lack of a regional specialist on C4D due to financial constraints has limited provision of support to CO by the RO.

G. Environmental sustainability

Climate change and environmental sustainability are emerging priorities for the region. The EAP Regional Management Team devoted a full day of discussions to climate change and disaster risk reduction in 2010, which were followed by a series of in-country meetings, mappings and reviews to discuss ways to position UNICEF's work over the next years. Country studies are soon to begin analyzing children's vulnerabilities to climate change as well as their role in enhancing overall resilience. Discussions are also underway with UNDP, ADB and other partners on potential collaboration on climate change, as well as on sustainable development.

H. *Supporting gender equality, change management and quality assurance*

UNICEF is developing a regional gender strategy that will take into account the regional context as well as issues surrounding the equity agenda in coordination with SPAP. EAPRO supported five countries in developing and submitting Country Programme Documents and Country Programme Action Plans with a gender lens. The RO is also participating in a broader UN process to help clarify roles and responsibilities in support of the establishment of the new gender entity. While the office continues to further advance gender equality concerns throughout all programmes, there is recognition of the potential for greater engagement within the office and with partners

G. *Assessment of the evaluation function in the region*

Evaluation has been positioned in the EAP Region as a strategic function aimed at contributing to the achievement of regional outcomes. In 2010, several initiatives were begun to ensure that evaluation effectively contributes to UNICEF's evolving roles. Technical assistance was provided to COs to support country level efforts towards assessing UNICEF's upstream work. A number of country offices designed and implemented evaluations aimed at assessing UNICEF's advocacy role and public systems such as social protection, education and health and others. In 2010, a report on the management of the evaluation function in the region referred to the region's contribution to UN Coherence on evaluation. UNICEF continues to coordinate the United Nations Evaluation Development Group for Asia and the Pacific (UNEDAP). The region has progressed in strategic planning, quality and use of evaluations; supporting the conceptualization and implementation of national evaluation capacity development initiatives; and mainstreaming evaluation as a distinct strategic function in new CPDs and CPAPs. A south-south cooperation strategy was initiated in 2010 aimed at promoting country to country support to devise or reinforce country led monitoring and evaluation systems and the creation of national evaluation professional bodies.

Results and challenges faced during 2010 are described and summarized below:

- **Strategic Planning of Evaluations:** guidance and orientation was provided on site and on line to COs for the prioritization of major evaluations.
- **Evaluation mainstreamed in CPDs and CPAPS:** quality assurance of Country Programme Documents and Country Programme Action Plans was undertaken to ensure that evaluation is approached as a strategic and distinct function within Country Programmes.
- **Increased quality of evaluations:** The Evaluation Office rated the 35 best evaluations (global, regional, country level) completed in 2010. Five EAP Countries have at least one high quality evaluation. Initiatives towards achieving higher quality evaluations included quality assurance of Terms of Reference and of evaluation reports of major evaluations, participation in reference groups, technical assistance, and dissemination of guidance documents and quality standards.
- **National evaluation capacity development strategies and initiatives:** Initiatives included wide dissemination of principles underpinning the new aid environment and of UN and UNICEF's institutional frameworks on national evaluation capacity development; provision of technical support for the conceptualization or implementation of national evaluation capacity development.
- **Increased use of findings and recommendations generated through evaluations:** At least 6 out of 14 countries in EAP have used the Evaluation Management Response Systems in 2010.
- **Contribution to UN Coherence:** UNEDAP provided training in support to UNCTs (Viet Nam, Philippines, Cambodia) with emphasis on UNDAF evaluation, evaluability and joint evaluations.
- **South – South Cooperation:** Participation of countries with advanced national evaluation systems or with strong national evaluation networks in initiatives of other countries aiming to reinforce national evaluation capacity development was promoted and supported.
- **Knowledge management in support to the evaluation function:** Through the Community of Practice for M&E focal points in Asia-Pacific, access to knowledge on evaluation related matters was broadened and an exchange of information and good practices promoted. "Evaluate", a bimonthly information package and "Occasional Learning Series", a product aimed at disseminating the linkages between knowledge and evaluation are regularly disseminated.
- **Internal Capacity Development:** The 2010 Annual M&E meeting was organized with support from the Evaluation Office to train on prioritization of evaluation, use of management responses,

national evaluation capacity development and others. Training and orientation sessions were provided to Thailand, Myanmar, China, Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Indonesia.

Remaining challenges include:

- Evaluation to be addressed as a strategic function in all COs: Evaluation is still approached as a low profile function in some countries. More clarity on the linkages and functions of social Policy and Monitoring is still needed.
- Capacity gaps: human and financial resources at the regional and national levels need to be increased if evaluation is to be addressed as a strategic and distinct function.

3.2 Overview of MTSP focus areas

1. Young Child Survival and Development

A. Major initiatives

The scope of work in YCSD underwent a modest expansion in 2010 with the inclusion of an increased focus on collection and analysis of data, primarily with health-related indicators but also including data from other sectors such as Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Education. The use of the Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks (MBB) tool to support sub-national costing and planning in the Philippines and Indonesia in partnership with the University of Queensland, produced interim results for both countries. The work will continue in 2011.

A meeting on MDG 4 was organized at the end of Q1. Countries agreed to enhance efforts on MDG 4, particularly: i) reducing neonatal mortality, the leading contributor to under-5 mortality and ii) building cross-sector convergence on the unfinished agenda of pneumonia and diarrhoea control, as well as addressing the long-neglected problem of high maternal mortality for achievement of MDG 5 targets. There is growing global momentum to address child mortality and MDG4 targets through reduction of pneumonia and diarrhea incidence using community based approaches, in particular community case management (CCM). This approach is being promoted in EAPR countries with a view to addressing inequities in health service access and delivery.

Undernutrition remains high across the region. UNICEF, in partnership with WHO, and WFP, organized a regional workshop with 18 countries on Reduction of Stunting through Improved maternal nutrition and complementary feeding practices. Evidence on maternal and child nutrition, effective interventions and existing tools, and lessons learned were presented and shared. UNICEF also organized a regional workshop to improve the commitment, capacity and guidance for strengthening infant and young child feeding in emergency situations. UNICEF and the European Union have partnered to improve nutrition security among women and young children in Asia. A 4-year Maternal and Child Nutrition Security project will address stunting in Indonesia, Lao PDR, and the Philippines, along with two countries in South Asia (Bangladesh and Nepal). The initiative will emphasize lesson sharing across the region to improve food and nutrition security. The nutrition security project will complement other food and nutrition security initiatives in the region.

In 2010, UNICEF supported the facilitation and organization of the inaugural Mid-Level Managers (MLM) Training on Immunization for the Pacific Islands, in partnership with WHO. The training included 32 participants from six countries. Topics included cold chain adequacy and capacity, vaccine forecasting, supportive supervision, disease surveillance, immunization safety, immunization monitoring, EPI coverage survey, planning and community engagement. The training was replicated at national level for Solomon and Kiribati.

B. Key results & major partnerships

Significant milestones were achieved in the region towards the global UNICEF/WHO goal of eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) by 2015. MNT elimination was validated in Myanmar and in the islands of Java and Sumatra which, together, represent around 80% of Indonesia's population. The Department of Maternal and Children's Health and Community Health of

China MOH officially agreed to commit to international survey methodology to validate MNT elimination, a noteworthy step.

In the area of Nutrition, the partnership with the EU is an important opportunity to demonstrate progress in reducing stunting, improved maternal and young child nutrition and generation of important lessons for possible adaptation and/or expansion of work in other countries. In collaboration with the Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI), advocacy and support to countries to adopt mandatory flour fortification has continued and several countries have moved towards adopting national legislation. A new Food Safety Law in Viet Nam provides a legal basis for adopting mandatory salt and wheat flour fortification. Mongolia has also adopted mandatory flour fortification.

Training sessions on nutrition in emergencies were held in Indonesia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, while more in-depth training on community-based management of acute malnutrition was organized in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In Viet Nam two trainings – one on SMART methodology and one on CMAM were organized, in addition to reviewing national nutrition protocols and strategy on stunting. A Regional consultation was organized in the Philippines to address the challenges of Infant Feeding in Emergency for CO nutrition staff, cluster members, government counterparts and media. On WASH in emergencies, a series of regional and in-country capacity-building exercises were organized for UNICEF staff and cluster members. Cluster Contingency planning and lessons learned exercises were undertaken and supported in Viet Nam and Lao PDR, while inter-agency WASH technical training took place in Cambodia and China.

C. Common constraints & factors

Developing a partnership with the Women's and Children's Hub, the Menzies School for Health Research in Australia, proved time intensive. Work with AusAID to refine a US\$3 million proposal was near completion in Q1 and implementing countries identified when AusAID decided they would not support the effort. This did not affect ongoing work already supported by UNICEF's regular country programmes, particularly in areas with a high burden of disease but seriously affected the availability of resources to implement the proposal. Progress in the area of sanitation is insufficient to meet MDG targets in a number of countries. A greater amount of effort will need to be made to address existing challenges and to heighten the focus and visibility of this important dimension. Funding for the Regional WASH Adviser position ended mid-year. The position remains vacant. While some funding to support recruitment (one year) was identified, it is insufficient to move forward to support efforts in the region.

D. Validated good practices and lessons learned

Work started in 2008 on developing an Investment Case for health has led to more informed dialogue with Planning Ministries and to some extent, with Ministries of Finance. Efforts are underway to expand partnerships with other institutions to help improve data integrity and analysis to be able to justify to governments the need for increased social sector investments. Research on maternal and neonatal issues remains a priority, with two studies on maternal mortality initiated in China (in collaboration with Peking University) and an evaluation of a community-based MNH project undertaken in Cambodia. The first study is an economic analysis of the Chinese government's input on institutional delivery and its impact on end-users. The second research project is a case-control study on (a) maternal deaths among migrant women and (b) a comparative study of antenatal care between migrant and resident populations. Both studies have been underway since mid-2010 and final results will become available in the latter half of 2011.

Mongolia's 'Reaching Every District (RED)' strategy strengthened the government's ability to respond to needs of the urban poor and address inequities. This initiative is being explored in other countries. On nutrition, China's Ministry of Health will replicate the UNICEF-supported "Ying Yang Bao" initiative to reduce anemia through food fortification to children in poor rural areas nationwide.

