

ANNUAL REPORT

for Nepal - 2010



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UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT for Nepal-2010

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





Achievements

The Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) national framework is before the Cabinet and will provide clear policy and guidance for the allocation and use of government funding to children and women at district, municipal and village levels.

The Ministry of Education, supported by UNICEF and other stakeholders, has endorsed the National Framework on Child-Friendly Schools and Minimum Standards for Quality Education.

The National Health Sector Plan II (2010-2015) is focused on achieving health-related MDGs with equity including a strong focus on nutrition, essential care services, gender and social inclusion as a result of evidence-based advocacy by UNICEF and other Development Partners.

Nepal won USD 57.3 million for a five-year period from Round 10 of the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. UNICEF's assistance ensured the proposal had specific foci on the Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission, Children Affected by HIV and AIDS, and Most At Risk Adolescents.



Shortfalls

Delay in amending the Education Act has slowed implementation of the School Sector Reform Plan (launched in 2009) to improve education access and quality as well as institutional performance accountability. Continued delay may jeopardize further funding from Development Partners. There has also been slow progress in implementing a proposed National Assessment of Student Achievement to monitor student learning in key subjects and grades against international standards.

Local government bodies (Village Development Committees and District Development Committees) have been without elected people's representatives for the last eight consecutive years. Continued absence of elected leadership weakens local democratic functions and increases fiduciary risks.

Partnerships

Key governmental and development partners working in the Mid- and Far-Western Region have agreed upon a joint approach for water, sanitation and hygiene under the slogan 'Aligning for Action to Make Diarrhoea Epidemics History'.

Parliamentarians joined civil society to advocate for MDGs 4 and 5, resulting in Parliament directing the Ministry of Health and Population to formulate the Immunization Act and provide sustainable immunization financing.

UNICEF and Save the Children signed an MOU, which has already demonstrated strengthened partnership in education, newborn care and development of child protection systems. The year 2011 will see a joint focus on reaching the hardest-to-reach children.



2 COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN





The past year saw continued political uncertainty with a caretaker government in place. The 28th May deadline for the promulgation of the new constitution was postponed for one year. The 2010/11 Budget was finally passed in mid-November. Giving continuity to ongoing programmes, the budget includes investment in infrastructure, poverty alleviation, social security including the child grant, women's empowerment, local development, health, drinking water and sanitation, and education, which has the largest slice at NRs 57 billion. Women directly benefit from 18% of the budgeted expenditure.

During January–February 2010, 2,394 disqualified Maoist army personnel were discharged (including 1,843 minors) from cantonments by the UN Country Team and UNMIN. UNICEF assisted minors and, with UNFPA, provided special assistance to female combatants. A total of 1,743 discharges (83% minors) were referred for rehabilitation packages including vocational training and micro-enterprises (UNDP), education (UNICEF), and health training (UNFPA). UNICEF also provided psychosocial support and engaged minors in community-based peace-building activities to support their social reintegration.

UNICEF's 2009 study *Child Poverty and Disparities in Nepal* showed that children are disproportionately poor: while the national poverty incidence was 31% in 2003/04, it was 36% for children. When using the Bristol Child Deprivation Index, 69% of children are severely deprived of at least one of seven basic necessities, with malnutrition and sanitation being the most-worrying indicators.

An assessment of the impact of seasonal factors on school attendance in the Karnali Zone found that approximately 83 school-days are lost each year through absences

linked to seasonal events. Students most likely to be absent are from poor families and households engaged in agriculture as well as Dalits, girls, and children living far from school.

According to *Nepal MDGs Progress Report 2010*, Nepal is on track for most targets: 12 are considered likely or potentially likely, three are unlikely and three lack sufficient data to make an informed judgment. However, aggregate findings should be viewed with caution, given the huge structural disparities across ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, geography and gender. Since 2005, poverty (25.4%) decreased by 5.5 percentage points. Food security improved, but 22.5% of the population are still undernourished. Discriminatory behaviours hamper access to nutritious food for children and women. The rate of underweight children (38.6%) shows little decline. Targets for net enrolment rate in primary education (93.7%, with a gender gap reduced to 2.1%) and literacy rate among 15–24-year-olds (86.5%) could be met, but greater effort is needed for retention beyond Grade 5 (77.9%). HIV/AIDS estimations show stabilization, with an HIV prevalence rate of 0.39% in 2009. Some 80% of households use an improved drinking-water source, exceeding the target of 73%; however, supply is inadequate. Only 43% of households have access to an improved sanitation facility. According to the 2006 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, infant and under-five mortality rates have declined from 64 and 91 per 1,000 live births, respectively (2001) to 48 and 61 per 1,000 live births in 2006. National Maternal Mortality Rate dropped from 415 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 281 per 100,000 live births in 2005; however, disparities across income groups and among castes/ethnicities are significant, ranging from a low of 105 to a high of 318 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. The *Investment Case Study*, showing the disparities in infant, neonatal and under-five mortality rates between the most deprived and other groups, makes the case for targeted investment to achieve MDGs 4 and 5.





3 COUNTRY PROGRAMME ANALYSIS & RESULT





3.1 COUNTRY PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

3.1.1 Country Programme Analysis Overview

Please refer to the following sections.

3.1.2 Programme Strategy

3.1.2.1 Capacity Development

Disadvantaged Group (DAG) mapping at district and community levels identifies the most disadvantaged Village Development Committees (VDCs), clusters and households, and is widely accepted for targeting. In 23 UNICEF-focus districts, stakeholders and frontline workers are capacitated to facilitate DAG mapping.

Community Action Processes are functional in 387 VDCs of 23 districts and three municipalities. Apart from assessing situations, analysing issues and taking actions/ solving problems individually and/or collectively, community organizations also access resources from the government's VDC block grant (10% for children, 10% for women and 15% for disadvantaged/Janajati).

Five districts of Central Western and Eastern Regions (Kavre, Chitwan, Kaski, Tanahun and Sunsari) have achieved a Human Development Index of over 0.5. A participatory, consultative process was conducted at community, VDC, district and national levels to develop a strategy for mainstreaming and aligning children's and women's programmes within local government and sectoral line agency plans from January 2011. District

partners developed medium- and long-term strategic plans, focusing on capacity-building of human resources, directives and guidelines for sustained community mobilization, enhanced financial management, and improved information management systems. Discussions are evolving around alignment of UNICEF's decentralized action for children and women (DACAW) strategy with that of the government's Local Governance and Community Development Programme, a multi-donor/multi-sectoral programme on decentralization.

Six districts piloted Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG), and district and VDC stakeholders were trained. CFLG supports local governments to produce local development and investment plans, a status report and a code of conduct, as four gifts for children. The Ministry of Local Development plans to expand CFLG to all districts.

To promote peace, human rights and a civic spirit among children, UNICEF, in collaboration with Save the Children, engaged 25 districts partners to support district child clubs in organizing 10-day peace camps for children aged 13–18 years. Trained children conduct weekly sessions at peace camps aimed at feeling, learning and understanding the value and importance of peace, human rights and civic education.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy

The Constituent Assembly (CA) Parliamentary Forum for Child Rights has actively promoted children's issues with support from UNICEF and partners, in particular on outstanding issues of concern in the drafting of the new Constitution, such as draft provisions on citizenship that contravene international standards.

CA members have also focused on legislation and necessary budgetary provisions related to MDGs 4 and 5, and have raised visibility on equity issues in Terai schools resulting in the establishment of a special Terai Desk in the Ministry of Education.

In order to bridge the 'opportunity' gap being faced by Muslim children, UNICEF has stepped up its support to the Madrassa Management Council and the Government to mainstream the Madrassa curriculum into the government's education system.

The new Child Grant introduced in the Karnali zone reached 99 percent of the target group in the first round, following UNICEF support for a complementary nutrition awareness and catch up birth registration programme that resulted in a four-fold increase in birth registration.

In all, 4008 disqualified combatants (including 2,973 verified minors) were released as per the action plan signed between the UCPN-Maoist, the Government and the UN.

A multi-partner push, with support from the National Planning Commission, helped to move nutrition from being a purely health issue to a multi-sectoral development issue. Key ministries now have nutrition focal officers. The Nepal Child Poverty and Disparities study, launched in November, also contributed to policy attention on nutrition and sanitation priorities.

UNICEF with other partners supported the Government's application for the Global Fund Round Ten and assisted in leveraging US\$ 57.3 million for its HIV& AIDS programme. This is the first time that significant funding has been leveraged for children affected by HIV and AIDS and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Nepal.

UNICEF and its partners launched a major initiative to 'Align for Action to Make Diarrhoea Epidemics History', especially in the diarrhoea-prone districts of the country.

The Mine Action Section, established in the Ministry of Peace & Reconstruction in 2010, has now assumed the lead in Mine Action activities taking over from the UN Mine Action Team.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships

This year UNICEF and Save the Children signed a partnership MOU. A joint review demonstrated strengthened partnership in education, newborn care and development of child protection systems; and identified areas of weakness in operationalizing the MOU. Further discussions planned for January 2011 will include an exchange of knowledge on accessing the hardest-to-reach children.

Partnership with World Education and other NGOs on Schools as Zones of Peace calls for political leaders and opposition groups to ensure that children do not miss school as a result of conflict or political demonstrations. UNICEF partnered with WHO and Rotary International to conduct an MDG 4 Countdown and sustainable immunization financing analysis. Universal Access for Children Affected by AIDS in Nepal (UCAAN), the partnership forum for HIV that comprises civil society, media and private companies, reached 49 members advocating for the rights of children affected by AIDS. Extensive partnerships on child protection and social policy as well as child participation have focused on development of child protection systems, ensuring strategic engagement with parliamentarians and capacity-building/participation of children.

UNICEF chairs groups on education and social protection as well as a special group on nutrition formed to broaden cross-sectoral partnership beyond health. With USAID and World Bank, UNICEF supported the Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis. Partnership with the National Health Education, Information and Communication Centre was revitalized to promote hand-washing with soap. A public-private partnership for hand-washing with soap has been promoted to innovate and reach rural areas. UNICEF, WHO and UNAIDS supported the National Centre for AIDS and STD Control for the Round 10 Global Fund application to scale up the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission and children affected by AIDS programmes.

