

UNICEF Philippines Annual Country Report

2010

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ACRONYMS

4Ps	<i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino</i> Programme
ACF	ASEAN Children's Forum
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
C4D	communication for development
CCT	conditional cash transfer
CFSS	Child-Friendly School System
CMAM	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CPC	Country Programme for Children
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DepEd	Department of Education
DOH	Department of Health
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
EAPRO	East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
ECCD	early childhood care and development
FA	focus area
FFL	Female Functional Literacy
IDP	internally displaced person
IHBSS	integrated HIV Behavioural Serologic Surveillance
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
KRA	key result area
LGU	local government unit
MARA	most-at-risk adolescents
MARCY	most-at-risk children and young people
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDGF	Millennium Development Goals Fund
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MRM	monitoring and reporting mechanism
MTSP	medium-term strategic plan
NCR	National Capital Region
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGO	non-governmental organisation
PSFR	Private Sector Fundraising
STI	sexually transmitted infection
SY	school year
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Philippines is making good progress towards several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but often the growth path is not linear. Crises, global and local, can lead to slowdowns, even setbacks. Moreover overall progress conceals major regional discrepancies, including in areas of civil conflict. It is through its fuller understanding of those divergences that UNICEF will start to define a strong equity focus to its future programming. The major challenges are in primary education, maternal mortality and poverty and malnutrition.

UNICEF created a sub-office in Mindanao to directly engage and support the government system.

UNICEF has contributed to success in several key MDG areas through:

- Advancing early childhood care and development (ECCD), now accessed by an estimated 40 per cent of 3- to 5-year-old children. ECCD is seen as key to breaking the trend of stagnant, even falling, elementary school participation.
- Allowing midwives to provide lifesaving medicines and the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotions Act, which extends breastfeeding support beyond health facilities to the community and employer. In water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), families in Mindanao benefitted from WASH services and facilities.
- Developing cooperation with the Mindanao Development Authority which covers a two-year programme of assistance to some of the least developed provinces of the Philippines and developed its support to the conditional cash transfer programme targeting 2.3 million families to meet the MDGs in health and education.
- Strengthening a systems-based approach for child protection with actions at the levels of national legislation, community engagement to prevent sexual abuse and child trafficking and children affected by armed conflict.

UNICEF's equity focus is increasingly recognised by the UNICEF team as the most effective approach in a situation where, even in a 'normal' year, dilution is undermining impact, and total resources are very limited relative to the magnitude of national activities needing support. The emerging strategy for the Philippines is dual: strong partnerships directly with government in the driver's seat and a more selective portfolio of activities focused on critical MDG deficiencies in regions of greatest need. The 2010 programme helped identify those key niches – areas where piloting with UNICEF support is linked to expressed government willingness to scale up, sometimes by seeing UNICEF as a third arm in a relationship with other major donors. One major example is the conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme, whose coverage is planned to more than double from one million poor households in 2010.

The UNICEF goal is to become an important mediating actor between the government and the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), leveraging UNICEF's complementary skills for more effective child-friendly implementation. Initiating this shift in programming style will require more effort to overcome two vulnerabilities shown in 2010 and criticised in a recent external evaluation – continued 'silo' behaviour in internal work and hesitancy to work strategically with larger donors.

The year 2010, despite its election disruption, provided the space to explore how to move programming to a more strategic, focused stance. This will entail stronger partnerships already started this year and a deeper shift in engagement style, one in which UNICEF staff move away from a project 'retailing' relationship with mainly smaller donors towards a more upstream role, with focused partnership with government around a subset of its core priorities. This will have to be incremental, as UNICEF gains new competencies and government itself achieves greater cohesion between cash-rich, centralised ministries and slowly strengthening local government, which is responsible for most service delivery.

II. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The Philippines is a product of both its physical geography and its colonial past. It is an archipelago very vulnerable to typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. It faces the South China Sea to the east and Islamic Indonesia to the south. Its colonial past, lasting a few centuries, was largely Spanish, but its political culture and institutional framework come from the much shorter period of USA control. This is reflected in its political structure, with a presidential government. The Spaniards left the country's dominant faith, Catholicism¹, as well as important roots of inequality through their fostering of large, privileged and private landholdings.

The country has been considered a weaker² economic performer within the fast-growing Southeast Asian region, with perhaps less of the globally competitive edge of its key neighbours. It has a continuing history of poor governance, substantial inequality, vulnerability to natural disasters and intermittent domestic conflicts across the country. The country's population of roughly 94 million is youthful, with some 37 million children. The gross national product in 2009 was USD160 billion, and per capita income was USD1,800³. Sustained migration for employment has furnished a macro-economically critical flow of remittances, but has also weakened the social cohesion⁴ of society, especially since many of the migrants are women.

The Philippines still has a relatively high population growth rate of a little over 2 per cent per annum, which is very unusual for a modern, middle-income country, even a low-income one in Asia. This has created further pressures on an under-resourced social service infrastructure. The latter reality is exemplified by a social sector investment rate that has never risen in the last decade above 3 to 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product, a significant part of which is in the private sector and is effectively not accessible to the poor and the isolated. A key 'solution' in the form of a more aggressive approach to reproductive health still faces political hesitancy and legislative blockages in this Catholic country, one with often-conservative perspectives on birth control and on other interventions to improve the health of women.

However, these are politically optimistic times with overall high expectations. The presidential elections in May 2010 saw Benigno Aquino III win a strong victory with the promise of a stable, reform-minded government for the next six years. His central public goal is to tackle corruption, but inequity issues, including recent increases in the poverty rate and shortfalls on several other MDGs, point to a need to tackle important human development challenges. **The Situation for Children and Women**

Middle-income status, combined with general and regional inequality – the Gini coefficient was 0.75 in 2007 – is reflected in a weak socioeconomic status, with some indicators declining for many of the Philippines' poor. The country's overall Human Development Index figure in 2010 is 0.64, placing the country at No. 97 worldwide. Adjusted for equality, the index falls to 0.52. It has barely advanced over the last few years. This reality is in contrast to a generally good record in terms of formal commitments to international conventions to protect children, including complementary domestic legislation and an updated National Plan of Action.

Performance on the MDGs, notably the prospects of meeting key targets, is uneven. The table below summarises Philippine government expectations for key MDGs within the mandate of UNICEF. They were assembled by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in the context of a Strategic Moment of Reflection exercise for UNICEF Philippines in mid-2010.

¹ Catholics comprise about 85 per cent of the population. Another 9 per cent are Protestant and about 5 per cent Muslim. The latter are concentrated in the southern islands, notably Mindanao, closer to Indonesia and Malaysia with their dominant Islamic culture. This region has had a long simmering, even if currently lower-level, armed conflict.

² This is a relative statement. The country has been weathering the global financial crisis relatively well and has continued to grow at a healthy level.

³ World Bank gross national income data.

⁴ Because of migration, some 9 million children are growing up without a parent.

Table 1. Probability of Meeting the Principal 2015 MDG Targets

High	Medium	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Gender equality in education • Child mortality • Access to safe drinking water • Access to sanitary toilet facilities 	Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education: elementary participation, cohort survival and completion rates • Maternal mortality ratio • Access to reproductive health services • HIV and AIDS

Based on disaggregated MDG targets and other regional disparities in income and investment in/availability of social services and infrastructure, less precise data suggest that the prospects for late acceleration in MDG progress are limited. However, also looking forward to 2015, an important, positive countervailing factor is the growing openness of Philippine society as its democratic culture strengthens and its energetic civil society and vocal media draw attention to the inequality in access to key basic services and opportunities.