E. Value added to progress in this focus area

YCSD's work around equity, coupled with the use of health data to develop the 'Narrowing the Gaps' paper, is helping to lead UNICEF's work in the region. As a means of accelerating progress towards

the MDGs, traditional add-ons to immunization, such as vitamin A and de-worming pills, may be expanded upon to address maternal, newborn and child mortality. These initiatives could include distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets and ORS or zinc, and more novel elements, such as the promotion of hand washing and better household sanitation facilities.

2. Basic Education and Gender Equality

A. Major initiatives

Efforts continued on strengthening evidence through reanalysis of disaggregated data and support to EFAinfo in order to identify and understand causes of disparity and poor educational performance. EFAInfo workshops were organized in 8 countries, bringing together education statisticians from MOE with National Statistics officers, and MOE education planners and programme staff, to analyze data sets related to disparities. COs linked these efforts to upstream policy engagement and advocacy.

Work continues on supporting Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) processes and on expanding quality provision through capacity development. Emphasis within EC Policy has shifted to issues of governance and financing. The Asia Pacific Regional Network on Early Childhood (ARNEC), supported by EAPRO and other regional partners, is expanding and continues to support national government in policy reviews, to organize regional events and to support research. CFS remains a key strategy for UNICEF in the region, which for many countries included support for in-service teacher training, policy support and regulation reform, and pilot activities to introduce new innovations or classroom practice in a targeted number of schools. UNICEF engagement in pre-service teacher training increased from 2009, particularly through South-South Cooperation, as exemplified by the piloting of CFS training modules in teacher training colleges in Myanmar with close support from Thailand.

Support to inclusive approaches for children with disabilities is growing priority for the region, with work continuing in 2011. Education for ethnic minorities and the use of mother tongue based education is also increasing in the region. Bi-lingual approaches in Viet Nam, the Philippines and Thailand have shown positive results on learning achievement and attendance. Sharing these lessons will be a focus in 2011.

B. Key results

The promotion of WASH in Schools has been a long term effort which started in 2009 with the publication of a region Guideline for Monitoring WASH in Schools. Eight countries have agreed to carry out WASH in Schools Surveys and to support efforts to mainstream indicators in WASH Facilities into existing EMIS data collection tools. In 2010, the South East Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) High Officials Meeting endorsed a proposal by UNICEF to carry out a review of WASH Facilities in schools in all 11 member countries, as well as a review of donor contributions to the construction of WASH facilities and water systems in schools. Based on the joint ADB-UNICEF conference on the Role of Non-State Providers and the Poor, EAPRO has continued to work with ADB to finalize a paper on the role of NSPs in Providing Education services to the Poor. The publication forms the basis of a series of mapping exercises that will take place jointly with ADB to review the role of NSP in Education policy and practice.

The Out-Of-School Children (OOSC) Global Initiative has already made an impact on the four participating countries in the region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Timor Leste). Cambodia has already used the initial findings from the OOSC Profile in their provincial planning processes associated with the Annual Sector Planning exercise. In the Philippines, Education reform is using the findings from the OOSC study to prepare funding formulas for Alternative Delivery systems intended to reach out of school children and to prevent drop out amongst At-Risk groups. Several countries are considering joining the OOSC Initiative in the second phase next year, including China and Malaysia.

A Lessons Learned Study on education in emergency response was conducted aiming at identifying good practices, and propose recommendations for strengthening cluster and education in emergency response. Viet Nam, North Korea, Fiji, Philippines and PNG benefitted from an Education in

Emergencies Frontline Responders training and capacity mapping to identify gaps in preparedness and response phases. Research on Schools under attack was conducted, followed by a workshop with 5 countries sharing experiences and next steps for addressing education in conflict situations.

C. Major partnerships

The Regional UNGEI team, representing 14 UN and NGO regional agencies, continued to implement a joint work plan developed in 2009. Work included support for piloting the Global Gender in Education Monitoring and Evaluation project with three countries participating and funds provided by the UNGEI Secretariat. The School To Work Transition study is moving ahead as a joint Regional UNGEI effort with China, Indonesia, PNG, Timor Leste and Viet Nam participating. The Regional UNGEI team is supporting a regional study on Why Boys Do Poorly, which is being carried in four countries, including Malaysia, Mongolia the Philippines and Thailand.

EAPRO, UNESCO Bangkok and UIS Bangkok have extensive partnerships around the EFA End Decade Review process. Joint regional workshops, collaboration around the preparation of technical guidelines and reviews of national reports and clear delineation of roles on regional reports has been positive. In 2010, EAPRO and UNESCO Bangkok jointly held the Asia-Pacific EFA National Coordinators meeting with 28 countries participating, which also helped launch the EFA EDR process. UNICEF and UNESCO are jointly preparing 6 EFA End Decade Notes to highlight the gaps in achieving the MDGs and EFA Goals and what should be done to achieve the Goals by 2015, with emphasis on equity. EAPRO and UNESCO Bangkok also held a joint Alternative Delivery workshop in September 2010, bringing together 10 countries interested in developing policies, delivery systems and curriculum, and testing to provide primary and secondary equivalence and/or certificates to out of school children. Partnerships were also established with Nokia and Intel to support these efforts, which should bear fruit in 2011 when Mongolia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam begin to pilot Alternative Delivery systems.

D. Common constraints & factors

UNICEF is increasingly asked to lead (or co-lead) the coordination of Education Sector Working Groups in countries, causing work and time constraints. Only Laos and Cambodia have dedicated staff for this role, while in Viet Nam, Myanmar, Indonesia, PNG, Timor Leste and Mongolia, existing staff have to take on this role in addition to on-going duties. This can lead to lack of human resources for both coordination and programme implementation functions in the office. Many UNICEF COs have received annual regular thematic funding for Basic Education. Confusion remains over how the allocations to COs are decided and the predictability of funding in future years. Assurance from NY of fund allocations would ensure higher expenditure rates, helping to also allow for longer term planning.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned

The Mother-tongue Based Education project in Viet Nam has developed learning materials and teacher training packages for three local languages. After two years of implementation, performance on learning achievement test show higher learning results, especially in Vietnamese language and Mathematics skills. The CFS programme in Myanmar has also shown positive impacts in terms of language learning achievement, attendance and completion. Results from the assessment are being used to advocate the expansion of CFS nationally. The Alternative Delivery of early childhood education services to under privileged and disadvantaged children in the Philippines has been assessed to show major impact on Grade One dropout and repetition. Using innovative and cost effective methods and approaches, this pilot programme is now being scaled up for expansion by national government. The above demonstrate the importance of having solid baseline information to determine impact and basing pilots on existing systems and structures to reduce cost.

F. Value added to progress in this focus area

EAPRO has been successful in initiating multi-country initiatives on topics that are often sensitive or are cost-prohibitive for countries to do individually. For instance, to support Multi-Lingual Education efforts, EAPRO helped organize a regional event of 400 professionals to explore Education, Language and the MDGs. EAPRO played a coordinating role in developing an Asia-Pacific Scale for Early

Childhood Development. With support from University of Hong Kong and ARNEC, EAPRO brought together 10 countries to develop a Developmental Scale which will be validated by children in country.

3. HIV/AIDS and Children

A. Major initiatives

The regional drive to eliminate new HIV infections in children in Asia-Pacific was announced at the 8th Asia-Pacific UN PPTCT Task Force Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in November 2010. Some 150 officials from 20 countries were consulted on the conceptual as well as M&E frameworks on eliminating HIV and congenital syphilis among children as a contribution to MDG 6. National advocacy meetings were held alongside the review of the 2010 PMTCT technical guidelines. A regional assessment in 11 countries to explore innovative ICT solutions in support of pediatric HIV elimination was completed in 2010, and showed that HIV stigma and discrimination continue to be barriers that deter many PLHIV from revealing their identity and phone numbers. Findings suggested using ICT innovations to target health workers rather than HIV+ pregnant women or mothers to address issues relating to lack of follow up. A review, commissioned by the EAPRO in collaboration with APSSC and undertaken by the Economist Intelligence Unit, analyzed social protection policies, programmes and services in 9 countries for children affected by AIDS. The study showed that HIV negatively impacts the educational prospect for girls. HIV-affected households also earned less income than non-affected households and employment generation schemes do not adequately address limitations faced by caregivers living with HIV. A UNICEF paper on the role of civil society or non-state actors in national HIV response to children and women was presented at the Joint UNICEF and ADB meeting in April 2010. EAPRO also developed a Regional UNICEF Programme Strategy to guide country offices in new country programme formulations to address the relevance of “HIV mainstreaming” in low and concentrated epidemic settings. A management review, commissioned by ADB, examined the sustainability and future direction of the Asia-Pacific HIV and AIDS Data Hub (findings will be available in 2011). The ADB provided funding to the Data Hub for 2011.

B. Key results

PMTCT and Paediatric AIDS: PMTCT coverage increased from 30% in 2006 to 47% in 2009, with wide variability in HIV testing coverage. China adopted a universal test coverage policy with a combined battery of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B tests to scale up testing of pregnant women. MTCT risk decreased to 8% (2009) in China and 4.5% in Thailand among non-breastfeeding population. Pediatric HIV treatment in EAP performed well. ART for children ages 0–14 years increased to 65% in 2009 against the Asia-Pacific coverage of 44% and the total of 28% among all low and middle income countries globally. The new WHO guidelines for PMTCT, ART and infant feeding were progressively adopted in Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Timor Leste. Many countries have adopted a combination of 2 to 3 ARV regimens for PMTCT. PNG developed its first costed PPTCT and Paediatric AIDS Operational Framework for Action (2010 – 2015) to guide implementation of integrated PPTCT services, and as part of the successful GFATM Round 10 grant to PNG. Following the 8th Asia Pacific UN Task Force for PPTCT of HIV, 10 priority countries were identified for intensified PMTCT support. The government of Lao PDR committed to scaling up integrated MCH/ANC services to deliver PPTCT to at risk and vulnerable populations, with similar actions in the Pacific sub-region. UNICEF and WHO facilitated a South-South technical consultation between Lao PDR and Cambodia to adapt the “linked response” strategy that had proven effective in raising test coverage, counseling and follow up of pregnant women and HIV-exposed infants.

