

UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT for Guyana



1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This UNICEF Annual Report for 2010 covers Guyana and Suriname. In the former, passage of a Sexual Offences Law effectively meant that five of the eight pieces of legislation considered necessary to achieve a comprehensive legislative framework for children and women were in effect, up from four by the end of 2009. A heightening of Government efforts to combat violence, abuse, and exploitation of children and women are identified in this report as another important change with potentially strong impact on improving the situation of children and women in the country. However, as also noted herein, the overall impact of developments like these, and others designed to achieve the MDGs, need to pay greater attention to equity issues. A similar point on equity is also documented for Suriname, where there was some constriction of operational space due to greater attention (by political leadership) to looming elections. Operational space had started to open up by end of the year, albeit in an environment where there is need for acceleration of equity-sensitive measures to fulfil the MD and MDGs.

In both Guyana and Suriname, UNICEF supported capacity-building initiatives for both duty-bearers and rights-holders (in accordance with the human rights-based approach), and took steps to enhance its own capacity, from both the programmatic and management perspectives, to deliver on its contribution to results for children and women in both countries.

While programme delivery can generally be considered on track when viewed from the perspective of planned activities, effective monitoring at the results level is an area for improvement which will benefit from capacity enhancement both in UNICEF and among partners. These and a number of others are identified in this report as areas for further improvements in 2011 and greater strategic support to the governments of both Guyana and Suriname during the 2012 – 2016 programme cycles.

2 COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

A Sexual Offences law came into effect in May 2010 in Guyana to pave the way for a more robust fight against sexual violence in the country, often disproportionately experienced by children and women as victims. The President's assent to the bill came in the context of visibly heightened work led by the country's Ministry of Human Services and Social Security to reduce and end violence, abuse, and exploitation of children and women. UNICEF tapped into the operational space created by the political will demonstrated by these developments to formalise partnership with the country's Ministry of Home Affairs to begin work on expansion of birth registration (especially in remote, underserved hinterland areas) and contribute to capacity building for the police and members of the judiciary to be better able to prosecute and handle cases of sexual and other forms of violence especially against children and women.

Also within the year, in Guyana, a Constitutional Commission on Rights of the Child was inaugurated, though it was yet to become fully functional and make its existence felt at the close of the year. A Joint Programme was developed in partnership with UNDP and the Government of Guyana in 2010 to strengthen Parliament's capacity to play its role, including mainstreaming of children and women's issues into its work.

While these developments hold significant promise for the overall advancement of children and women's rights in Guyana, their impact will be stronger if on-going work focuses closely on the most disadvantaged children and women. UNICEF's advocacy work, especially in the last quarter of 2010, sought to increase attention to the five most disadvantaged groups in Guyana that are in need of specially targeted programmes for

initiatives like those mentioned above to enable the country to achieve the Millennium Declaration (MD) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with equity. The five groups are: children living in the hinterland, children with disabilities, out-of-school children, young single mothers and their children, and children most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The fact that the challenges faced by these groups feature regularly in speeches at the highest levels of government demonstrate political will to address the issues, which indeed form part of many initiatives to improve the situation of children and women in Guyana. There is, however, a need for stronger and more explicitly systematic mainstreaming of programmes to address the challenges across all sectors in the country.

The situation of the most disadvantaged groups of children and women in Suriname closely mirrors that in Guyana. The most vulnerable children include: children in and from the interior, children with disabilities, single mothers and their children, out-of-school children, teenage wives and teenage pregnant women and children living in residential care. As in Guyana, initiatives to address challenges are part of existing programmes and need stronger and more explicitly systematic mainstreaming of programmes. There is also a need to accelerate work on this and other areas to meet the MD/MDGs with equity.

3 CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

3.1 CP Analysis

3.1.1 CP Overview:

See below.

3.1.2 Programme Strategy

3.1.2.1 Capacity Development:

Capacity building of duty-bearers and, increasingly, of rights-holders remained the focus of UNICEF's support in both Guyana and Suriname in 2010. There is, however, a need to more strongly align these efforts with work focused on improving the situation of the most disadvantaged children and women in the two countries. In Guyana, UNICEF made progress in better basing capacity building activities on a prior capacity gap analysis. For instance, knowledge, attitudes and practices assessments within schools helped the Ministry of Education identify those most vulnerable to violence, and capacity gap analysis drove comprehensive training and stronger integration of Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) into the school curriculum. The series of results from capacity building initiatives in Guyana that are reported below benefitted from better capacity gap analyses.

While the organisation is looking to engender a stronger shift towards basing capacity building initiatives on better gap analysis, work was also done to improve more basic capacities. For example, the organisation invested in improving needed enhancement of partners' capacity in the planning and monitoring, use of the human rights-based approach to human and social development, and results-based management.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy

The use of effective advocacy in a strategic and efficient manner to arrive at programme results addressing the most vulnerable and disadvantage children was less than optimal in 2010. One of the reasons for this was the paucity of research and generated knowledge upon which to base evidence-based advocacy. To this end, in 2010 UNICEF Guyana and Suriname took an important step to improve on this prerequisite through a comprehensive and exhaustive SitAn process. An additional success in Guyana was successful advocacy work that resulted in the long overdue submission of the State Party's Report to the CRC and the signing of two Optional Protocols, with a firm

commitment by the government in Suriname to follow suit. Advocacy through partner UN agencies was successful in Suriname, with vulnerability of children highlighted in a UNDP engagement in housing policy, and in Guyana through a Joint Programme with UNDP on parliamentary action, which will seek among other things, to strengthen the capacity to Parliament to fulfil their constitutional mandate.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships

Studies mapping and analysing existing partnership relations with governmental and civil society organizations were conducted by the Guyana and Suriname COs in 2010 to establish areas of strengths and weaknesses in partnership relations. Amongst other factors, the study established the need to improve strategic alignment of partnership arrangements, to strengthen joint strategic planning with partners as well to improve evaluation of the effectiveness of existing partnerships. Additionally, the study documented a distinct weakness in the way UNICEF, as a brand, is perceived in country at the level of community-based organisations.