Poverty levels are recognised as the key driver of children's development prospects and a basic indicator⁵ of inequality in accessing key human development services. The latest Family Income and Expenditures Survey showed child poverty still rising in the period 2003 to 2006, reaching 41 per cent in 2006. Similar poverty trends apply to fishermen and farmers, as proxies for the rural population representing about two-thirds of the poor. The poverty rate is four times higher for agricultural households than for the rest of the population. The large cities contain most of the balance of the poor; about 20 percent of Metro Manila's people reside in informal settlements. Geographically, Visayas and Mindanao have the worst poverty surveyed on a self-rated basis. Poverty for Mindanao was recently rated as high as 59 per cent compared with rates in the 40-45 per cent range for much of the rest of the country. The ripple effects from the global food crisis and the ongoing global financial crisis have only aggravated these income inequalities.

These income deprivation effects are replicated in data on the access of children to key services at both the household and community levels. While access to electricity improved, the trend⁶ for sanitation and water was less positive, with only modest improvements decade after decade. Some 4 million children have been victims of child labour, with about 100,000 forced into prostitution. Many minors have been recruited into armed conflict over the years. The CCT, an important government initiative extending financial support directly to poor households, could fundamentally change the dynamic⁷ of poverty for millions of households over the coming years. It will also likely put major pressures on the government's capacity to establish the complementary social infrastructure needed to be fully responsive to the induced demand.

Two important additional dimensions must be recognised in understanding the overall threats to children and women in the Philippines – its vulnerability to natural disasters and the collateral human damage of armed conflict. Both are ongoing factors for which 2010 was actually a better year, with less than normal damage.

The Philippines sits in a belt of earthquake fault lines and volcanoes, many still active, rendering it always vulnerable to serious but unpredictable damage. A more regular⁸ threat is the annual cycle of tropical storms and typhoons that kill individuals and destroy homes and crops. A permanent system of national preparedness measures is in place and is supported by many humanitarian agencies, including UNICEF.

⁵ Data taken from 'Situation Assessment and Analysis of Filipino Children 2010', UNICEF Philippines, 2010.

Systematic disaggregated data are rather fragmented, pointing to a monitoring and evaluation challenge for UNICEF.

⁶ Child Poverty Study, Philippine Institute of Development Studies, UNICEF, 2009.

⁷ This will be a major challenge to UNICEF, as it offers a demanding context in which UNICEF can influence and give complementary support for the global agency goal of more focused poverty intervention via a new partnership with the government and with major multilateral donors.

⁸ An average of 20 typhoons per annum, of which about a quarter cause significant to major damage.

Finally, the country and its children have been suffering from the long-term collateral impact of ongoing armed conflicts in several regions, ranging from armed groups linked to the old, outlawed communist party, to people fighting for stronger regional autonomy, notably in Muslim Mindanao. These conflicts also have their cycle, manmade rather than natural, as armed conflict is temporarily reduced by negotiations over political settlements, only to flare up again as parties become frustrated at the limited changes agreed upon and the promises unfulfilled. The UN is formally engaged in promoting peace, and UNICEF is involved in ensuring that basic services to the poor are not seriously disrupted and that children are not directly embroiled in conflict. UNICEF has also used its networks and credibility amongst the affected communities to facilitate political processes seeking to diminish the conflicts and to insulate children from the worst effects.

III. COUNTRY PROGRAMME

Country Programme Analysis and Results

Section 3.1: Country Programme Analytical Overview

Programming Context

UNICEF Philippines is midway through a two-year extension to its country programme, CPC-6. The extension was put in place at the request of the Government and is designed to support the process of bringing the UNDAF process into alignment with the GoP planning cycle, specifically the Medium-Term Philippines Development Plan (MTPDP 2012-2018) approved by the recently elected government under President Aquino.

The program structure and the majority of the approved objectives, results and strategies of the 2004-2009 country programme were defined via a Summary Results Matrix dated March 2010 covering the two-year extension. The program operates in a complex and demanding environment, both politically and developmentally. This environment is additionally conditioned by ongoing civil conflict in important regions of the country and a recurrent vulnerability to adverse weather (cyclones) demanding emergency support, where UNICEF has a traditional leadership role.

The ongoing if sometimes sporadic armed conflict in the south of the country has demanded incremental UNICEF resources, human and financial, for many years now. Minors continue to be recruited into armed conflicts and there are sustained programs for their release and rehabilitation. Displaced families from the conflicts in 2009 are only slowly returning home demanding continuing support, including child protection services. The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Children Affected by Armed Conflict reports regularly on incidents in the Philippines.

Based upon earlier assessments the new transitional program 2010-2011 sought to focus its activities, both geographically on areas of greatest need and functionally by moving to more strategic interventions. Efforts by UNICEF in 2010 have particularly sought to complement on-the-ground programming, notably via capacity-building for local government in weaker regions, with activities in support of improved legislation and policies, for example on child protection. Guided by national MDG indicators, interventions were orientated towards those areas/regions where progress is most lacking for women and children – in poverty reduction, malnutrition, universal primary education and maternal/neonatal mortality. At the same time, national (GoP) policy has itself started to shift to more strategic, poverty reduction interventions, notably via its new, now expanding, cash transfer program (CCT/ PPPP).

A major external evaluation (Universalia; August 2010) of UNICEF activities in the Philippines, covering both CPC-5 and CPC-6, provided important recommendations on enhanced focus, managing for results and strengthened partnerships. It presented insights on an ongoing management tension for UNICEF Philippines as it has started to place more attention on national strategic interventions, whilst also responding to sustained demand for service delivery dominated projects at the local government (LGU) level. It highlighted issues of sustainability to which UNICEF is responding in part with a greater emphasis on local capacity-building.

As noted above, UNICEF has contributed this year to the developing of a new UNDAF for the period 2012 - 2018, including helping to frame a joint situation analysis and work on engendering the framework. This was part of a larger process in which government and non-government actors were engaging at all key stages. The central objective was a final product well-aligned with the Government's new Medium Term Philippine Development Plan. Its three priority areas are:

- > reducing inequity in access to quality benefits, services and economic opportunities for improved, sustainable, productive and decent livelihoods. Within this UNICEF will lead jointly on food security and nutrition and social protection.
- > advancing rights, participation and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable. This is an important element in many UNICEF activities.
- > strengthening national and local resilience to climate change, shocks and disasters. UNICEF is a lead partner with government in response to emergencies.

The two transition years are also providing UNICEF with an early opportunity to test elements that might help shape an **equity-focused approach**, including a recommended shift to a more strategic engagement style. This approach will be spelt out in a draft UNICEF country strategy currently in the early stages of preparation. This UNICEF re-alignment will need to be harmonised with the direction of UNDAF programming but most critically it will be responsive to /aligned with the governments medium-term plan that significantly, in terms of both substance and expectations, will straddle the terminal date of the MDG's 2015.

Results

Results at outcome level only emerge slowly. But these incremental steps, including those under this transition program are key to helping the country hopefully achieve many of its MDGs by 2015. The political transitions in 2010, while a source of new energy for longer-term change, complicated many specifics of implementation, even program design, for UNICEF, as well as for all other development partners. The Presidential elections occupied officials in both national and local government for much of the first half of the year. Decision-makers were distracted; indeed by law all government business ceased for the month prior to the elections. A new President also means re-establishing contacts and credibility with a largely new array of cabinet-level Secretaries as well as many new local partners.

UNICEF has used aggregate national Philippines data to assess performance in support for the MDGs, recognising that there is an important joint **attribution** assumption in that its efforts are only a partial contribution, coordinated with the larger inputs of government, central and local, along with those of other donors, including other UNDAF partners and civil society/NGOs. These broad indicators are regularly supplemented by specific intermediate or local targets built into the monitoring of UNICEF-supported projects; many of these results are presented in Annex Section 3.2.

