

# UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT

for Pacific Island Multi-Country Programme



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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNICEF made significant progress in 2010 stepping up its engagement in regional and national policy dialogue to promote the fulfillment of children's rights in the Pacific. UNICEF was the prime mover of the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis (which took place in Vanuatu in February 2010) as well as the national and regional Food Summits. The outcome documents from these "pinnacle" events have opened doors for UNICEF to engage with leaders and decision makers at subsequent national and regional fora. In 2010, UNICEF also stepped up its engagement in national sectoral coordination mechanisms which has allowed the agency to leverage significant resources for children and positively influence policy decisions. A downstream significant achievement in 2010 has been the completion of the rebuilding of more than 110 schools destroyed in the 2007 Solomon Islands Tsunami.

UNICEF Pacific closely monitored progress towards results in 2010 and no significant shortfalls were reported during the year. However, the Mid Term Review concluded that in order to make a substantive "step-up" in achieving results with and for children in the Pacific, all programme teams would need to further strengthen the evidence base for action and advocacy including routine data collection and use in health and education in all countries. A strengthened evidence base will also be needed to drive an increased focus on Communication for Social Change, particularly at community level. The Review also noted that the various programme teams needed to strengthen the level of integration across programmes to maximize impact in terms of policy, services and behaviours (practices).

UNICEF continued to be a strong promoter of UN coherence and partnerships; key partnerships for UNICEF Pacific in 2010 include the strengthened relationships with Regional Agencies, particularly SPC and ADB. These relationships are both supported by strong MOUs. UNICEF Pacific has also strengthened its already strong partnership with the European Union and in 2011 will take up two new funding agreements with them. UNICEF Pacific's increasing engagement in National Sectoral Coordination mechanisms are also key partnerships for achieving results for children with equity in the Pacific.

## 2. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Development of Pacific island countries (PICS) is constrained by four major factors: geographic, market and knowledge isolation; insufficient human and institutional technical capacity; environmental vulnerability (salt water inundation, disasters and disposal of solid waste); and unpredictable international assistance. Acknowledging the above constraints, Pacific leaders at the 2009 Pacific Leaders' Forum, agreed on the Cairns Compact, which commits them to establishing strong systems of development coordination with focus on results (including MDGs and human rights), efficiencies and accountability.

Pacific development lessons from past reviews include the following:

- Data integrity remains the major challenge in sharpening the focus of development planning, implementation and tracking. (SPC 2005; UNICEF 2010a)
- The need to raise the quality of basic services and make their provision more inclusive and equitable – with focus on gender, the vulnerable and rural outer island communities. (Government of Australia 2009; ADB, UNDP and ESCAP 2009)
- The need for stronger leadership, ownership, prioritization and long-term approaches

which ensure that aid does not undermine or overburden existing capacity. (ADB 2008)

- Political stability and good governance underpins effective visioning and delivery of private and public goods and services. (ADB2000; PIFS 2008)
- Increased development partner harmonization and coordination of development programmes can strengthen delivery of development assistance. (PIFS 2005,2009)

The wide dispersal of small populations over large areas makes geography one of the key factors contributing to, and an indicator of, disparities in the region. The most disadvantaged families are found in the most remote rural areas and the outer islands. A child poverty study recently completed for Vanuatu found large differences between rural and urban areas with around 10 percent of children in urban households experiencing at least one severe deprivation compared to nearly 29 percent of rural households (UNICEF 2010b). New urban ways of living and “poverty of opportunity” contribute to high-risk behaviours among young people (UNICEF, 2010c). Risk factors for the transmission of HIV and other sexually communicable diseases are high. In Kiribati, 43 percent of respondents aged 15-19 years old had experienced forced sex; and 57 percent of sexually active youth were engaged in unprotected high risk sex.

The impact of the Global Economic Crisis (GEC) is still being felt in the Pacific (ADB, 2010a). While most Pacific Island Governments invest significant proportions of their budgets in health and education, deep budget cuts (e.g. Education 2010; 24% cut in Kiribati, 35% cut in Solomon Islands) have placed considerable strain on social services. As incomes and remittances fell, families reported difficulties with daily costs and insufficient food budgets. Sentinel monitoring carried out by UNICEF confirmed the vulnerability of a broad swath of Pacific islanders to shocks and crises, with the majority of families reporting greater difficulties in meeting daily expenditures as a result of the GEC (63% in Solomon Islands, 77% in Tuvalu, 54% in Kiribati) (UNICEF 2010d; ADB 2010b).

According to the Pacific update of the 2010 Asia Development Outlook (ADB 2010c), the 2011 economic growth for the PICS is projected at a low 1.3 percent, mostly owing to weak remittances, tourism and domestic demand.

The region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Storm surges and rising sea levels are destroying farmland and contaminating fresh water supplies, affecting children’s nutrition and increasing exposure to water-borne diseases (UNICEF, 2010e). Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Cook Islands and the Marshall Islands represent four of the five nations globally identified as most at risk by the Alliance of Small Island States – and over the coming decades will become uninhabitable (Reuters 2010). A generation of young people in these countries faces an uncertain future.

The majority of children with disabilities never attend school and have limited access to health care; two-thirds of childhood disabilities could be prevented. (UNICEF, 2010f)

Upwards of 85 percent of women are reported as having experienced gender-based violence in some countries. Research undertaken by UNICEF has documented high levels of violence and abuse towards children in homes, communities and schools. For instance, 81 percent of adult caregivers in Kiribati and 72 percent in Solomon Islands admitted physically hurting children in their household.

### **3. CP ANALYSIS & RESULT**

#### **3.1 CP Analysis**

##### **3.1.1 CP Overview:**

Two major programmatic events facilitated a 'step-up' of UNICEF's work to achieve equitable results for children in the Pacific. The first was the UNICEF-supported Conference on the Human Face of the GEC in Vanuatu in February 2010. The outcome document was endorsed by the Pacific Island Leaders' Forum in August. UNICEF remains active in coordinating the follow-up on the implementation of the Conference recommendations, particularly in the areas of improving efficiency and equity in public expenditure/management; social services, protection and infrastructure; and improving data for evidence-based policy, planning and monitoring. (<http://vanuatu2010.un.org.fj/> )

The second was the 2010 Mid-Term Review (MTR) which set out to answer four questions:

- Are we doing the right things given the changes since 2007?
- Are we doing them the right way or are there better ways of doing them?
- Are we making a significant difference to children's rights?
- How can we step up our results for children?

The MTR analysis indicated that atoll states were particularly vulnerable to external shocks such as the recent food, fuel and financial crises. Recent data on key indicators for children in some areas of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) are amongst the worst in the Pacific.

The MTR meeting noted that in order to make a substantive 'step-up' in achieving results with and for children in the Pacific, all programme teams would need to 1) further strengthen the evidence-base for action and advocacy including strengthening of routine data collection and use in health and education in all countries; 2) strengthen evidence-base to drive communication for social change, particularly at community level; 3) strengthen integration across programmes to maximize impact in policy, services and behaviours; and 4) reach the most vulnerable not just in the less developed countries (LDCs) but also in the middle income countries (MICs), particularly the atoll countries of the north Pacific.

These imperatives drive the first four "shifts" or results that UNICEF Pacific has identified in its "equity tracker". The fifth "shift" relates to further strengthening of UNICEF's engagement in upstream policy work, particularly in the various sector partnerships.

### **3.1.2 Programme Strategy**

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

The UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Programme continued to face significant challenges in its work across the 14 Pacific island countries. Key drivers of the capacity gaps include: scant data for policy and performance management; regular outflows of talent from an already limited pool of skilled people; ongoing tension between modern and traditional (cultural) forces in society; limited demand for quality services and good governance; insufficiently coordinated external assistance preventing better use of existing capacities; and environmental and economic fragility resulting in vulnerable population groups facing severe challenges and threats. Capacity development therefore is a critical strategic component in the Pacific Country Programme of UNICEF.

The MTR as well as the independent progress review of AusAID assistance through UNICEF Pacific (both carried out in 2010) underlined that technical assistance needed to emphasize capacity development of counterparts. It was underscored that the success of capacity development depended on: local informed demand; ownership; and a design framework that provides a supportive environment for long-term results.

During 2010, UNICEF Pacific refocused its capacity building approach, ensuring that each commissioned consultant would work with a counterpart and be accountable not just for the development “deliverables”, but also specifically the transfer of specific skills and knowledge to the counterpart. UNICEF Pacific is also stepping up its engagement with local and regional academic institutions to ensure that capacity for the realization of child rights is built within the Pacific sub-region.

Along with other UN agencies, UNICEF is pursuing strategic approaches for capacity building that can be easily adopted by our government, development and civil society partners. These are guided by the tested belief that starting with the countries’ own national and local plans, systems and modalities is the best launch-pad for accelerated capacity development. Participatory gap analyses can then be jointly implemented and plans for capacity development formulated.

### **3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy:**

Advocacy is a major pillar of the Multi-Country Programme – with an emphasis on using evidence and communication to influence regional agendas and actions for children. In 2010, based on considerable research by the UN, ADB, World Bank and other development partners, UNICEF prioritized advocacy on the Pacific Conference on the Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis, which took place in Vanuatu in February 2010. UNICEF also partnered with FAO and WHO to support the Pacific Food Summit, held in Vanuatu in April 2010. The Pacific Leaders’ Forum in August endorsed the declarations from these two high-level meetings.

UNICEF and other UN agencies stepped up advocacy around MDGs ahead of the 2010 MDG Summit through well-prepared MDG snapshots for each Pacific island country and a Pacific summary paper for each of the six roundtables. UNICEF is currently engaged in substantive analytical work to publish a *Pacific 2015 Countdown* with a focus on MDGs 4, 5, 6 and 7. UNICEF strengthened strategic approaches to evidence-based advocacy throughout its programmes by making a presentation on advocacy to its Programme Management Team (PMT) and through wide sharing of the *Advocacy Toolkit*.