Prevention among adolescents and young people: Serosurveillance increased over the last two years. Prevalence among young people ages 15–24 remained low, except for Myanmar (1.1%) and PNG (0.8%). Targeted prevention among adolescents and young people engaging in high-risk behaviours was scaled up in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Pacific (Fiji), PNG, Philippines and Viet Nam. Evidence based assessments in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and the PICs generated an understanding of HIV risks and vulnerabilities among most-at-risk adolescents and

most-at-risk populations to inform policies, planning and resource allocations. UNICEF Cambodia supported a ‘Most at Risk Young People’ (MARYP) survey to assess behaviours related to sex, drugs and alcohol use, as well as experiences with health services. The survey was documented in video and disseminated through YouTube. UNICEF also rolled out an Asia-Pacific short-course in collaboration with the University of Melbourne and FHI Asia to build capacities of national partners for youth-sensitive MARYP programming. Life skills and HIV education was mainstreamed in China, Lao PDR, Philippines, Viet Nam and the Papua provinces of Indonesia. Advocacy efforts in the Papua Province resulted in provincial legislation on the teaching of HIV & AIDS in all educational institutions and a draft, costed Education sector HIV/AIDS policy.

Children affected by HIV and AIDS: UNICEF Thailand successfully leveraged the GFATM Round 10 grant of US\$42 million for children affected by AIDS over 5 years. This was Thailand’s only submission to GFATM Round 10, and represented a return of 271 times of investment in technical assistance and consultations in proposal preparation. Many countries undertook policy actions to strengthen protection and care of children and families affected/infected by AIDS, including greater home-visits with educational, nutrition, psychosocial and income generation support (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, PNG, and Thailand). Results showed that engagement of peer-led self-support groups for CABA helped improve psychosocial support, enabling them to speak up against stigma and discrimination and promote positive HIV prevention. Equipping HIV positive Peer Counselors at ARV treatment sites in Lao PDR directly improved the quality of care. Results of a UNICEF study on prevalence and effects of stigma and discrimination on PLWHA are being adapted for future programming in Thailand.

C. Major partnerships

UNICEF collaborated with the ADB, World Bank, ASEAN and UN partners (UNAIDS, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP and ILO) on joint initiatives, as well as with research institutions and INGOs such as EIU-Asia Research Division, the Japan Center for Global Health and Medicine, APMG, University of Melbourne, US CDC, Save the Children and FHI on knowledge products, training and advocacy.

D. Common constraints and factors

External factors: Ensuring efficiency in health service delivery and a proactive multi stakeholder response were challenges faced by Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, PNG and the PICs. Decreasing resources for HIV & AIDS programmes impacted progress toward the Four Ps.

Internal factors: While national commitment to meet MDG 6 is evident, programme planning and implementation were hampered by lack of age- and gender-disaggregated data, and absence of a data management system. Stigma and discrimination continue to be an issue. Planned activities were delayed due to recruitment of staff in Mongolia and Myanmar. Limited capacity on data collection and delay in baseline research slowed evidence-based advocacy in PNG and the Pacific.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned

In Cambodia, a survey of MARYP covering ‘hot spots’ in 8 provinces carried out by MoEYS, with technical support from partners including young people, government, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and NGOs generated new age and sex disaggregated data to inform policies and programmes. The 15-minute documentary film capturing the conduct of the survey and disseminated through YouTube was an effective way to share sensitive information. In China, effective implementation of the “Four Frees and One Care” AIDS policy through small grants, vocational/animal husbandry trainings, health trainings, ARV-adherence monitoring and other assistance to families affected by HIV yielded positive outcomes. HIV-positive women’s groups showed decreased loss to follow-up (10 % to <5%), improved drug adherence (60 % to 95%), and improved uptake of PMTCT/paediatric care services. Best practices on community-based care for women and children infected or affected by HIV & AIDS were developed. In the Philippines, advocacy efforts led to the inclusion of 15–17 year old MARA for the first time in national HIV surveillance.

F. Value added by the Regional Office

EAPRO provided programme advisory support to China, Myanmar, PNG, PICs, Thailand and Viet Nam for new CPD and MTR, national advocacy meetings and resource mobilization efforts. A

Regional UNICEF HIV/AIDS Programme Strategy was developed to guide country offices in new country programme formulations, focusing on examining the advantages and disadvantages, as well as evidence of “HIV mainstreaming” in low- and concentrated epidemic settings. EAPRO also published a Children and AIDS: Profile of UNICEF’s Response in East Asia and Pacific 2010 to update the 2009 version and support country offices fundraise. Through the HIV & AIDS data hub, EAPRO helped strengthen joint UN efforts to promote gender-disaggregated data, which was increasingly incorporated in national HIV & AIDS plans. Data analyses were undertaken to inform national AIDS response jointly with UNAIDS and WHO. Evidence, lessons learned and case studies specific to Asia-Pacific on social protection for children impacted by HIV & AIDS contributed to the development of the revised Global Framework on Protection, Care and Support being updated in 2010 by the IATT on Children and AIDS, led by UNICEF NYHQ.

4. Child Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse

A. Major initiatives

UNICEF continued to demonstrate results for children through the strengthening of child protection systems at national and local levels in line with the 2007 Regional Child Protection Programme Strategy, and the 2008 Global Child Protection Strategy. EAPRO established an expert reference group on the costing of the consequences of child maltreatment; developed a draft Core Set of governance indicators for Child Protection Systems; drafted a regional synthesis report on child protection in educational settings; provided technical input to the development of the ASEAN Five Year Social Welfare and Development Strategic Framework; and advocated for the prioritization of child protection and welfare systems at the Beijing High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights.

B. Key results

Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks: All COs reported developments in drafting, adoption and reform of national legislation, local policies and guidelines, and bilateral agreements on child protection. UNICEF PNG facilitated the inclusion of child development and protection in the ‘Vision 2050’ development framework, and a 12th Five Year Plan on Child Welfare was developed in China. Child protection was integrated into Lao PDR’s draft 7th National Social and Economic Development Plan and a National Child Protection Strategy was endorsed in Mongolia. Cambodia domesticated the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Viet Nam passed a Child Adoption Law, and the Philippines passed bills to increase the age of sexual consent and address corporal punishment. Other achievements included:

- *Improved policies and regulations to address exploitation and trafficking:* COs provided technical assistance on guidelines for the repatriation and reintegration of trafficking victims in Myanmar, and on the drafting of Implementing Rules and Regulations under the Anti-Child Pornography Act in the Philippines. UNICEF supported the development of a Five Year National Programme of Action against Human Trafficking in Viet Nam, and the finalization of a China-Viet Nam bilateral agreement to prevent and respond to cross-border trafficking.
- *Better protections for children affected by armed conflict:* UNICEF Myanmar continued to co-chair the country task force on a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1612, and regular trainings were conducted for soldiers and government officials to prevent child recruitment. Efforts were initiated to engage the New People’s Army in the Philippines to prevent and address violations against children.
- *Progress in birth registration:* Six COs strengthened birth registration through, for instance, piloting a simplified system, national campaigns to register via mobile technology, and adopting a National Strategy for Birth Registration at district levels.

Strengthening social welfare systems for children and families: Social welfare systems for child protection were enhanced through establishment of policies, regulations and standards of care; mapping of social welfare services; capacity building for social workers; and improved coordination between law enforcement, service providers, and community based networks. Key results were:

- *Strengthening of social work capacity:* UNICEF China contributed to the development of a Five Year National Plan on the Development of Social Work for Children. Viet Nam approved a landmark National Programme on the Development of Social Work as a Profession while National Competency Standards for Social Workers were adopted in Malaysia. Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste supported in-service training for social workers.
- *Improving alternative care standards and practices:* COs made good progress in supporting deinstitutionalization, family tracing and reintegration efforts in Indonesia and Myanmar, and delivered technical assistance for the roll-out of Procedures for Implementation of the Policy on Alternative Care, and the monitoring and inspection of residential care facilities in Cambodia. Malaysia adopted Standards of Care and Protection Guidelines for Child Care Centres.
- *Development of community-based social welfare services and child protection networks:* Several COs bolstered the capacity of and linkages with community-based child protection networks, such as in the Philippines. In Lao PDR, these networks were included in the Master Plan and Decree on Social Welfare. Multi-disciplinary Child Protection Units were established in pilot communities in China, while in PNG, Family Support Centres provided services to women and child victims of violence.

Strengthening justice for children: The rights of child victims, witnesses, and those in conflict with the law were enhanced through targeted initiatives for juvenile justice, including support for the development of child-friendly investigative procedures and court settings, capacity building for law enforcement officials, and guidelines for diversion and restorative justice. Examples include: support to Timor Leste's National Legal Drafting Directorate; replication of Mongolia's Juvenile Justice Committees in 5 provinces; and the internalization of principles to guide interactions with young offenders by social affairs officers, the police and the courts in Kiribati.

Promoting social norms, conventions and values for child protection: Work on social behaviour change was demonstrated through national campaigns; community-based sensitization sessions; public awareness-raising via print, radio and television media; and programmes through formal and non-formal education. Support for mine risk education was provided in Cambodia and Lao PDR, and radio drama series with child protection messages were delivered in Vanuatu. In Timor-Leste, a ministry-led Nationwide Social Mobilization Campaign targeted families with child rights and child protection messages, and in China, a life skills training package on the rights of young migrants was developed with other UN agencies for integration in the school curriculum.

Data, information and knowledge: COs completed six assessments, six studies and three evaluations. Cambodia, China, Myanmar, and Thailand strengthened data collection and information management systems for child protection, as well as for specific monitoring purposes, such as on children in institutional care, and on accidents and injuries. The establishment of a Child Protection Centre of Excellence at the University of Indonesia, in collaboration with Columbia University, is notable.

C. Major partnerships

Strategic partnerships were strengthened with governments, UN and international agencies - particularly UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNOHCHR, UNAIDS, ILO, and IOM; and INGOs such as Save the Children, World Vision, Friends International, Plan International and ECPAT International. EAPRO progressed partnerships with the Centers for Disease Control and WHO on violence against children, served as a board member of the UN Inter-agency Project on Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region, and chaired the Regional Inter-agency Working Group on Child Protection.