Monitoring and Evaluation. There is an ongoing effort to better systemise results data in ongoing UNICEF project design and monitoring. Part of this is internal to the UNICEF office and part is being built into individual project/activity design with our implementing partners⁹, notably those at the local LGU level, including capacity-building for their own monitoring efforts. The recent Universalia program evaluation has criticised current gaps in and inconsistent usage of these monitoring frameworks and the results data accessible to UNICEF. There is often incomplete baseline data or missing intermediate outcome data, including for indicators from the Results Matrix of the CPC Extension. Responding to this, staff are seeking to develop and use results-**frameworks** that are both meaningful and critically **doable**, drawing wherever possible on baselines and intermediate outcome indicators that are nationally owned. A more disciplined framework requiring mandatory M&E frameworks for all activities is now in place.

In this context, UNICEF is playing an important role in helping the Government in its own concerted effort to improve monitoring frameworks. Notably, responding to a request by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), UNICEF has provided financial support as well as used its convening abilities to assist in creating an enhanced M&E Network, one designed to function as an open-membership "platform" in which other stakeholders (donors, CSOs, etc) can become actively engaged.

⁹ A key challenges is the poor coordination in data collection between different levels of government and indeed with the active CSO community. This is partly an issue of poor resourcing of this activity, but that should argue for better coordination to avoid duplication.

Progress on MDGs. The Philippines is making good progress towards several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but often the growth path is not linear. Crises, global and local, can lead to slowdowns, even setbacks. Moreover overall progress conceals major regional discrepancies, including in areas of civil conflict, often pointing to the likelihood of millions not reaching the MDG target. It is through its fuller understanding of those divergences that UNICEF will start to define a strong equity focus to its future programming. Results are often indirect and UNICEF Philippines has been particularly active in fostering and facilitating action at the legislative level, notably around children's and women's rights.

Looking to recent trends – but still reflecting lags in data availability - several specific MDG indicators of interest to/engagement by UNICEF can be noted.

In 2008, looking at MDG 7.A, some 89 percent of the population had access to safe drinking water, suggesting the Philippines is likely to achieve the water coverage rate. Some 81 percent also have access to improved sanitation. The national coverage rates mask huge disparities in access; for example, in Mindanao only one-third of families have access to improved water and only 45 percent to sanitation.

The MDG target 4.A for reducing under-five mortality to 27 per 1000 by 2015 is reachable with the latest 2008 data showing a figure of 34, down from 80 in 1990. The trend-line on the neonatal mortality rate is almost flat and remains a significant challenge. Interestingly in gender terms, male infant death rates are significantly higher than female.

In terms of MDG 5.A, the maternal mortality ratio for 2006 (latest data) is 162 per 100,000. Even though this is an improvement on the 209 figure for 1990, the rate is declining far too slowly to meet the MDG target of 52. Poor access to timely medical care is judged to be the main factor, despite increased birth attendance of skilled health personnel, including in past-neglected areas now supported by UNICEF. Coverage is still in the 60-70 percent range (although national info is dated) and the 100 percent MDG target seems unreachable.

While HIV is not seen as a major health challenge in the Philippines, prevalence is rising not falling, hence cause growing policy sensitivity. The rate rose sharply from 0.1 percent, in 2008 to 0.47 percent in 2009, with a rising trend in newly reported cases. Infection rates have risen very rapidly in the high-risk group of sex-workers. The MDG target 6.A which require an infection rate reversal may start to look unreachable. UNICEF has focused on improving a shaky data situation, as well as facilitating a well-supported awareness campaign called 'Power of You' for school-children which has had support from some religious authorities in this substantially Catholic country.

For a very education-sensitive society, children's participation and survival in schools shows somewhat surprising fluctuations, rather than a smooth upward trend. MDG 2.A target shows a rates that is recovering very modestly from 2006, after a period of actual decline lasting since 1999. The judgement is that this recovery will be inadequate to now reach the MDG 100 percent target for elementary education. The School Readiness Assessment shows a high proportion of young children not ready for school. This statistic reinforces the case for the UNICEF focus, now strongly supported by government, on early childhood education¹⁰ (ECCD). For now, drop-out rates are substantial; they are significantly and unusually higher for boys than girls.

Formal MDG targets do not exist for child protection but there is a substantial body of UN and other Agreements in this area and the GoP has put in place an important array of national legislation, including laws on child labour, trafficking, child abuse, child pornography, violence against women and their children as well as significant measures linked to enhanced juvenile justice. Enforcement of these laws, however, remains a challenge. Data is unevenly available, but past surveys indicated maybe four million children between the ages of 5 and 17 work at least 4 hours a day, many in a hazardous environment. They include over a million child domestic workers, almost all of whom are girls. There are also estimates of 60,000 to 100,000 children being sexually exploited and a growing number of urban street children estimated at 250,000.

¹⁰ By 2009 covering 56 percent of children in targeted areas selected for CPC-6.

Partnership

Partnership is fundamental in UNICEF's work. In the Philippines, important work is focused at the community level, interfacing with NGOs/CSOs, as well as closely coordinated with government. There is strong and effective **vertical** cohesion of UNICEF activities with mature and highly credible linkages in place with both local (decentralised) levels of government (LGUs) and the central government. The latter includes both line ministries such as Social Welfare and the key planning ministry, NEDA. However, the recent Universalia evaluation raised concerns about horizontal cohesion within the UN family and judged that partnerships with other donors were 'underdeveloped'.

In the last year, there has been an increased emphasis on moving 'upmarket' in developmental terms. UNICEF Philippines, as well as other middle-tier donors, itself more explicitly a 'niche' actor, complementing the activities of a strong and diversified governmental structure. This is requiring a shift in programming approach from a more traditional role in which strong technical teams in UNICEF package a developmental product. There is, or was, almost a retailing mindset selling 'projects' to middle-tier bilateral donors and UNICEF National Committees. Indeed it is also applied to UNICEF Philippines' modest but energetic private sector fund-raising program (e.g. Proctor and Gamble funding for a hand-washing program for schools). There has been an important shift in approach; this is exemplified by the current Child Protection program which is very consciously shifting from projects to a strategic, 'systems-based' approach, working to enhance the working practices and thinking of key central agencies, such as the Departments of Social Welfare and of Justice, on new legislation and the skills and sensitivities of judges and court officials.

The transition to stronger partnership with donors is now being tested for UNICEF by one massive national intervention, financed in part by the two major multilaterals, World Bank and Asian Development Bank. This program is called Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT or 4Ps in Filipino). This is another example of a global trend to efforts kick-starting the lagging status of the poor by fostering their integration into ongoing social development programmes by using targeted cash transfers. These are usually paid to mothers in order to directly support/incentivise the access of families, especially their children, to such as health and education services. By the end of 2010, CCT is to reach a million households and then planned to more than double in 2011. This challenge, this partnership opportunity, for UNICEF Philippines is in redefining its relevance: to make itself an indispensable strategic partner of government and these major financial institutions.

Programme Management

A number of important dimensions of current programme management should be highlighted in this report. Some have emerged as issues raised in the Universalia evaluation whilst other reflect the shifting approach to a more strategic role for UNICEF.

UNICEF has regularised its approach to working in the southern part of the country and other areas of conflict by locating a fully staffed office close to UNICEF programme areas. This brings its support closer to the communities affected, making it more effective and better-targeted. It also helps UNICEF in playing its important if discrete role in brokering understandings between the parties. Details of the operational support – in basics such as health, education, child protection and WASH, is to be found in Section 3.2. UNICEF Philippines also works to support the work of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children in Armed Conflict. These activities are all particular but critical examples of a strong sensitivity to Human Rights in programming.

This country is subject to unpredictable but still frequent natural disasters. This creates an inevitability of short surges in activities, which are time- and staffing-critical, requiring good pre-planning and the pre-positioned of relief materials. This reality is a risk and management challenge for regular programming. This cannot be totally avoided, but UNICEF has made a major effort to work with government and other donors on better emergency preparedness and

activities in support of disaster risk reduction, as well as more coordinated responses when for example a typhoon actually hits.