In preparing for the Pacific GEC Conference, UNICEF organized the participation of youth delegates as key stakeholders – resulting in the incorporation of regional objectives for youth into outcome documents. MDG advocacy was done in partnership with the UNCT and regional media. Through publications and media outreach including media training for 20 regional journalists on *Spicing up the Serious Issues*, a broader range of audiences was reached.

As follow up to the GEC Conference, advocacy is shifting to look at ongoing child poverty and equity issues – and the impact of climate change. Advocacy on the priorities agreed to at the GEC conference will be continued directly with governments at the national level – enabling a broader participation of stakeholders.

Monitoring and evaluating the impact of advocacy is an area where there is room for improvement. UNICEF plans to evaluate the impact of the GEC advocacy with a view to strengthening plans for 2011.

### **3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships:**

Strategic partnerships have catalyzed UNICEF’s significant transition over the last two-and-a-half years. UNICEF has rallied partners around each of its four strategic prongs: data integrity and knowledge management; policy and service standards (supply side); communication for social change (the demand side); and reaching the unreached.

UNICEF's *Partnership of Excellence for Pacific Children* (PasEFIC) is a web-based network for sharing information about Pacific islands children's rights and issues between governments, universities, non-government and community-based organizations, regional and international development partners, media and corporate agencies. PasEFIC is a knowledge generation partnership which ensures that the best and latest information is at hand to guide regional, national, and local decisions that influence the survival, development, protection and participation of Pacific children. UNICEF also works with several thematic coalitions including the Pacific Immunization Programme Strengthening (PIPS), the WASH Coalition and the Pacific Human Resources Alliance.

To leverage policies, UNICEF works closely with the Pacific organizations – particularly the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) – and the Pacific media organizations (PINA and PasiMA). Pacific organizations provide access to key leaders' meetings, the opportunity to influence the agendas and/or to host advocacy side events. Media partners innovatively message for children and provide priority 'voice' to children's issues.

Service standards are pursued through partnerships in sector-wide (SWAp) and theme-based planning; UNICEF has been proactive in spearheading innovations and rallying partners. In Vanuatu, for instance, UNICEF's participation in the Vanuatu Education Road Map (VERM) – through the presence of highly valued expertise – has ensured accelerated results. Partners asked UNICEF to develop the minimum school standards for the VERM.

UNICEF has worked closely with provincial governments, faith-based organizations, non-government organizations such as Save the Children, World Vision and Red Cross as well as VSO and Peace Corps.

Within the UN Coherence framework, UNICEF chairs one of the four strategic UNDAF outcome areas, plays a strong role in thematic groups and hosts two UN Joint Presence Offices (Kiribati and Vanuatu). UNICEF is actively engaged in strengthening its partnership with ADB following the MOU that was signed in September.

#### **3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management:**

The foundation for strong plans and quality results is data integrity along with the continuing ability to generate, analyze, share, use and store data. In a major initiative to ensure that the 2008-2012 Multi-Country Programme was results-based, UNICEF Pacific took deliberate steps to ensure that each programme had a handle on baseline data in priority Pacific island countries to determine the 'starting' points so that we could effectively track progress with time. That initiative proved useful to the MTR and will be of invaluable benefit to the end-of-cycle evaluation.

During the year, UNICEF and UNFPA jointly implemented diagnostic studies on children- and women-focused planning, monitoring and evaluation systems of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu which are being used to improve the mapping, generation and use of data in planning.

Through Sentinel Site Monitoring, quality data on the most vulnerable in 6 PICS is being generated and analyzed jointly with government counterparts, and consolidated to formulate country specific policy advocacy materials.

The Vanuatu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) provided an opportunity for UNICEF to demonstrate rapid turnaround in data capture, analysis and reporting. But what was most significant is the communication and advocacy that was generated by the

data. The production of policy messages as well as the child-friendly version of the MICS reports was a major departure in making data and its interpretation widely accessible.

UNICEF Pacific used the opportunity of the 2010 Mid-Term Review to carry out major analyses on five issues of critical importance to Pacific children so that key findings could be factored into post-MTR programmes: the global economic crisis; climate change; urbanization; disability; and, children separated from their families. We also carried out a gender audit to identify current weaknesses and strengthen gender mainstreaming.

Following a knowledge-seeking behaviour survey, UNICEF is now well-placed to ensure stronger 'customer-orientation' and better value proposition on our knowledge products including, i) the e-subscription system and ii) the knowledge centre (virtual library on our website).

To improve staff collaboration, programme teams regularly present their initiatives and results and share the knowledge during Programme Information Meetings.

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

Mobilisation of multi-sectoral C4D partners and task forces in Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands continued in 2010, building on activities initiated in 2009. This was done through collaborative involvement of government, regional organisations and media partners in the planning, production and launch of C4D processes on WASH and HIV/AIDS.

The C4D planning incorporated use of available data and information on socio-cultural practices in relation to WASH and HIV/AIDS, drawing on baseline data collected and analysed with support from UNICEF Pacific Health and Sanitation and HIV/AIDS programmes. Community involvement in the entire C4D process including pre-testing was facilitated by ensuring continuous dialogue with communication participant groups in UNICEF designated demonstration provinces in above mentioned countries.

M&E frameworks for all six C4D processes have been developed together with key government stakeholders and incorporated into the multiyear work plan of the Planning, Advocacy, Policy and Evaluation programme of UNICEF Pacific. Together with existing processes for partners and key stakeholders to monitor impacts on individual and social practices using most significant change methodology, the M&E frameworks will enable robust monitoring and evaluation of the C4D processes.

Records of all initiatives, innovations and lessons learned are maintained by UNICEF Pacific, and activities are planned for 2011 and 2012 to synthesise and publish case stories and outcomes of C4D processes in the Pacific for dissemination to a regional and global audience. This is part of a wider effort to strengthen knowledge management in UNICEF Pacific to better align C4D and Advocacy processes and demonstrate and document good practices in these and other programmatic areas. This is part of a wider effort to explore how information communication technology can be better employed by UNICEF Pacific to nurture more direct interaction with key partners, media and communities, and provide more cost-effective mechanisms to support knowledge management, strategic communication and monitoring of impact.

UNICEF Pacific also engaged in a longer term C4D process with other UN agencies in the Pacific focusing on Violence against Women and Girls, which will be a key C4D and Advocacy priority for 2011.

### **3.1.3 Normative Principles**

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

UNICEF Pacific ensures human rights-based programming at both the normative level and in the results focus of its directly supported initiatives. All PICS have ratified the

CRC, but Nauru, Palau and Tonga have not ratified CEDAW. At the beginning of the year, 5 PICS had still not completed/submitted the initial CRC report. Of these, Cook Islands and Niue completed and submitted their initial reports in November 2010. Tuvalu's initial report was completed but awaits Cabinet review and approval before submission to the CR Committee in Geneva. Nauru and Tonga have yet to compile their CRC reports.

The preparation of baseline databases and the conduct of the 2010 MTR of the 2008-2012 Multi-Country Programme were grounded in the human rights-based approach to programming. The baselines mapped the gaps in legislation, policies, services and behavioural practices at the family and community levels. They identified the duty-bearers and rights-holders and mapped the capacity gaps. The methodologies used were accessible to and internalized by partners.

The MTR was informed by in-depth rights-based studies on Children and Climate Change, Children living with Disabilities, Children and Urbanisation, and Children and the Global Economic Crisis. The review also considered findings from baseline research carried out over the first two years of the multi-country programme and a recent gender audit based on the 2010 UNICEF Gender Policy. This analysis supported the reframing of our "results" and programme interventions on building the capacity of duty bearers to respect, protect and fulfill children's rights and the capacities of rights holders to claim their rights. The new results statements reflect the four "themes" which emerged from the MTR – data, minimum service standards, C4D to support demand for services, and a renewed focus on the unreached.

Ongoing Sentinel Site Monitoring, Youth Panels and the systematic ongoing use of 'most significant change' (MSC) in convergent programme areas are critical means to promote the participation of rights holders in our programming. The quarterly 'mood' surveys we implement with our partners are an innovative rights-based initiative which allows us to monitor satisfaction levels of our counterparts on an ongoing basis.

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

Most Pacific island countries have achieved or almost achieved gender parity in primary school enrolment. But the gap grows in favour of boys at the secondary and tertiary levels of education. Among the greatest challenges to gender equity in the Pacific are: the small proportion of women in wage employment (in the non-agricultural sector); limited representation (only 5 percent of parliamentary seats are occupied by women); and gender-based violence.

In 2009 UNICEF trained its Emergency Response Team to mainstream gender into its plans. Since then UNICEF is working closely with OCHA, OHCHR and UNFPA to build a clear partner focus on prevention of violence against women around and following disasters.

The UNICEF Gender Task Force under the guidance of the Country Management Team contracted and supervised an independent audit of the organisation's work to promote gender equality and equity. This led to the identification of a Gender Action Plan with a set of priority actions that have been incorporated into the 2011-2012 Multi Year Work Plans. Together with use of the Gender Equity Marker Tool this has provided the Country Management Team and Gender Task Force with a clear accountability framework for gender mainstreaming.

UNICEF Pacific provided two-day training on gender mainstreaming to all staff in 2010, with support from UNIFEM, UNDP and ESCAP gender specialists. Ensuring that staff can avail themselves of additional training opportunities to strengthen their skills in championing gender equality has subsequently been endorsed as an office wide training priority for 2011.