D. Common constraints & factors

Effective national coordination for child protection has not yet been realized in most countries, often due to a lack of sufficient political will, a limited vision for preventing and responding to child protection concerns, a lack of human resources and technical capacity, and weak data collection and management systems. Government, UN and NGO partners continue to address child protection concerns in a fragmented manner, responding to presenting problems rather than making concerted

and scaled-up efforts to ameliorate factors that contribute to the abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned

Cross-sectoral linkages are increasing with the HIV/AIDS sector in Cambodia, Myanmar, and PNG; with the education sector in Fiji and Mongolia; with social protection actors in Viet Nam; and with the water and sanitation sector in PNG. These will continue to be disseminated.

F. Value added to progress in this focus area

EAPRO provided in-country technical expertise and support to 9 COs to strengthen strategies for systems-based approaches to child protection. EAPRO also continued to support 9 participating COs on preparations for national baseline studies on violence against children, held a 'Think Tank Meeting' on the costs of child maltreatment, and finalized a Child Protection Capacity Building Programme for 24 child protection staff. Representation at various high-level fora, including the ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children and various regional, bilateral and national meetings on human trafficking by EAPRO ensured articulation of issues of child rights.

5. Policy Advocacy and Partnerships for Children

A. Major initiatives

UNICEF cooperation across the region in 2010 was particularly strong in the generation of data and analysis on children and women. It was also marked by successful evidence-based advocacy, dialogue and leveraging within countries on a host of issues including social protection, child poverty, child-friendly schools, food fortification, PMTCT of HIV, and a systems-based approach to child protection.

From a regional social policy perspective, major initiatives in FA-5 included MICS 4; child poverty and disparity analysis; monitoring of the impacts of the global economic crisis on women and children; advocacy, dialogue and technical assistance on social protection; analysis and advocacy on non-state provision of basic services; and child-focused and child-sensitive planning at national and sub-national levels – the latter to support ongoing decentralization in several countries. In almost all countries, initiatives were also undertaken to respond to climate change concerns.

B. Key results

Support to the collection & analysis of strategic information on the situation of children & women: MICS 4 was finalized in DPRK and groundwork or fieldwork was conducted in Mongolia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. Results of the survey will make it possible to identify inequities, disadvantaged children, groups and sub-regions within countries and high-quality data on DPRK and Myanmar will be invaluable to the evidence base for UNICEF and development partners. Real-Time Monitoring systems for monitoring the impacts of the crisis on women and children were also established or strengthened in 4 countries in East Asia and 6 Pacific Island Countries (PICs). These systems are intended to alert governments to deteriorating socio-economic circumstances for women and children in these countries. Other achievements in supporting the collection and analysis of strategic information include child-focused database construction and management in several countries across the region, piloting of birth registration systems in Vanuatu and Thailand, and development of a migrant children registration system in China. (Support to data generation at country level is led by APSSC.)

Research and policy analysis on children and women: Child Poverty and Disparity studies were finalized in Thailand and the Philippines, completed in Lao PDR and Vanuatu, and initiated in China and Indonesia. These reports have augmented the evidence base on multidimensional poverty among children in the region.

Policy advocacy, dialogue and leveraging: The UNICEF-supported Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Conference held in Vanuatu in February 2010 was instrumental in generating attention towards investment for the most vulnerable and social budgeting in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Social budgeting was also supported in China, Indonesia, and Viet Nam, including sub-national planning and investment in the latter two countries. On the social protection front, UNICEF played a key role in strengthening commitment to social protection through inter-agency and inter-ministry consultative processes in several countries, including Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Furthermore, advocacy on child poverty led to buy-in from the Ministries of Planning (and Investment) in Thailand, Viet Nam, and the Philippines. A chapter on multidimensional child poverty was included in the Viet Nam Living Standards Survey and awareness on child poverty was enhanced among policymakers in China.

Enhanced participation by children and young people: In some countries in the region, with support from different sections at regional level, great strides were made towards enhanced participation by children and young people in advocacy and partnerships for the realization of their rights. Notable examples include the Youth Parliament in Timor-Leste, ASEAN Children's Forum and UN Common Advocacy Points on Youth in Cambodia, and the School Publication Initiative for training child-journalist teams in Mongolia.

C. Major partnerships

At the regional level, partnerships were further cultivated with ADB on non-state provision of basic services for children, and with ASEAN on social development and social protection. At the country level, a wide range of partners were strategically engaged, including UNDP on multidimensional poverty and real-time monitoring in Viet Nam, ADB and IMF on social protection in Mongolia, academic institutions on child poverty and child protection in Indonesia, NGOs and the Companies Commission in Malaysia on CRC reporting and child care respectively, and in an innovative vein, a real-estate company on salt iodization in Thailand.

D. Common constraints & factors

The lack of social policy staff in countries such as Mongolia and Papua New Guinea where FA-5 issues have been prominent continues to be a major constraint. Other challenges include limited sectoral traction on issues such as budgeting and decentralization in country offices (perhaps due to varied levels of understanding on the "upstream" engagement needed) and a major decrease in financial resources for RO activities in FA-5.

E. Validated good practices and lessons learned

Some good practices that have emerged from 2010 include creation of local ownership for initiatives, through wide stakeholder consultations at the onset (as with social protection initiatives across the region), adaptation to local context (as with the child poverty methodology in a few countries), and evaluation of programmes and strategies (as with RED strategy in Mongolia). At the regional level, the preparation of the synthesis report on child poverty revealed that employing consultative mechanisms in such processes can lead to useful exchange of knowledge and experience between COs and identify areas for further support from the RO.

F. Value added to progress in this focus area

To support country-level analysis of the situation of children and women in a policy perspective, especially in light of the renewed organizational focus on equity, EAPRO systematically and rigorously analyzed sub-national disparities with regard to the realization of children's rights. Using MICS and DHS data, the social policy teams at EAPRO and ROSA analyzed disparities by wealth, geographical location and gender in 12 countries. Based primarily on this analysis, a background paper (*Achieving the MDGs with Equity*) was prepared for the High-Level Meeting in Beijing on South-South Cooperation on Child Rights. The paper contributed to a substantive discussion on the topic and was instrumental in garnering renewed commitment to equity for children by governments in the region. A regional synthesis report on child poverty was prepared in order to support country-level analysis and advocacy on child poverty. Based on national reports from seven countries, the report highlights trends in child poverty across the region and potential strategies to address these.

To support policy advocacy, dialogue and leveraging on improved access to and quality of basic services for children in the region, a two-day workshop focusing on “The Role of Non-State Providers (NSPs) in Delivering Basic Services for Children” was organized jointly with ADB. Background papers commissioned for the workshop have sown the seeds for a UNICEF evidence base on NSPs. With about 120 participants, from national line ministries, private sector, civil society, ADB, and UNICEF, the workshop was an unprecedented forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences on harnessing non-state actors to improve access and quality of basic services for the region’s poor. In addition to giving visibility to the need for enabling frameworks for NSPs, the workshop has also paved the way for meaningful future collaboration with ADB.

Other value-added by EAPRO in 2010 included promotion of child-sensitive social protection through a special session (jointly organized with UNICEF ROSA) at ADB’s Regional Conference on Enhancing Social Protection Strategy; support to real-time monitoring of the impacts of the crisis on women and children through technical assistance in system design and institutionalization, facilitation of knowledge-sharing among countries on the methodology and consultants, and promotion of these monitoring efforts at various regional and international fora.

4. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

4.1. Overview of achievements during 2010

A. Function 2: Representation and advancement of core mandate

During 2010 EAPRO catalyzed, facilitated and participated in a number of high profile regional events including the November 2010 High Level Meeting (HLM) on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific region in Beijing. Data generated from studies and evaluations undertaken at the regional level were used strategically to advance the equity agenda, and formed the basis for the HLM Beijing Declaration on Child Rights. Other high profile events included the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis in Vanuatu, the 8th Asia-Pacific UN PPTCT Task Force Meeting co-organized by UNICEF with WHO, UNAIDS RST and UNFPA in Lao PDR, the joint UNICEF-ADB workshop on the role of non-state providers in delivering social services for children and the ADB workshop on Social Protection both in Manila. EAPRO also supported efforts to increase participation by children and young people in advocacy and partnerships, for instance, through the ASEAN Children’s Forum. High level advocacy contributed to an endorsement by the South East Asia Ministers of Education of a proposal to review WASH Facilities in schools; to changes in child protection legislation; and a more child-friendly Five Year Social Welfare and Development Strategic Framework (2011-2015) for ASEAN.

B. Function 4: Programme guidance, management and oversight

During 2010 EAPRO facilitated a series of meetings and country visits to the six countries scheduled to prepare new Country Programme Documents for submission in 2011: Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea (later addition), Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Team visits to COs were carried out to ensure the strategic vision for the CPD was in place and that COs were incorporating the new two-tiered approach (PCRs & IRs) with equity to results into their CPD results matrices. EAPRO also developed a “quality assurance tool” that was used by COs to self-assess their draft CPDs and also used by EAPRO to review CPD drafts. Specific programme advice was provided by Regional Advisers and guidance on operations by the Regional Operations and Human Resource Officers. Strategic Moments of Reflection (SMRs) were held in two countries during 2010. In Philippines (April) where the Deputy Regional Director (DRD) and Regional Advisor Child Protection participated; and in Thailand (August) where the Regional Director, DRD and most Regional Advisors and Operations attended – both SMR were well designed and included a series of visionary presentations, along with the key staff to review the strategic directions of the country which would have direct bearing on their new Country Programme.

Quality assurance was also provided for Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) and Mid-Term Management Review processes. In total, two countries completed MTRs in 2010. Pacific held its MTR in June and

PNG in October, with an EAPRO team visiting prior to the Pacific MTR meeting in June to provide technical inputs and review. EAPRO support was provided on planning, conceptualization, review of documents and strategic insights, primarily by the Planning Officer and DRD. Regional Advisers and Operations provided technical input relating to specific sectors. Strategic representation at the MTR meetings was provided by the Regional Chief of Planning and DRD.