UN Joint Programmes have consolidated partnerships in local governance, gender-based violence, and monitoring and rehabilitation of children associated with armed conflict. Specific meetings with UNFPA developed ideas to improve collaboration, and those with WFP improved monitoring of food security, building on education impact monitoring of the global economic crisis and the Rapid Impact and Vulnerability Analysis Fund initiative.

3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management

In collaboration with World Food Programme's Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (VAM) system, the education programme, on a quarterly basis, has been monitoring and investigating the impact of the food, fuel and financial crises on children's access to education, particularly for disadvantaged children. Building on this collaboration, UNICEF is in the process of establishing a real-time monitoring system using VAM to track the impact of seasonal and external shocks and programme interventions on the most disadvantaged children. UNICEF's Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (4) is being completed in the most disadvantaged Mid- and Far-Western regions with sub-national disaggregation, and is expected to provide new data for further disparity and equity analyses in early 2011.

Following the recommendation of the Country Programme Mid-Term Review in 2009, a new knowledge management strategy for UNICEF Nepal is being developed. Critical areas include: developing staff capacity and accountability for knowledge generation and management; leveraging; and innovation. The strategy will address UNICEF's internal capacity and accountability as well as links with existing knowledge management systems within the UN and government. The strategy will also suggest strengthening the governance mechanism of other knowledge products.

UNICEF Nepal contributed to establishment of the District Poverty Monitoring and Analysis System by using DevInfo to facilitate access to information related to women and children at sub-national levels. NepalInfo will become web-based and managed by the Central Bureau of Statistics in early 2011, increasing its utility as well as improving access to it. Internally, the Nepal Document Repository database has been created in Lotus Notes to store and provide all staff with easily searchable access to knowledge generated from studies, surveys and evaluations. UNICEF Nepal's Travel Report Database has been in use since 2009 to share knowledge and learning from field monitoring and ensure follow-up. All publications are made available through UNICEF Nepal's website, along with the voices of youth. UNICEF publications are also shared through the UN Information Centre websites.

3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development

UNICEF supported the government to develop a communication strategy for maternal and newborn health, comprising safe motherhood, newborn health, Community-Based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, immunization and nutrition. Social mobilization and communication plans were developed and implemented for National Immunization Days, Infant and Young Child Feeding, hand-washing, newborn care, and mine risk education. UNICEF partnered with faith-based leaders on a Day of Prayer and Action for Children to promote exclusive breastfeeding for infants as well as young child survival. Technical support was provided to the Ministry of Local Development and the Department of Education to develop a communication for development plan for the Local Governance and Community Development Programme and the School Sector Reform Plan, respectively.

Sections and government counterparts were supported to plan, develop and disseminate behaviour change communication materials including on pneumonia, hand-washing, polio and sanitation, breastfeeding, HIV, zinc and the child grant. Technical support also included the development of communication strategies for mainstreaming Decentralized Action for Children and Women districts and for the United Nations Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Programme for discharged Maoist army personnel.

Fifty child club members were trained as facilitators to initiate dialogue within their groups and families on sensitive issues and harmful practices. Communication for development plans and capacity-building interventions for 'Aligning for Action to Make Diarrhoea Epidemics History' and 'Comprehensive and Accelerated Sanitation and Hygiene' were supported, with 14 UNICEF staff members, three government officials and 25 village facilitators from Mid- and Far-Western Region trained on planning approaches and implementation processes.

The Community Based School Education Programme on Avian and Pandemic Influenza was expanded to three more districts. It aims to disseminate key messages through school children to family and community levels. Child-friendly materials such as illustrated comic books, songs, video clips and games were used to educate children. School-level activities were complemented by peer-led outreach, street dramas and mass media interventions.

A significant contribution was made to containment of bird flu outbreaks in two districts through the communication response. Similarly, UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial support to prevent pandemic influenza A H1N1.



3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Taking advantage of UNICEF's new emphasis on achieving MDGs with equity, together with changes in the agency's results-based planning approach (Programme Component and Intermediate Results, Rolling Work Plans) and the extension of the Nepal Programme Action Plan to 2012, the Country Office recalibrated its human rights-based results. The modified results focus on further reducing disparities and addressing issues affecting disadvantaged groups, particularly adolescent girls. The recalibration was informed by: recommendations from the 2009 Mid-Term Review, the review of the Decentralized Action for Children and Women Strategy, the National Child Poverty and Disparities Study (2009), Disadvantaged Group Mapping, and other data sources together with a wide range of consultations with Child Clubs, Village Development Committees, Paralegal Committees, Mother's Group, Women's Organizations, District Development Committees, NGOs, Development Partners, and National Ministries and Departments. Do No Harm (Conflict Sensitive) Programming principles were incorporated within Education and Child Protection work planning with expansion to other programmes planned for 2011.

A district level, UNICEF continued its technical support to the Ministry of Local Development to expand disadvantaged group mapping and continued to assist Development Committees and Municipalities in

UNICEF-supported districts to ensure the participation of children and young people in development planning. Emphasis was given to the targeting of government block grant allocations to children and women in the most disadvantaged Village Development Committees. A Peace and Human Rights and Civic Education package was developed with Save the Children; 690 child club facilitators were trained and are using mediation and communication skills related to harmful community practices. UNICEF continued to provide a complementary programme of technical assistance, capacity-building, birth registration and nutrition awareness to ensure the effective introduction of the child grant in the Karnali zone.

At national level, UNICEF in collaboration with other partners continued to support the development of the national framework on children's and young people's participation under the leadership of the National Planning Commission. UNICEF in partnership with the Consortium of Organizations working with Child Clubs/ Child Participation and the national coalition for Children as Zones of Peace continued to advocate for child rights during the drafting of the new constitution.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

Nepal has initiated follow-up actions to the Global Gender Evaluation and the Regional Gender Assessment. The 2010 Nepal Gender Action Plan, aligned with the global template, was endorsed by the Country Management Team and progressively implemented. The scope of the Office Gender Team was expanded to include social inclusion issues (the Team is now the Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Team). Progress includes office-wide orientation on the new gender policy, capacity-building (with UNICEF staff and district counterparts) in application of the Gender Equality Marker (GEM) in the refinement of Programme Intermediate Results for 2011-2012, and development of the Adolescent Girl Strategy. Intermediate Results and indicators at national and regional level for all programmes now better reflect gender equality, adolescent girls and social inclusion issues. Experience from this consultation process will feed into a simple guide that will capture lessons learnt and provide specific recommendations to apply the GEM at Country Office level.

A wide range of consultations with Child Clubs (boys and girls), Village Development Committees, Paralegal Committees, Mother's Group, Women's Organizations, District Development Committees, NGOs, Development Partners, and National Ministries and Departments, including a National Consultation with Adolescent Girls has informed the remaining 24 months of UNICEF programming (2011-2012).

As a key member of the UN Gender Theme Group and a core task force member of the Global Gender Action Learning Project, UNICEF contributed inputs on the girl child to the UNCT joint reporting on CEDAW and to achievements for the Global Gender Action Learning Initiative. A major achievement has been the development of the 'Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Human Rights (GESIHR)' conceptual framework for the UN. This tool, approved by the UN Country Team, provides common understanding among UN agencies. Other achievements include a mapping exercise of the women's movement in Nepal and the role of the UN; implementation of the joint activity on Gender-based Violence (GBV); and support to the Prime Minister's campaign and national action plan on GBV.



3.2 Programme Components

3.2.1 Decentralized action for women and children

Resources Used

In US Dollars

	Planned/Approved (CPD)	Funded/Allocated (AWP)	Actual Expenditure
RR	144,000	1,242,541	1,113,049
OR	330,000	1,407,238	1,308,197
ORE	—	—	—
Others	—	—	—
TOTAL	474,000	2,649,779	2,421,246

Note: This does not include project support costs. Funded/allocated and actual expenditure are as of 19 December 2010.

Result Achieved

a) Community mobilization and improved local government capacities: The Community Action Process, where UNICEF's Decentralized Action for Children and Women (DACAW) strategy most closely interacts with families and communities, expanded its coverage to 63% of the most disadvantaged Village Development Committees in 14 DACAW districts, against a target of 80%. Coverage reached 55% (target 50%) in the remaining nine districts, with a focus on the most disadvantaged groups. Some 4,263 school and community Child Clubs (with 47% girls and 14% children from disadvantaged communities) were strengthened. Representation of women from community organizations in local administrative committees was also promoted, with 16% representation in Health Facility Management Committees and 15% in School Management Committees/Parent-Teacher Associations.

b) Mainstreaming (graduating) in five DACAW districts: Under the strategic guidance of the Ministry of Local Development, the National Association of VDCs in Nepal and regional consultants, a series of intensive consultations were held in the five districts. These consultations focused on the progressive withdrawal of UNICEF's direct support and resulted in greater ownership and accountability among local bodies and

stakeholders to mainstream child rights issues. Examples include support for salaries of frontline workers and commitments to fund programmes from local government rather than UNICEF resources.

c) Highlights of policy achievements: Policy advocacy and influence has resulted in: (i) an increase of the specific allocation for children from 5% to 10% in the government's blended block grant; and (ii) provision for children's participation in the Integrated Planning Committee, the main decision-making body for resource planning at the Village Development Committee (VDC) level. Advocacy has led to targeted VDCs allocating between 13% and 39% for activities related to children and women. These outcomes also demonstrate that women and children in the focus districts are now able to successfully demand their share of resources.

The most significant developments under Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) initiative (so far launched in 11 districts/municipalities) include endorsement of the national framework and its operational guideline, and the development of a trainers' manual and training of 32 national trainers. This ensures clear policy and implementation guidance on a sustained basis at district, municipal and VDC levels. Inspired by a study visit to Brazil this year, the Ministry of Local Development plans to adapt and pilot some participatory assessment tools in 2011. CFLG was also selected to be presented at the Beijing Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Child Rights.