The Gender Task Force continued its collaboration with other UN agencies through the UN Gender Group to develop a joint strategic communication plan focusing on elimination of violence against women and girls in the Pacific. The plan will be ready in 2011 and guide incorporation of joint and linked agency specific communication activities into the work plans of each agency. This will provide the foundation for the Pacific UNiTE campaign and feed into continued joint UN programming on violence against women and girls. Thereby UNICEF's established strengths in communications will be further employed for the promotion of gender equality from 2011 onwards.

### **3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability:**

As noted earlier, Pacific island countries suffer from extreme environmental vulnerability on account of the severe threat of inundation by the sea-waves, the risk of salt-water intrusion into the fresh water lenses (especially in the atolls), the challenge of solid waste disposal and the threat posed by disasters.

A greater threat topping the agenda of all Pacific island countries relates to the impacts of climate change. As part of UNICEF's preparation for the MTR in 2010, UNICEF Pacific commissioned a study on Climate Change and Children in the Pacific Islands. The report flags six core issues for UNICEF to consider if it is to expand its regional activities to develop a coordinated and effective response to the climate emergency: how to integrate genuine "climate-focused" activities rather than merely renaming existing ones as climate-focused; the absence of children in current initiative of other partners is a gap but also an opportunity; the importance of building evidence with the participation of local communities; the critical role of partner coordination; the need to build partnerships with non-governmental and community-based organizations that are already working for and with children; and ensuring that children and young people's voices are heard.

UNICEF advocates for environmental impact assessments to be carried out as part of the development programming in the Pacific. All UNICEF-supported programmes have in-built waste-management strategies. This particularly relates to vaccines and other medical supplies.

UNICEF is supporting Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to expand their potable water supply using appropriate technologies that minimize environmental damage. In Kiribati, for instance, rainwater harvesting technologies are being promoted. These steps need to be combined with, and reinforced by, effective legislation and enforcement.

Disaster risk reduction is being mainstreamed in UNICEF-supported initiatives in communities, schools and health facilities so that children and community members are prepared to address risks and build their resilience.

A joint UN (UNICEF, UNDP and FAO) proposal to promote community resilience and coping with climate change and natural disasters for the 2011-2013 period is currently under consideration by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

## **3.2 Programme Components:**

**Title:** *Health and sanitation (H&S)*

**Purpose:**

Following the July 2010 mid-term review of the multi-country programme 2008-2012, the H&S programme component results (PCRs) areas follows: (a) PCR1: At all times, children survive, grow and develop to their full potential, especially those from most vulnerable islands and communities in PICTs (CSD); (b) PCR2: By 2012 more mothers

and newbornshave increased and equitable access to evidenced-based packages of essential services and interventions in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu (MNC); and (c) PCR3: By 2012, more schools and communities have improved health, economic and human development outcomes related to water, sanitation, hygiene and climate change in selected PICTs(WASH/Climate Change).UNICEF commitments for health, nutrition and sanitation in declared emergencies have been mainstreamed into each PCR. The PCRs contribute to Pacific UNDAF Outcome 3 of strengthening equitable social and protection services, and directly to MDGs 1, 4, 5, 6 (malaria in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu only) and MDG 7 (health-related).

**Main implementing partners**were Ministries of Health; Ministries of Finance and/or Planning; Ministries of Water and Natural Resources; Island Councils; Communities/project beneficiaries and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs);World Vision International (WVI), Live and Learn Environmental Education (LLEE), Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF), and Humanitarian Habitat Fiji.

### **Resources Used:**

Planned Allocation	US\$ 3,501,600 (according to CPD)
Actual Allocation	US\$ 2,821,396 (80.6% of planned allocation)

RR available	US\$ 1,017,753 (36% of actual allocation)
OR available	US\$ 1,803,643 (64% of actual allocation)

**Funding sources in 2010:**UNICEF-RR (programme support and all projects,US\$1,017,753); UNICEF-Set Aside (H1N1, US\$44,845); Micronutrient Initiative (US\$3,396); Australia AusAID (EPI, US\$232,738); Australia Committee for UNICEF (Nutrition, US\$253,074); Australia AusAID (VII Operational costs, US\$16,640); United Nations Foundation Inc. (EPI - Measles control, US\$20,307); New Zealand NZAID (EPI, US\$512,110); Australia Committee for UNICEF (EPI from SunRice, US\$295,744); UNDP - USA Administrative Services Section (Kiribati One Fund, US\$230,827); Japan Committee for UNICEF (EPI-for Vanuatu, US\$193,961); The Gavi Fund (co-financed vaccines paying US\$70,500 directly to SD).

### **Result Achieved:**

#### **PCR 1: Child Survival, Growth and Development**

- Expanded Programme on Immunization: All PICTs maintained polio-free status, near elimination of measles (needing MCV coverage = 90% with 2 doses by 2012) and on track for the hepatitis B control [needing = 65% HepB Birth dose (<24 hours) and = 85% HepB3 by 2012] and most [16/20] sustained high immunization (excepting Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Samoa). UNICEF supported procurement, training, advocacy, technical assistance and C4D. Additionally, in collaboration with WHO, JICA and CDC, UNICEF supported the sixth annual PIPS workshop, attended by 65 country participants and technical experts where technical updates were provided and performance reviewed. UNICEF Executive Board approval of the Vaccine Independence Initiative's (VII) (for 2011-2015) was a boost for UNICEF and partners.
- Diarrhoea and pneumonia control: IMCI modules on diarrhoea were updated and adapted to include new born care. The ICATT tool for nurses was introduced. ORS and zinc tablets were procured and guidelines for the use of zinc tablets in diarrhea treatment developed. All except one PICT introduced pentavalent vaccine into their EPI which will significantly reduce the incidence of pneumonia and meningitis among children under 5.
- Nutrition: UNICEF, WHO, FAO and other organizations successfully supported Pacific Food Summit in April in Vanuatu. Attended by 150 participants from all the 22 PICTs, the Summit was a platform of advocacy on nutrition and food security. UNICEF used the

opportunity to strategically position infant and young child feeding (IYCF). UNICEF supported the development of tools and materials in Kiribati, Solomon and Vanuatu. After Fiji with all its 21 hospitals baby-friendly, three hospitals in Solomon Islands and one each in Kiribati and Vanuatu were declared baby-friendly.

### **PCR2: Maternal and newborn health**

- UNICEF used the baby-friendly hospital initiative (BFHI) to improve knowledge and skills of 210 health workers in basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, including provision of basic emergency equipment and supplies. UNICEF is working closely with WHO and UNFPA to prepare comprehensive strategies for obstetric and newborn care.
- UNICEF continued to provide technical and financial support to the Fiji National Iron and Multivitamin Supplementation (NIMS) Initiative through a study on the impact of iron-fortified flour on haemoglobin levels of women of child bearing age. De-worming coverage among school children ranged from 78 percent (of 19,276) in the Central Division to 98 percent (of 3,013) in the Eastern division.

### **PCR3: Water, sanitation, hygiene and climate change**

- On the outer island of Abemama in Kiribati, UNICEF supported 250 families to install latrines. All five schools on the island now have separate latrines for boys and girls, hand washing facilities and drinking water points benefiting over 850 school children. In South Tarawa, over 200 families installed latrines. Assessment of water and sanitation needs was completed for 5 communities in Solomon Islands. In Tanna, Vanuatu, rainwater harvesting systems were installed in five schools, providing direct access to 450 school children with clean drinking water.
- As part of advocacy at national level, UNICEF supported government ministries and NGOs in the celebration of Global Hand Washing Day in Fiji and Solomon Islands. In Fiji, over 1,500 school children performed hand washing with soap at one time. In Solomon Islands over 800 students along with teachers, government officials and NGOs celebrated this event.
- UNICEF is the WASH cluster leader during emergencies and, during the period under review, demonstrated effective community-based responses.
- UNICEF has secured Euro 3.28 million for the Kiribati Outer Islands Water and Sanitation Project 2011-2014 from the European Union and Euro 1.92 million for Solomon Islands from the EU WASH Facility.

### **Constraints:**

On account of pressures from the global economic crisis, outreach visits in the PICTs have been severely cut. Cuts in budgets make merely maintaining current gains a major challenge. Skilled partners are few. Poor data too, is an impediment to good planning.

### **Lessons learned:**

Pool procurement under UNICEF Vaccine Independence Initiative has been demonstrated in the last 12 years to be an effective mechanism for securing and guaranteeing uninterrupted vaccine supply to small island countries in the Pacific. Managed partnerships (such as the six-year old PIPS) are necessary to facilitate sustained delivery and utilization.

### **Future Workplan:**

#### 3.2.1.4 Future Workplan

- (1) Continue the focus on: immunization policy and practices; VII and immunization equipment; and introduction of new vaccines.
- (2) Explore use of technologies and multi-country, multi-donor and multi-year plans to improve delivery of immunization.

(3) Roll out BFHI to all hospitals in the 3 priority countries and other selected PICTS.

(4) Strengthen MNCH care by focusing on opportunities at antenatal, delivery and postnatal/newborn periods. Foster integration with PPTCT.

(5) Support accelerated progress of health-related MDGs with equity, including Pacific Health Countdown to 2015; costing of health sector and programme plans; demonstration of budgetary allocation efficiency and value for money; and development of investment cases and advocating for additional resources for high impact interventions.

(6) Support implementation of the Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific, including advocating for food fortification, promotion of IYCF, strengthened pre-service curricula, and increased UNICEF visibility in nutrition in the region.

(7) Support expanded WASH in primary schools and surrounding communities.

(8) Respond in declared humanitarian emergencies in accordance with health, nutrition and WASH CCCs.