Also, during the 4th Quarter of 2010, the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) formally endorsed the decision to partner with UNICEF to jointly analyse budgetary allocations for children throughout the Caribbean in a comparative analysis aimed at strengthening sub-regional equity. This strategic partnership has a specific relevance for the Country Office, as it further strengthens the Framework of Action for children, which is a key instrument to increase commitment amongst the governments of the Caribbean to implement child rights-focused policies and practices.

3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management

The mapping of Centres of Excellence exercise in Guyana and Suriname that was conducted in 2010 showed that at the national level, there is no Centre of Excellence that meets the established quality criteria. Still, a number of achievements can be reported in terms of applying knowledge management strategies to advocate for policy, legislative development and institutional capacity building. At the same time, however, the majority of knowledge management initiatives were more aligned towards downstream results than to upstream outcomes.

South-South cooperation is proving to be a highly acceptable and effective means of knowledge transfer to improve policy and legislative development. The visit of the Chancellor of the Judiciary to the Family Court in Trinidad and Tobago led to the identification of several weaknesses in legislation on sexual offences in Guyana. Likewise, in Suriname, the visit of a group of NGO representatives to French Guyana to identify WASH solutions suitable for the interior had favourable results.

The capacity gap analysis undertaken during the child protection strategy development process in Guyana also demonstrates the applicability of knowledge management for policy purposes, as it informed policy makers about personnel capacity gaps and identified Centres of Excellence for developing their capacity within the region.

3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development

Within Guyana and Suriname, C4D is being used as a key mechanism and is integrated into programmes and work plans. Communication is a key means to: increase participation by key stakeholders, consult with vulnerable groups (including interior populations) and strengthen the capacity of both duty-bearers and rights-holders.

The C4D Assessment revealed several gaps in the use of communication in the development process. Namely, the absence of policies and strategic plans on children and women, and a lack of structured communication strategies that are culturally appropriate. There are also limited channels for communicating development messages in remote communities.

UNICEF supported the passing of the Sexual Offences Act by engaging in evidence-based advocacy for policy-makers and raising awareness among the general public on the five-year strategy addressing issues of violence against children and women.

Mass media and social marketing efforts (web portals, printed and electronic materials) created a culture of peer learning and youth expression across the country, enabling young people to express their needs and advocate for their rights. Though still inadequate, the participation of stakeholders throughout the C4D strategic process allowed for local and cultural specificities and perspectives to be included in the design, pre-testing and implementation of communication strategies.

In Suriname, all 2010 Annual Work Plans included C4D as an integral strategy for achieving results. C4D focused on closing capacity gaps of duty-bearers and enhancing the capacity of children to claim their rights. In support of achieving evidence-based, child-friendly and gender-sensitive legislation, policies and budgets, C4D efforts included:

- National election debates on Child Rights
- National pilot of the regional LAVCOX program that lends a voice to young reporters in the interior
- Translation of MICS 2006 data into a children's storybook with audio CD.

3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

There was an improvement in the overall normative framework, especially with the ratification by Guyana of the two Optional Protocols to the CRC (one on child trafficking and prostitution, the other one on child soldiers). The CO provided direct support to the State in strengthening the accountability framework by advocating for and providing technical assistance for drafting and submitting the CRC and UPR periodic reports. Moreover, all programmes continued to support strengthening of the policy, legal and standards frameworks in ECD, Child Protection and Adolescent Development. The beginning of the collaboration with Parliament will ensure adherence to the best interest of the child not only in legislation, but also in terms of resource allocation.

Capacity building of duty-bearers and rights-holders at all levels (national, regional and community) continued to form the backbone of the HRAP in both countries. All programmes made investments, particularly in the enhancement of the skills, knowledge and competencies of duty-bearers – first in the application of HRAP principles and second in regard to respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights of children and women through their various mandates. In this regard, ECD practitioners, justice and law enforcement officers, education officers, teachers, probation and social workers, nurses, health workers and volunteers were trained. Furthermore, the institutional arrangement between UNICEF and the University of Guyana in respect to ECD practitioners is a stellar example of sustainability in capacity building and quality assurance.

The Guyana and Suriname UNICEF Offices continued to anchor their programmes on the principles of equity, equality and non-discrimination as exemplified by the focus on education for all; extending the geographical coverage of the programmes to the marginalised populations in the interior of Guyana and Maroon areas of Suriname, particularly in water and sanitation, schools and safe motherhood.

In terms of participation, both Offices adhered to established structures and tools of participation to obtain inputs and enhance stake-holder ownership of programmes. These include the process of AWP negotiation, monitoring visits and consultations with partners, mid-year reviews and the annual review process involving UN agencies, Government departments, NGOs, communities, children and young people.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

Within the Guyana and Suriname Offices, prioritisation of gender equality and gender mainstreaming is a critical priority, as it provides a basic context and is recognised as a precondition for inclusive human development. Both Guyana and Suriname initiated and supported activities to *gather and analyse information* that identified disparities and inequalities. In collaboration with the respective governments, both countries carried out Situation Analyses of Children and Women. Guyana also conducted the Media Trends Analysis 2008-2009, which examined the incidence, frequency and quality of coverage of children's and women's issues. In addition Suriname conducted the Children and HIV situation analysis, and The Child Vulnerability Study, through which strong evidence was built to show that gender inequality in Suriname is a root cause of parents' inability to fulfil their duties, as well as an important risk factor for HIV.