Risk management in the broader sense is now well-internalised in the practices of the various programming units. UNICEF Philippines is working towards a risk-informed culture, with a collective exercise having been part of the annual office retreat. The broader environment in the Philippines is one in which weak management is a perennial issue, especially when working with local government (LGUs). One must also recognise the broader context of working within a country with endemic corruption, as reflected in its continuing poor showing on the Transparency International index.

An important established management objective is around gender mainstreaming. An updating audit was done in May 2010. Programming activities are all subject to gender analysis, with gender training of senior and working level Pilipino counterparts a very common element. UNICEF has worked with the legislature on measures such as the "Magna Carta of Women". The Child Protection team are particularly involved in approaches dealing with gender violence in conflict-affected Mindanao. In Education special work is being done on 'reverse disparities' e.g. the higher dropout rate for boys in elementary schools.

Maybe more basically the Universalia evaluation pointed to significant deficiencies in **sustainability**. Whilst this was certainly recognised in the existing efforts in program/activity design on capacity-building, the message is that more effort is needed. A stronger focus on partnerships starting in 2010-11 will be part of the response. Critically important can be the emerging thinking for CPC-7; this involves a plan to work more in partnership with central departments on helping better frame national policy, including pressing for pro-poor, child-friendly drivers in budget allocation decision-making.

Public Advocacy

During 2010 priorities were agreed for public advocacy and focused on infant and young child feeding, violence against children and promoting a culture of handwashing. Most of the planning and implementation has been led by the communication section, in close collaboration with the programme sections as well as external partners.

For infant feeding, the analysis suggested a need to broaden the advocates out from mothers and a small group of NGOs to a broader sector of society¹¹, and so efforts have harnessed celebrities, faith-based organisations, private sector and next year will move specifically to look at the fathers role using multi-media channels. As well as this public awareness approach, UNICEF has supported efforts to strengthen monitoring and reporting on milk code violations, in an effort to curb the far-reaching marketing efforts of the children's powdered milk industry. For violence, with a target on legislation and decision-makers the effort has been on influencing opinion formers with a combination of i, evidence on the negative impact of violence and ii, using children's voices to convey the message. A children's photo workshop and resulting media conference created a platform for young people to express how they experience violence around their homes and schools. Positive signs indicate that the Department of Education may be willing to strengthen its policy in schools on this issue. UNICEF has been largely welcomed into the role of convenor of many divergent groups and partners, assisting with co-ordination and collaboration to advocate for children's rights. This is a role that can be further developed in the coming year.

Communication for Development

As with the area of public advocacy, communication for development (C4D) shifted to being an integrated function supporting programme sections primarily in the areas of infant feeding, hygiene behaviour in young children, violence in high schools, HIV/AIDS and maternal and neo-natal health.

¹¹ UNICEF Nutrition Section, Infant and Young Child Feeding Programme Review, Case Study: The Philippines, pgs 8 & 25, June 2009.

Whilst there has been a shortage of support due to the long vacant C4D staff member, C4D activities and initiatives have progressed and as the year ends, the plans and strategies are shaping up for accelerated implementation in 2011. Ongoing activities include research into young peoples' views on violence and prevention strategies, photo workshops and exhibition showcase in communities, play and entertainment activities to encourage hygiene behaviours in young children and peer support for mothers on infant feeding.

Supported by UNESCO, the Philippines will host a country C4D roundtable in early February, which aims to bring in more partners and stakeholders to discuss how to broaden awareness and adoption of C4D approaches and best practice in the country.

A challenging factor is the limited understanding and capacity for C4D amongst some partners, as well as a lack of manpower to ensure data capture, monitoring and implementation is of a high standard. A training and development plan in 2011 is aimed at improving this situation. Having only one post in the communication section has been insufficient to satisfy demand for C4D support. In the new country programme, the intention is to increase this number, and integrate more closely into the programme result areas, which should improve the integrated planning process, as well as ensuring strategies are aligned.

Future

The UNICEF 2010 program was implemented as an extension programme and 2011 will be a transition phase to what is envisaged as more strategic and more focused (poverty group targetted) interventions. It took place in the context of the institutional disruptions prior to and then the ensuing mood of optimism around the Presidential election. This transition will respect the growing institutional strengths and policy purposefulness of government in the Philippines. The year also saw early UNICEF Philippines preparations for a new country programme that will align with the global objective of equity-focus.

Country Programme Components

Country Programme Component:

COMMUNICATION

Main Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) Focus Areas Addressed

Focus Areas (FAs) 4 and 5

Main Key Result Areas (KRAs) Addressed

FA 1 – KRAs 1 and 2

FA 4 – KRAs 1 and 2

FA 5 – KRAs 3 and 4

A. Purpose of the Programme Component

The section has set two-year results:

Communication and Public Advocacy

1. By 2011, produce up-to-date, accurate and compelling information to the general and donor audience in the Philippines, using tools of mass media and online channels, to keep them informed of UNICEF's work and advocacy and fundraising priorities
2. Support the Health and Nutrition goals to increase exclusive breastfeeding by broadening the range of breastfeeding advocates to include NGOs, celebrities, private sector and media, and encourage private sector compliance with the new breastfeeding legislation (Expanded Breastfeeding Act).
3. Support the Child Protection Section in addressing violence against children in schools by (1) advocating for the passing of the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill and (2) encouraging DepEd to strengthen their child protection policy
4. Building awareness on handwashing, through the Global Handwashing Day promotion, and advocating with private sector partners

Communication for Development

5. Support Health and Nutrition goal to increase exclusive breastfeeding rates in MDGF project areas, through peer support for mothers
6. Support Education and Child Protection efforts to strengthen DepEd child protection policy, through piloting a youth-led in-school programme based on mediation and positive discipline
7. Support the Education and WASH Sections by developing a student-led programme to encourage hygiene behaviours in schools and communities.

The Communication Section moved into its first transition year, working in a more integrated way across the other programme sections and closely with the Private Sector Fundraising and Partnerships section. The Communication Section jointly agreed on the two-year results with the relevant sections.

The component has three national annual work plans, comprising (1) advocacy campaigns, (2) public information and (3) C4D.

B. Results Achieved

Supporting many of the other sections, the programme contributes to MDGs 2, 4 and 5 as well as protecting the rights of abused children, linked to the child protection agenda and the Millennium Declaration.

With a low exclusive breastfeeding rate (34% for exclusive to 6 months) , extensive marketing and promotion of breast-milk substitutes and other powdered children's milks and poor hospital support, the environment for increasing exclusive breastfeeding rates is a tough one. Many mothers work, often after only 8-10 weeks maternity leave, and the normal pattern is to stop breastfeeding once returning to work.

The section has focused primarily on supporting continued breastfeeding in the workplace, and is targeting a minimum of 20 companies, with lactation stations and HR policies in place by the end of 2011. To date 5 have expressed interest in developing their policies for working mothers. To increase public awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding, as well as make breastfeeding an aspirational choice, successful efforts have brought together new allies including celebrities, media champions, NGOs and private sector to reinforce positive messages. Multi media coverage from July to October was extensive.

A high profile launch of the Violence in Schools report, resulted in many draft bills on bullying and violence being filed by the newly elected congressmen and senators. UNICEF supported coalition efforts aim to progress the preferred bills through to law.

1. Activities

a. Infant and Young Child Feeding

The section has focused on advocating for exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life and has used the national Communication for Behaviour Impact framework managed by the Department of Health (DOH). The year began with the passing of Republic Act 10028 or the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009, which promotes breastfeeding in the workplace, community and hospitals. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed the law in March. Amongst other things, the law requires both public and private companies to provide a lactation station in a private area of the workplace, as well as compensable breaks for a lactating mother to express her milk or breastfeed her child.