### **Specific adjustments 2011 and beyond**

The main adjustments are use of the simplified results structures, multi-year work plans (MYWPs), other organization-wide initiatives and their implementation using the HACT approach (in the three focus countries that are now HACT compliant). We anticipate significant funding for WASH/climate change sub-component.

### **Resources which are expected to be available in 2011**

Approved Regular resources (RR) US\$ 1,100,600

Approved Other Resources (OR) US\$ 2,400,000

Total (RR+OR) US\$ 3,500,600

Resource gap US\$ 1,500,000

TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET US\$ 5,000,000

### ***Title:Education***

#### **Purpose:**

- The UNICEF Education Programme of 2008-2012 seeks to increase the percentage of children benefiting from the equitable provision of quality basic education, which is to be achieved through 4 key results; 1) improved access to quality early learning and development opportunities, particularly for those most disadvantaged; 2) the development and implementation of national Minimum Quality Service Standards for Schools in at least 3 Pacific Island Countries; 3) increasing primary students' literacy, numeracy and life-skills learning outcomes and 4) education systems, staff and students are equipped to cope when disasters strike and are adequately supported through Education in Emergency interventions.
- The Mid Term Review of the Education Programme, conducted in June 2010, has resulted in a more explicit focus for UNICEF's support towards improved learning outcomes in the Pacific region- particularly in literacy and numeracy - within the early years of primary education. With literacy rates of year 4 students continuing to decline in several countries of the region, UNICEF is committed to demonstrating and sharing good practice through documented pilots. Despite the overwhelming evidence on the impact of investment in Early Childhood Education and Development (ECCE) for disadvantaged children on their later learning and health outcomes, this sub-sector has invited limited support from Development

Partners. Consequently, the Education Programme from mid 2010 onwards is committed to a separate Programme Component Result solely dedicated to ECCE.

- The modality for UNICEF Pacific's Education Programme continues to move towards that of harmonized Joint Sector Education programmes, with UNICEF serving as the Chair for the Education SWaP in Vanuatu and being a key member in the Kiribati Education Improvement Programme and the Solomon Islands Education Partners Group. This shift has taken considerable efforts, and education team members have invested time in developing skills on SWaP coordination.

### **Resources Used:**

Approved Budget 2,740,000 USD (CPD)

### **Available Funds:**

**Total: 3,723,307 USD**

RR: 681,531 USD

OR: 3,041,776 USD

NZ Natcom- 385,365 USD

EU- 1,009,000 USD

NZAP- 372,635 USD

FA2 Thematic Funding- 1,274,776 USD

### **Result Achieved:**

PCR/IR 1: By 2012, children aged 3 to 5, especially those most disadvantaged, benefit from improved access to quality early learning and development opportunities in Pacific Island Countries

- Following the presentation of an ECCE Issues Paper by UNICEF, USP and Fiji National University at the Pacific Education Ministers Meeting in October 2010, UNICEF has been requested to take forward the formation of a Regional ECCE Council. The intent is for the Regional ECCE Council to be moved to a regional partner over the course of 18/24 months as a means of ensuring its 'regional' sustainability.
- Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) were finalised in Vanuatu having been age-validated and referenced in early 2010. The publication of the ELDS is the foundation from which an ECE curriculum will be developed by the MoE in 2011.
- The Ministry of Education has provided training on ECE in Emergencies for ECE provincial trainers from the Vanuatu Pre-School Association.

PCR/IR 2: By 2012, primary school aged children have access to schools which uphold minimum national quality standards, and which support student enrolment and retention to the end of the primary cycle in 3 Pacific Island Countries.

- UNICEF assisted Ministries of Education in Kiribati, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to drafting National Minimum Quality Service Standards (MQSS) for primary schools drawing from experience with child-friendly schools (following the independent evaluation of the 2002-2009 experience). The MQSS will be costed and rolled out as one of the equity drivers.
- UNICEF partnered with UNESCO and SPBEA to develop a regional in-service modular professional development course for teachers enabling uptake in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- UNICEF supported a pilot under the Vanuatu Education Management System (VEMS) to test digital monitoring of school performance results which will be reviewed for roll-out in 2011.
- 2010 was the last year of the UNICEF-led Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Programme (RARP) which renovated a total of 108 schools affected by the 2007 tsunami that hit Solomon Islands.
- The UNICEF-supported "Barriers to Education" study will enable Solomon Islands to further accelerate progress in opening up access to quality primary education.

PCR/IR 3: Primary school aged children attain national numeracy, literacy and life-skills learning outcomes by the end of the primary education cycle.

- A national Education Assessment Policy was finalised in Solomon Islands and adopted by the Education Advisory Board; Vanuatu is expected to formally adopt a similar policy in 2011.
- UNICEF and the Pacific Regional Initiative for the Delivery of Basic Education (PRIDE) supported Solomon Islands to finalize a Language in Education policy.
- The development of a school/classroom library training manual for teachers and education staff was successfully completed in the Solomon Islands, as was the identification of a core set of early grade reading materials. It is expected that both initiatives in the Solomon Islands will be introduced to Kiribati and Vanuatu over 2011, as early grade literacy/reading promotion is a gap common to the work of Development Partners engaged in the education sector in the Pacific.

PCR/IR 4: Ministries of Education in 5 disaster prone PICs equip children and schools with the knowledge and skills to cope when disasters strike and lead the provision of education services in post disaster settings in Pacific Island Countries

- UNICEF supported Education in Emergency preparedness and response planning in Fiji and Vanuatu, an initiative that will have long-term returns in mitigating negative impacts of disasters in schools. A national Education in Emergency Policy for Vanuatu was finalised in 2010, and provides the rationale for increased funding by the MoE to their national Education in Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- A Frontline Responder Training was provided by UNICEF in Fiji, with extensive participation from the Ministry of Education and the National Disaster Management Office, and at a decentralised level, with Save the Children.
- UNICEF (with the Fiji National University) supported development of Education in Emergencies curriculum for integration in the Early Childhood Education Programme; UNICEF also worked with the OHCHR and the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) to raise the focus of Education in Emergencies in several Pacific island countries.

### **Future Workplan:**

#### **Phase One (2008-2011)**

- Formation of a Pacific Regional ECCE Council and associated Work-Plan (including research).
- Integrating and roll-out of costed MQSS within School Grants Programme frameworks in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu ensuring these are targeting most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Piloting of a School Grants Programme in Kiribati as a means of improving the efficiency and reach of education reforms.
- Completion of infrastructure betterment works in 48 primary schools of the Solomon Islands, 40 primary schools in Fiji, 16 primary schools in Kiribati and 13 schools in Vanuatu.
- Greater focus within the Education Programme on demonstrating good practice in improving Early Grade Learning Outcomes (literacy, numeracy) across three focus countries.
- Trialing of life-skill assessment systems in Solomon Islands, Kiribati.
- Designing of Kiribati Education Improvement Programme (joint sector programme)

#### **Phase Two (2012-2015)**

- Introduction of Pacific Teacher Code of Ethics in at least 2 Pacific Island Countries.
- Development of a Work-Plan with the MoE Fiji, providing technical/financial support to the roll-out of a national assessment policy and betterment of WASH in primary schools.
- Application of EFAinfo within Joint Education Sector Programme of at least one PIC as a means of highlighting equity status in access and learning outcomes.
- Strengthening Education Cluster arrangements in the Pacific region and continued planning for mitigation, preparedness and response initiatives.
- Support for Primary Teacher Education EiE curricula development at FNU.

## **Title:*HIV and AIDS***

### **Purpose:**

- The HIV and AIDS Programme aims to reduce vulnerability to and impact of HIV and AIDS among the most at risk populations in six priority countries – Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu – with a special focus on children, women and their partners. The programme also supports building of community-based HIV preventive initiatives which address knowledge, skills and sexual practices, particularly of key affected populations (vulnerable and most at risk adolescents and young people). Additionally, it contributes to strengthening of continuum of care for people with HIV Infection.
- The HIV and AIDS Programme supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals 4 (reduce child mortality) and Goal 6 (combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases). It also contributes to Pacific UNDAF Outcome 1 (Equitable Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction) and Outcome 3 (Equitable Social and Protection Services).
- While the objectives of the HIV and AIDS Programme component were developed through consultations with the countries involved, and are guided by National Strategic Plans of the five countries, UNICEF has further prioritized support for targeted interventions for most at risk and most vulnerable groups, as well as PPTCT. These are interventions specified in the MTSP 2006-2013.
- During 2010, the programme conducted a mid term programme review that led to two major strategic shifts: (i) For improved understanding of the magnitude of HIV problem in the Pacific island countries, the HIV and AIDS programme for the remaining period of the country programme shall focus on a scale up of HIV testing, support national surveillance of HIV and STIs, and support establishing of national systems for HIV monitoring, at the least, in the 5 focus countries. Furthermore, selected interventions are required to be sensitive to the needs of key affected populations (most at risk and most vulnerable adolescent boys and girls). (ii) UNICEF decided to include Fiji as one of the focus countries, since Fiji has a relatively fast growing HIV epidemic. As a result, the HIV and AIDS programme now has 5 focus countries (Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu).

### **Resources Used:**

Planned Allocation	US\$	1,740,000
Actual Allocation	US\$	1,467,020
RR available was	US\$	723,500
OR available	US\$	544,992.56
Thematic Funds	US\$	198,533.88

Donors: Pacific Response Fund, Korea National Committee for UNICEF

### **Result Achieved:**

PCR/IR1: By 2012, Governments of 5 focus countries in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Tuvalu have and use sound strategic information for effective HIV programming, to reduce vulnerability to and impact of HIV and AIDS among the most at risk population and most vulnerable populations, (with a special focus on children and women).

Achievements:

- UNICEF in collaboration with the Governments Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati, launched baseline study reports on 'Understanding HIV and AIDS risks and Vulnerability among Youth'. Preliminary findings from the study reports have informed development

of targeted interventions for most at risk and vulnerable adolescents and young people.