In the area of *policy and legislation*, both Country Offices saw the fruits of their long-term advocacy. In Guyana the passage of the Sexual Offences Act, 2010 gives equal protection to the treatment of boys and girls in matters of sexual offences through the criminal justice system. Similarly, in Suriname the programme supported advocacy for dissemination and implementation of important legal reforms, such as the Domestic Violence Act, the revised Marriage Act and the revised Moral Code.

In Guyana, considerable effort is still needed to improve gendered development results. At the *normative level*, to ensure, monitor and where necessary advocate for implementation of gendered legislation, policy and standards – for instance, in relation reducing maternal mortality and boys education. In Suriname, to facilitate gender mainstreaming, all staff members were trained in the basics of gender, the new Gender Policy and learning to screen proposals using a gender checklist.

Overall, within the Guyana programme, efforts to advocate for and advance this agenda through programme design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation in 2010 were ad hoc and only incrementally successful. There remains a great need to move beyond the perspective of counting boys and girls/women and men, to assessing the implications of any planned action.

3.2 Programme Components

Title: *Child protection and public policy*

Purpose

Rights of all children and women in Guyana are monitored and addressed by effective and efficient national policies in accordance with international and regional development and human rights commitments by the end of 2011 (Programme Component Result No. 1, PCR1)

Main results planned for 2010

- 1) Transparent national and regional data management and dissemination mechanisms for social statistics functioning
- 2) National and regional mechanisms for monitoring of implementation of child rights functioning
- 3) A functioning network of responsible media professionals and skilled adolescents with a focus on children's and women's issues
- 4) Radio, newspaper and television programmes on children's and women's rights produced at the school, community and national levels
- 5) All children have access to essential quality social services that reduce their vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation

- 6) A comprehensive package of public policies and legislation in place for the protection of children
- 7) Administration of juvenile justice conforms to international human rights instruments
- 8) Children in conflict with the law in urban areas have access to community-based mediation, legal aid, and reintegration services.

Resources Used

Total funds spent in 2010 from all sources: US\$1,104,506.62

List of donors:

USAID, United Kingdom for UNICEF, Japanese Nat Com, Thematic funds, UNICEF Set-Aside.

Result Achieved

(A) ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO PLANNED RESULTS:

There are three strategic Intermediate Results (IRs) designed to jointly lead to achievement of this PCR by the end of 2011.

G-PCR1, IR1.1: Boys and girls in the seven most disadvantaged of the 10 Regions of Guyana grow up in protective family and community environments, especially those at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse.

By the end of 2010, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security had in place and was implementing a road map, in the form of a strategic plan. As part of the strategic plan a technical review of the OVC National Plan of Action and the newly passed Sexual Offences Act was undertaken.

Following successful UNICEF advocacy at the highest level of the Ministry of Home Affairs, expansion of birth registration became a formal area of the organisation's support to the Government of Guyana in 2010. With the successful take-off of implementation of a communication strategy to increase awareness of the importance of birth registration in those regions and the finalisation of an agreed modus operandi among line Ministries, expedited registration of unregistered children should be achieved in 2011.

Passage of legislation deemed necessary to provide a comprehensive legal package to protect children in Guyana (eight bills, as reported in the 2009 Annual Report) increased from four to five with the President's assent to the Sexual Offences Act within the year 2010

G-PCR1, IR1.2: A juvenile justice system that protects children as victims, witnesses and offenders is implemented in accordance with the CRC and other international standards is in place by 2011

Progress was also recorded with the successful amendment of the Juvenile Offender's (Amendment) Act, 2010 to exclude use of corporal punishment for children as part of the New Opportunity Corps (NOC) disciplinary measures and a technical inter-ministerial body was agreed upon to develop an action plan to respond to some of the critical challenges for Juvenile Justice.

G-PCR1, IR1.3:(F) FUTURE WORKPLAN

- Continuation of planned programme implementation to move closer to the PCR within the context of stronger inter-sectoral cooperation between line ministries with key roles in the delivery of results on this programme component

- Stronger mainstreaming of equity issues into UNICEF's support, including with regard to constraints identified above

Continuation of action to enhance monitoring and tracking of results including launching of DevInfo 6.0 Web version, roll out of DevInfo in schools and the national library, revitalization of the DevInfo steering committee under leadership of the Coordinator of the Bureau of Statistics to drive establishment (as part of UNICEF's work within the UN Country Team) of DevInfo as the platform of choice in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of human and social development programmes in Guyana

Title: *Child survival and development*

Purpose

All girls and boys in Guyana have access to essential health and educational services to ensure a best start to life and completion of basic education in a protective and child friendly environment by 2011 (Programme Component Result No. 2, G-PCR2)