Oversight is a key responsibility of the Regional Director and Operations Officer, and this function was exercised via various mechanisms throughout the year. At the beginning of 2010, a two-day Annual Reports Review examined reports from all COs to extract lessons learned, assess quality and completeness and identify issues where support may be needed for individual countries, as well as for the region as a whole. The outcomes of these reviews were summarized in letters sent by the Regional Director to each Representative. Follow-up was undertaken by the Regional Director during country visits or during PER discussions in the sidelines of the RMT meeting.

A primary tool for monitoring operations performance is the quarterly Exception Management Report. This report contains a regionally agreed set of Key Performance Indicators. Data from 2009 and 2010 show steady progress except for KPI 3. Performance can be summarized as follows:

KPI 1 - Donor reports: Steady reduction in overdue donor reports over 3 years, with marked reduction over 2010 and met the standard of “zero” overdue report.

KPI 2 – RR utilization 2009 - 88% 2010 - 92%

KPI 3 – OR utilization 2009 - 84% 2010 – 81%

KPI 4 – ORE utilization 2009 - 83% 2010 – 89%

KPI 5 - HR Management indicators: status in term of vacancy, gender and learning expenditures.

KPI 6 – Outstanding DCT: EAPR went below the global target for the 6-9 months category at 4 per cent; for greater than 9 months remained at 0.1% (US\$52,974)

KPI 7 – HACT implementation: seven countries are fully compliant, three countries progressed slowly, two countries postponed to January 2011, and two countries are experiencing difficulties with government.

KPI 8 – All internal audits have been closed, except for one, which is waiting OIA feedback. However, additional effort and follow-up is needed to close external audits.

C. Function 6: Emergency management

The responsibility for emergency management lies with APSSC. Prior to the annual monsoon and cyclone season, APSSC provided technical support to country offices to review and/or update emergency preparedness and response through training and/or contingency planning exercises. Direct technical support was provided to Myanmar, Mongolia, Pacific Islands and Philippines. APSSC also contributed to new initiatives, including the Harmonized Emergency Risk Management Initiative, which integrates risk identification and assessments into UNICEF country plans and programmes. APSSC also scaled up its efforts in disaster risk reduction by mapping past and current efforts, commissioning studies on children’s vulnerabilities/capacities, strengthening regional coordination and providing targeted support to COs. Close links and coordination between the Regional Office and APSSC are maintained through regular monthly meetings as well as through *ad hoc* arrangements to respond to specific emergencies.

D. Function 7: External relationships and partnerships

COs in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and China mobilized US\$24.3 million in financial resources from the private sector, a 57% increase over 2009. This rapid growth was achieved thanks largely to continued and significant investment (funded by PFP and by CO OR) in acquiring monthly pledge donors, whose numbers increased by 74% to 139,000. About 80% of this income was unearmarked, providing important funding especially for UNICEF’s ‘upstream’ work in these countries. The Malaysia CO was able to contribute US\$2 million of its income to global RR, becoming the first CO to systematically mobilize global RR for UNICEF. However, as outlined in section 2, UNICEF’s engagement with the private sector goes beyond mobilizing financial resources for UNICEF programmes. This broader ‘corporate engagement’ involves mobilizing financial resources for children (not necessarily through UNICEF), leveraging the non-financial resources of

the private sector (such as communication and R&D assets), and advocating for ‘child-friendly’ corporate behavior. The upwards trends of mineral and oil prices have prompted several UNICEF COs to express interest in the possibility of creating a Social Development Fund for Children from tax revenues of these industries. Initial studies will focus on Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, PNG and Timor Leste, and will include lessons learned from previous experience. Some engagement with mineral and oil industries is foreseen to address the negative impact of their operations on local communities.

E. Function 8: Internal and external communication: Media and public relations

EAPRO capitalized on key regional and global events to raise international awareness of UNICEF’s regional agenda. The Beijing HLM provided an opportunity to engage with international media in Beijing, and to gain improved public exposure on the equity issues. The signing of the UNICEF-ADB MOU in September 2010 in NYHQ by the President of ADB and Executive Director of UNICEF was given visibility with a joint press release, and also covered by UNICEF video teams and distributed through UNICEF’s distinct agency channels. EAPRO’s on-going partnership with InterPress Service newswire was used to highlight UNICEF’s equity work in South and Southeast Asia. A continuing drive, with the technical expertise of the One Minute Junior Foundation, led to successful trainings in the production of short videos on child rights by Lao youth and in Fiji. This proved particularly important in a region of closed spheres for discussion and debate, and where raising child rights issues is deemed sensitive. In 2010, regional Communication and PFP colleagues worked closely with the Malaysia CO on a trial digital engagement plan designed to connect the wider, internet savvy public to issues affecting children. The “Get On Board” campaign focused on the issue of child abuse and asked Malaysians to take a stand against this crime. EAPRO contributed nine ICON pieces covering a range of topics including on HIV/AIDs, child poverty, child rights, and the dzud crisis in Mongolia. UNICEF CO shared lessons learned on a range of topics including hygiene awareness, efforts to reduce nutrition deficiency, using digital technology to improve immunization and using Village Courts to advance children protection.

F. Function 11: Information and communications technology management

COs across the Region applied focused effort towards the strengthening of ICT infrastructure and telecommunications systems in preparation for Vision and other initiatives. ProMS 9.1 was installed and implemented in all offices. The successful rollout of SAP/HR to 8 country offices provided an opportunity to test the application and delivery of the SAP system. The need to increase the resilience of the core ICT infrastructure to support the new systems delivery models that are inherently Internet centric remains a challenge. The possible evolution of inequitable access to systems by offices with inadequate budgets or technically proficient environments (e.g. PNG, Timor Leste, DPRK and Pacific) needs to be safeguarded.

G. Function 16: Staff security

EAPRO takes staff security very seriously. Compliance with the Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) is maintained in all buildings and premises. All staff have completed security briefing sessions and security updates are provided to staff on a regular basis. Telephone trees are fully functioning and are updated and tested frequently. A dedicated staff member was recruited on a TA contract to fill the role of Regional Security Manager, based in the APSSC office but also supporting staff security in the Regional Office. Regular fire drills are conducted and improved security measures at the front gate have been put in place.

4.1.3 Summary of key RO results

Based on the Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP) 2008-2009 and the Regional Office Accountabilities, the following are overall office-wide results defined in the Annual Work Plan:

- i. A plan of action to strengthen regional knowledge management systems and generate regional contributions to UNICEF’s global knowledge leadership for children developed and implemented;
- ii. UNICEF regional mandate, action and results more visible in the media, professional publications and on the web;

- iii. Increased regional and global influence and respect for UNICEF's advocacy and views;
- iv. Effective regional partnership and advocacy strategy designed and implemented;
- v. Quality of new Country Programmes (including CPMPs and EPRPs) and post-MTR adjustments of CPs/CPMPs/EPRPs prepared/undertaken in 2008-2009 enhanced through closer alignment with MTSP 2006-2009 FAs and KRAs, through grounding in the principles of segmentation, HRBAP, RBM, and UN coherence and through greatly simplified processes, adapted to capacities of country offices;
- vi. Quality assurance strengthened through systematic tracking and feedback of lessons learned from implementation of major programme and operational activities;
- vii. Centres of excellence identified and developed for all MTSP focus areas;
- viii. Shared services between ROSA and EAPRO to deliver enhanced knowledge leadership, quality support, assurance and oversight;
- ix. Approved recommendations of UNICEF Business Process Review implemented to improve internal efficiencies within ROSA, EAPRO and the Shared Services Centre.

4.1.4 Summary of the main results achieved: areas of shortfall or achievement

Results achieved are summarized below:

- i. Enhanced availability of strategic information and data to support regional advocacy through studies and evaluations and regionally-supported data bases;
- ii. Improved visibility of UNICEF in regional media, particularly high profile events, with extensive media coverage on children's rights and/or UNICEF, with increasing numbers of viewers on the EAPRO website;
- iii. Timely technical and operations inputs provided to MTR and CPD processes, resulting in high quality strategic planning and documentation;
- iv. Relatively good audit outcomes for countries in the region;
- v. Strong progress on partnerships with centres of excellence.

Areas of *shortfall* were:

- i. Availability of SB resources to small country offices and to EAPRO is becoming a recurring issue particularly to PNG, DPRK, Mongolia;
- ii. Some difficulties in addressing regional management priority issues in all countries due to limited relevance and lack of dedicated staff in the region.

4.1.5 Analysis of the factors which supported the results achieved

Facilitating factors for achievements throughout 2010 have included the strong sense of teamwork within the regional office itself. This is directly the result of strong leadership and clear mechanisms to build trust and communication among staff. For example, the weekly stand up meeting has been opened up to all staff and has shifted location to the conference room, while the Programme Management Team (PMT) agenda has been revised to include more sharing of information on specific programme issues by sections. A series of brown-bag lunches has also been initiated, bringing together GS, NO and International staff from APSSC and EAPRO on topics of interest. There are several internal and external challenges to the achievement of the goals that have affected results in 2010. Major external factors include the high number of serious emergencies, which disrupted regular programming in some countries and some refocusing of priorities (e.g. Mongolia). The economic downturn has also led to some budget shortfalls for specific programme areas in the region, especially for HIV/AIDs and social policy.

4.1.6 Discussion of the office management practices, systems and structures

The organization of two RMTs of which one was joint with ROSA provided high level fora for reaching agreements on strategic programme and change management initiatives with cross-fertilization and through RMT-working or steering groups, greatly facilitated the convening and analytical work of the RO. In addition the RO utilized advance planning and coordination of travel schedules to facilitate meetings of statutory committees, such as the Programme Management Team,

the EAPRO Management Team and the CRC. APSSC staff continues to join both EMT and Programme Management meetings, although APSSC also maintains its own management team. The weekly stand up meeting has continued, but has been expanded to include all interested staff, not just section heads. The Mid-Year and Annual Review process has also been maintained which brings together senior management, professional staff and research assistants from EAPRO and APSSC to review progress against stated objectives. A Task Team was established to help facilitate the smooth decommissioning and transitioning of APSSC. Several staff meetings were held to offer affected staff an opportunity to comment and express concerns. The participation of the Staff Association in all these regular mechanisms and task teams has ensured that staff concerns are addressed and has resulted into high staff morale. The RO maintains a programme focal point on HIV/AIDS and participates in a UN-Cares advisory cluster.