- Programme contributed to capacity development of PICs in Monitoring, through development of national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks for HIV response, and developing training curriculum for M&E officers from these countries.
- In collaboration with UNAIDS, and WHO, the programme supported 9 countries in producing reports and validating data for UNGASS reporting.

PCR/IR2: By 2012, most at risk and most vulnerable men, women and children in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Tuvalu have access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.

**Achievements:**

- Scale up of integration of PPTCT services in selected health facilities in 5 countries: The HIV and AIDS Programme convened the Pacific sub-regional consultative meeting on scaling up PPTCT. More than 50 participants from 5 countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) and key regional agencies from the Pacific participated in the meeting. As a result of the meeting, the participating countries agreed to scale up PPTCT services and prepared action plans for implementing the scale up of PPTCT services, through integrating PPTCT into the existing health services.
- As a member of several technical working groups at the Regional and country levels, UNICEF Pacific has provided technical assistance in the development of various regional and country specific policies and guidelines, which will support a scale up, and quality delivery of PPTCT services at country level. These include the development of the Regional HIV testing and counselling policy, and the Regional HIV testing algorithm.
- The UNICEF programme also continued to provide technical support in PPTCT services provision, and supported establishing 3 new PPTCT centres (two in Solomon Islands and one in Kiribati).
- Through its joint programme activities with UNFPA and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), UNICEF provided technical assistance to 3 countries and established national guidelines on the provision of adolescent and youth friendly health services.
- UNICEF further contributed in the establishment of youth-friendly health services in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Chuuk (Federated States of Micronesia).
- Through collaboration with SPC and UNFPA in the regional adolescent health programme, a review of existing health facilities which have been providing "services for youth" in 10 countries was done. Results of this assessment will guide development of a regional guideline for Youth friendly services.

PCR/IR3: By 2012, most at risk and most vulnerable boys and girls, men, women and their partners in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Tuvalu engage in HIV-risk reduction behaviours at all times (including during emergencies).

**Achievements:**

- UNICEF provided technical support to Solomon Island and Kiribati to ensure that key messages on HIV prevention are developed with the participation of other stakeholders in each country.
- Through partnership with a local NGO - Wan Smol Bag, UNICEF established further channels to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Wan Smol Bag in Vanuatu is currently filming the fourth series of its hugely popular television drama titled 'Love Patrol' which is aired in more than 10 Pacific island countries and viewed by at least 1 million people.
- UNICEF has supported countries to establish national systems for reaching most at risk and especially vulnerable adolescents and young people with peer education training programmes. National manuals for peer education that will be used by all stakeholders nationally have been developed, and a technical committee to coordinate peer education programmes established, to ensure quality and accuracy of the information being disseminated to young people.

**Future Workplan:**

- Supporting governments to develop systems for monitoring the HIV epidemic, as well as the national HIV response.
- The HIV and AIDS Programme intends to concentrate on scale up of HIV testing for most at risk groups as well as pregnant women and partners, so that it facilitates the use of PPTCT services. Accordingly, support will be directed towards sharpening both HIV testing and counseling protocols, monitoring service delivery to all pregnant women and partners who are identified to be in need of services, (and reduce loss to follow up), and providing supplies for quality PPTCT. All these will be integrated in broader reproductive health services. Facilities with high client volumes, or health facilities which have most at risk populations in their catchment areas, will be the first to be targeted. Introduction of rapid HIV testing will be supported so as to facilitate an increase in service demand.
- The HIV and AIDS Programme will increase its focus on the prevention of HIV among most at risk adolescents, youth, women and their partners, ensuring that they engage in HIV-risk reduction behaviours in the five priority countries.
- Countries will be supported to implement communication activities, leading to more use of HIV prevention services, and other behaviour changes in relation to HIV and STI.

***Resources which are expected to be available in 2012***

Approved Regular resources (RR)	US\$	740,000
Approved Other Resources (OR) Response Fund	US\$	150,000
Approved Other Resources (OR) for UN joint program	US\$	315,000
Re-phased thematic funds	US\$	180,000

***Title:Child protection***

**Purpose:**

As articulated in the CPD 2008-2012, the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme strives to build a protective environment for children, free from violence, abuse and exploitation. The CPD, CPAP and associated Results and Resources Frameworks (RRFs) articulate three outcomes (PCRs) common for five priority countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) for the Child Protection Programme:

- (1) Ensuring that children are increasingly protected by legislation and are better served by justice systems that protect them as victims, offenders and witnesses;
- (2) Ensuring that children are better served by well-informed and coordinated child protection social services that ensure greater protection against and response to violence, abuse and exploitation; and
- (3) Supporting families and communities in establishing home and community environments for children which are free from violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Resources Used:**

Planned Allocation	US\$ 1,740,000 (according to CPD)
Actual Allocation	US\$ 2,522,319.80
RR available	US\$ 534,218.97
OR available	US\$ 1,988,100.83

Donors: Global – Child Protection Thematic, AusAID, Australian National Committee for UNICEF, Korean National Committee for UNICEF, New Zealand Committee for UNICEF. The Australian Government continued to fund one Australian Youth Ambassador (AYA) attached to the Child Protection Programme throughout the year.

### **Result Achieved:**

PCR/IR1: Ensuring that children are increasingly protected by legislation and are better served by justice systems that protect them as victims, offenders and witnesses.

Following successful completion of baseline research for the 2008-2012 Multi-Country Programme in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, major progress was made in advancing legal and justice reforms.

- The Solomon Islands Cabinet endorsed the drafting process for a new Child Protection Bill with support from UNICEF. New child-friendly court procedures were finalized and portable screens procured to ensure privacy for children appearing in courts.
- In Kiribati, a process to draft a Child Protection Bill started with island level consultations and increased engagement with parliamentarians to improve understanding of child rights.
- In Vanuatu, a network of service providers (health, education, welfare and civil society) are working together to improve restorative justice for young offenders. Significant progress was made in advancing understanding of child rights within the judiciary through a UNICEF-supported conference.
- In Fiji, while progress in relation to justice reform is somewhat hampered by the current political environment and frequent turnover of senior government officials, UNICEF made strategic advocacy steps to explore avenues for fast-tracking priority actions. During 2011, UNICEF will work closely with the Attorney General's Office to achieve this.

PCR/IR2: Ensuring that children are better served by well-informed and coordinated child protection social services that ensure greater protection against and response to violence, abuse and exploitation.

As noted in the baseline research, child protection social services are in their infancy in many Pacific island countries. Work continued throughout the year in strengthening social welfare and child protection systems in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

- In Vanuatu, 'mapping' of existing and potential resources, structures and traditional/local mechanisms was commenced as a way of making the new systems cost-effective, sustainable and readily acceptable.
- In Solomon Islands, UNICEF supported capacity strengthening of the Division of Social Welfare through capacity building of staff and clarifying roles and procedures of social workers.
- In Kiribati, closer coordination was achieved between the Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA), the Police and the Courts to internalize principles of dealing with young offenders. Professional services of MISA, including school visits, gained traction and recognition.
- In Fiji, the Government showed strong commitment by developing a number of new policies and decrees including the "Child Welfare Decree" of the Ministry of Health which stipulates heavy fines for professionals who fail to report child abuse. A national "Child Protection Policy" outlining the responsibilities of different stakeholders and a specific "Child Protection policy in the Education System" were also promulgated to buttress child protection in the country.
- UNICEF continued to support birth registration in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In Vanuatu, close to 40,000 children under the age of 18 were registered partly on account of a very successful campaign but also owing to the very innovative mobile phone-based iCount registration platform. Good progress was made in Kiribati where an estimated increase in registration from 35 to 80 percent of children has been achieved.

PCR/IR 3: Supporting families and communities in establishing home and community environments for children that are free from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Based on research findings in relation to community behaviour and social change, UNICEF facilitated in-country processes for the development of 'Communication for Social Change Plans' in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. As a way of monitoring changes resulting from these activities, a process of collecting stories of 'most significant change' (MSC) was established.

- In Vanuatu, a local theatre group (Wan Smol Bag) developed a radio drama series (along with an accompanying 'facilitation guide') which raises child protection issues and possible solutions, and the Ministry of Justice and Social Welfare took the lead in developing key messages for social change.
- In Kiribati, MISA has taken the lead to coordinate a range of social change activities, including engagement with media and weekly radio programmes which are aired for free.
- The Social Welfare Division in Fiji continued strong work for prevention and promotion of child protection through community outreach and facilitative engagement with community stakeholders.
- In Solomon Islands, the 'community welfare volunteers' initiative was strengthened through updated training manuals.

### **Future Workplan:**

- The programme strategy and approach was reviewed as part of the MTR process and was found to be relevant. The Programme will maintain its three-pronged approach strengthening the legal and regulatory system; the social welfare system; and addressing community/individual behaviour for social change. The findings of, and recommendations by, the Baseline research will continue to provide a roadmap for action and a benchmark against which progress will be measured.
- In strengthening the social welfare system, there will be enhanced focus on tapping into existing resources, structures and mechanisms at local level with the aim of ensuring systems are increasingly accessible by all (including marginalized and hard to reach areas), and are affordable and sustainable. Institutional partnership with an international child protection organization has been formed to provide strong technical support in taking this forth in 2011.
- In 2011, it is expected that community-based activities for social behavioural change, addressing violence, abuse and exploitation of children under the "Communication for Social Change Plans" will be further accelerated.
- Enhanced focus on monitoring results, tracking progress of implementing baseline and other study recommendations is expected.
- Under the legislative reform initiative, several new child protection-related laws will be drafted and amendments to existing laws will be made.
- With the conclusion of the child protection research in Samoa and in the Northern Pacific, the Programme will undertake joint planning with partners for the remaining period of the programme cycle.