Following an agreement with partners, UNICEF is supporting the implementation of the law by engaging key private corporations and public sector organisations to be champions of the new law. Three companies already expressed their commitment. The target is to reach 20 companies by the end of 2011. Discussions have taken place with private and public corporations, and with the Family Welfare Committee of the Philippines in the National Capital Region (NCR) and in Regions V (Naga City), VI (Iloilo City) and IX (Zamboanga City). To sustain the efforts, key publications on the new law and guides on setting up a lactation station are being developed.

UNICEF is supporting the Milk Code implementation through the training of Milk Code monitors across the country and the development of a monitor's guide to the Milk Code. In addition, UNICEF is carefully monitoring new legislation being introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives which may undermine breastfeeding efforts, and is discussing strategies with non-governmental organisation (NGO) groups to inform legislators on the potentially damaging effects of these draft bills.

The other constituency being tapped as advocates and champions are faith-based groups. Agreements were made with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commissions on Inter-Religious and on Health Care, and the Religions for Peace-Philippines.

UNICEF has worked with partners, including celebrities and health professionals, to promote exclusive breastfeeding. This resulted in more than 56 print and online news features exceeding USD100,000 in media values – all obtained at zero cost.

b. Violence against Children

Good progress was made in the result area of reducing violence in schools and encouraging the passing of the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill. UNICEF worked with the Child Protection Section and partners to launch in a media conference the study 'Towards a Child-Friendly Education Environment: A Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in Public Schools'. The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development and the Education Undersecretary were in attendance. As a result of the launch, the Undersecretary made a commitment to

- Formulate guidelines that will safeguard children from any forms of violence in school
- Mobilise and strengthen Parent-Teacher-Community Associations as a mechanism to encourage the participation of both children and parents in developing and monitoring anti-violence against children in school policies, codes of conduct and programmes
- Encourage participatory learning where children's views and options are considered and respected
- Establish school-based mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence against children – mechanisms consistent with child rights and human rights principles.

UNICEF developed a draft child protection policy for schools and is in discussions with the Department of Education (DepEd) over its implementation.

Legislators responded to the coverage obtained from the launch. As a result, seven bills on the subject of violence were introduced in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. These are being consolidated into one preferred bill for each house.

UNICEF has worked closely with the Child Rights Network to support, amongst other child-rights concerns, the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill. The Child Rights Network has been actively monitoring legislative developments, holding one-on-one dialogues and consultations with legislators, producing and distributing publications in support of the bill, and organising media events such as radio and TV guestings, press conferences, a photo exhibit, policy conferences, and authors' meeting/briefing. At the House of Representatives, two bill champions were identified, and 20 other district legislators committed support.

In C4D efforts, UNICEF aims to produce a model on how violence can be tackled at an individual high school level. It is supporting a school climate survey being carried out in 10 schools in Cebu City, Manila, Mountain Province, and Camotes Island, Cebu. Using focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, the study seeks to provide baseline data on the prevalence of bullying and peer violence in the targets areas, where an intervention programme will be piloted.

c. Child Participation

UNICEF supported the first ASEAN Children's Forum held in Manila in October 2010 and hosted by the Government of the Philippines. This was the first children's meeting built into the official ASEAN schedule of meetings and linked to the regional meeting of Ministers of Social Welfare. The Forum was well-attended, with all 10 member-countries sending two to three child delegates each. The children were aged 13 to 18. Seven disabled children participated fully in the meeting. The children compiled their recommendations for the continuation of the ASEAN Children's Forum and presented these for approval by the Social Welfare Ministers in a meeting in Brunei in November 2010. The ministers approved the children's proposal. The next ASEAN Children's Forum will be hosted by Singapore in 2012.

d. WASH in Schools

UNICEF is working to improve the hand washing and toothbrushing behaviour of school children in communities in Mindanao and through a project supported by

Procter & Gamble. UNICEF is collaborating with local NGOs to implement a student-led, non-formal programme of interventions and activities to reinforce the behaviours introduced in the traditional teacher-classroom model.

e. Children's Broadcasting

Nine out of ten Filipino households have access to a TV set. TV viewership is at 91 per cent. Because children's broadcasting is a focus of the Communication Section, UNICEF works with NGO and media partners in drafting plans and strategies to improve the quality of children's programming and to prepare children to better interpret what they are watching. At the moment, the Philippines has no public service television and no effective regulation for commercial broadcasters to include children's programmes in their schedules. '*Parental guidance*' shows are shown regularly at peak viewing time for children, the several junk food brands have played a leading role in creating content for new indigenous programmes for children. Other materials aimed at children are imported and in cartoon format.

f. Fundraising and Brand Communications

The Communication and Fundraising Sections have worked together to increase UNICEF's online presence in the Philippines, a country with an estimated 75 million cellular phone subscribers and Internet penetration of 24.5 per cent¹². Since the launch of UNICEF's official Facebook page in July 2009, UNICEF's Facebook presence has grown from around 7,000 fans at the beginning of the year to its current base of 25,000 fans with 6,000 active monthly users and 3,000 daily post views. Significant online campaigns can be attributed to this growth. All the online efforts were geared towards informing, entertaining and educating about UNICEF's programmes, and calling for support through advocacy and fundraising. The UNICEF Philippines official website – www.unicef.ph – also gained remarkable increase in web traffic with 48,714 unique visits from January to November 2010. This is a 69 per cent jump from the 28,693 visits in the same period last year. The huge growth and success of UNICEF Philippines' online presence is mainly attributed to the dedication and creativity of its small team in the Communication and Fundraising sections, and to making the most of content from global and regional Websites.

The year 2010 also saw a number of major media events, such as the launch of Power of You, an interactive video for high school students on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV and AIDS; the launch of the child poverty study with the Philippine Institute of Development Studies; the Breastfeeding Moms event with the DOH, World Health Organisation (WHO) and SM Supermalls; the launch of the violence in schools study with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC); and Global Hand Washing Day with Procter & Gamble, SM and Unilever.

g. Emergencies

UNICEF's national ambassador, Gary Valenciano, visited internally displaced persons (IDPs) in conflict-affected Mindanao to express support for the communities, encourage the children to continue their studies, and discuss the peace process with key NGO and government partners. The visit resulted in widespread broadcast and print coverage.

October saw the landfall of Super Typhoon Megi (locally named Juan), the strongest to hit the Philippines since 2006. More than 2 million people fell victims to Megi in six regions of Luzon. Food and shelter were the primary needs identified by the government and confirmed by the assessment teams.

¹² Philippine Information Agency 2009 data.

2. Critical Factors and Constraints Affecting Performance

- a. Advocacy efforts were slow in the first half of 2010, as the first automated national and local elections occupied all minds until the new leaders started their terms in August. More time passed before new Secretaries and deputies were appointed, leading to the compression of much activity into the second half of 2010.
- b. Amidst a plethora of marketing and promotion campaigns for formula/follow-on milk products, promoting breastfeeding has been a challenge. The health system has many holes undermining efforts to promote breastfeeding, such as formula feeding being encouraged in hospitals.
- c. Finding the time to update and keep UNICEF's online presence fresh has also been challenging and has often resulted in staff interacting with supporters online after office hours. Recent recruitment of freelance online contributors will hopefully improve this situation in 2011.
- d. The Section was also challenged by six months without a C4D officer .

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Communication Section undertook a partner review to both look back and gain feedback from key partners, and to list potential partners who can collaborate with UNICEF in the important areas of advocacy, media sector, child participation and C4D.

4. Strategic Partnerships

Key partners for the Section's advocacy and C4D activities include the CWC (child participation section), National Council for Health Promotion, National Council for Children's Television (within DepEd), Child Rights Network, Religions for Peace, Philippines and NGO, and Beauty, Brains and Breastfeeding.