Human resource actions and achievements in 2010

Countries across the region focused on three key HR aspects in 2010. The Regional HR team provided technical and other support to countries in the following areas:

- **Facilitating Change Management:** During 2010, many countries had either completed their CPD or started reviewing the programme for the new CPD. As a result of the country reviews, several staff positions were abolished and new positions created and countries have been engaged in large number of recruitments. Human Resources function focused on addressing the human resource implications resulting from the country programme reviews. Efforts to keep the impact of change at minimal level included appropriate consultations with staff and staff association and ensuring adequate support to staff affected by change. Countries like DPRK and Mongolia had higher levels of staff turnover though not related to change. This again needed high priority from human resources. The HR Section was directly involved in the selection process for senior and key positions; over viewing national recruitments; and supporting change management processes. Many countries used the outcome of the Oct 2009 workshops on “Leading and Managing Strategic Shifts in EAPR” to facilitate change transitions.
- **Support global initiatives in learning and VISION:** EAP region is leading globally the roll out of CBI training with 95% of relevant staff members already trained, all Representatives certified, and is ready to fully incorporate CBI practice in Jan 2011. EAP region is also one of the first regions adopting HR/SAP, where payroll process under SAP was implemented in nine Country Offices in Dec 2010. The section successfully coordinated and actively implemented, in partnership with the GIBS University and PI South Africa, the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) Year Two program. RMT members had undergone a one day training on leadership and change management. e-PAS roll out completed successfully for the region, with a level of completion for Phase 1 of 86.17% and Phase 2 of 80.70%.
- **Learning and development:** Developing new skills to match the new requirements of programme had been given high priority in many countries and various initiatives were made to identify the capacity gaps. Countries also have focused on various staff development initiatives and team building activities. The Regional Rapid Response Mechanism for surge capacity and emergencies ran for the first year, it included 65 staff members in the roster and 4 deployed to emergencies in Haiti and Fiji. Periodic ‘HR talks’ have been set in the region as a mechanism to better understand CO, support closely HR officers and timely address relevant requests. Regional HR developed a framework on Strategic Capacity Building. It is expected to enhance the learning strategies of country offices and enable CO to accomplish better results.

Challenges include:

- **Recruitment:** Countries perceived recruitment as a lengthy process. The new CBI brought in added advantages, however demanded more time and skills from the HR staff. Simplified processes are still on the agenda.
- **Retention:** Countries like PNG, Mongolia, DPRK and East Timor continuously face difficulties in attracting and retaining competent staff. This could be a further potential risk in future given the changes in policy related to R&R.

- **Change Management:** HR capacity to support change management, along with technical support to existing programmes and activities proved a challenge in some countries.
- **Work-life balance:** Considering specific issues highlighted in the recent Global Staff Survey, offices recognized the many demands on staff's time in the workplace and at home. With the support of Staff Association countries are encouraging work-life balance
- **Emergency Preparedness:** UNICEF capacity to plan for and respond to disasters and the HR capacity to support that require specific preparedness plans in vulnerable countries.

4.1.7. Summary of procurement services

The region saw an increase of 39% (USD 12 million) in Procurement Services activities with the inclusion of China as a PS customer in 2010 and a significant rise (from USD 1 million to USD 18 million) by Viet Nam to support the introduction of the new DPT-HepB-Hib vaccine funded by GAVI. DPRK used their new role as Principal Recipient of GFATM to improve the supply of critical medicines, supplies and equipment and improve technical knowledge affecting the national TB Control and Malaria programme.

PS remains a key tool to ensure the provision of essential supplies for children, supplying 85% of all vaccines shipped to EAPRO country offices. Vaccines remain the core PS commodity (81%) with pharmaceuticals and Test Kits contributing to other key areas. GAVI support to the EAPRO expanded from an average USD 7 million/annum to USD 24 million in 2010 providing 58% of PS Funding in the region. Procurement Services now accounts for 37% of all supplies provided by UNICEF.

The Programme Supply Component accounts for 25% of total programme spend in the region. This contributes to 64% of all supplies delivered by UNICEF to its programmes and represents a reduction by 16% in annual throughput from 2009. As national economies improve, local supply options continue to expand, offering rapidly improving quality and wider choices of goods available locally, it is hoped that counterparts and local governments will be better positioned to sustain their own supply chain, including procurement and distribution of critical essential supplies. This also facilitates growing cross-border trade and regional procurement.

In 2010 Regional Procurement grew from 8% to 13% while local procurement activities

EAPRO Programme (including Construction no PS)					
Office	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cambodia	3,678,755	3,179,907	3,631,983	2,267,028	2,718,120
China	18,167,065	11,168,684	19,733,804	18,114,003	16,543,934
DPR Korea North	4,682,799	11,411,356	8,531,496	8,926,880	13,548,877
East Timor	2,333,984	1,590,972	1,778,064	853,159	2,088,787
Indonesia	137,919,266	13,103,464	7,683,344	5,651,689	4,494,046
Lao Peo.Dem.Rep	2,783,797	8,051,630	6,170,820	7,773,050	2,732,815
Malaysia	80,931	58,315	94,256	66,975	83,876
Mongolia	877,891	1,280,197	1,116,889	965,614	2,123,225
Myanmar	13,807,533	18,979,818	44,525,684	26,635,261	12,647,865
Pacific	512,192	1,129,783	1,087,391	1,709,620	738,697
Pap. New Guinea	456,431	833,492	1,690,154	691,053	857,331
Philippines	4,117,252	5,455,108	7,487,859	7,869,633	6,060,929
Thailand	6,248,421	5,027,942	8,824,955	6,843,056	6,426,909
Vietnam	1,755,410	2,266,990	1,873,587	1,066,457	3,673,610
EAPRO Total	197,421,726	83,537,659	114,230,286	89,433,480	74,739,022
Increase/decrease over previous year	103.8%	-57.7%	36.7%	-21.7%	-16.4%
	100,530,785	(113,884,067)	30,692,627	(24,796,806)	(14,694,458)

Source: SD email 27Jan 2011

2010: What EAPRO Country Offices are procuring						
Commodity	Programme PO Value	%	PS PO Value	%	Total PO Value	%
VACCINES/BIOLOGICALS	6,418,953	8.6%	34,946,512	81.2%	41,365,465	35.1%
PHARMACEUTICALS	9,339,417	12.5%	2,593,922	6.0%	11,933,338	10.1%
EDUCATION SUPPLIES	10,137,786	13.6%	327	0.0%	10,138,113	8.6%
PRINTING & Signage	9,808,270	13.1%	1,372	0.0%	9,809,643	8.3%
WATER AND SANITATION	8,921,885	11.9%	10,824	0.0%	8,932,710	7.6%
NUTRITION	3,959,812	5.3%	282,562	0.7%	4,242,374	3.6%
Communication, IT & OFFICE SUPPLIES	5,157,248	6.9%			5,157,248	4.4%
BEDNETS/INSECTICIDES	3,513,847	4.7%	224,717	0.5%	3,738,563	3.2%
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & RENEWABLE	5,022,110	6.7%	1,978,283	4.6%	7,000,393	5.9%
DIAGNOSTIC TEST KITS	556,326	0.7%	2,338,392	5.4%	2,894,718	2.5%
TRANSPORT & Fuel	3,097,263	4.1%			3,097,263	2.6%
CONSTRUCTION	2,155,932	2.9%			2,155,932	1.8%
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	1,711,979	2.3%			1,711,979	1.5%
WAREHOUSING	1,418,425	1.9%	2,356	0.0%	1,420,782	1.2%
SHELTER/FIELD EQUIP.	1,376,270	1.8%	107	0.0%	1,376,377	1.2%
COLD CHAIN EQUIPMENT	1,149,149	1.5%	157,228	0.4%	1,306,377	1.1%
LABORATORY SUPPLIES	452,492	0.6%	506,086	1.2%	958,579	0.8%
OTHER & Misc	541,857	0.7%			541,857	0.5%
Total EAPRO	74,739,022	100.0%	43,042,690	100.0%	117,781,712	100.0%

Source: SD email 27Jan 2011

Procurement Services EAPRO					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Philippines	6,592,782	8,210,054	14,099,734	9,883,178	9,042,231
Vietnam	552,406	1,461,725	1,395,706	1,083,696	18,295,385
Cambodia	1,940,632	1,690,732	3,151,951	5,370,503	3,528,492
Pap. New Guinea	356,950	2,118,893	3,508,846	1,631,128	2,282,682
DPR Korea North	1,676,207	3,417,934	1,029,789	1,733,545	1,271,370
Myanmar	2,487,890	971,332	1,834,984	2,218,855	1,567,999
Indonesia	290,505		3,435,563	4,351,052	1,373
Lao Peo.Dem.Rep	2,224,491	753,565	409,378	1,187,163	2,350,112
Mongolia	754,464	488,349	1,470,608	1,670,653	1,577,667
Pacific	541,803	399,477	834,357	1,393,732	1,267,923
China	6,546				1,801,116
East Timor			274,653	423,317	49,125
Thailand	59,169	208,450	51,821	1,253	
Malaysia					7,214
EAPRO Total PS	17,483,845	19,720,510	31,497,391	30,948,076	43,042,690
Increase/decrease over previous year	65.4%	12.8%	59.7%	-1.7%	39.1%
	6,913,092	2,236,665	11,776,881	(549,315)	12,094,614

Source: SD email 27Jan 2011

EAPRO Supply (Programmes & Procurement Services)					
EAPRO PO Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Prog POs	\$197,421,726	\$83,537,659	\$114,230,286	\$89,433,480	\$74,739,022
PS Others	\$11,520,092	\$14,088,303	\$24,159,240	\$23,687,642	\$18,394,389
PS - GAVI	\$5,963,753	\$5,632,207	\$7,338,151	\$7,260,434	\$24,648,301
Total PS POs	\$17,483,845	\$19,720,510	\$31,497,391	\$30,948,076	\$43,042,690
Total Supply	\$214,905,571	\$103,258,170	\$145,727,677	\$120,381,556	\$117,781,712
Increase/decrease over previous year	100.0%	-52.0%	41.1%	-17.4%	-2.2%
	107,443,877	(111,647,401)	42,469,507	(25,346,121)	(2,599,844)

Source: SD email 27Jan 2011

remain stable at 55% of supply activities. China executed over USD 16 million in procurement for other UNICEF country offices across the globe. Country Offices are seeking more scope for the local procurement of selected brands of supplies from local distributors for which Supply Division maintains Long Term Arrangements at the global level. It remains important to adequately assess these changing local markets to identify how to best position the supply operations in Country Offices to contribute to building capacities of national partners and counterparts as well as ensure the availability of basic essential commodities for children. COs reported improved performance by Supply Division in timely delivery of offshore supplies, enabling more efficient repositioning of emergency supplies.