***Title: Policy, advocacy, planning and evaluation (PAPE)***

### **Purpose:**

- PAPE helps Pacific Island Countries (1) **place children at the centre of national policy, legislation, planning and budgeting**, that progressively address the rights of children, youth and women through inclusive mechanisms, and (2) ensure that **quality disaggregated social data on children, young people and women** are available and integrated into

planning, monitoring and evaluation (PME) systems through child-centred PME skills, data systems and reporting.

- In all the above, the PAPE Programme advocates for and promotes children's, young people's and women's rights and their active and meaningful participation through **strategic communication**.

### **Resources Used:**

Planned Allocation      US\$1,200,000  
Actual Allocation        US\$1,848,466

RR Available              US\$1,035,975  
OR Available              US\$812,491

Donors:                    One Fund (ICT in Kiribati), Thematic Funds (Sentinel Site Monitoring and Child Poverty), DFID (H1N1 Communication).

### **Result Achieved:**

#### Child-Centred Policy, Budgeting, and Legislative Reform

- UNICEF spearheaded the Pacific Conference on 'The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis (GEC)' hosted by the Government of Vanuatu in February 2010. The conference called for attention to be given to and investment made for the most vulnerable, with a specific call to protect social sector budgets. The need for real-time data to monitor the impact of the crisis was also highlighted. In response, UNICEF Pacific worked with governments in six countries to institute Sentinel Site Monitoring. Two rounds of data collection were completed during 2010.
- A Child Poverty and Disparity Study in Vanuatu exploring multi-dimensional aspects of poverty, disparities and barriers was finalized.
- Technical assistance was provided to a regional training and development of a Pacific Manual on National Youth Policy Development. Under the MoU concluded between UNICEF and SPC, the State of Pacific Youth Report and a Review of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005-2010 are currently being prepared through participatory processes.

#### Child-Centred PME Skills, Data Systems and Reporting

- PAPE assisted the formulation of provincial-level Development Plans for Children in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati.
- Based on the findings of a joint UNFPA-UNICEF PME diagnostic study, Solomon Islands and Kiribati agreed to develop an action plan to improve their PME system with more disaggregated data on children and women.
- A "National Committee for Children (NCC) Toolkit" has been pilot-tested in three countries in the region with a view to strengthening NCC capacity to monitor and report on the status of children. Through PAPE's assistance to governments, Cook Islands and Niue submitted their Initial CRC Reports to Geneva. With the completion of these two reports, only three countries globally remain – all of them in the Pacific (Tuvalu, Tonga and Nauru).

#### Monitoring, Study and Evaluation activities

- PAPE commissioned the two scoping studies, "Climate Change and Children in the Pacific Islands" and "Urbanization and Children in the Pacific". These studies provided a picture of how climate change and urbanization affect children in the Pacific, and presented sets of recommendations.
- PAPE also commissioned "An Independent Review of the Status of Gender Mainstreaming within UNICEF Pacific".
- Recommendations of the above reports were reflected in the formulation of UNICEF

Pacific's Multi-Year Work Plans (2011-2012) during MTR.

- Technical assistance was provided to 1) Joint motoring of all programmes with counterparts in Kiribati and Vanuatu, 2) Post-disaster monitoring and evaluation, which include: Fiji's Cyclone Mick and Cyclone Tomas, and Samoa and Tonga Tsunami Evaluation and 3) Most Significant Change (MSC) story collection.

#### Strategic Communication

- Technical assistance to Communication for Development (C4D) on Pandemic Influenza, Health and Sanitation, HIV/AIDS, Education, Child Protection and Emergencies was provided.
- PAPE facilitated two production workshops for young media representatives. At the One Minute Juniors, 25 Fijian youth produced videos focusing on the CRC. At the Media for Children workshop, 60 representatives from Pacific media institutions and youths including the disabled jointly produced media productions on issues such as sanitation, disability and safe sex.
- Following up on the Vanuatu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, a child and youth friendly version has been developed as "Life in Vanuatu: Vanuatu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2007: Young People Edition".
- A 'Knowledge for Children Survey' was conducted to strengthen the delivery of information and knowledge for children.

#### Factors or constraints affecting performance and lessons learned

- Amongst baseline surveys of all programmes, commenced in 2008, only Child Protection data is available in 2010, though HIV/AIDS data became available at the end of the year. Delayed baseline research has slowed the evidence-based advocacy and policy making, and made it difficult to conduct the impact evaluation of programmes activities.
- Limited national capacity delayed submission of the initial CRC report, and commencement of Child Poverty and Disparity Study in Solomon Islands.

#### Partnerships and interagency collaboration

- PAPE Section served as UNICEF's Focal Point to the UNDAF Gender Group, and the UNDAF M&E Group.
- PAPE's social and economic policy and data systems work continued to strengthen relationships with regional academic institutions as well as with CROP agencies (USP, PIFS, SPC), and with the ADB and the World Bank.

### **Future Workplan:**

#### Child-Centred Policy, Budgeting and Legislative Reform

- In Vanuatu, the Child Poverty and Disparity Analysis Report will be used to strengthen the profile of children at the national policy table. Child Poverty and Disparity Study will commence in Solomon Islands/Kiribati.
- Sentinel Site Monitoring and associated policy advocacy will continue in the same six Pacific Island Countries with further focus on institutionalization.
- With NACC toolkit, PAPE will roll-out its support to other National Advisory Committees for Children across the region, strengthening legislative and policy reform for children

#### Child-Centred PME Skills, Data Systems and Reporting

- Support to implementing Provincial Development Plans for Children will continue with a focus on equity, gender and disability in the three focus countries and Country-led evaluation will be assisted.
- A hybrid MICS/DHS in Vanuatu will be examined together with other surveys undertaken to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of data collection with national and regional partners (SPC/UNFPA).
- Preparation for submitting the initial CRC reports of Tonga, Tuvalu and Nauru will be

continuously assisted.

- PAPE will continuously contribute to regional Cairns Compact and national MDG reporting.

#### Strategic Communication

- As a cross-programme contribution, technical assistance to C4D on gender equality, pandemic influenza, HIV/AIDS, education, child protection, emergencies, health and sanitation will be provided.
- Technical assistance to implementation and monitoring of strategic integrated communication and ICT will be offered to governmental counterparts.
- Advocacy and external communication on children's rights and gender equality will continue. 2011 will focus on Children's Atlases and on Child Poverty as part of the follow-up to the Human Face of the GEC conference.
- Our knowledge and analysis for children and of proven interventions will be collected and widely shared, utilizing the result of Knowledge for Children Survey and ICT (e.g. SMS).

## **4. OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT**

### **4.1 Governance & Systems**

#### **4.1.1 Governance Structure:**

The principal governance body in UNICEF Pacific is the Country Management Team (CMT) comprising the Representative, Deputy Representative, Chief of Operations, Section Chiefs (doubling as Chairs of Human Resources Development, Caring for Us, ICT Governance, Emergency Response and External Relations/Resource Mobilization Teams), the LSA Chairperson and the Gender Focal Person (also Chair of the Gender Task Force). The Representative updates on significant and emerging priorities from UNICEF-HQ and UNDG-HQ, UNICEF Regional and UNDG Asia-Pacific, Samoa- and Fiji-UNCTs and Pacific sub-regional events. The Deputy Representative and the Chief of Operations provide updates on progress towards programme and operations results, respectively, as reflected in the Annual Management Plan (AMP) using innovative dashboards that highlight targets as 'met', 'on-track' or 'constrained'. The CMT met 12 times in 2010 and conducted an Annual Management Review on 7 December 2010.

The ICT Governance Team reported on ICT standards for improvement of internal communication (between Fiji, Field and UN Joint Presence Offices), facilitation of connections with partners, enhancement of knowledge management, coherence with other UN agencies and participation of young people; the HRDT reported progress in strategic learning; the PERT reported on effectiveness of response to recent and preparedness for future emergencies; the CFU team reported on progress of planned activities as well as interface with UN Cares; updates on external relations and resource mobilization were reviewed; the extent of gender mainstreaming into programme components and interface with the UN Gender Group was monitored; and relevant staff and JCC-related issues were reviewed for CMT decisions. Major highlights during the reporting period include:

- Improved monitoring of both programme and operations through innovative dashboards.
- Closure of all the (October 2009) audit recommendations before 30 June 2010. Recommendations requiring sustainability continued to be reviewed on monthly basis.
- Staff learning was more strategic, including scheduled courses on supervisory skills, P2D, CBI, gender mainstreaming, emergency preparedness and programme excellence.
- ICT connectivity between Fiji and Field Offices improved with change of provider.
- Improved staff performance on PER timelines and travel claims/certifications submissions.

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

Following the training of the Chief of Operations (also the ERM focal person) in Papua New Guinea, the Office formed an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Team comprised of the Chief of Operations, Deputy Representative and the Chief of Planning. This team coordinated the training and participation of staff in identifying strategic risks, preparing the risk profile and library and reviewing of work processes. Selected staff participated in an in-depth review of key work processes (to ensure that they were risk-informed) and prepared a set of recommendations for CMT review and approval.

- Emergency Preparedness Plan: The Emergency Preparedness Plan was further reviewed - during the period under review - to target the specific needs of the Pacific Island Countries. Lessons learned from previous floods and tsunami were incorporated in the new strategic plans. Subsequently, there were three training sessions for all staff on the revised Emergency Preparedness Plans; the effectiveness of the plans was also tested through simulation.