D. Future Work Plan

In the final year of the current country programme, the key activities will focus on achieving the two-year results set in 2010. The champions for breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding will be expanded in the private and public sectors, and the community support for mothers will be strengthened. The coalition activities will target the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill and building awareness on the alternatives to corporal punishment. The media literacy programme in schools will be pilot-tested, and the C4D programmes in health, WASH and child protection will ensure monitoring to measure progress.

Country Programme Component:	CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION
Main MTSP Focus Area Addressed	FA 4
Main KRAs Addressed	FA 4 – KRAs 1, 2 and 4

A. Purpose of the Programme Component

The Child Protection Programme is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) priority area of cooperation on basic services, good governance, and conflict prevention and peace building. The priority area will contribute to UNDAF Outcome 2 – increased and more equitable access to and utilisation of quality, integrated, sustainable basic social services by the poor and vulnerable. Guided by the global and regional child protection strategies, the Child Protection Programme promotes the creation of a protective environment where boys and girls are free from abuse, exploitation and violence by (1) strengthening the social welfare system, (2) improving the

legal and regulatory framework, and (3) encouraging change in social and cultural norms that increase risks of abuse, exploitation and violence against children. These strategies contribute to meeting the targets contained in the Millennium Declaration and to national plans of action of the Government of the Philippines on child protection, child labour, trafficking and violence against children.

Following are the results pursued by the Programme in the CPC 6 extension year.

1. By 2011, children at risk of being abused, exploited and trafficked have access to preventive services in at least five target areas.
2. By 2011, a package of recovery, reintegration and healing services for children affected by armed conflict and emergencies are developed.
3. By 2011, children who are victims, witnesses or alleged offenders are given child-friendly legal and judicial protection services in at least five target areas.
4. By 2011, community-based prevention systems are piloted in at least three target areas.

B. Results Achieved

In 2010, key results were achieved in further professionalising the duty bearers of child protection. The Programme developed training packages and built the capacities of more than 4,500 police officers, lawyers, local government officials, social workers, NGO service providers and parents to raise their understanding of children's rights and child protection laws and policies, and to enhance their professional skills in child case management, psychosocial support, family tracing and reunification of separated children. As a result, child caseloads increased, and 81,000 vulnerable children directly benefited from social welfare, legal protection and recovery services.

Child protection coordination bodies were strengthened at national and sub-national levels. Community-based child protection systems were piloted to ensure early intervention and protection of children in remote and particularly underserved locations including Mindanao provinces. As part of a broader UN mandate and of the UN-Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Action Plan implementation, UNICEF made progress in verifying cases of children associated with the armed forces in Mindanao. UNICEF likewise invigorated its function in monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 1539 and 1612.

The capacity building of duty bearers, many of whom are female professionals, combined with targeted services delivered to vulnerable and destitute girls and boys in the most underserved locations, ensured gender-sensitive and equity focused programming, and contributed to achieving MDG 1 on ending poverty and hunger, MDG 2 on education, MDG 3 on gender equality, MDG 6 on HIV/AIDS and the Millennium Declaration. The results were achieved in partnership with the national government, local government units (LGUs) and civil society across the country.

1. Main Activities and Specific Results

a. Protective and Response Services

The programme supported nationwide and community-based campaigns and services to prevent and respond to child protection risks. UNICEF supported the government and NGOs in raising awareness on child rights, child protection and child protection laws in schools and communities. Results included (1) the sensitisation of 2,380 IDPs in 60 conflict-affected communities in Mindanao on reporting child trafficking, and (2) raising the awareness of tourists in high-profile tourist destinations on child sexual abuse through a government-led campaign.

Parenting education was boosted through support to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the design and pilot-testing of a Parenting the

Adolescent Manual, which will be used for beneficiary families of the government's CCT programme, also known as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Programme (4Ps).

Through multi-partner agreements with civil society, UNICEF strengthened the access of vulnerable out-of-school children to government-accredited alternative learning system sessions to enable them to reintegrate into the formal education system. This therefore contributed to achieving MDG 2 on universal access to primary education. In selected urban locations with large disparities, including Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, more than 200,000 children living or working on the streets directly and indirectly benefited from child rights advocacy, child participation and specialised service delivery such as life skills education, psychosocial support, recreational activities, social welfare outreach and legal protection through the efforts of NGO partners.

In addition, UNICEF supported the establishment of a specialised law enforcement task force to intercept possible trafficking victims, mostly young women and girls, at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Since the provision of supplies and equipment, the special task force has been able to intercept more than 200 possible trafficking victims. UNICEF helped the Department of Labor and Employment in developing a training package for labour inspectors, hearing officers and sheriffs to ensure the appropriate enforcement of anti-child labour laws.

b. Children Affected by Armed Conflict

In 2010, UNICEF made inroads in implementing the UN-MILF Action Plan on the recruitment and use of child soldiers in the armed conflict in Mindanao. Through UNICEF support, at least 450 children associated with the MILF were registered and are undergoing verification. After the verification, the UN and MILF will facilitate the release, reintegration and rehabilitation of children that may be found within the MILF ranks. UNICEF also successfully convinced the Philippine government to allow the UN to engage the New People's Army in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 1612 and to develop a strategic plan with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In the continuing humanitarian situation in Mindanao, child-friendly spaces were set up in 109 conflict-affected communities. Some 8,800 girls and 8,300 boys regularly joined activities in the child-friendly spaces. An additional 1,288 young people were trained to organise their peers in child-friendly spaces. Moreover, 107 community-based child protection committees were set up in these locations to support child-friendly spaces and to initiate child protection activities.

The Child Protection Working Group that UNICEF organised in response to typhoons last year has been institutionalised as a mechanism for emergency preparedness and response under the CWC. About 30 national and international member organisations were trained on child protection in emergencies. They formulated a contingency plan for typhoon emergency which was put in effect when Super Typhoon Megi hit Isabela Province this year.

c. Legal Protection and Justice Systems

UNICEF made significant strides in further strengthening the legal and regulatory system for the protection of children. In law reform, UNICEF continued to work with the Child Rights Network to advocate for the passage of four priority bills: (1) increasing the age of statutory rape/age of sexual consent from 12 to 16 years; (2) the Anti-Corporal Punishment Bill; (3) the amendment of the Child Abuse Law to afford better protection for children affected by armed conflict; and (4) the Foster Care Bill. Three of the bills are already filed in Congress. Lobbying is ongoing for their passage during the 15th Congress. Following the 2009 passage of the Anti-Child

Pornography Act, UNICEF supported the government in drafting its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

d. Networks and Systems for Child Protection

UNICEF organised a series of meetings and workshops in 2010 to sensitise more than 1,500 government and civil society partners on the child protection systems-building approach as opposed to the traditional project- and issue-based approach that targets specific vulnerable categories of children.

UNICEF supported several NGOs in pilot-testing community-based protection mechanisms to strengthen early detection and protection of the most vulnerable children. The objectives are to ensure access and referral to services, and to enable effective communication and advocacy on a range of child vulnerabilities that pose child protection concerns. The structure entails the identification and capacity building of outreach workers, community welfare volunteers, youth focal points and community-based protection networks.

To underscore that the social welfare system and social work are critical to building the child protection system, UNICEF lobbied for increased investments in the human and financial resources of the local and regional social welfare offices, and supported the capacity building of social workers to improve case work for children and families. In support of providing alternative parental care for children who are temporarily staying in residential care facilities, training was given to 140 DSWD and LGU social workers from selected locations, including Cebu City and Mindanao, on child protection and child case management, such as facilitating family tracing, deinstitutionalisation of children and reunification of children separated from their caregivers.