2010 Planned results:

1. 10% of child care facilities in each of three regions adhere to established standards for quality ECD
2. 50% of caregivers and practitioners for children under six years of age with knowledge and skills of ECD practices, including developmental lags and other special needs
3. A policy for ECD is in place and communities sensitised
4. 10% of child-care facilities in each of three regions adhere to established standards for quality ECD
5. A comprehensive child health policy in place and accelerated interventions to reduce pre-natal, neo-natal infant and under-5 mortality carried out with communities sensitised
6. All pregnant women attending Antenatal Care clinics and 50% of their partners have adequate knowledge of PMTCT issues
7. 80% of mothers and their partners in communities in Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 with adequate knowledge and skills on safe motherhood and culturally appropriate nutrition practices
8. Effective referral systems for high-risk pregnancies in Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 functioning
9. Girls and boys in Regions 2,3,4,6 and Georgetown have access to safe and child friendly schools with an inclusive education approach
10. 50% of PTAs and student groups in Regions 2, 3, 4 and Georgetown with knowledge and skills in good parenting practices and strategies for emergency response

Resources Used

Total funds utilised in 2010 from all sources: RR \$38,759.72; OR \$28,400.; ORR \$877,090.65 - Total: 944,250.37

List of donors: Thematic; US Fund for UNICEF; UK fund for UNICEF, Canadian UNICEF Committee

Results Achieved

(A) ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO PLANNED RESULTS

There are four strategic Intermediate Results (IRs) designed to jointly lead to achievement of this PCR by the end of 2011.

G-PCR2, IR 2.1: All girls and boys under 5 years of age and their parents in seven regions have access to quality early child development programmes and family support by 2011

Against the backdrop of a less-than-optimal systematic framework to achieve results under IR2.1, progress was made in 2010 via a resuscitation of the Guyana National ECD Steering Committee and the drafting and endorsement of the ECD Policy, which provides guidance for sustainable, quality ECD programmes and a realistic operational plan for all children 0-to-3 years-old.

G-PCR2, IR 2.2: All pregnant women and nursing mothers in regions 1,7, 8, and 9 use quality safe motherhood services and engage in good nutritional practices by 2011.

Progress towards IR2.2 in 2010 included an Integrated Child Health Strategy and maternal and pre-natal strategies drafted to guide work assuring quality of services in these areas. In addition, national guidelines on nutrition during emergencies were in place by end of the year and 290 children in one hinterland community were able to start now utilising safe water that meets national standards. Furthermore, health workers in the underserved hinterland now have improved skills that allow them to guide better planning and service delivery for pregnant and nursing mothers in 10 child health centres.

G-PCR2, IR 2.3: 80% of all girls and boys in seven regions complete quality primary education in gender-sensitive, inclusive, and child friendly

Future Workplan

- Facilitation of finalisation of the ECD Policy and accompanying legislation and development and implementation of an operational plan
- Utilisation of lessons learned in 2010 from work and results on mainstreaming special needs education to advocate for scaling-up of the initiative
- Stronger integration of equity considerations into work of education and health services, which have already strong political buy-in
- Continuing work on education for teen mothers and enhancement of access to life-cycle-based parent education programme
- Expansion of the Child-Friendly school initiative drawing on a strong evidence-based cost-benefit analysis
- Continuation of work to improve access to and completion of primary and secondary education in disadvantaged remote communities

Title: *Adolescent development and participation*

Purpose

All adolescents in Guyana have opportunities to develop to their full potential in a safe and enabling environment, and participate as agents of change within their own communities by 2011 (Guyana Programme Component Result No. 3, G-PCR3)

Main results planned for 2010:

1. 80 health facilities where the staff are trained and equipped to provide appropriate services for young people according to documented minimum standards
2. 60% of secondary schools in seven regions with institutionalised youth health clubs promoting healthy life styles
3. Effective referral systems for youth-friendly youth services functioning
4. 85% of adolescent boys and girls, especially those most vulnerable, in 6 Regions with access to appropriate information and services to reduce vulnerability to and impact of HIV/AIDS and STIs
5. At least 20 youth led and culturally appropriate adolescent-friendly spaces exist in all 10 regions.

Resources Used

Total funds spent in 2010 from all sources: RR \$165,417 OR \$346,324.00 Total \$511,741.00

List of donors:

UNICEF RR, CANADIAN NATCOM, JAPANESE NATCOM, Thematic: Girls Education, Basic Education, Young Child Survival, HIV/AIDS.

Results Achieved

(A) ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO PLANNED RESULTS

Two strategic Intermediate Results (IRs) were designed to jointly lead to achievement of this PCR by the end of 2011.

G-PCR3, IR 3.1: 60% of adolescent girls and boys in six regions practice appropriate, gender-sensitive prevention information and skills to reduce vulnerability to HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) by 2011.

Within the year, Health and Family Life (HFLE), a key element of the strategy to achieve this IR, was integrated into the secondary school curriculum and was timetabled at the grade 7 level in 30 schools, where 50% of the teachers had received specialised training in the delivery of HFLE education using child-friendly learning HFLE Materials.

Regarding decreasing vulnerability of adolescents to HIV and AIDS, the most disadvantaged girls and boys in five of Guyana's 10 regions, (an increase of 37% in 2010) are now benefiting from school-based life skills training programme (HFLE). A review of the Youth-Friendly Programme and Services of the Young Adult Health and Wellness Unit in the Ministry of Health was completed in 2010; the results will feed into plans to improve and expand Youth-friendly programmes and services across the country.

By the end of 2010, a gender-sensitive Plan of Action to address gaps in HIV prevention among 10-to-14-year-olds (with a clear focus on youths in remote regions) was under development and plans were being put in place for better data generation to guide work on addressing the specific needs of the most marginalised adolescents.

G-PCR3, IR 3.2: 60% of adolescent girls and boys in seven Regions use youth-

friendly, gender-sensitive community and health services by 2011.