The incorporation of DACAW experiences and approaches in the government's Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP) demonstrates the impact of UNICEF's policy advocacy and the Ministry of Local Development's ownership of women's and children's issues. An important development is the mainstreaming of child right issues in the LGCDP gender and social inclusion policy, operational guidelines, public communication materials, social mobilization curriculum, and monitoring and evaluation framework.

Capacity limitations in local governance, the absence of VDC Secretaries and child rights partners, and political instability have constrained results. Continued extra effort is required to advocate on children and social inclusion issues.

UNICEF experience in 'graduating' from five districts showed the importance of engaging political parties, line agencies and women's and children's groups in local planning.

The Ministry of Local Development is the key partner for DACAW. Strong partnership continues with the NGOs World Vision and Inlogus for taking CFLG forward. A new partnership was established with the Western Upland Poverty Alleviation Project in nine Mid- and Far-Western districts. UNICEF partners with other UN agencies under the UN Joint Programme support to LGCDP.

Future Workplan

d) DACAW's intended outcomes have been reformulated to focus on Child-Friendly Governance at both district and national level and alignment with LGCDP. Key actions include:

- *Technical support for finalizing national framework, guidelines and training modules on CFLG:* Support will be provided for social mobilization and capacity-building of community organizations and child clubs. CFLG will be expanded in all 23 DACAW districts and participatory monitoring tools will be adapted and piloted. Limited support will be provided in the five graduating districts.
- *Support for national governance:* (i) influence LGCDP policy documents and guidelines in favour of children, women and the disadvantaged; (ii) roll out CFLG in LGCDP districts; (iii) align DACAW processes and structures with LGCDP 'social mobilization' and local planning/governance; and (iv) support review and revision of Disadvantaged Group mapping.



3.2.2 Policy, Advocacy and Partnership

Purpose

The policy advocacy and partnership programme aims to ensure that children, particularly those from poor and marginalized groups, increasingly benefit from improved legislation and policies that are evidence-based and are influenced by the voices of children and young people. The programme also aims to increase the capacity of parents, communities, service providers, policy-makers, young people, and the media to reinforce positive behaviours, and to advocate for child rights promotion, involving children as rights promoters. The programme consists of three projects: (i) social policy and child participation; (ii) planning, monitoring and evaluation; and (iii) communication and advocacy for development. It also works closely with other programmes engaged in sectoral policy development.

Main results planned for 2010: (i) National policies and plans are reviewed and updated in a participatory way and based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Concluding Observations; (ii) there is improved knowledge-generating capacity and systems among key partners and an improved knowledge bank with easy access to disaggregated information on children and women; (iii) there is increased knowledge, awareness and capacity for child rights promotion among parents, policy-makers, the media and the public, including using children as rights promoters; (iv) participation of children and young people in awareness raising and visibility events to influence national policy dialogue; (v) increased knowledge and awareness of children, parents, media and policy makers to influence positive behaviour changes in relation to the CRC through support to sectoral country programmes; (vi) capacity of national and local print and electronic media enhanced to better understand and report on issues relating to women, children, young people and disadvantaged communities.

Resources Used

In US Dollars

	Planned/Approved (CPD)	Funded/Allocated (AWP)	Actual Expenditure
RR	274,000	560,435	267,703
OR	190,000	935,014	823,791
ORE	—	23,426	19,309
Others	—	—	—
TOTAL	464,000	1,518,874	1,110,803

Note: This does not include project support costs. Funded/allocated and actual expenditure are as of 19 December 2010.

Results Achieved

a) Results include a new child grant for children aged 0–5 years in five districts combined with a four-fold increase in birth registration. UNICEF continues to chair the Social Protection Task Team, supporting the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee on Social Protection which has drafted a national framework. The “Child Poverty and Disparities Study” was finalized and launched jointly with the UNDP Human Development Report. UNICEF reviewed papers by committees drafting the constitution and provided technical inputs. The Constituent Assembly Child Rights Forum was established and regularly raises children’s issues in constitution-drafting and legislative deliberations. UNICEF Nepal featured in the UNICEF Guide to Working with Parliaments, the European Commission’s toolkit on child rights and other global publications.

In children’s and young people’s participation, a Peace and Human Rights and Civic Education package was developed with Save the Children; 690 child club facilitators were trained and are using mediation and communication skills related to harmful community practices. Child rights were also promoted through the youth-targeted radio programme “Chatting with my best friend” (acronym in Nepali “SSMK”). A toll-free SMS service was initiated for young people to discuss youth issues linked to SSMK broadcasts and UNICEF’s website. In 2010, nearly 100,000 SMS messages were received, while the website received about 200,000 hits. Sixty supported journalists (including 30 female) published 240 stories in local and national media. High-visibility events and 12 UNICEF National Committee and media visits were organized, contributing significantly to funding of the programme.

Results for Monitoring and Evaluation are described in 3.1.4. Results for Communication for Development are described in Section 3.1.5.

b) Partnership mechanisms are important for consensus-building and sustainability but are time-intensive and challenging to forge. Political uncertainty continues to delay constitution-drafting and policy efforts. Capacity limitations of partners constrain results and require more systematic initiatives. Know-how in government partners for implementing Communication for Development needs strengthening.

c) Country Programme planned results have been revised for an additional two years, using six PCRs and 24 IRs based on equity analysis and partner consultation. Technical support was provided to the National Planning Commission to enhance national capacity for country-led evaluations. UNICEF participated in the Donor Transparency Initiative in Dang in collaboration with UN Resident Coordinator’s office. A positive evaluation of SSMK radio programme was completed. The government moved swiftly to scale up District

Poverty Monitoring and Analysis System without fully assessing district capacities, and will require technical support in Decentralized Action for Children and Women (DACAW) districts to meet requirements for the Minimum Condition/Performance Measure system. A strategy is needed to revitalize the NepalInfo Technical Committee. The new Three-Year Plan is yet to be completed and development partners' participation is awaited.

d) Partnerships and collaborations include inter-ministerial mechanisms, Child Rights Forum, working groups with development partners, and NGOs such as Consortium Network for Child Clubs. UNICEF manages Radio Chautari, a radio programme broadcasting nationally in six languages, raising awareness for all 22 UN agencies on social, humanitarian and peace-building issues. UNICEF chairs both the UN Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Programme Communications Group dealing with discharged Maoist army personnel, and the UN Communications Group.

Future Workplan

f) Over the next two years, UNICEF will support: the Child Rights Forum to ensure government reforms are in line with Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, including final constitution-drafting; the government to prepare CRC report and improve implementation of the child grant; the Social Protection Task Team to build a Social Protection Floor; and completion of a strategic review of child clubs. It will also initiate a project to build a network for existing child clubs, using new media to amplify children's voices on issues that concern them, and helping them to report significant changes. A project reflecting the voices of adolescent girls will be launched jointly with national media. Support to assess Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices, and plan, implement and monitor Communication for Development interventions on nutrition, hand-washing and child protection will continue. Data analysis and evidence for equity-based approaches, knowledge generation and evidence-based planning and government-led monitoring and evaluation systems and strategies will be strengthened.

3.2.3 Child protection

Purpose

The Child Protection Programme aims to strengthen government and civil society capacity to protect children, including the girl child, against violence, exploitation and abuse. Main results planned for 2010 were: (i) National legislation and policies including guidelines and enforcement mechanisms aligned with international instruments and standards on human rights for the protection of children; (ii) District child protection systems functional in 23 districts; and (iii) Capacity of the government, civil society and communities to prevent and respond to core violations against the rights of children affected by armed- and post- conflict situations strengthened.



Resources Used

In US Dollars

	Planned/Approved (CPD)	Funded/Allocated (AWP)	Actual Expenditure
RR	87,300	193,056	185,583
OR	947,500	4,235,354	2,542,763
ORE	—	929,061	864,331
Others	—	—	—
TOTAL	1,034,800	5,357,472	3,592,677

Note: This does not include project support costs. Funded/allocated and actual expenditure are as of 19 December 2010.

Results Achieved

Result 1: Technical inputs were provided for inclusion of child protection in revision of national legislation (e.g., Constitution, Child Rights Act, Child Labour and Trafficking), and policies (e.g., National Plan of Action for Children, alternative care and inter-country adoption).

Result 2: (i) Coverage of Village Development Committee-Level Paralegal Committees (PLCs) increased from 570 to 717 in 23 districts, handling around 10,000 children's and women's cases, mostly domestic violence, sexual abuse, and child marriage; (ii) expansion of PLCs to the remaining 52 districts was initiated; (iii) a handbook and training module on community-based child protection were finalized and the first phase of training of local government and non-government stakeholders in 23 districts was conducted; (iv) an innovative alternative care scheme was implemented in two remote rural districts, benefiting over 700 children, through support to family preservation, kinship care, foster care or domestic adoption, thereby contributing to the building of the social welfare system, as well as to the prevention of trafficking of children into the worst forms of child labour, including forced begging and sex work, unnecessary institutionalization in substandard centres, or illegal inter-country adoption; and (v) surveys and planning exercises to combat child labour were jointly conducted with other stakeholders and coordinated by local authorities in four urban municipalities.

Result 3: (i) 2,973 Verified Minors and Late Recruits (VMLR) were discharged from Maoist cantonments; (ii) 337 VMLR, 7,500 children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG) and 3,000 children affected by armed conflict received reintegration support for school enrolment and vocational training; (iii) gender assessment tools were developed in order to better respond to the needs of girls who constitute 30% of CAAFAG/VMLR; (iv) a system to provide psychosocial support to children affected by conflict was established in 62 districts; (v) community peace-building activities were conducted with youth from all sides of the conflict; (vi) implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1612 and the Action Plan for discharge and rehabilitation of minors from the Maoist army was monitored and its progress reported; (vii) multidisciplinary mobile teams were trained to document cases of sexual violence during the conflict and provide legal, medical and social services to survivors; (viii) development of child-friendly materials on transitional justice and training on transitional justice and children for child protection agencies were initiated; (ix) the number of child casualties of victim-activated explosions decreased by 50% and 100 survivors received an education grant; (x) a large audience was reached with mine risk education messages through mass media; (xi) government institutions (Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Department of Education, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force) have taken over the implementation of mine action interventions; (xii) a

national explosive device injury surveillance system is operational and used to prioritize prevention and advocacy activities; and (xiii) work on small arms and portable lethal weapons was initiated.

b) Constraints included: (i) lack of clearly assigned responsibilities for state institutions with regard to child protection and the ensuing lack of human and financial resources; and (ii) slow-down in the peace process which creates obstacles for the successful reintegration of CAAFAG/VMLR and the implementation of peace-building and conflict-related justice processes.

c) The Centres for Disease Control evaluated the programme's mine action surveillance and risk education components. A baseline Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey of rights-holders and duty-bearers related to child protection is being designed and will be conducted at the beginning of 2011.

d) UNICEF works with a range of partners in child protection including Save the Children, World Vision, PLAN, Terre des Hommes, World Education, ADB, and many UN agencies.

e) The Inter-Agency Standing Committee conducted a strategic review of the protection cluster, including child protection, and developed a strategy paper and work plan for 2011.