2. Critical Factors and Constraints Affecting Performance

- a. The traditional issue- and project-based approach to child protection still prevails in the country. The government and most NGOs still design programmes and interventions based on categories of children. In 2009, UNICEF started shifting from this approach to a systems-building approach that puts government at the centre of interventions.
- b. State financial and human resources for child protection remain limited relative to the needs in the country. At the *barangay* (village) level, two to three social workers are deployed on average to serve a population of 20,000-40,000. Amongst the many responsibilities of government social workers, social welfare casework represents a fraction, leading to overreliance on NGOs to take on responsibilities that fall under the State's mandate.
- c. A new administration was elected in the middle of the year. Bringing new leaders up to speed on previous agreements and developments in the MRM and the Action Plan took some time.
- d. UNICEF is still carrying much of the load for the MRM and the Action Plan. Whilst UN agencies have designated their focal points, their involvement is still minimal. Their participation in the MRM and Action Plan has to be integrated in their own agency work plans and budgets for it to be active and effective.
- e. Whilst the situation in Mindanao has been relatively calm, affected communities are still in a state of flux. Keeping track of the movement of families is difficult. More and more families are returning to their places of origin.

3. Summary of Monitoring, Study and Evaluation Activities

Acknowledging the data gaps in child protection, UNICEF, the CWC and the WHO prepared to conduct the National Baseline Research on Violence against Children as part of a regional initiative to build evidence on the prevalence and magnitude of violence against children. Through a series of multi-sectoral workshops and meetings, UNICEF successfully advocated for the creation of a technical working group, led by the CWC, which will move the process forward in 2011. No further studies or evaluations were held this year.

4. Key Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The Child Protection Programme traditionally works with a wide range of government bodies in the justice, social welfare, local governance and law enforcement sectors.

UNICEF collaborated with various interagency councils like the Interagency Council Against Trafficking, the CWC sub-committees and the newly institutionalised Child Protection Working Groups. UNICEF supported the government's disaster risk reduction and emergency response in coordination with 30 national and international partners.

The Programme partnered with a wide range of NGOs, faith-based organisations and academicians. A new partnership was established with the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. and the National Association of Social Work Education to ensure that advocacy on improving the social welfare system in the country is also understood and owned by social work practitioners.

The Child Protection Section partnered with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement a Joint Programme on Youth Employment and Migration. UNICEF and UNFPA assumed joint chairmanship of the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence sub-cluster.

D. Future Work Plan

In the last year of the CPC extension period, the Child Protection Programme will continue to promote child protection systems building through a reinforced partnership with the CWC and DSWD to champion child protection across the Philippines. Based on geographic vulnerability and disparity analysis, UNICEF will target particularly vulnerable children in rural and urban locations, and work closely with other UNICEF sections and partners to ensure a multi-sectoral targeted response. Data gap analysis and child protection public expenditure analysis will inform future knowledge management and advocacy priorities of the programme. UNICEF will step up support to enhance the government's capabilities and accountabilities to oversee, strengthen, monitor and provide child protection prevention and response services in selected locations in collaboration with civil society. This will include fortifying the mandates of LGUs in child protection; capacity building of social welfare, justice and law enforcement professionals; and inter-sectoral coordination and referral mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels of government.

Country Programme Component: EDUCATION

Main MTSP Focus Area Addressed FA 2

Main KRAs Addressed KRAs 1, 2 and 3

A. Purpose of the Programme Component

1. Goals

The programme seeks to contribute to the following results:

- By 2010, in the focus areas, participation of 3- to 5-year-old children in ECCD is enhanced by 5 per cent, with no gender disparities.
- The educational outcomes for 6- to 11-year-old children, girls and boys, are improved in terms of participation, completion of schooling, mastery level and gender parity.
- The capacity of the Education Cluster and education system for emergency preparedness and response is strengthened.

2. Main Activities

The programme supports Education for All and MDGs 2 and 3 – achieving universal primary education and eliminating gender disparities in basic education. Under the CPC 6 extension (2010-2011), the Education Programme reduced the number of focus areas to maximise impact in the most disadvantaged areas. It has three projects:

- Early Childhood Care and Development in partnership with the ECCD Council, DepEd, DSWD and local social welfare offices in nine focus areas
- Basic Education for All with DepEd School Divisions in eight focus areas as partners
- Support System for Child-Friendly Schools with the DepEd Central Office and seven DepEd Regional Offices as partners.

B. Results Achieved

1. MDG Dimension

By the end of 2010, the ratio of 3- to 5-year-old children enrolled in ECCD programmes nationwide rose to 39 per cent from roughly 34 per cent in 2009. In the nine focus areas, the targeted improvement of 5 per cent was surpassed, as the participation of young children jumped from 53.71 per cent to 59 per cent, covering about 341,400 young children. This could be mainly attributed to the continuing expansion of both centre- and home-based ECCD services in 96 per cent of *barangays*, up from 93 per cent in 2009. In all focus areas, the number of centre-based ECCD (preschool and day care) and home-based sites grew from 7,464 to 9,145 and from 561 to 660, respectively, between 2009 and 2010.

Table 3. Enrolment Rates in ECCD in CPC 6 Areas (2010)

	No. of 3- to 5-Year-Old Children Enrolled in ECCD				No. of 3-5 years old	% of 3-5 enrolled in ECCD
	Preschools	Day Care Centres	Home-Based	Total		
ES	11,646	11,633	745	24,024	31,612	76.00
NS	12,188	26,265	2,001	40,454	56,750	71.28
ZDS	16,174	22,171	2,205	40,550	79,639	50.92

Dav	18,100	24,125	1,603	43,828	99,241	44.16
NC	11,484	25,347	2,320	39,151	80,406	48.69
Sar	7,250	18,610	4,659	30,519	47,935	59.00
Mas	17,309	41,614	416	59,339	70,825	83.78
MtP	2,786	5,479	696	8,961	11,305	79.27
Mla	15,381	31,992	7,197	54,570	101,595	53.71
Total	112,318	207,236	21,842	341,396	579,308	58.93

Sources: PSWDO administrative data, DepEd, NSO.

However, reaching the education MDGs remains a challenge. Net enrolment rates in the primary level dipped nationwide from 85.11 per cent in School Year (SY) 2008-2009 to 85.01 per cent in SY 2009-2010. Moreover, after a steady rise over the past three years, the proportion of children completing primary education dropped from 73.28 per cent to 72.18 per cent in the same period.

**Table 4. Performance in Elementary Key Outcome Indicators
National vs. 8 CPC 6 Focus Areas (SY 2008-2009 to SY 2009-2010)**

National vs. Focus Areas	Net Enrolment Rate		Completion Rate		Achievement Rate	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
National (Total)	85.11	85.01	73.28	72.18	65.55	68.01
Male	84.55	85.02	69.13	67.18		
Female	85.70	85.00	77.89	77.54		
Mountain Province	71.35	80.00	56.78	62.47	61.27	62.70
Male	70.50	79.01	52.37	59.84		
Female	72.24	81.05	61.99	65.40		
Masbate	88.79	99.04	51.76	52.77	66.31	71.46
Male	88.50	95.24	47.23	47.91		
Female	89.09	103.42	57.04	58.37		
Eastern Samar	86.22	97.52	57.21	70.58	80.67	83.11
Male	86.26	97.43	51.99	65.50		
Female	86.18	97.62	63.52	76.75		
Northern Samar	87.35	97.01	57.19	57.72	74.97	78.13
Male	86.64	96.26	52.04	54.17		
Female	88.10	97.80	63.03	61.65		
Zamboanga del Sur	66.34	73.65	58.33	55.18	65.89	70.65
Male	66.35	74.25	49.08	49.95		
Female	66.34	73.05	59.39	61.54		
Davao City	73.97	73.10	54.59	62.92	56.99	56.10
Male	73.45	72.83	50.72	59.03		
Female	74.50	73.37	59.00	67.36		
North Cotabato	78.49	84.95	47.00	45.19	72.38	77.50
Male	77.67	82.51	43.30	40.81		
Female	79.34	87.53	51.16	50.21		
Sarangani	73.45	75.10	46.11	39.29	61.4	69.28
Male	72.89	73.13	41.92	34.18		

National vs. Focus Areas	Net Enrolment Rate		Completion Rate		Achievement Rate	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Female	74.02	77.17	50.70	45.19		

Traditionally, Filipino boys are disadvantaged in all key education indicators. Between SY 2008-2009 and SY 2009-2010, gender disparity against boys slightly worsened in terms of net enrolment rates in almost all of the focus areas. However, in completion of primary schooling, gender disparity in three of the eight focus areas narrowed, whilst the national average worsened.