The national Youth Friendly Services (YFS) and the Secondary Schools Health Clubs (SSHC) programmes received a boost, with the engagement of four NGOS in Regions 2, 4, 6 and 10, supported by UNICEF to provide services friendly toward youth, including those living with HIV. These NGOS and the YFS and SSHC programmes are working towards the goal of 60% of adolescent boys and girls in seven Regions who use youth friendly and gender sensitive community health services. Intense work was done during the year which saw the opening of six Health Clubs and at least four Youth-Friendly Services.

Future Workplan

- Facilitation of stronger results in this programme component through the mainstreaming of work on adolescent development and participation into government work, per discussion in section on Constraints and Lessons Learned above.
- Exploration and implementation of viable options for integrating issues of equity into work and results to be achieved with regard to adolescent development and participation
- Facilitation of greater focus on adolescent development and participation elements in the next Country Programme.

Title: *Cross-sectoral costs*

Purpose

The overall Country Programme is in line with all UNICEF Programme Policies and best practices and lessons learned in Programme implementation are recorded and put to use.

Main planned results for 2010:

- 1.) All related elements of UNICEF EPRP undertaken and completed as per UNICEF guidelines
- 2.) A Communication for Development (C4D) Strategy for the Country Programme thematic areas is developed and implemented to assist in achieving programme results
- 3.) The Integrated Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Reporting Plan is reviewed quarterly to ensure that knowledge is used for optimal programmatic management and that minimum standards as well as rules and regulations as per the PPP manual are incorporated into on-going planning, monitoring and evaluation activities
- 4.) Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Guyana is finalised to guide national planning, monitoring and evaluation of children's and women's rights
- 5.) The fundraising plan is finalised, contributing to all full funding for all programmes.

Resources Used

Total funds used from all sources: RR: \$356,000, OR: \$91,429, Total: \$447,429
List of donors: Thematic funds, Japanese NatCom

Result Achieved

(A) ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO PLANNED RESULTS

Arguably the single most important achievement recorded under this IR in 2010 was the successful conclusion of a series of studies (as recommended by UNICEF guidelines) and their integration with existing knowledge (including results of a new Demographic and Health Survey) to document a comprehensive Situation Assessment and Analysis (SitAn) of Children and Women in Guyana. While this represents a major advance in the availability of systematic knowledge on the situation of children and women in the country, the other very important contribution of the SitAn is that it identified critical knowledge gaps that need to be filled. Guyana is therefore now in a better position to design and implement a robust system for the systematic generation and use of high quality data to plan, implement, and monitor programmes and actions to advance the realisation of children's and women's rights in the country.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) was established and regularly updated during 2010.

Guyana did not experience a major emergency in 2010. Cutting across the three PCRs, the Country Office stands ready to provide Emergency material support for implementing partners in case of an emergency.

The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was established, in parallel with the 2010 AWP, and completion rate stands at 40%, which leaves ample room for improvement in 2011, but in itself is an impressive increase (24%) from the 16% completion rate reported in 2009.

The Country Office established a 2010-2011 fundraising strategy and individual fundraising products, such as project sheets and project proposals, and shared them with donors through appropriate channels. The 2010 Country Programme was funded 96% against the pledges made in the 2010 AWP.

Future Workplan

- Application of outcomes and insights gained in the SitAn for the development of the next Country Programme Cycle
- Maintenance of high-level Emergency Planning and Preparedness in a cross-sectoral way
- Maintain a high level of funding through closer and more targeted donor-liaison
- Improve knowledge management and IMEP implementation rate.

Title: *Social policy, monitoring, evaluation for child rights – Suriname*

Purpose

Social Policies, Child Protection systems, and Monitoring and Evaluation in Suriname are implemented for the realization of Child Rights by 2011 (Suriname Programme Component Result No. 1. S-PCR1)

Resources Used

Total funds utilised in 2010 from all sources: RR \$45,000; OR \$456,988; Total \$501,988

List of donors: UNICEF RR; Dutch National Committee; French National Committee; Belgium National Committee; Thematic: Young Child Survival; Basic Education and Gender; Policy, Advocacy, and Partnerships.

Results Achieved

(A) ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO PLANNED RESULTS

There are four strategic Intermediate Results (IRs) designed to jointly lead to achievement of this PCR by the end of 2011.

S-PCR1, IR 1.1: Key child-friendly and gender-sensitive legislation, policies and budgets are based on evidence and formulated in accordance with international human rights instruments, have a focus on equity, and are monitored through child-sensitive strategic data and information systems.

The National Action Plan for Children 2009-2013 was finally approved in 2010. The legal framework for childcare known as the Raamwet Kinder Opvang was finalised, and draft legislation to improve and expand ECD was completed. Work also advanced via the drafting and/or finalisation of legislation alternatives to child detention, establishment of a child 'ombudsbureau', and on domestic violence.

S-PCR1, IR 1.2: Enhanced protective environment for children in families, communities, schools, and institutions reducing children's exposure to all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation, especially in the disadvantaged interior.

Results achieved

Results achieved included outreach to all 329 primary schools (with 71,074 students) across the country with a child-friendly story book and audio CDs on the status of child rights in Suriname, and capacity building events for 75% (30) of Suriname's judges, public prosecutors, and lawyers on the implementation of the CRC. A baseline study published in 2010 showed that 78% of youth, 93% of adults and 98% of service providers think that child rights are important but only half of all adults and one-third of youths know about the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

S-PCR1, IR 1.3: At least 80% of school children and 50% of out-of-school children demonstrate behaviours which reduce risk and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence.