- Business Continuity Plan (BC): The office is fully equipped with and is utilizing the BC site. In March 2010, the office tested the BC plan in a process that involved all Field Offices, UNDSS, the Regional Office and OPSCEN. The lessons learned were shared with the RO. Most of the lapses have been addressed while few items that require procurement such as VSAT connectivity will be budgeted for in 2011.

- UN Disaster Management Team: UNICEF Pacific's emergency response is closely coordinated with the respective National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO) in the Pacific in collaboration with the UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT). The Deputy Representative coordinates UNICEF response with other agencies and partners in the Pacific. While the Chief of Education doubled as the emergency focal person for the office, the post-MTR structure includes an Emergency Specialist that will report directly to the Deputy Representative.

All the above plans have been incorporated into the Risk and Control Self Assessment (RCSA) report of the office and coordinated by the Security and Emergency Committee chaired by the Deputy Representative.

#### **4.1.3 Evaluation:**

UNICEF Pacific has a 5-year IMEP, supported by annual monitoring and evaluation plans. The IMEP has been revised in the context of the 2010 Mid-Term Review.

Previous evaluations have helped UNICEF Pacific to:

- Sharpen programme focus as it focused on areas that can maximize results
- Contribute to learning about what works and what does not to improve capacity and programme quality
- Contribute to national, UN and global knowledge
- Ensure accountability.

To ensure that evaluations were objective, fair and impartial, clear terms of reference for major evaluations conducted or supported by UNICEF included the standard set of evaluation criteria such as relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. The ToRs define tasks and deliverables clearly. The Solomon Islands post-Tsunami evaluation included coverage, an additional important parameter that enabled us to establish the proportion of the affected population covered by UNICEF emergency assistance.

UNICEF Pacific's individual programme components for the 2008-2012 programme cycle are designed so that they can be easily evaluated. Baselines data that were researched and documented by individual programmes have made it possible to measure progress and impact at various points and at the end of the programme cycle. There is a framework for the MCP to prepare an action plan against recommendations of each completed evaluation.

Since there is overall lack of capacity for evaluation in key government sectors in the sub-region, evaluation of major development plans, policies or strategies are seldom

implemented. Under the current PAPE programme, capacity-building in planning, monitoring and evaluation at provincial level has been a main component of UNICEF activities aimed at promoting 'Provincial Development Plans for Children'. UNICEF is also working closely with universities in Australia, New Zealand, USA and the Pacific to identify expertise that can be easily called upon to implement independent evaluations and the formulation of programmes and initiatives that can be easily evaluated.

To ensure proper follow-up on the recommendations from evaluations and major studies, UNICEF has in place a database on all evaluations completed since 2005 that is periodically reviewed and a quarterly report prepared for the country management team meetings.

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

**Effective use of information and communication technology:** Improving internet connectivity between the multi-country office in Suva, Fiji, and the Field Offices was a priority during the reporting period. On the basis of recurrent system failures, an agreement was reached with UNICEF RO and ITSS in UNICEF NYHQ to change the VSAT service provider from GSM to Pactel. This change has resulted in more reliable connectivity across our four office locations. The office now organizes video-conferences for meetings with staff and partners in all the UNICEF focus offices in the Pacific. VOIP has also improved significantly leading to substantial cost-savings.

**ICT Software/Hardware Standards & Policies:** The Office continues to observe ICT hardware and software standards and to enforce ICT policies and procedures. A replacement plan was implemented to upgrade all hardware (workstations, laptops and servers) to be compatible with the pending upgrade to Windows 7, MS Office 2010 and Windows 2008 Server.

**Data Backup/BCP Site:** An alternate office site was identified and set up in 2009. The ICT Unit moved old servers to the site with a rack and plans to set up a link to the UNICEF WAN, so that the site is completely autonomous. The current tape backup procedure will be retained with further review of the process.

**LAN/WAN Connectivity:** The UNICEF Pacific Office in Suva, Fiji has a stable IPsec connection and discussions are under way with UNFPA and UNDP to share a common 10 Mbps link from the local ISP. This will increase the bandwidth for the Suva office threefold – from the current 1Mbps to 3Mbps. The ISP will be installing a fibre-optic cable for this shared link.

**Areas for Improvement:** The areas that require improvement are: a) increased bandwidth within the field offices to meet the requirements of the new organizational change, b) establishment of long term arrangement for frequent supplies, c) improvement of internal controls regarding warehousing/issuing of supplies and d) securing of permission from HQ/RO to use Skype (or such a system) to facilitate low-cost communication across the Pacific. A request on this last item is pending with ITSS and RO/APSSC.

## **4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship**

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

**Donor Reports:** The donor reporting work-process was strengthened with early triggers and a robust peer review/quality assurance process. This has resulted in timely submission of quality reports; during 2010 all donor reports were sent on time. Donor reports are prepared by the responsible programme and submitted along with a completed checklist to the Deputy Representative for final review

prior to submission; donor report feedback forms were sent to donors with all reports.

**OR mobilization:** Against the multi-country programme's nominal annual OR ceiling of US\$6.6 million, UNICEF had US\$10.3 million available for programming of which US\$8.2 million was requisitioned (123% of OR ceiling). This reflects increasing confidence of donor partners in the capacity of UNICEF Pacific to support child-centred development. In 2011, the multi-country office will likely request the UNICEF Executive Board to increase the OR ceiling of the 2008-2011 MCP.

**Emergency funding:** AusAID continued to support UNICEF Pacific to pre-position emergency supplies equivalent to US\$1.0 million in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. These supplies can be shifted quickly across countries in the event of an emergency. During 2010, UNICEF Pacific was able to quickly deploy the supplies for various emergencies with AusAID promptly replenishing the stocks through top-up funding. AusAID's 2010 evaluation of response to emergencies in the Pacific rated UNICEF performance highly. NZAID has provided funding for a desalination unit which can be quickly deployed in areas where water sources are sea-water contaminated.

**PBA Management:** All PBAs that expired in 2010 were more than 99 percent expended. Active monitoring of PBA status by the Budget Monitoring Unit has kept PBA extension requests to a minimum (2 in 2010).

**Partnerships and resource mobilization:** Considerable efforts were made, during 2010, to develop corporate partnerships; this initiative will produce dividends in 2011. Furthermore, new multi-year funding agreements have been negotiated with AusAID and major new funding streams have been opened up with the EU (Water facility and EDF 10) and UNTFHS for both Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. UNICEF also accessed almost US\$400,000 from the UN One Fund for Kiribati.

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

**Management of Financial and other assets of the organization:** The period under review registered significant improvements in segregation of duties within operations functions of the Office with the recruitment of additional finance and administration staff. Bank reconciliation is better and timely. Cash flow monitoring was properly maintained in Suva and Field Offices. Use of bank transfer memos in the currency of the specific Field Offices ensured minimization of risk attributable to exchange rate fluctuations/losses. In addition, efficiency was enhanced by requesting DFAM-Finance to transfer replenishments directly to the focus countries instead of routing them through Suva; these actions made savings by avoiding transfer charges and reducing transfer time.

The Suva Office lease (with Fiji Development Bank) was renewed for another five-year term (2010 – 2015) at a higher market rate. The Gizo Zone Office was closed as per the approval of the October 2010 PBR MailPoll. UNICEF is negotiating with landlords for additional office space in Kiribati and Vanuatu in view of the foreseen staff expansion (both UNICEF and other UN).

□ Inventory management was one of the priorities during the year and was implemented effectively in each of the offices including the Field offices (with all assets properly coded and categorized into offices/inventory type).

□ The office vehicles continued to be maintained regularly and their use properly monitored to avoid abuse. One office vehicle was disposed off through the PSB process in Kiribati within the year. The office has a total of five vehicles with two

in Suva and one each in the Field Offices. It is expected that the vehicles in Kiribati and Solomon Islands will be replaced in 2011 as they are over four years old.

**DCT Monitoring:** Three countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) are now HACT compliant; Samoa and Cook Islands are expected to be compliant in January and Fiji in June 2011. The DCT workprocess ensures regular reminders, red-flags and action-triggers for transfers exceeding 6 months. All these steps notwithstanding, the period under review has been challenging primarily because of limited capacity in partners. This issue will continue to receive priority attention in 2011.

#### **4.2.3 Supply:**

**Supply management:** The office continues to sustain the internal risk management measures initiated following the recent internal audit. This has led to significant improvements in supply management, including end-use monitoring, timely preparation of the supply plan and monthly comparison of supply plan against actual procurement which is shared with programme staff. The list of top-ten supply items is now maintained and regularly shared with management. Stock-taking of supplies in the warehouses (including Field Offices) were taken twice in the year (June and December). The focus from now on is to ensure that no losses of drugs, vaccines and other items occur from negligence in managing inventories and stock flows.

With the stockpiles in Suva and each of the field offices, the office was able to respond quickly to emergencies in Fiji and Solomon Islands.

The Vaccine Independence Initiative's (VII) further extension for 5 years (2011-2015) will ensure vaccine security for the Pacific island countries. A revolving fund contributed by Australia and New Zealand enables UNICEF to bulk-procure vaccines so that countries can access them at affordable prices. UNICEF Pacific facilitates the Initiative by signing 2-yearly agreements supported by annual letters of guarantee with each of the participating countries.

The market survey earmarked for 2010 was deferred to 2011 due to inability to get a suitable local consultant to carry out the survey; a decision has been made to increase the budget and implement this activity in 2011 through an international consultancy with support from Regional Office. The survey will include Australian and New Zealand markets.

The local market depends mostly on items purchased from Australia and New Zealand which are of quality and supplied on a timely basis. Supply Division has supported the office with prompt procurement and delivery of emergency (including education and health kits) and vaccine supplies. The shipping agents also provided the office with timely shipping details which facilitated prompt clearing and delivery of items to the end-users.