In 2010 Cambodia undertook a Country Assessment of Essential Commodities to determine the availability, accessibility and affordability of essential supplies for children and their families, in preparation for the new CP. Gaps and findings from this Assessment will be incorporated into the new CP as well as annual planning process. This is the first CO to conduct such a study in the region. Once the benefits are clearly understood, other offices will be encouraged to consider similar assessments to identify relevant gaps in supplies for children.

Technical support via secondment of staff to other offices continued, strengthening cross-fertilization of global technical supply support in a broader thrust of cooperation. Supply staff from Cambodia and Myanmar spent significant time supporting the Haiti Earthquake Emergency through secondment in 2010.

4.2. Oversight function and oversight-related accountabilities

4.2.1 Methods and indicators used to monitor and assess performance of CO

As described above, the EAPRO continues to use the Quarterly Exception Management Report (EMR) as an important tool in executing its oversight functions of Country Offices. Eight programme and operations indicators are monitored on quarterly basis, including: Timeliness of Donor Reporting, Fund Management, Human Resource indicators, Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs), Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) and Audit Follow-Up. Targets and standards are set and Country Offices falling outside of these parameters are alerted and expected to provide written comments to the Regional Director. The EMR is also used by the Regional Director in discussions on performance with Country Representatives. Based on the last Regional Management Team action point, the EMR will evolve and also influence the global set of indicators and reporting, such as standard CO management reporting, with aggregate at the regional level starting in 2011.

In addition to the EMR, field visits by Regional Advisers and review of Annual Reports and other documents were used to monitor and assess the performance of country offices. Performance related findings from field visits by Regional Advisers are captured in trip reports which are also shared with country offices concerned. Annual Reports were reviewed over a two day period and feedback provided in the form of letters to the Representatives of each of the country offices in the Region. These letters are used by the Regional Director as the basis for follow up discussions with Representatives during country visits or on the sidelines of the RMT.

4.2.2 Accuracy, completeness and quality of 2010 COARs

All Annual Reports and Annexes were submitted to UNICEF's online portal per 2010 COAR guidelines. There were some difficulties in uploading information to the portal and in reporting achievements within rather limited word counts. Some detail and analysis were sacrificed in keeping to the word limit. Use of disaggregated data and analysis of lessons learned from the previous year were similarly constrained. There also seemed to be confusion around reporting on operations, communications and emergency, as well as on reporting requirements for Annex A and B. While Annex B was adequately addressed, Annex A on MDG progress required additional attention by COs.

4.2.3 Areas of weakness in programme cooperation or operations management

A few countries have identified issues related to the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and HACT implementation requiring capacity building support to overcome. At the Beijing RMT in November 2010, challenges to implement HACT were raised as being out of the control of the Representatives for the remaining countries and require higher level attention to become fully compliant – particularly for China. The HACT process is still deferred in PNG, Timor Leste and Myanmar and not discussed in DPRK. The Regional Chief of Operations will follow up on both BCP and HACT and provide necessary support in 2011. BCP testing will become a performance indicator in 2011 and replace HACT in the quarterly EMR per RMT decision.

A number of thematic audit reports referred to common spread weaknesses in the area of Zone Office Management, Safety and Security of UNICEF staff, Premises and Assets and Management of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) function in Country Offices. The recommendations were all addressed in 2010 except for ZO management as the outcome is not known yet and ICT management which is led by ITSSD and involves a number of global ICT policy. The Regional Chief of Operations and the Regional Chief of ICT will monitor action to be taken as part of their oversight during field visits in 2011.

4.2.4 Actions taken to support Country Offices which are in special situations.

Countries and sub-regions in special situations such as Myanmar, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste and the Pacific Islands were among those prioritized for support at the time of annual work planning. In addition to prioritized technical assistance they were provided with strategic advice. Countries such as the Philippines and the Pacific which were affected by emergencies in 2009 received additional support from EAPRO, in collaboration with APSSC, as part of the UNICEF response to the disasters.

4.2.5 Actions taken for quality assurance and improvement of donor reporting

Continued monitoring of timely submission of donor reports is accomplished through the quarterly Management Exception Report. Overdue donor reports have continuously decreased from 31 to 7 to 6 from Q1 to Q3/2009. By the end of 2009, there were only four donor reports outstanding. Based on an observation by the external audit team in December 2008, it was agreed that an overall quality review of donor reports in the region as well as an assessment of donor satisfaction with UNICEF donor reports be undertaken. The Deputy Regional Director provided oversight on quality assurance for the donor reports being prepared at regional level and the result of the assessment of donor satisfaction is currently being finalized.

4.2.6 Lessons learned by the RO in undertaking its oversight function

The RO and RMT continue to use a set of standard programmatic and operations management indicators to follow up on performance of COs. These are now harmonized with those required for reporting on the MTSP, obviating the need for COs to submit specific reports to the Regional Office/RMT. The quarterly Exception Management Report is issued by the RO and reviewed twice yearly in the RMT Operations Working Group. Issues arising, including changes initiatives, risk management (RCSA), audit performance (recurring observations), Regional Contingency Funds (RCF), HR and ICT, are discussed and action points agreed on as needed in the RMT. The system has functioned well and contributed to continuing improvement in regional performance. Our clients have expressed their satisfaction with the functioning of the system.

Country offices prioritized for oversight visits are risk informed and those preparing new Country Programme Documents (CPDs) and Country Programme Management Plans, those undergoing mid-term reviews and mid-term management reviews, and those undertaking a Strategic Moment of Reflection (SMR) and audits. For the former two cases a formal exit note is prepared noting agreed status and follow up actions to be performed. This is also submitted as part of the formal documentation for the regional TRT and PBR.

The most important event for substantive discussion on the performance of Country Offices in the region is the two-day review of annual reports mentioned above.

4.2.7 Methods used to obtain assessment and feedback from clients

RMT action points along with direct requests for support from country offices and countries with special needs are prioritized in the provision of support. Feedback on the quality of response to RMT and Country Office requests has been obtained during RMT meetings. Other standard methods used by the Regional Office for obtaining assessment and feedback include sharing of trip reports for comments and observations, discussions between the Regional Director and Representatives and monitoring of implementation of the follow up action points in the trip reports and country office feedback on those by supervisors. Client satisfaction surveys have also been used, with the last covering the 2008-2009 period. The next will cover the 2010-2011 period. As cost saving measures, teleconferencing and webex will be increasingly used in 2011.

5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS COMPLETED IN 2010

- 1) Global Social Policy, Vol. 9, Supplementary 2009, Children and the Economic Crisis in East Asia: 500 copies (reprint), US\$2,169.80
- 2) The Role of Non-State Providers in Delivering Basic Social Services for Children (Workshop Report) : 500 copies, US\$2,993.31
- 3) Achieving the MDGs with Equity – Discussion paper for HLM Beijing
- 4) A Learning Guide: Evidence Based Advocacy for Gender in Education (e-version)
- 5) UNGEI Calendars: 3,000 copies, US\$1,532.34
- 6) Education for Adolescents: UNICEF EAP Strategic Framework (printing and CD-rom), 500 copies each, US\$2,458.50
- 7) Non-State Providers and Public-Private Partnerships in Education: 500 copies, US\$3,270 (or \$6.54 copy).
- 8) Children and AIDS: Profile of UNICEF's Response in East Asia and Pacific 2010 (EAPRO)
- 9) Information and Communication Technology (ICT): Leveraging ICT Effectively to Strengthen HIV Prevention for Newborns and Monitoring of Maternal and Child Health in Asia-Pacific (EAPRO/APSSC)
- 10) Getting it Right: Case Studies on Paediatric HIV Treatment, Care and Support in Thailand and Cambodia (EAPRO)
- 11) Together We Can: Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS -The Success of the Mingende PPTCT practice model in Papua New Guinea (DRAFT), (EAPRO)
- 12) Role of Non-State Providers in National HIV Response for Children and Women in Asia-Pacific (EAPRO/APSSC)
- 13) Social Protection for Children Affected by AIDS: Regional Overview (EAPRO/APSSC and EIU Asia)
- 14) Asia-Pacific Regional Conceptual Framework and M&E Strategy for the Elimination of Pediatric HIV (DRAFT), EAPRO/ROSA/APSSC with WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS Asia-Pacific

6. INNOVATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. Title: Digital engagement with the public to catalyse change in societal values on child rights (Malaysia)

Category:

Innovation

MSTP Focus Area or Cross Cutting Strategy:

Focus Areas 4 and 5

Abstract:

From October – December 2010 the Malaysia CO ran a campaign called "Get on Board" to raise awareness and opinion to stop child abuse, focusing on digital rather than traditional media. This digital campaign involved disseminating information and key messages on child abuse primarily through social media and a dedicated website, supported by several ground events. The campaign's objective was to mobilise individuals to be engaged in stopping child abuse, join UNICEF in that cause and eventually become future supporters of UNICEF. The campaign adopted an integrated approach to deliver key advocacy messages on UNICEF's role as a knowledge leader on children and at the same time provided an opportunity to raise funds from the general public.

Innovation or Lessons Learned: Change and awareness on societal values with regard to child abuse was tested through the various digital media channels which continuously engaged users about the cause and encouraged them to take on the role of child advocates in their respective spheres of influences (i.e. blogs, community chats, tweets, Facebook, and emails).