Future Workplan

f) This programme component will be moving towards a child protection systems approach, with increasing emphasis on strengthening state institutions. The programme will build on existing interventions and support the development of a multi-sectoral district child protection system in a limited number of districts/municipalities. Expected results include: strengthening of the legal system; strengthening of the social welfare system; improving child protection knowledge, attitudes and practices among a range of stakeholders; and protecting children from the impact of armed conflict and humanitarian crises.

3.2.4 Education

Purpose

By 2010, children have improved access to child-friendly primary education that is socially inclusive, and conflict- and gender-sensitive to enable children — girls and disadvantaged children in particular— to complete a basic education cycle and transition to lower secondary.



Resources Used

In US dollars

	Planned/Approved (CPD)	Funded/Allocated (AWP)	Actual Expenditure
RR	180,000	277,241	277,123
OR	2,345,000	3,557,790	3,335,752
ORE	---	---	---
Others	---	---	---
TOTAL	2,525,000	3,835,031	3,612,875

Note: This does not include project support costs. Funded/allocated and actual expenditure are as of 19 December 2010.

Results Achieved

a) The Ministry of Education (MOE), supported by UNICEF and other stakeholders, has endorsed the National Framework on Child-Friendly Schools and Minimum Standards for Quality Education. In 30 districts, 1,200 schools were supported to create child-friendly environments, resulting in impressive changes in attendance rate, teachers' motivation and learning environment in Grade 1. Some 8,019 out-of-school children (4,808 girls and 3,211 boys) from the most disadvantaged communities of 23 UNICEF-supported districts received basic education through alternative learning opportunities; 48% of boys and 43% of girls were successfully mainstreamed into formal schools.

Advocacy by UNICEF and education cluster members resulted in education in emergencies being included in the Governance and Accountability Action Plan of the School Sector Reform Plan.

The Schools as Zones of Peace (SZOP) initiative has increased its coverage from 524 to 614 schools in nine Terai districts, benefiting 200,000 children. SZOP schools reported being open for 182–192 days, up from 70–100 days before the programme. Improvements in governance, functioning of schools and resolution of internal conflicts have been observed in most SZOP schools.

MOE, with support from UNICEF and other stakeholders, drafted standards and indicators for early childhood development (ECD) for children aged 4–5 years in the domains of physical, social, emotional, cognitive, language and cultural development. The percentage of new enrolment at Grade 1 with ECD experience increased from 7.7% in 2003 to 49.9% in 2009.

b) Constraints include: insecure environment in Terai districts posing security risks for government staff and partners; uneven quality of governance at the district, Village Development Committee and school levels; insufficient links between line ministries such as MOE, the Ministry of Local Development and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in the area of ECD; inadequacy of budgetary and other provision (although the School Sector Reform Plan focuses on inclusiveness, policies, budget and implementation programmes are only partly responsive to these objectives).

c) A situation analysis of seasonal factors (for example, rainy season; agriculture's need for child/farm labour during harvest season etc.) and their impact on education in the Karnali Zone has been used as an advocacy tool to discuss equity issues in accessing education for the children in this Zone. The Madrasah Consultation Workshop Report has been used to facilitate interactions between the Madrasah Management

Council and government officials, resulting in the Curriculum Development Centre finalizing curriculum for madrasah education. Evaluation of the UNICEF/Government of Netherlands Cooperation Programme on ECD 2008–2010 reveals good expansion of ECD in Nepal in recent years; however, scarce resources have compromised quality and sustainability. Over the next two years, impact evaluations of ECD services including mapping will be supported. As a result of a study on the Child-Friendly Schools Initiative (CFSI) and its effects on school functioning in Nepal, the National Centre for Education Development is incorporating UNICEF-piloted CFSI methodology into the teacher training curriculum. Analysis of the impact of food, fuel and financial crises on children in education has been used as a tool to advocate with donors and government on responding to the crisis.

d) UNICEF worked closely with Innovative Forum for Community Development, Educational Pages, Save the Children, Teachers' Union and Madrasah Management Council on accessing quality education for all children including girls and marginalized children. Female Constituent Assembly members, Young Champions and Girls' Education Networking Groups were mobilized to advocate on girls' education in six districts. Collaboration between UNICEF, Save the Children and the government continued on integrating peace, human rights and civic education into the curriculum. Inclusive and broad participation from civil society and marginalized communities in curricular interventions has established peace education as the most effective education-related peace-building scheme in Nepal. The emergency education programme intensified its network of partners, especially Teachers' Union, Education Journalists, technical NGOs and Nepal Society for Earthquake Technology.

Future Workplan

f) UNICEF Nepal is moving towards an integrated education programme to provide support to the government and NGO partners to accelerate SSRP implementation. Scaling up of CFSI will be the major component to ensure quality education in both formal and non-formal sectors, addressing adolescents and marginalized children. The focus on emergency will strengthen capacity of regions/districts by scaling up earthquake preparedness plans. ECD will focus on scaling up quality interventions and capacity-building.

3.2.5 Health and nutrition

Purpose

The programme aims to provide children, pregnant women and mothers with increased access and opportunities to utilize high-quality, high-impact child, maternal and newborn health and nutrition interventions and practices in normal and emergency situations, contributing to improved child survival and development.

Main results planned for 2010: (i) young children, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups, have increased access to immunization services and to high-quality state-of-the-art newborn services, while mothers have an increased awareness of the importance of these services; (ii) there are



improved policies, programmes and implementation capacity at national and district levels for maternal, neonatal and child health care within the health Sector Wide Approach; (iii) women have increased understanding of and access to high-quality antenatal care, skilled birth attendance, postnatal care and newborn care services and practices; and (iv) disadvantaged and excluded parents/caregivers have enhanced knowledge and skills for improved child nutrition and access to high-quality nutritional services.

Resources Used

In US Dollars

	Planned/Approved (CPD)	Funded/Allocated (AWP)	Actual Expenditure
RR	92,000	460,333	372,177
OR	2,672,000	1,828,064	1,579,907
ORE	---	818,534	583,498
Others	---	---	---
TOTAL	2,764,000	3,106,930	2,535,582

Note: This does not include project support costs. Funded/allocated and actual expenditure are as of 19 December 2010.

Results Achieved

a) In 2010, focus was on under-addressed equity issues for health and nutrition. Results included an increased focus and funding for essential health care services (75%); enhanced financial allocation for nutrition in the National Health Sector Plan (NHSP II); and development of a multi-sectoral nutrition National Plan of Action under the National Planning Commission. UNICEF and partners supported the Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis; the report was endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Population and provides the basis for nutrition sector planning in NHSP II. Countdown meetings on MDGs 4 and 5 were held with parliamentarians, leading to the Kathmandu Declaration in which parliamentarians committed to advocating and legislating for sustainable immunization financing and mobilization of local resources.

Development of an investment case, using marginal budgeting for bottlenecks tools, helped with advocacy for continuum of care with equity.

UNICEF worked with partners to ensure high coverage of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), resulting in 88% of children being fully immunized. Surveillance showed good progress in measles elimination; however, six cases of polio occurring this year reveals Nepal's vulnerability to polio endemicity. With mop-up rounds and intensification of routine immunization, the epidemic was soon brought under control.

Staff in 10 districts were trained to collect and report on key maternal and child health indicators disaggregated by caste and ethnicity. Efforts are now ongoing to institutionalize this system.

UNICEF is providing training and logistics support for implementation of Community-Based Newborn Care Package and for quality maintenance of Community-Based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness programme. UNICEF also played a key role in revision of the Female Community Health Volunteer strategy.

UNICEF continued to provide technical assistance to the Family Health Division, helped develop 'National Guidelines for Implementation of Misoprostol', and initiated piloting of 'Prevention of Eclampsia with Use of

Calcium'. Updating of national training package for skilled birth attendants along with integration of Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission was also facilitated.

UNICEF support led to availability of 24-hour delivery services in an additional 10% of health posts and basic emergency obstetric care services in 90% of primary health care centres. There are now 132 birthing centres (94 in 2009), with 34% in the most disadvantaged Village Development Committees (VDCs) in UNICEF-supported Districts. Whole-site infection prevention training and advocacy encouraged VDCs to contribute to additional human resources (70 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives), infrastructure, equipment, supplies and community volunteer incentives.

The government is keen to expand the UNICEF-supported Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition pilot. Initial results of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and micronutrient supplementation promotion led to greater partner interest (World Food Programme, Helen Keller International, USAID) to scale up these interventions, especially in the Mid- and Far-Western Region.

b) The nutrition sector is constrained by the lack of a well-coordinated focused response. Greater adequacy and efficiency in deploying human resources, minimizing staff transfers, and filling vacant posts will expedite decision making, and ensure improved service delivery. Addressing key problems in supply and maintenance of equipment and physical infrastructure (logistics for drugs and zinc, cold chain, etc.) will help optimize performance and outcomes of maternal and child health programmes.

c) EPI coverage survey and micronutrient and anthropometric surveys were undertaken; their results were widely disseminated and will be used in future programme planning. Behaviour change communication activities were implemented at the national level based on the EPI coverage survey, which identified major modes of immunization-related communication. The IYCF programme was planned for districts with high malnutrition rates based on anthropometric surveys.

d) Strategic partnerships were built with parliamentarians and civil society to advocate for MDGs 4 and 5, resulting in Parliament giving a directive to the Ministry of Health and Population to formulate the Immunization Act and provision of immunization funds for sustainable immunization financing. A partnership was developed with the Nepal Family Health Programme/USAID and the government to draft the Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis, which was used for NHSP II planning.

e) The nutrition emergency cluster was given an independent identity, separate from health. Cluster policies, strategies, contingency plans and information management systems were developed together with partners. Sufficient health and nutrition supplies were pre-positioned at central and regional levels.