#### **4.3 Human Resource Capacity:**

The post-MTR CPMP proposed an increase of 24 staff; approved by the October 2010 PBR Mailpoll. Supported by host countries and donors, this enhancement will ensure that UNICEF effectively supports acceleration of progress towards targeted results for children (including the MDGs).

Office-wide learning was conducted in key areas including emergency preparedness, multi-year rolling plans and gender mainstreaming. Operations staff were trained in finance, human resources, ICT, supply and administration. Other thematic priority learning included: CBI, Supervisory Skills, and P<sup>2</sup>D. Orientations

on anti-fraud policy, conflict of interest/financial disclosure, the whistle-blower protection policy, UNICEF standards of electronic conduct, disciplinary measures and procedures, standards of conduct of the international civil service and United Nations Charter were completed. Global Staff Survey issues were discussed at the JCC and general staff meetings and each section tasked to implement decisions to improve work-life balance.

The Pacific Emergency Response Team (PERT) has enhanced UNICEF capacity to plan for and respond to disasters.

PER submissions in 2010 were more timely when compared with 2009. Staff report that the quality of planning, discussions and feedback is also continuously improving.

The UNICEF Pacific Staff Association (UPSA) spearheads several monthly and yearly staff functions. General staff meetings are regularly convened jointly by management and UPSA to provide briefings on emerging priorities and events. The innovative event whereby each staff member is recognized for their contribution during the year has been well appreciated by staff.

Systematic orientation was implemented on staff security including: the new security level system (SLS), the warden system and use of HF radios. Steps have been taken to agree and clearly communicate plans for emergency medical evacuation. In September 2010 UNICEF Pacific commissioned an occupational health and safety (OHS) audit of the Fiji Office premises and is taking steps to act on the ensuing recommendations.

#### **4.4 Other Issues**

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

Efficiencies have been achieved through UN Common Services. UNICEF took the lead to facilitate simultaneous engagement of two international travel agents, bringing competition and lowering costs.

The banking subcommittee is working on an evaluation of key banks within the Pacific that will give a competitive benefit to the UN. This process will be completed in early 2011.

The OMT solicited bids from reputable security companies to recommend to UN agencies and international staff for engagement.

The initiative to gain greater efficiency through efficient expanded internet connectivity within the one UN framework throughout the Pacific Islands will also pay off well.

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

The 2011 AMP will include: Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) profiles and library; prioritized learning plans for the new initiatives, i.e. VISION, IPSAS, Windows 7, MS Outlook, Office 2010; the multi-year planning framework; the equity tracker; and the gender tracker.

The 16 post-MTR PCR/IRs will be reflected in the AMP and performance against them will be monitored by the CMT on quarterly basis.

Since the CPMP was revised following the 2010 MTR and was part of the documents approved by the October 2010 PBR MailPoll, no changes are envisaged in 2011.

## 5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

### **5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:**

1. *Climate Change and Children in the Pacific Islands*
2. *Pacific Children with Disabilities*
3. *Children living away from their parents in the Pacific*
4. *An Independent Review of the Status of Gender Mainstreaming within UNICEF Pacific*
5. *Understanding HIV and AIDS Risk and Vulnerability among Solomon Islands Youth*
6. *Urbanization and Children in the Pacific*
7. *Understanding HIV and AIDS Risk and Vulnerability among Kiribati Youth*
8. *Understanding HIV and AIDS Risk and Vulnerability among Vanuatu Youth*

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

1. *Food & Nutrition Security in Pacific Island Nations and Territories: a position paper with emphasis on food and nutrition security of mothers and children*
2. *Looking Back Moving Forward 2009/2010: A Review and Update on UNICEF's Work for Pacific Island Children*
3. *Life in Vanuatu Multiple Indicator Cluster- Young people's edition*
4. *Media for Pacific Children*
5. *Global Economic Crisis video*
6. *One Minute Juniors*
7. *NACC Toolkit*

## 6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED:

**Title:** *Meeting Vanuatu's Education Strategic Goals through a Sector Wide, Pooled Partner Programme*

**Contact Person:** Emmanuelle Abrioux eabrioux@unicef.org

### **Abstract:**

In 2010, UNICEF entered a Joint Partnership Arrangement with the Government of Vanuatu and nine Development Partners (DPs) to support the Vanuatu Education Road Map (VERM). UNICEF contributes to the VERM Partnership Arrangement as a pooled partner, thereby providing predictable, longer term funding (amounting to 1.5 million USD over 3 years) As one of three pooled partners (alongside the Australian Government and the New Zealand Government), UNICEF has been able to use its position to effectively advocate for increased budget allocations to areas of concern (such as Early Childhood Education and Minimum Quality Service Standards for Schools). UNICEF has been able to dedicate all of its support towards strategic technical assistance to basic education sector policy and practice and leverage results within the entire 12 million USD Joint Education Sector Programme.

### **Innovation or Lessons Learned:**

The pooled partner funding modality for UNICEF Pacific's engagement to the Education Sector Wide Approach to Programming (SWaP) in Vanuatu is new for the Multi-Country Programme. Whilst UNICEF has experience with SWaP mechanisms in both education and health sectors in the Pacific, this was the first time that UNICEF committed to pooling funds with other Development Partners in a SWaP. The pooled partnership arrangement has fundamentally changed the way in which UNICEF engages at a national level, with a far greater impact on policy and budgetary systems than was earlier possible.

### **Potential Application:**

The Vanuatu Ministry of Education is the first Ministry to adopt this model of Joint Sector Partnership and Programming, and the Ministry of Health (MoH) has expressed an interest in designing a similar approach for their Joint Programme. The pooled partner approach is one which can be applied across the various programme sectors which UNICEF supports.

### **Issue/Background:**

Between 2005 and 2008, the Net Enrolment Rate for Primary Education in Vanuatu fell from 95 to 82 percent with similar negative trends in basic education completion rates. Inability to pay school fees was the key reason why an estimated 18 percent of children did not attend school, and why only 76 percent reached grade 6.

In 2009, the Government of Vanuatu requested all development partners to respect the Cairns Compact and the Paris Declaration through better 'self regulation' in their coordination. The Government abolished primary school fees and established a programme of school grants.

### **Strategy and Implementation:**

The three strategic goals of the VERM are to: 1) increase equitable access to education for all people at all levels of education in Vanuatu, 2) improve the quality of education in Vanuatu and, 3) improve and strengthen the management of the education system in Vanuatu. Under oversight of the Government of Vanuatu, the VERM is operationalised as a three year rolling work plan, from which annual work plans are developed. Monthly meetings are held between the Government of Vanuatu (GoV) with representation from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and Economic Management), Donor 'Pool Partners', and a representative of the Education Partners Group for the purpose of monitoring progress of the Joint Education Sector Programme. Two joint reviews are held annually, one in June and another in November with the latter serving as the opportunity for a final review of the MoE's budget for the following year. The payment schedule from the pool partners is both calibrated against existing implementation capacity as well as performance based, with achievement of results triggering additional pooled partner funds.

### **Progress and Results:**

#### Results:

- A more focused and strategic engagement for UNICEF through its formal involvement in the annual education sector budget planning processes and joint monitoring of education sector progress.
- Ability to more effectively leverage an equity focus within national policy development and work-plans. An example is that of school grants, where the Ministry of Education has agreed to review the current formula funding in 2011.
- Greater allocation of budget resources within the 2011 MoE WorkPlan for ECCE, and a dedicated budget line established for Minimum Quality School Standards Development & Implementation.
- Mainstreaming of UNICEF's ChildFriendlySchool principles within Ministry of Education systems and tools.
- Some 70 percent of government-funded primary schools were 'fee free' by the end of 2010 resulting in an increase of approximately 10 percent in primary enrolment.

#### Challenges:

- It takes time for internal and external colleagues to understand the shift in the modality for engagement and for partners to sustain a one-team approach.
- Pooled partner arrangement requires sufficient predictable financial resources, in order to provide experienced, quality technical inputs for senior level discussions.

- UNICEF needs to have adequate RR and/or untied OR to ensure strong technical presence throughout the pooled partnership.

### **Next Steps:**

Over 2011, UNICEF Pacific will document the process, challenges and impact of UNICEF engagement through pooled funding arrangement in Vanuatu as well as identifying recommendations for consideration by other countries seeking to undertake a similar approach.

## **7. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION:**

**Pacific Immunisation Programme Strengthening (PIPS):** PIPS annually brings together 14 Pacific island countries (PICS) and development partners (AusAID, CDC, JICA, NZAID, UNICEF and WHO) to strengthen immunisation coverage and quality. Technical support is synchronized (each agency offering pieces along a continuum of EPI technical advice) and financial support harmonized across 14 countries, avoiding duplication and wastage of resources. Best practices are documented and shared among participating countries.

**High level conference on the global economic crisis and its impact on children and women** in the Pacific took place in February 2010. Participants discussed the impacts of the global economic crisis on the most vulnerable categories of people (including children, youth, women, people with disabilities, urban and rural poor, and others) and agreed on strategic actions.

**UNICEF, UNESCO and the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA)** partnered to develop a series of in-service professional development modules for teacher trainers across the Pacific region. In 2010, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education of Kiribati in the delivery of one of these modules, 'Creating a Conducive Teacher Learning Environment', undertaken in partnership with the Kiribati Teachers' College.

**The Pacific Food Summit:** UNICEF, WHO and FAO joined forces to help convene the Pacific Food Summit in April 2010. The Summit Declaration highlighted seven themes around which the PICS should cooperate: leadership; regulatory frameworks; sustainable production and processing of local nutritious foods; protection of infants and vulnerable groups; consumer empowerment; food security information system; and the cross-cutting issues of land, transport, energy, education and information and communication technology (ICT).