FUTURE WORKPLAN

- Completion of the MICS and a reprioritisation, in light of the SitAn, completed in 2010, of research to support child rights advocacy and policy-making in Suriname
- Support for the roll-out, implementation, and effectively monitoring of the National Action Plan for Children, including key elements such as setting up of an effective child 'ombudsbureau'
- Continuation of planned programme initiatives with stronger attention to equity issues, including in planned capacity building for key child rights duty-bearers (lawyers, judges, police officer, prison guards, teachers, social workers who interact with children in conflict with the law).
- The development of the next UNDAF, CPD, and C-CPAP (2011-2015) to support government's next Multi-Annual Development Plan (MOP).

Title: *Integrated area-based programme - Suriname*

Purpose

Equity is increased between coastal and interior populations through Integrated Area based programming for improved quality of health and education services by 2011 (Suriname Programme Component Result No. 2, S-PCR2)

Resources Used

Total resources used in 2010 from all sources: \$718,386

Special allocations: H1N1 funds (\$45,000) and RR for OR (\$142,471) for Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses

List of donors: Dutch National Committee; French National Committee; Belgium National Committee; Thematic: Young Child Survival, basic Education and Gender, Policy, Advocacy, and Partnerships; UNICEF RR for OR; UNICEF H1N1 Emergency funds.

Results Achieved

(A) ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO PLANNED RESULTS

There are two strategic Intermediate Results (IRs) designed to jointly lead to achievement of this PCR by the end of 2011.

S-PCR2, IR 2.1: At least 60% of all children and women in the interior have access to quality health care.

The first phase of a partnership with the Medical Mission to increase equity and promote improved health among all children and women in the interior went into effect in 2010. While the Medical Mission is strengthening its structures and capacity to work in interior communities to improve health status through outreach and prevention activities, South-South cooperation initiatives with Brazil, Suriname, and France were directed at increasing awareness (among parents in the eastern region) of the importance of childhood vaccinations. This has been identified as one of the catalysts for increased vaccination coverage for children in Suriname, from 83.9% in 2006 to 86.7% in 2009 for DPT3 and from 82.6% in 2006 to 88.9% in 2009 for MMR. UNICEF has supported translation and printing of WHO/UNICEF Director's guides, Trainers and Participants manuals for Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling, and the Ministry of Health was developing a strategy for nationwide implementation of proper feeding practices in line with the Global Strategy for IYCF by end of 2010.

S-PCR1, IR 2.2: At least 80% of all children in the interior aged four to 11 have access to quality education

To reach IR2.2 UNICEF, together with VVOB, supported the Ministry of Education in Suriname to strengthen the capacities of primary school teachers and district administrators in the implementation of child-friendly practices in schools. By the end of 2010, all teachers at 100% (329) of the country's primary schools with 71,074 students had received in-depth, in-service training to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency. In addition, special consideration and guidance is now being provided to school teams in the interior to strengthen the capacity of non-qualified teachers on how to apply the Child Friendly Education principles in classrooms. While the results of the teacher training will be measured when data is available from the 2010-2011 school year, efforts to address low access rates in the first grade of primary education in the Maroni river basin are already showing positive results. Preliminary data from two schools show that the UNICEF-supported safe school transportation project has doubled the number of six-year-olds enrolled.

FUTURE WORK PLAN

- Continue support for programmes designed to improve the situation of children and women in the disadvantaged interior, especially the next steps of

the Primary Health Care project in the interior, with PAHO and Medical Mission. Work in this regard will include key operational frameworks such as a Parenting Education programme, a WASH strategy for the interior, and a child growth and development monitoring tool.

- Focus on innovative ways to address disparities and inequities e.g., through distance education, using alternative ICT-based communication options, including as part of the CPD preparation exercise in 2010.

4 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure

The regularity of meetings of the Country Office Management, CMT (the chapeau of the offices' governance structure) was identified as an area for improvement in the CO's 2009 report and was achieved in 2010, with full documentation of decisions and agreed action points and follow-up to ensure their completion. The planned 12 meetings for 2010 were held, and all agreed actions were followed-up. Membership in statutory committees in the office was revised in 2010 and efforts were intensified to use computer-based virtual work systems to ensure timeliness of meetings as a way of combating difficulties of getting meeting quorums in this relatively small office, where travel and engagements outside the offices sometimes delayed the successful convening of meetings making it difficult for committees to execute their functions. Where relevant, as with the appointment process, groups such as the Selection Advisory Panel were disbanded and/or reconstituted accordance with new UNICEF rules and regulations e.g., a new Central Review Body replaces the SAP.

CMT minutes and status of agreed action points are routinely shared with all staff members, irrespective of CMT membership, to promote transparency across the office. Nevertheless, and in addition, a monthly all-staff meeting (with offices outside Guyana participating via conference phone calls) is held to share information from the CMT or the Regional Office or Headquarters, assess and map out actions to address staff issues, and generate feedback to, and inputs for, the CMT in a mutually reinforcing bilateral CMT/All-Staff dialogue and engagement.

The donor report tracking and quality assurance introduced in 2009 yielded impressive results in 2010. The timeliness of donor report submission improved from 50% in 2009 to 100% in 2010. Feedback from donors (e.g., from the Dutch NatCom) explicitly commending the report they received, indicating that there was also an improvement in the quality of donor reports.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management

The first line of action in the Offices' strategic approach to risk management is the monthly review of UNICEF's Country Office management indicators, to proactively take action to prevent and mitigate risks. The CMT risk management system is complemented by a similar one for programmes. The system for operations is fully integrated into the CMT process.