Future Workplan

f) UNICEF plans to continue work on upstream efforts as well as support for implementation to maintain the quality of Community-Based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness programme and to scale up Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition in five more districts, micronutrient powder supplementation in more districts, and Community-based Newborn Care Package in two more districts.

3.2.6 Water, sanitation and hygiene

Purpose

The programme aims to increase access to sustainable and safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and improved hygiene practices in schools and communities in normal and emergency situations, contributing to a reduction in related communicable diseases.

Main results planned for 2010: *IR1*: National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme formulated including a sector financing strategy, joint WASH planning and review mechanism in place; *IR2*: Improved water quality services and effective inter-sectoral and partner coordination mechanism including a functional WASH M&E system in place in Decentralized Action for Children and Women (DACAW) districts; *IR3*: Improved interagency collaboration, government leadership and capacity on WASH emergency preparedness and response; *IR4*: Increased access to hygiene and sanitation services with a special focus on diarrhoea-prone districts (Mid- and Far-Western Region and Terai districts); *IR5*: community approaches to total sanitation (CATS), hygiene promotion (including hand-washing) and school WASH mainstreamed in government investment programmes nationwide.



Resources Used

In US Dollars

	Planned/Approved (CPD)	Funded/Allocated (AWP)	Actual Expenditure
RR	200,000	504,510	453,751
OR	890,000	1,362,388	1,253,972
ORE	---	247,304	17,717
Others	---	---	---
TOTAL	1,090,000	2,114,203	1,725,440

Note: This does not include project support costs. Funded/allocated and actual expenditure are as of 19 December 2010.

Results Achieved

a) *Intermediate Result (IR) 1*: This component is on track for achieving anticipated results by 2012. The Joint Sector Review is scheduled for February 2011. A Sector Efficiency Improvement Unit has been established under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works and is facilitating reform dialogue. The government actively participated in the first global Sanitation and Water for All high-level meeting in Washington, and Nepal has registered as member of this global alliance.

IR2: Through joint support from Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, UN-HABITAT and UNICEF, over 11,000 households received arsenic-free drinking water options in nine Terai districts. Some 7,299 households in the most disadvantaged Village Development Committees of Panchthar, Udayapur, Sunsari, Saptari, Dang, Dadeldhura and Achham have gained access to improved water supply. The Ministry of Physical Planning and Works has officially launched the sector monitoring and evaluation system and the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage has shared district-wise water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) data on functionality and coverage. Stakeholder mobilization and targeted hygiene promotion was carried out in Rautahat in line with polio eradication efforts.

IR3: 2010 focused on increasing the capacity of 19 target districts to respond to and prevent humanitarian disasters through pre-monsoon preparedness and hygiene promotion activities. Supplies for 20,000 households have been pre-positioned in four strategic locations to provide timely humanitarian WASH response in case of floods/landslides and diarrhoea epidemic. In addition, six districts have developed District Contingency Plans.

IR4: Under the regional multi-partner and multi-sectoral initiative 'Aligning for Action to Make Diarrhoea Epidemics History', an agreement was finalized between the government and key stakeholders in the region on a joint hygiene and sanitation approach to planning. Master training of trainers was conducted and will help in harmonizing and scaling up WASH interventions in the Mid- and Far-Western Region.

IR5: In addition to model districts reaching more 90% sanitation coverage, hygiene and sanitation promotion is ongoing in 21 Decentralized Action for Children and Women districts, reaching 703 schools and over 149,000 children. Some 5,280 child club members have been acting as change agents for hygiene and sanitation promotion in schools and communities. In addition, a WASH thematic working group has been formed under the Ministry of Education in line with the Child-Friendly Schools Initiative. Hand-washing campaigns have been completed in six districts, reaching over 150 schools and 30,000 children, and discussions are underway to promote a public-private partnership on hand-washing.

b) UNICEF's Mid-Term Review in November 2009 noted that the WASH programme is in need of adequate and untied funding to provide continuous high-quality policy advice, scale up and flexibly respond to emerging opportunities, and support a more holistic programme. The sector has recently launched a monitoring and evaluation system; however, it is still a challenge to use information for evidence-based planning and target the most unreached families. These issues are expected to be addressed during the Joint Sector Review in 2011.

c) UNICEF is currently supporting the Family Planning Association of Nepal in conducting focus group discussions in seven districts with 70 adolescent girls to collect qualitative information on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices and perceptions towards menstrual hygiene. A study to assess the impact of National Sanitation Action Week and Toilet Designs has been initiated by the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage.

d) Since March 2010, extensive coordination and consultations between key governmental and development partners working in the Mid- and Far-Western Region have resulted in consensus on a joint approach for WASH under the slogan 'Aligning for Action to Make Diarrhoea Epidemics History'. The UNICEF WASH Section has strengthened its partnership with the education sector for rolling out WASH in schools nationwide and with the Ministry of Health and Population for promoting hand-washing with soap.

e) Refer to results achieved under IR3 above.

Future Workplan

f) Building on its comparative advantage, UNICEF Nepal is moving towards an integrated WASH programme to provide upstream policy and capacity-building support to the government and downstream support in areas where the sector as a whole still needs more investment for hygiene and sanitation promotion.

3.2.7 HIV/AIDS

Purpose

The HIV and AIDS programme aims to improve access to preventive services for pregnant women and adolescents as well as improved access to AIDS treatment, care and support for children and pregnant women.

Main results planned for 2010: (i) Under the Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) project, increase utilization of PMTCT services both in the Antenatal Clinic (ANC) setting and at the community; (ii) Under paediatric AIDS treatment project, reach all identified HIV-exposed and infected infants with cotrimoxazole prophylaxis to reduce their exposure to opportunistic infections, and reach all identified children in need of Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) with ART combination therapy; (iii) Under adolescent HIV prevention project, increase knowledge of HIV prevention methods for 80% of general adolescents and most at risk adolescents (MARA) and especially vulnerable adolescents (EVA), and develop a comprehensive national strategy for HIV prevention among youth and adolescents and integration of Life-Skills Based Education (LSBE) in the education system; and (iv) Under protection and care project, increase in district-level capacity to provide support to community-based organizations for provision of services to children affected by HIV and AIDS (CABA).



Resources Used

In US Dollars

	Planned/Approved (CPD)	Funded/Allocated (AWP)	Actual Expenditure
RR	111,280	165,120	157,851
OR	1,048,270	594,800	520,178
ORE	---	---	---
Others	---	---	---
TOTAL	1,159,550	759,920	678,029

Note: This does not include project support costs. Funded/allocated and actual expenditure are as of 19 December 2010.

Results Achieved:

a) Of 112,225 pregnant women attending Antenatal Clinics (ANC), 66,606 (59%) accessed Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) services in 22 sites of 19 districts. To reach women not attending ANC, community-based PMTCT programme was established in three districts. Of 10,733 pregnant

women, 7,299 (68%) accessed PMTCT services through community-based services. Some 80% of identified HIV-positive pregnant women and 98% of babies received Antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis and 60% of identified HIV-exposed and infected infants received cotrimoxazole. Of all children identified as infected, 93% received ART. UNICEF initiated the process of mainstreaming PMTCT in ANC services.

Approximately, 42% of adolescents from intervention areas increased their knowledge on HIV prevention. Some 4,857 most at risk adolescents (MARA) and especially vulnerable adolescents (EVA) were reached with HIV prevention activities in four districts. Village Child Protection Committee members and Women's Development Officers from four districts were sensitized on issues of HIV and Children affected by HIV and AIDS (CABA). Community-based basic support package was implemented in four districts (Sunsari, Achham, Syangja and Kailali); 1,765 children were retained in school, numerous cases of acute malnourishment were averted, and eight CABA were identified. Some 173 family members of CABA received sustainable livelihood training, resulting in over 35 CABA households making a regular living and supporting their family. A national strategy and guideline on CABA has been developed in line with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) regional framework for CABA.

b) In the absence of baseline numbers, the percentage of MARA/EVA reached could not be reported (only the number). For strengthening Life-Skills Based Education (LSBE) in schools, activities were jointly planned with the Department of Education; however, these activities could not be conducted as release of national budget was significantly delayed by political factors.

c) UNICEF partnered with Family Health International (FHI) for the situation analysis of MARA/EVA. The study revealed difficulties in reaching these groups with Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV and AIDS services, and suggested specialized services. It also reveals low levels of knowledge about SRH and HIV and AIDS in contrast to their high-risk behaviour. Existing SRH and HIV services are perceived as insufficient and less user-friendly by potential clients in terms of physical as well as economic access. The final report will be available early 2011 and will guide national strategy and programme design for coming years. The National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC) was supported to explore the situation of PMTCT service utilization by most at risk populations, revealing that existing services are inadequate and considered unfriendly. The process of estimating the number of children affected by HIV and AIDS has started and a final report will be available early next year.

d) For implementation of PMTCT and paediatric AIDS treatment, UNICEF partnered with NCASC, the Ministry of Health and Population, and FHI to scale up services and enhance capacity and quality of treatment services, as well as implement community-based PMTCT services in three districts. For adolescent HIV prevention and protection and care for CABA, UNICEF partnered with the Department of Education, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and civil society organizations. UNICEF partnered with Save the Children for MARA interventions as well as with local NGOs and community-based organizations including those run by people living with HIV and AIDS. UNICEF also worked closely with WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS to achieve results in a more coherent manner.