Potential Application:

In countries with high internet penetration, digital media offer UNICEF an affordable and compelling means of social mobilization, advocacy and fundraising.

2. Title: First Conference on Research on Children in Indonesia

Category: Innovation

MSTP Focus Area/Cross Cutting Strategy: FA-5, Capacity Development & Knowledge Management

This Conference is an innovation because it has for the first time brought together Indonesian researchers, policy-makers and practitioners around a broad framework of research on children's issues. It has set the tone and groundwork for the institutionalization and continuation of such work, which is also very much linked to our efforts to facilitate knowledge exchanges, play a convenor's role and advocate for and support evidence-based policy-making. It also helps foster broader partnerships between UNICEF, the Government, research centres, individual (young and more established) researchers, NGOs and others.

The Conference was welcomed and endorsed widely. Senior Government officials and Heads of Parliamentary Committees who attended the conference noted how some of the specific research shared was relevant to their work and would support their efforts to move the agenda of children's wellbeing and rights forward. Many of the researchers also indicated their appreciation and keen interest for the continuity of such activities in the future. The Deputy Minister of Education volunteered his Ministry to support the next such event.

There will be follow-up to the conference in various modalities. The recommendations will be finalized and shared broadly, some of the research will be published in various journals or booklets, efforts will be made to support the establishment of a network of Indonesian researchers working on children's issues and further link their work with the relevant decision-makers. In addition, it is expected that this will become an Annual Event with the participation of possibly new partners and based on the experiences of this year's event. One very good suggestion for next year is to also include a panel of adolescent/youth that are either researchers or can be discussants of the research undertaken by others.

A key strategy that led to the success of the Conference was to form a sound and effective tripartite partnership with the Government and a highly reputable and respected Indonesian research centre (SMERU). Another strategy was to make great efforts to reach out to as many researchers, policy-makers and practitioners as possible from quite early on in the process to muster their contributions and interest.

7. SPECIAL REPORT: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Economic growth and market-orientation has led to a surge in South-South cooperation (SSC) in the region. South-South trade grew 13% per year between 1995 and 2007 and comprised 20 per cent of world trade in 2007. Budget allocations for SSC have increased over the last five years with China and India providing US\$1 billion per year in ODA to other developing countries. South-South and South-North agreements have been traditionally focused on trade and economic development and less on social development. Over the last decade, more governments are looking to SSC to address common challenges such as worsening income disparities, air and water pollution, food and energy insecurity and natural disasters.

Using its convening capacity, UNICEF supported a High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region, held in Beijing from 4-6 November 2010, hosted by the Government of China. Over 100 delegates from 28 Asia-Pacific countries, with 17 heads of delegation at Ministerial level, unanimously adopted the 2010 Beijing Declaration, which emphasizes that “policies and legislation to address disparities across MDG indicators are urgently needed and strategies such as geographic and pro-poor focus must be employed.” Through the “Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region” the meeting promoted the adoption of a regional strategy for South-South Cooperation for child rights, which will help institutionalize knowledge sharing around practices that promote achieving the MDGs with equity. The Government of India has committed to hosting the next high-level meeting on this issue in 2013. In support for the deliberations, UNICEF commissioned 4 background papers covering the Asia-Pacific region on (i) South-South Cooperation for Child Rights (ii) Achieving the MDGs with Equity, which produced a systematic analysis of disparities affecting the children who have been left behind. (iii) Child Protection and Child Welfare and (iv) Children and Disaster Risk Reduction.

At the country level, a range of actions have been undertaken in support of South-South Cooperation. UNICEF in Viet Nam played a crucial role in advancing the ASEAN framework of cooperation. The CO’s substantial technical support to the Government in support of its chairmanship of ASEAN, and in particular the development of the Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children as well as the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development 2011-2015, helped to advance political commitments on behalf of children and provide a strong foundation for South-South Cooperation in support of child rights and well-being in the region. UNICEF Philippines’ work on advancing work on South-South Cooperation with the ASEAN Children’s Forum in which youth participated has set a model for engaging youth as learned citizens able to contribute substantially to the agenda.

UNICEF is advancing SSC with academic and research institutions, such as the University of Queensland on sub-national costing of child health programmes, the Economic Policy Research Institute in South Africa on multi-dimensional child poverty, and the Economist Intelligence Unit on HIV/AIDs and social protection. UNICEF continues to support the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood, which aims to build strong partnerships in early childhood across sectors and different disciplines in the Asia-Pacific region, and the Regional Data Hub on HIV & AIDS for Asia-Pacific. Other opportunities include collaboration with the World Bank Group’s South-South Experience Exchange Facility and UNDP’s Special Unit for SSC. UNICEF has supported governments in sharing South-South lessons through study tours (e.g. Philippines delegation visited Brazil to discuss social protection systems) and knowledge sharing workshops (e.g. participation of South Africa and Ecuador in Thailand’s Visioning through Sharing Seminar on Core Social Strategic Actions for Children in Middle-Income Countries).

UNICEF will continue to further strengthen South-South Cooperation in the coming year, focusing on enhancing expertise, capacities and cross-referrals in core MDG areas through, for instance, cost-sharing arrangements; joint research and development projects; third-country training programmes; supporting South-South centres on social policy; technology cooperation arrangements; participatory ICT and information networks.

8. REPORT ON UN COHERENCE AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

The Regional Office is contributing to leadership in a number of strategically considered regional coherence mechanisms including the United Nations Development Group for Asia Pacific (UNDG-AP) (previously the RDT), the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) and various thematic working groups and sub-groups including the inter-agency Peer Support Group and its working group on QSA. EAPRO is also providing QSA to Country Offices and UNCTs in developing and implementing standard results reporting for and development of UNDAFs and UN Common Programme Documents.

UN Coherence is advancing at different speeds and with varying configurations at the country level. Viet Nam continues to move forward as a One UN pilot, including a One UN Fund, a One UN House and One UN Communications team. Also well advanced in UN Coherence, PNG approved a Delivering as One initiative in 2007 based on 5 pillars: UN programme, UN budgetary framework and UN Country fund, joint UN communication, UN Operations and a UN House. PNG currently has one UN programme and one CPAP signed by all agencies. As a self-starter “Delivering as One” country, PNG is in the process of developing an advanced UNDAF and common CPD submission for 2012-2015 following the UNDAF MTR in 2010. Self starters Mongolia, Timor Leste and the Pacific Islands are advancing with varying degrees of coherence.

The most substantial achievements of UN Coherence at the country level include active engagement in UNCT processes, joint UN support to emergency preparedness and response, promoting programmes and policy actions on selective issues through evidence-based advocacy, and supporting aid effectiveness. Strong examples include the UN coordination in China to mobilize resources from UN-CERF for WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA and UNDP for the victims of the 2010 Qinghai-Yushu earthquake, and the Joint UN emergency appeal in Mongolia in response to the dzud crisis. On policy, the “One UN Pilot” in Viet Nam was able to position itself as a key advisor to the Government for the development of the 2011-2020 Socio-Economic Development Strategy and 2011-2015 Socio-Economic Development Plan. The UN Country Team in China was instrumental in shaping China’s 12th Five Year Plan for Economic and Social Development (2011-2015). In Mongolia, IFIs and bilaterals participated in joint situation analysis and planning sessions with UN partners for the first time.

UNICEF continues to be engaged in UN joint programming and partnership development in a range of relevant areas, for instance, on climate change and youth employment in China, decentralization and deconcentration in Cambodia, WASH and education for minority populations in Mongolia and gender, nutrition and poverty in Timor Leste. The UN Team in the Pacific was instrumental in coordinating the Global Economic Crisis with a Human Face conference in Vanuatu in February 2010, providing briefing papers for the Pacific islands delegations to the MDG Summit in New York in September and in completing a mid-term review of the multi country, multi UNCT UNDAF. Partnerships have allowed for improved coordination; less duplication; stronger cohesion and greater advocacy.

UNICEF is also working with UN partners, IFIs and bilateral to advance principles under the Paris Declaration. For instance, the UN in LPDR oversees a Round Table process for Aid Effectiveness, and in Indonesia, UNICEF is working with other UN partners to advance the “Jakarta Commitment,” a roadmap signed by 22 donors to help implement fundamental principles of the aid effectiveness agenda on a national level.

Despite progress, ongoing challenges include: further harmonizing reporting requirements, developing country offices' capacity in national supply and procurement, harmonized approaches to International Public Sector Accounting Standards, standardization of audit definitions and ratings, and full harmonization of cash transfers. Ensuring a timely and synchronized implementation of joint UN components remains a challenge especially in a decentralized context. HACT compliance remains a challenge with only 5 COs reporting full compliance. Delays or lack of progress reflect government reluctance to proceed with readiness assessments and related requirements. The lack of a firewall between the Resident Coordinator function and UN agencies has contributed to some confusion amongst partners at the country level, including on fundraising and on the implementation of common activities at the local level. Inadequate funding for UN coherence activities is a growing challenge. In Viet Nam, there is a shortfall in One Plan Funds for 2011, meaning greater competition for limited resources amongst the UN agencies.

An important challenge is ensuring the UN remains relevant in the context of Middle Income Countries. More governments are moving away from viewing the UN as a traditional donor and instead engaging UNICEF and the broader UN as a strategic partner in advancing specific development goals, as evidenced by Indonesia's UN Partnership Development Framework and Thailand's Partnership Assistance Framework. This includes providing quality policy advice and technical inputs on a range of issues, in addition to playing a normative role in helping governments realize global standards and their international commitments. UN Coherence Frameworks were historically designed to facilitate coordination based on a traditional donor/project-based role with clear and measurable outcomes. These frameworks do not adequately address the inherent complexity of coordinating and/or aligning policy perspectives amongst a wide range of UN agencies with varying mandates.

Similar identity issues exist in the context of the Pacific Islands with a multi-country UNDAF. Should the UN have a sub-regional or Country level focus? Should the UNDAF try to capture all the work of all the UN Agencies in every country or should it be a light and strategic document that supports strategic engagement of the UN family with partners.

EAPRO will continue to support COs in navigating this complexity. The regional UN coherence mechanism continues to be critical in supporting and strengthening cooperation with UN partners.