Both the Suriname and Guyana offices have developed an ERM profile and library to mitigate and avert effects of emergencies on the achievement of planned results. Suriname's risk and control library and risk profile were submitted to TACRO at the end of 2010. In Guyana, following global policy, migration of the EPR and the updated BCP to the EWEA Intranet site was successfully completed including key action documents. The

ERM plan was augmented through training of focal persons in each office to address the identified need for realistic budgetary forecasting, planning, and monitoring.

The capacity to address several types of risks was addressed by the Guyana and Suriname Country Offices during the year, and the output of that process fed into critical controls to address key risks such as procurement of IT for effective data storage and backup.

In Suriname, actions were undertaken to strengthen links between UN agencies and the NCCR, with UNICEF becoming a member of the group and action starting on making work of the group child- and gender-sensitive. In Guyana, UNICEF is on the National Emergency Operations Centre roster and is an active participant in exercises facilitated by the Civil Defence Commission, which further enables the CO to advocate for the Core Commitments for Children in emergencies with partners.

Collectively, these arrangements place UNICEF in Guyana and Suriname in a situation for timely response to changes in internal and external operating environment and support government emergency response for which critical elements are incorporated in the Annual Workplans for UNICEF-supported programmes as required by corporate guidelines.

4.1.3 Evaluation

There is evidence of progress in the Offices' approach to planning for and undertaking of evaluations, though no major evaluation was undertaken in 2010. Principally as a result of having more realistic plans, completion of actions in the IMEP rose from just 16% in 2009 to 40% in 2010. Action to revise the plan as part of the mid-year review exercise would have resulted in better performance. Effective use of the mid-year review process to re-strategise and revise work plans in line with emergent situations within any given year is an area for improvement.

While M&E was significantly enhanced in Suriname in 2010 through a UN and partner RBM training and development of M&E Plan for C-CPAP, the evaluation function is still weak. Only one evaluation was planned in 2010, examining 'Child Helpline' (English version under review). The paucity of national evaluation partners in both countries has also made it difficult to undertake quality evaluations. It is therefore important in both countries to build local capacity for evaluations. In Suriname the IMEP was 81% completed in 2010, a significant improvement over 48% in 2009.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication

- IT security and standardisation

There were no major challenges related to ICT Security in the three offices covered in this section of the report; password policies and standards were maintained and adhered to by all users.

- Hardware:

Given the planned deployment of Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010 in 2011, an assessment of computers and laptops was completed and those that do not meet the minimum recommended specifications are being replaced. In Suriname, Lenovo x201 laptops and 3 HP desktops were purchased for this reason, as was a new UPS for the server.

- ProMS/Remote Access:

The ProMS 8.5 software was successfully upgraded to version 9.1 to accommodate changes to new PCR/IR structure and prepare the office for the roll-out of VISION in 2011. Although Suriname Office continues to have remote access to the Barbados Database, the connection is still slow due to the inadequate internet connection available. The final solution to this problem and direct access to UNICEF's programme management system is expected to be undertaken as part of the roll out of VISION across the organisation in 2011.

- Global Connectivity (VSAT/SITA):
- The VSAT project has been deemed no longer feasible by the Regional Chief of IT. The Guyana Office is still currently connected via SITA 256/128 Kbps connection to UNICEF's private network. However, SITA is unable to provide the bandwidth required for SAP/VISION and Microsoft Exchange/Outlook projects. Therefore, this connection will be replaced by a 1Mbps dedicated connection from the Local ISP.
- The Suriname Office is currently connected via a 512 Kbps connection to UNICEF's private network and will continue to be the connection speed for this office for SAP/VISION after approval from Regional Office.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship

4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations

Improvements in the timeliness and quality of donor reports in 2010 were reported in Section 4.1. Monitoring mechanisms in place ensured full utilisation of donor funds before expiration of PBAs.

Due to the importance of the Dutch, French, and Belgian UNICEF National Committees to funding of UNICEF-supported programmes in Suriname, the Chief of the Field Office undertook an information and advocacy visit to NatCom headquarters in 2010. Additional funds were received from the Dutch National Committee for improved WASH in isolated communities in the interior. In collaboration with UNICEF's Innovations Unit, a proposal for the use of innovative technologies to reach isolated and marginalised children in remote areas was developed by UNICEF in Suriname and efforts are being made to secure funding from National Committee sources for implementation. In Guyana, a joint UNCT initiative to better position UN agencies as a country team vis-à-vis the donors (who tend to treat the country as part of a regional approach) started within the year with plans for follow-up in 2011.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets

By end of 2010, tracking and quality assurance mechanisms in place ensured there were no outstanding or pending-liquidation cash transfers for programme implementation in the over nine-month category. A planned 2010 audit of Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago was postponed to 2011 and the Regional Office in Panama was attempting to determine a suitable time in 2011 for the exercise.

4.2.3 Supply

Supplies accounted for 12% and 11% in Guyana and Suriname, respectively, of total programme funds utilisation in 2010. Timely delivery was facilitated by better planning and management of supply elements of programme work including through regular updates of the supplier database. There was a good supply plan in Suriname; all major supplies purchased were based on the supply plan and all orders went out before the deadline. The Guyana programme made maximum use of local market developments and local procurement and UNICEF provided logistical support for the procurement and transport of 19,800 doses of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines under the current round of GAVI funds for Guyana and a multilateral global agreement between GAVI, WHO and

UNICEF. Overall, the value of programme supplies for 2010 was US\$215,865.27 in Suriname and US\$314,928 in Guyana during 2010.