Future Workplan

f) For 2011, besides supporting the government to provide quality services and scale up PMTCT and paediatric AIDS, UNICEF will also focus on reducing stigma and discrimination and empowering women especially from hard-to-reach groups to enable them to demand services. In adolescent HIV prevention, the priority will be on reaching MARA, EVA and CABA to increase their knowledge and skills on HIV risk reduction and avoidance. In protection and care, more emphasis will be placed on national-level advocacy efforts as well as community and family sensitization.

4 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT





4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure

a) In order to streamline programme and management activities and provide a basis of common understanding for all staff, UNICEF Nepal Country Office (NCO) has defined a set of programme/management priorities and results in its annual management plan. The Country Management Team has defined indicators and means of verification for each result; the office developed a guidance note and a standard matrix for reporting at mid-year on the status of achievements and constraints/issues. The Early Warning and Early Action web-based framework is updated as per requirements. The new Emergency Preparedness and Response Core Commitments for Children were introduced to all staff in a series of presentations and discussions.

b) Further to establishment of the Common Services Unit for both NCO and UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) (also based in Kathmandu), effective from January 2010 under the leadership of NCO, the following oversight structures were jointly put in place: Contract Review Committee, Property Survey Board, Human Resources Development Team and Central Review Bodies for locally recruited staff. In addition, a Fundraising Team and the Project Cooperation Agreement Committee were newly formed to streamline fundraising activities and maximize programme implementation in the most coordinated and cost-efficient manner.

c) & d) To strengthen management and oversight of NCO programme operations, measures taken by the Country Management Team included the establishment of annual benchmarks to streamline the monitoring of office performance in the areas of office governance, fundraising, programme budget implementation and management

processes [outstanding Direct Cash Transfers (to government), donor reporting, expiring funding sources, supply planning, outstanding bank reconciliation, bank optimization, etc.].

e) The last internal audit was carried out in 2008 and office governance and Operations management were rated satisfactory.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management

a) In order to promote a risk management culture within the UNICEF Nepal Country Office (NCO), the Country Management Team appointed the Deputy Representative and the Chief of Operations to act as Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) focal points. A Risk and Control Self-Assessment session was facilitated by the Office of Internal Audit in August 2010 with 36 staff representing all sections and zone offices. A risk profile, control library, and an action plan were developed to improve ERM. The ERM products were reviewed and subsequently finalized through a consultative process involving a cross-section of 28 staff. The ERM products and process recommendations were endorsed by the Country Management Team.

b) An ERM Working Group will be established in 2011 to monitor the Office's new Risk Profile, Action Plan and Risk Control Library on a monthly basis and report to the Country Management Team on a quarterly or on an "as needed" basis.

c) The Emergency Programme Management Unit established in 2007 with one fulltime emergency specialist continues to provide technical and managerial support to programme sections and zone offices on disaster risk reduction and response to crises. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) was added online to the Early Warning Early Action System and updated on a quarterly basis. Action points from the EPRP are incorporated in the Work Plan of each programme section. The three zone offices based in Nepalgunj, Bharatpur and Biratnagar also incorporated emergency response activities in their Work Plans. Emergency Focal Points in all programmes and offices continue to coordinate UNICEF's emergency response in the field.

d) The Business Continuity Plan, reflecting all-hazards approaches to recover from a crisis event that disrupts operations at UN House, is maintained and up-to-date. A Business Continuity Site has been established.

e) Alongside the ERM process, the office developed a crisis management handbook to provide a framework within which management can operate in order to manage an emergency situation and provide guidance on the process. The handbook contains sensitive information on the safety and security of its personnel and assets, using an effective communication tree, teamwork, coordination, assessment and decision-making.

4.1.3 Evaluation

a) UNICEF Nepal Country Office's (NCO) cross-sectoral M&E Advisory Group is chaired by the Chief, Planning and Evaluation. The Group reviewed and validated the strategic importance of planned evaluations in 2010 Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) based on guidance and criteria for strategic evaluations provided by UNICEF's Evaluation Office. The Country Management Team (CMT) reviewed and endorsed the 2010 IMEP. The Advisory Group discusses the IMEP's implementation status regularly and reports to CMT on a quarterly basis.

b) Following the 2009 NCO work process established for management of evaluations, Terms of Reference of all evaluations were reviewed and cleared by the Chief of Planning and Evaluation. The Selection Committee, comprising M&E Advisory Group members, assessed all proposals and selected evaluators to ensure impartiality and quality standard of evaluations. All evaluation reports were cleared by the Chief of Planning and Evaluation, based on the Evaluation Office's norms for such reports.

c) & e) A major challenge is to identify local evaluators of high quality in Nepal. During 2010, a group of professional evaluators formed the Nepal Evaluation Society. In the Approach Paper for the next Three-Year Plan, the National Planning Commission has identified M&E as a critical area for national capacity enhancement. NCO is in dialogue with the Commission and the Evaluation Society to take this initiative forward in 2011. UNICEF also advocated with the UN Development Assistance Framework M&E group, and is contributing to development of UN-wide joint strategy for development of national evaluation capacity.

d) & f) All findings and recommendations were analysed by the programmes and presented to CMT as management response plan to ensure organizational learning. All management response plans are now maintained in the NCO management response tracking system in Lotus Domino to support CMT's tracking of the use of recommendations and findings.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication

a) The UNICEF Nepal Country Office (NCO) successfully implemented all global ICT solutions recommended by the International Technology Solutions and Services Division to improve transparency, accountability and information-sharing with UNICEF's external partners about children's and women's rights. A Travel Database has been established to keep track of key recommendations stemming from field visits. UniTrack has been rolled out in order to monitor programme supply inventories. A web portal has been launched to collect views from young people from all over the country through a toll free SMS short code dedicated to UNICEF.

b) More effort is required among UN agencies in the area of sharing intranets, adhering to common standards for auditing implementing partners as well as business continuity practices.

c) All offices in Nepal have enhanced data and telecommunication facilities for quicker, easier and faster access to information using IPSec connectivity over local ISP, thus making a noticeable cost saving. A BlackBerry Enterprise Server now provides Notes email access on handsets to key staff members. ICT staff within the Common Services Unit have been managing and supporting both the UNICEF Regional and Country Offices. The merger of two LANs via point-to-point fiber link with a wireless backup was more responsive and enabled the ICT section to provide timely and quality IT services to users in both Offices.

d) UNICEF's ICT team collaborated with other UN Agencies on various ICT projects including a fiber based data link (with multiple redundancy) connecting most UN Agencies in Kathmandu and enhancing the UN's Emergency Telecom response capability. The Inter-Agency IT Task Force also collaborated to establish Long-Term Agreements for Internet access, IT hardware maintenance, and Printer servicing.

e) Obsolete ICT equipment disposed in 2010 were sold on auction after complete removal of all electronic data from the computer storage.

f) NCO migrated to laptop based computing for almost all staff. Citrix was setup in all offices and portable Internet access devices are now used by all essential and critical staff. ICT has continued to ensure that offices and vehicles remain MOSS compliant. To improve security in zone offices, CCTV circuits were installed.

4.2 Financial Resources & Stewardship

4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations

- a) Country Office sent 100% of donor reports on time. All reports met quality standards.
- b) Despite the economic down time UNICEF Nepal Country Office mobilised 115% of the Other Resources ceiling in the Country Programme Document with UNICEF National Committees, the Nepal UN Peace Trust Fund, bilateral and Thematic funds providing the majority of the funding.
- c) Regrettably no funds were received for the Humanitarian Action Report/Consolidated Appeals Process in 2010 due to little donor interest in preparedness/disaster risk reduction activities and no major emergency.
- d) and e) Funds utilisation is monitored monthly at the Country Management Team to avoid unnecessary funding source extensions and all expiring Programme Budget Allocations have a 99% utilisation level.
- f) While emergency funding reduced in 2010, considerable funding for post conflict activities (SCR1612 monitoring, rehabilitation of former child soldiers, mine action and children affected by armed conflict) was provided through the UN Peace Trust Fund. Significant UK Department for International Development funding to upscale the successful Paralegal committees programme was provided through a UN Joint Decentralisation programme. A Public-Private partnership on Hand Washing with Soap is under development with UNICEF New York support. Again in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sector, the Government of Finland has entered into a multi-year, Euro 9 million partnership with UNICEF Nepal with fund flow to commence in 2011.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets

- a) The last internal audit was carried in 2008 and Operations management was rated satisfactory. Following a continuous and concerted focus by the Country Management Team (CMT) on closure of recommendations from the external audit carried out in May 2009 by the China National Audit Office, the office received a letter from UNICEF's Division of Financial and Administrative Management confirming closure of 18 of 22 audit recommendations. Almost all operations-related recommendations were implemented.
- b) & c) CMT monitors budget implementation on a monthly basis. At mid-year and again in September, CMT assessed and matched resources available with sectoral programme needs to achieve desired results, and reallocated funds as necessary.
- d) 99% of Regular Resources (RR), 94% of Other Resources (OR), and 99% of Other Resources Emergency (ORE) were spent; outstanding DCT over nine months were kept below the limit of 5% throughout 2010.
- e) To achieve more efficient programme operations, the office focused particularly on signing Long-Term Agreements that delivered excellent value for money and offered significant long-term cost savings and efficient benefits to the organization. Further cost reductions related to Office Governance and ICT development are described in Section 4.1.

4.2.3 Supply

- a) The supply component is around 30% of the total Country Programme. A monthly meeting between Programme and Supply staff has been established to review progress against the Supply Plan and Requisition status.