Following inquiries from Guyana, the ASK (Achieving Strategic Knowledge) unit in Headquarters provided clarification indicating that under the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer among UN agencies, it is possible for implementing partners to procure supplies for programme implementation provided the supplies are clearly stated in the AWP and that they employ standard procurement procedures. The CMT adopted this procedure and AWP in 2011 will need to reflect this in order to re-engineer the role of the supply section towards a stronger focus on risk-control and mitigation of purchases done by partners under HACT.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity

The Guyana and Suriname Offices built on this framework during the year and revised the CPMP to better align human resources with organisational goals and targets. A new Emergency Specialist post was created and filled by the end of the year, while reporting lines for the Communication for Development Officer and front office reception were changed from the Representative's Office to the Deputy Representative and Operations Unit respectively, to align supervisory responsibilities with the realities of day-to-day work within the system.

The 2009 COAR noted challenges in the morale of staff members as indicated by the results of UNICEF's 2008 and 2009 Staff Surveys and anticipated strategic action in 2010 to address the issue. Following review of the situation by the CMT, Staff Association and the office's leadership a retreat with participation from staff members from all three offices (at the time) took place in March 2010. The retreat further reviewed the challenges and mapped out strategic action points to address staff morale issues under the leadership of the Chair and Executive Members of the Staff Association. While follow-up/implementation actions and expected results were not as prolific as anticipated, a follow-up retreat October 2010 reviewed progress, noted the need for acceleration of action under the leadership of Staff Association and hatched a "dream-team" concept to serve as a catalytic framework and drive more rapid achievement of results on staff morale. The Latin America and Caribbean Region Staff Association indicates that there was already some turnaround and movement in the positive direction by the end of the year with regard to staff morale.

An area for improvement for UNICEF Guyana and Suriname is in the development and execution of its Annual Staff Learning and Development Plan (under which 33% of activities were completed in 2010 Stronger alignment of the office training plan with resources available is needed in this area.

In Suriname, UNICEF was in 100% compliance with the 10 UN Cares minimum standards on HIV in the workplace, including a comprehensive training programme attended by ten of its eleven staff members in December 2010.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement

The increased use of computer-based virtual networking mentioned in section 4.1 of this report has, as noted, reduced delayed decision-making by Committees as a result of the inability to get quorums that used to be attributable to hold face-to-face meetings. Implementation of the new global guidelines on travel streamlined and reduced duplications in the process and has had an impact on UNICEF's efficiency in that area.

In Suriname, programme outreach to the Hinterland, one of the most disadvantaged areas in the country was embedded in necessary travel to collect data for the MICS, Child rights advocacy and HIV prevention.

If this strategy were not adopted, separate human and financial resources over and above what was used for the MICS would have had to be devoted, in any case, to such outreach and advocacy. Thus, this approach helped to reduce operating cost and is something to be explored for wider impact both in Suriname and in Guyana.

4.4.2 Changes in AMP

In 2010, the AMP became better aligned with office functions. as established in UNICEF's Biennial Support Budget and staff performance management, and were based directly on programme and management priorities established in the AMP – thus eliminating the occasional lack of clarity about the role of individual staff members in relation to the overall goals and objectives of the office and UNICEF's strategic priorities. The CPMP was revised and updated to promote better utilisation of resources, and will serve as the framework for the 2011 AMP, the last one for the current programme cycle.

5 STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:

1. *Essential Commodity Assessment*
2. *Communication For development (C4D) Assessment*
3. *Mapping of Partners And Their Activities*
4. *Mapping of Research Capacity in and Accessible to Guyana*
5. *Kwetsbare Kinderen (Vulnerable Children Study)*
6. *Don't Forget Our Children's Rights: Een onderzoek naar de kennis en beleving van Kinderrechten in Suriname (A survey of knowledge and attitudes to children's rights in Suriname Kwetsbare Kinderen (Vulnerable Children Study)*
7. *Evaluation of Child Help Line*
8. *Vulnerability Analysis*
9. *Legislative Reform Analysis*
10. *Social Budgeting Analysis*
11. *Situation Assessment and Analysis of Children's Rights in Suriname*
12. *UNGASS Suriname Country Report 2010*
13. *Policy And Institutional Analysis*

5.2 List of Other Publications

1. *Children's Artwork posters: Clean and Safe Environment: Eating nutritious food and cleaning water and Right to good quality Education*
2. *Youth Access - National Youth Newsletters*

6 SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

UNICEF designed a study tour to support technical and infrastructural elements of the establishment of the Family Court in neighbouring Trinidad. This visit will help Guyana to establish its own Family Court. UNICEF will also provide resources to the Guyanese government in relation to technical and infrastructural support to establish the Family Court.

Within the framework of CARICOM's minimum standards in Early Childhood Development, UNICEF has facilitated a partnership between the Open University in Trinidad and the University of Guyana to build the capacity of trainers in the country.

UNICEF Suriname supported a PMTCT cooperation agreement between Suriname and Belize, and has included exchange visits by government officials to observe both public and private sector health facilities providing services for the prevention of vertical transmission of HIV. This has strengthened knowledge and understanding in key areas such as registration and data collection.

A fact-finding mission on progressive WASH practices of a group of NGOs was facilitated by UNICEF Suriname to French Guyana as part of the on-going WASH programme in the interior.

The Early Childhood Development programme facilitated a study tour and exchange by government authorities between Suriname and Guyana to observe and learn about experiences with child-friendly schools.