- b) Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) were signed for emergency supplies such as hygiene kits, child-friendly teaching–learning materials, and school kits.
- c) Some improvements have been observed in 2010 with regard to supply inputs through the timely signing of Work Plans. The quality of local supplies and procurement timeliness were discussed regularly with concerned programmes.
- d) To obtain potential lead-time and price benefits, the office has initiated an expression of interest in 2010 for Market Survey and requested support from UNICEF’s Asia Pacific Shared Services Centre.
- e) No in-kind assistance was received in 2010.
- f) UNICEF led the Inter-Agency Procurement Task Force in Nepal. Six common UN LTAs were finalized on International Courier Services, Seismic Assessment of UN Offices, Annual Management Contract for photocopier maintenance and repairs, Annual Management Contract for Generators Maintenance and repairs, Maintained Hotel Rosters within Kathmandu Valley, and Selection of Suppliers of Uniforms for Ancillary Staff Members.
- g) Emergency prepositioned supplies are stored in UNICEF regional offices. Government warehouses are managed independently by the government. The government required capacity development support for staff in warehouse management.
- h) LTAs have been signed with Clearing and Forwarding Agents and also with Local Transportation for logistics and delivery to end users.
- i) & j) Annual Travel Plan has been prepared for this purpose, although little progress has been achieved.
- k) Prompt, timely and good services have been received from UNICEF’s Supply Division (Copenhagen). Procurement services for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and immunization (GAVI)-funded shipment reached USD 7.85 million.
- l) Due attention is given to the development of supply staff through staff programme exchange and participation in workshops organized by Copenhagen.
- m) There are still significant opportunities for building capacity on warehouse management and logistics supplies including support to renovate warehouses. Because of space shortages, the office was not always able to deliver goods as planned and needed to either pay demurrages or deliver when space was available.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity

- a) In 2010, a comprehensive staffing review led to the creation of 19 and abolishment of 12 fixed term positions. A transparent recruitment process provided ample opportunities for candidates from socially excluded groups and women. The office has increased its gender and diversity ratio. Human Resources Management focused on the development and implementation of a cohesive Human Resources Development Plan. The UNICEF Nepal Country Office (NCO) training plan was developed based on the submission of individual staff learning plans. Training activities and development programmes were designed, based on preferences expressed by staff as well as supervisors’ recommendations. A more refined analysis on the competency and skill set —competency (gap) mapping — of all staff at NCO is scheduled for the first quarter of 2011.

b) 2010 staff performance evaluation reviews (PERs) were completed at the beginning of 2010 together with final PERs for 2009. The 2010 staff retreat focused on the establishment of an engaged and honest feedback process. The anticipated implementation of the Electronic Performance Assessment System (EPAS) for local staff and a 360 feedback mechanism should result in a more direct and objective analysis of NCO staff skills and competencies.

c) The critical staffing list was completed and a detailed analysis of emergency staffing requirements is scheduled for 2011. The office conducted emergency/Business Continuity Plan simulations, testing the backup office and emergency procedures. A comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management workshop was held in August 2010 for selected staff, and an emergency and early recovery training workshop is scheduled for January 2011.

e) Staff were informed about local UN-wide stress counselling made available by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). NCO has established a peer support counselling system through five peer support volunteers. Career counselling is offered by Human Resources and a more elaborate career counselling system is scheduled for 2011. Earthquake assessment and counselling has been implemented by UNDSS.

f) NCO has two UN Cares focal points that are part of the UN Learning Team on HIV and AIDS in the workplace. The 10 minimum standards have been communicated to staff. The web-based training course on UN Cares is mandatory for all staff.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement

UNICEF participates in the Joint UN Operations Management Team (OMT) and task forces (e.g., ICT, Finance, and Procurement). OMT has issued several tenders for banking, travel and security services. Progress includes: fund transfers within the Standard Chartered Bank (Kathmandu and regions) are now executed without any charges; and the Himalayan Travels and Tours Agency now provides rebates on all official air tickets. UNICEF also jointly outsourced various services such as vehicle maintenance and security services. UNICEF accommodates other UN agencies in its premises in Biratnagar, Nepalgunj and Bharatpur, and it is accommodated in UNFPA- and WFP-managed premises in Dang and Dadeldhura.

4.4.2 Changes in AMP

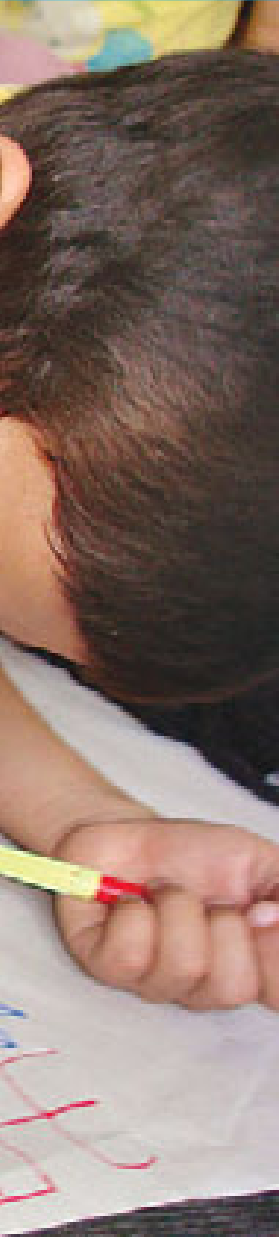
UNICEF Nepal will continue to work with the Government, UNDP and UNFPA to overcome remaining Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers challenges such as joint audits of implementing partners and strengthening accountability among partners who receive major contributions from the three UN agencies. The Office will adopt a Balanced Scorecard approach to manage, monitor and communicate key management indicators combining programme, financial, operations, human resource, enterprise risk and client satisfaction parameters in preparation for the introduction of VISION.



5

STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS





5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations

1. *Child Poverty Study*
2. *Situation Analysis of Seasonal Factors and their Impact on Education in the Karnali Zone*
3. *IBBS among Street Children in Kathmandu*
4. *Micronutrient Mini-Surveys in Eight Randomly Selected Districts, April 2009*
5. *Feasibility Study on Sprinkles in Two Districts, Parsa and Makwanpur*
6. *Review of National PMTCT Services*
7. *Needs Assessment of Adolescents from MARPs*
8. *Cost Analysis of the CB-PMTCT Programme in Achham*
9. *EPI Coverage Survey. A 30-cluster survey done in collaboration with WHO to assess the coverage of various EPI antigens as well as disaggregation by sex, ethnicity and economic status*
10. *Evaluation of UNICEF Nepal Mine Action Activities: Victim-Activated Explosion Injury Surveillance and Mine Risk Education*

5.2 List of Other Publications

1. *3Fs crisis bulletin, 5 publications*
2. *Report: Tracking Progress on Child and Maternal Nutrition in Nepal*
3. *Poster on Cash Grant/Micronutrient Powder*
4. *Flex on Micronutrient Powder/ Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)*
5. *Child Poverty and Disparities in Nepal Overview*
6. *i) Brochure on Micronutrient Powder ii) Sticker on Micronutrient Powder*
7. *Documentary on Mine Action*
8. *i) Poster: Hand-Washing ii) Point-of-Use: Generic Poster iii) Fact Sheet: Point-of-Use Options*
9. *Children's Book: Hand-Washing*
10. *Brochure on Hand-Washing method/ importance and sticker on hand-washing logo*
11. *Concept paper: Concept note on public–private partnership on hand-washing with soap*
12. *Chatra Shiksha Awastha ek Jalak*
13. *Policy Brief on Child Poverty and Disparities in Nepal*
14. *Documentary on micronutrient powder and use of zinc for diarrhoea treatment*
15. *i) Hand-washing/Point-of-Use Flip Chart ii) Flex: Point-of-Use with Four Options & Diarrhoea Prevention*
16. *Training manual: Child-, gender- and disabled-friendly school WASH*
17. *Comic Poster on H1N1 and Hand-Washing*
18. *Mobilizing Communities for Child Protection*
19. *Flash cards: Importance of latrine use; Flex Poster: Latrine use and hand-washing messages; Set of cards on transmission of faecal oral diseases*
20. *Discussion paper: Aligning for action to make diarrhoea epidemics history – Comprehensive and accelerated sanitation and hygiene (CASH) promotion programme in FMWR*
21. *Television Commercial on Pneumonia*
22. *Mid-Term Review Report*
23. *Basic Social Services Report*
24. *CB-SEP on Avian Pandemic Influenza (API) Brochure*

25. *i) Meena Comic Book on Pandemic Influenza ii) Budhiman Rohit: Comic Book on Avian Influenza*
26. *i) H1N1 Leaflet; ii) H1N1 Flex Poster*
27. *Polio and Sanitation Leaflet*
28. *i) Television Commercial on Critical Stages of Hand-Washing with Soap ii) Television Commercial on Six Steps of Hand-Washing*

6 INNOVATION & LESSON LEARNED





The 4400 SMS Initiative

Abstract

Although mobile phone technology is new in Nepal, its reach has expanded rapidly with one third of Nepalis currently using such services. This ratio is constantly increasing. When mobile phone technology is coupled with a national youth-based radio show, the reach is wider still and allows the participation of many young people who can make their voices heard through their phones.

With this concept in mind, the toll-free 4400 SMS Initiative was initiated in partnership with the popular youth-based radio show, *Saathi Sanga Manka Kura* (SSMK) [Chatting with My Best Friend]. As a communication initiative — utilizing SSMK to reach out to youth and enabling them to use their mobile phones to register their views on different social issues — the 4400 SMS Initiative is creating a dialogue among children and youth from different communities. With use of the latest, cost-effective technology, the initiative has yielded good results.

Innovation or Lessons Learned:

The toll-free 4400 SMS service was officially started by UNICEF Nepal in April 2010, enabling young people to send their views to SSMK through a mobile phone.

Topics for discussion are aired weekly on SSMK. Users can also access topics using a mobile phone. This initiative allows young people with mobile phones to participate in discussions from even the remotest parts of the country for free. A sent text message is received by a computer system, which is moderated and fed directly into the youth

section of the UNICEF Nepal website. This initiative is collecting many previously unheard voices from Nepali children and young people in rural and urban settings. People from around the globe can access these views to see what the youth of Nepal has to say on various issues of concern to them.

Potential Application

SMS messaging through a radio programme is a fast and cheap means of reaching young people. It enables the collection of young people's voices on issues that concern them as well as the gauging of their knowledge on behaviours such as hand-washing, HIV prevention, breastfeeding, etc. It has also been used to conduct a slogan competition on zinc, which was well received. It is proving to be a popular platform for young people to express their opinions.

It is clear that this initiative can be a cost-effective tool to conduct quick surveys. Furthermore, UNICEF now has a database of over 10,000 young people from across the country, including the most remote areas, which is growing each day. These numbers could be reached with various awareness-raising messages from UNICEF and its partners in a simple, direct and speedy way.

This toll-free number is also being used by the Nutrition Section to monitor the distribution and stock of micronutrient powders in two pilot districts, and by health workers to monitor the distribution mechanism of micronutrient powders. In addition,

it is being used as a pre-positioned communication tool to send mass messages during emergencies to internal UNICEF staff, as an alternative means of communication.

The effectiveness of this mechanism was reinforced through its use by the United Nations Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Programme to reach recently discharged Maoist army personnel. There were a good number of responses from discharges conveying their appreciation for receiving an SMS, and some even sent queries through the service.

Issue/Background

According to the Nepal Telecom Authority, telecom services reach 34% of the population. Nepal has two major telecom providers, Nepal Telecom Corporation and NCell, and UNICEF has established a strong relationship with both of them.

Access to mobile phones is increasingly easy for young people. Therefore, the SMS service was combined with SSMK as an effective way to increase youth participation and dialogue.

Strategy and Implementation

The strategies used to reach young people were as follows.

- i) The service was made toll-free. In Nepal, one SMS normally costs at least NRs 2 to the sender, no small amount for economically weaker households. In order to reach more young people, the service was made free for senders through negotiations between UNICEF and providers. It was also assumed that, if the service was without cost, it would enable young people to borrow mobile phones from their parents or others at home.
- ii) SSMK, with a listener base of 6 million, was used as the medium to publicise the SMS service as

well as to roll out topics for debate on issues that concern young people.

The messages received are displayed in the 'Voice of Youth' section of UNICEF Nepal's website, so that the voices received are amplified through new media. They are also stored in a database for analysis of knowledge, attitudes and practices and findings are aired through the radio programme.

Progress and Results

Nearly 100,000 texts were received in the first six months of programme implementation. Different issues have been put forward as topics for the programme. All topics are relevant to youth and Nepal's context. About 30 topics have been registered in the database, and it is interesting and informative to receive feedback on topics ranging from interpersonal relationships to issues such as diarrhoea or menstruation.

To encourage greater participation, the service was made free of cost to beneficiaries; however, this also made it easy for people to send in messages unrelated to the topic or even spam, so actions have been taken to reduce too many irrelevant messages.

It is expected that, with proper disaggregation and analysis of data, the vast amount of information gathered can fuel further programming in terms of broadcasts and UNICEF programming.

Next Steps

Plans are underway to create a network of child clubs using a mixture of both radio and SMS technologies to motivate action on adolescent girls and the identification of social norms that may be negative, as well as roll out activities to change these child-identified social norms in meaningful and reportable ways.

A mechanism is being explored on a two-way feedback system, so that participants of discussion topics do not feel ignored.

The monitoring and evaluation possibilities are being considered. The toll-free SMS system will be further strengthened and embedded in various UNICEF programmes, and it will be developed as a tool for feedback and small surveys when required.

The messages received on various topics will be systematically documented and shared through other means of communication (newspapers, television) to further amplify the voices that are now being collected and displayed only on UNICEF's website.

Strengthening the country-led monitoring system to establish the District Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation System (DPMAS)

Contact Person: Ashok Vaidya

Abstract:

UNICEF is a strong advocate for strengthening the existing monitoring systems of sectors and District Development Committees (DDCs) as envisioned in the Local Self-Governance Act (LGSA). UNICEF supported the Ministry of Local Development (MLD) to pilot the Decentralized District Management Information System in a UNICEF-supported district in 2003 that was instrumental in designing the concept

of the District Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation System (DPMAS) in 2005.

The DPMAS initiative shows how a small-scale initiative in one district (Udayapur) supported commonly by UNICEF, UNCDF and GTZ shaped development of a national framework for DPMAS. This case also illustrates how UNICEF, among several organizations jointly piloting DPMAS, has used its leverage to translate field experience into a national policy for the country-wide implementation of DPMAS within the span of two years. This is regarded as a major milestone for strengthening local governance since the LSGA was enacted two decades ago.

Innovation or Lessons Learned

UNICEF Nepal has long supported the decentralization programme at the local level as well as through upstream policy work with central partners. This presents a unique opportunity to design innovative interventions rooted in a decentralized programme with a vision to upscale in favour of children and women in at least 23 of the most disadvantaged districts supported by UNICEF and beyond through LGCDP and sectoral programmes.

Leadership at NPC with past experience in decentralization played a key role in expediting scaling up at national level by using available policy instruments to make it mandatory and linking it to district performance under the MCPM system that rewards districts producing quality data on time. Nevertheless, it will result in substantial demand for technical support to districts which the government is willing to provide through LGCDP and development partners.

Promotion of DevInfo was possible after demonstrating its use in a pilot setting that helped in including DevInfo as a supplementary tool in DPMAS. This presents an opportunity to promote DevInfo at the sub-national level with national ownership that can be further enhanced with the availability of census data in 2011.

Potential Application

Capacity-building as a result of DPMAS is expected to strengthen DIDCs and promote evidence-based planning and results-based management that will eventually lead to demand for quality data. A strong District Information and Documentation Centre is the cornerstone to LSGA's vision to transform local bodies into local governments and is also relevant for the federal states being proposed in the new constitution. In addition, it will help to localize MDGs.

Disaggregation of DPMAS indicators by sex, ethnicity and VDC will necessitate adjustments in sectoral management information systems that will require both advocacy through the Poverty Monitoring Coordination Committee (PMCC) and investment in capacity-building to improve the quality of routine sectoral data. The PMCC will review DPMAS reports and facilitate inter-ministerial monitoring and evaluation beyond DPMAS.

Issue/Background

The Poverty Monitoring and Analysis System (PMAS) and DPMAS are core elements of the Project Performance Information System (PPIS) at the National Planning Commission (NPC) to monitor indicators for the Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan and MDGs.

The PMAS framework highlights the need for feedback mechanisms between district and national levels to strengthen the reliability of data and its use for planning and policy purposes. DPMAS was conceptualized

in 2005 to strengthen horizontal and vertical information flow, and the use of information and data at all levels.

Strategy and Implementation

In response to the Government of Nepal's request to pilot DPMAS, two districts (Dang and Jumla) were selected from deprived regions with weak human resources and a small infrastructure base. The process started with a joint launch and orientation of DPMAS with NPC and MLD, followed by DevInfo/NepalInfo user training. Formation of a task force, participatory needs assessment and development of action plans during the first visit provided sufficient information to design interventions. DPMAS includes indicators for implementation monitoring and outcome/impact monitoring, and enables the development of a District Information and Documentation Centre (DIDC) at the DDC as a hub for managing information.

The pilot districts decided to use DevInfo to develop their DPMAS database from mostly routine data; they received training on the DevInfo data administration module. A national UN Volunteer was provided for each pilot district to support the DIDC to develop the sub-district-level disaggregated database.

NPC established a national inter-ministerial Poverty Monitoring Coordination Committee in response to the demand for review of indicators in new policies and development plans. This body ensured technical support, harmonization and ownership during the review of indicators and finalization of policy.

Progress and Results

DangInfo and JumlaInfo, generated from the pilot districts, were presented to the Poverty Monitoring Coordination Committee (PMCC) and provided NPC with sufficient confidence to scale up DPMAS nationwide. UNICEF provided technical support to develop a national implementation guideline with the MLD and PMCC, and in close consultation with sectoral ministries as well as stakeholders in pilot districts. In parallel, NPC developed web-based software that links DPMAS to PMAS and the Project Performance Information System. The guideline promotes the use of DevInfo as a supporting tool for analysis and mapping at the Village Development Committee level. Orientation and testing of the DPMAS software was completed in 10 districts.

Despite the fact that results-based programming and utilization of district periodic plans have not been able to make significant progress owing to the prolonged absence of elected local bodies, strengthening District Information and Documentation Centres and DPMAS is a priority of the Government's Local Governance and Community Development Programme (LGCDP), which is equivalent to a national pre-SWAp for decentralization. In order to reinforce accountability and promote greater compliance, establishment of DPMAS in districts is linked to the Minimum Condition/Performance Measure system that determines the level of block grant the districts receive from central government.

Next Steps

Given the government's ambitious plan to replicate DPMAS in all 75 districts by mid-2011, UNICEF and partner UN agencies are working to ensure technical assistance to the Ministry of Local Development and districts. The National Planning Commission is continuing support for training and inter-ministerial coordination and advocacy, which are important for creating an enabling environment. A training plan to cover all districts has been developed with assured funding and has already completed the first training for 10 districts from the Central Region.

7 SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION





UNICEF along with SABIN Vaccine Institute and other partners conducted a meeting in February 2010 called Countdown to 2015 for achieving MDG 4 and sustainable immunization financing. Attended by parliamentarians and representatives of the health and finance ministries of Nepal, Sri Lanka and Cambodia, the meeting developed the Kathmandu Declaration. Follow-up events were held in Sri Lanka in July and in Cambodia in October 2010, to update each other on progress and sign a document called the Phnom Penh Declaration to advocate for MDG 4 and 5. Realizing the paramount importance of immunization programmes for saving more children's lives and achieving MDG targets on child health, participants made commitments to represent and advocate for the voices of women and children, sensitize the general public, and oversee programming for improvement of maternal and child health status.

UNICEF facilitated a visit to Indonesia by representatives from the Madrasah Management Council and Ministry and Department of Education to share knowledge on the mainstreaming of Madrasah education into the national education curriculum. Constituent Assembly Members and Ministry of Education staff from Nepal exchanged lessons learned on girls' education and women's empowerment at a South Asia meeting held in Dhaka. Interactions among parliamentarians from different South Asian countries on their respective national educational initiatives were facilitated by UNICEF and other partners in New Delhi. Inspired by a study visit to Brazil this year, the Ministry of Local Development plans to adapt and pilot some participatory assessment tools in 2011. Child-Friendly Local Governance was also selected to be presented at the Beijing Inter-Ministerial Meeting on South-to-South Cooperation and Child Rights.



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