2. Major Activities and Specific Results

a. ECCD

Under ECCD, the programme contributed to developing the National Implementation Plan for the Expansion of Home-Based ECCD and the Master Plan for the Expansion of the DepEd's National Preschool Programme. These plans aim to scale up initiatives piloted with help from the Education Programme such as the home-based ECCD and model public preschools. The programme also supported the ECCD Council in developing a National Early Learning Framework that outlines basic principles, curriculum and assessment approaches that should guide early childhood development programmes.

The programme also supported (1) the enriched curriculum and standard *madrasah* curriculum for public preschools and private *madaris*; (2) a six-week summer preschool curriculum to provide early learning experiences to about 383,000 incoming Grade 1 pupils from the poorest communities who lack ECCD exposure; and (3) the refinement and pilot-testing of the DepEd's regular, 40-week preschool curriculum, which will be progressively rolled out starting SY 2011-2012. The new curriculum has play-based, integrative and developmentally appropriate teaching-learning practices.

b. Islamic Preschools

At the sub-national level, support to *Tahderiyyah* (Islamic preschools) was enhanced through the expanded use of the Tahderiyyah curriculum in 300 conflict-affected areas. This intervention shall contribute to the school readiness and greater motivation of *Bangsamoro* children to complete primary education. The net enrolment, completion and achievement rates at the primary level are lowest in the regions to which these communities belong.

c. Conditional Cash Transfer

The programme supported the implementation of the DSWD's Conditional Cash Transfer by converging education interventions in the CCT areas. The schools, day care centres and home-based ECCD services were strengthened by teacher training, community mobilisation, parent education, and provision of basic education furniture, supplies and teaching-learning materials. In 2010, the programme supported 435 day care centres, 227 home-based sites, 25 ECCD-on-horse in Sarangani and North Cotabato, and the rehabilitation of 10 day care centres in the CCT areas.

d. Child-Friendly School System

Under the Basic Education – Child-Friendly School System project, the programme continued the advocacy for mainstreaming Child-Friendly School System (CFSS) principles as part of the DepEd's sector reform agenda. As a result, the Department's Implementation and Accountability Plan for 2010-2011 better articulates the promotion of child rights-based practices/approaches. The plan calls for

implementing and scaling up tested innovations/alternative delivery modes supported by the Education Programme to address education disadvantage. These innovations include (1) the Modified In-School/Off-School Approach, which is meant to address congestion in schools and is being adapted in emergency settings for children displaced by disasters, and (2) the Instructional Management by Parents, Community and Teachers (IMPACT), which seeks to enrich multi-grade education.

e. Student Tracking System

The programme also continued to support the DepEd in strengthening sector-wide and school-based monitoring to track outcomes of children through the implementation of the Dev/EFA Information System and the scaling up of the Student Tracking System, an early warning system introduced by the Education Programme to identify and assist children faltering in class or at risk of dropping out. The DepEd will integrate the tracking system as part of the nationwide School Information System and pilot its implementation in the first quarter of 2011. The nationwide rollout is scheduled in SY 2011-2012.

f. Innovations

Meanwhile, in the focus areas, the adoption of innovations in the primary level and CFSS modelling in high schools expanded from 24 to 70 elementary schools and from 25 to 45 secondary schools. More than half of the schools being supported by the programme to implement the innovations are beginning to register good results in terms of children's positive behaviour change and better school performance. The school heads and teachers observed that the children have become independent, more articulate and confident learners, and the Grade 6 pupils have improved remarkably in their national achievement test scores. These could be attributed to the exposure of children to activity-centred and life skills-based modules. The programme is pursuing a more in-depth assessment of the impact of these innovations and the modelling of the child-friendly school framework in the high schools for evidence-based policy advocacy towards scaling up and mainstreaming.

3. Emergencies and Conflict

UNICEF kept its role as co-lead of the country's National Education Cluster alongside the DepEd for the government and Save the Children Philippines for the NGOs. This partnership facilitated the service coverage in emergency situations of more than 50,000 school children aged 6 to 15 and 31,700 preschoolers who were displaced or affected by the natural disasters in Northern Philippines and the continuing armed conflict in Mindanao. National Education Cluster gave technical assistance to organise the Mindanao Education Cluster in February 2010. The latter helped in mounting greater education interventions and collaborations amongst humanitarian institutions.

For the parents of affected communities, the sight of children receiving UNICEF-given school packs signified an immediate return to normalcy. The school packs contained basic supplies children use when learning sessions resume in regular and temporary learning spaces. Around 1,500 teachers also received library sets and were able to replace their lost school supplies.

In Northern Philippines, about 30 typhoon-damaged early learning centres were reconstructed, and 500 other affected centres received ECCD packages. Meanwhile, in Mindanao, UNICEF engaged Save the Children Alliance and Community and Family Services International in supporting the construction or repair of temporary learning spaces.

4. Critical Factors

The worsening poverty incidence and unabated population growth are contributory demand-side factors that dampen the capacity of households to keep children in schools and effectively improve children's education outcomes. As an anti-poverty measure, the Aquino government is expanding the CCT programme. UNICEF supports strengthening the link between the demand-side and supply-side interventions, and is taking steps towards such convergence by focusing the ECCD and CFSS/basic education interventions within the CCT areas. This means ensuring that the early learning centres and schools in the CCT-targeted communities have more capacity to serve the education needs of disadvantaged children in a more holistic manner (i.e., enhancing school retention, cognitive skills and social emotional development).

The growing frequency and intensity of natural disasters and protracted complex emergencies (flooding and armed conflict) keeps undermining educational development gains, especially in the focus areas. The programme has broadened its support to enhancing the capacity of the education sector for emergency preparedness and response, as elaborated in Section 5 below, and intensified its collaboration with the Child Protection network and WASH Cluster to ensure more integrated services to affected children.

Experience in CPC 6 areas demonstrates that LGUs can significantly expand access to ECCD if the twin strategies of centre- and home-based are employed at the same time. Home-based ECCD can either be transformed to centre-based ECCD later on or stay as is, depending on what suits the situation best. As an alternative form, home-based ECCD continues to enjoy strong support from families and communities, as it addresses the reason for the non-attendance of children to preschool, especially amongst children who are very young and marginalised by distance, ethnicity and economic status.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation and Studies

For ECCD, the Education Programme supported the development of a web-based information system of the DSWD. Once fully functional in 2011, the system will facilitate data collection and consolidation, and enhance analysis for planning and programming purposes. The programme also helped the DSWD in improving the ECCD service manuals and standardising ECCD training programmes. However, the assessment of home-based ECCD planned for the third quarter of 2010 was shelved to 2011 to coincide with the end of CPC 6 review.

For Basic Education, the programme participated in the UNICEF Headquarters-coordinated Progress Evaluation of the Education in Emergencies and Post-Crisis Transition Programme. The evaluation, involving six countries including the Philippines, aims to determine the strengths and challenges of implementation in the first three years of programming. In the Philippines, the Dutch-assisted project started in 2007. The evaluation report and country case studies shall be completed next year. The programme also initiated the Evaluation of Alternative Delivery Modes in Primary Schools and the Child-Friendly High School Models to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability of these interventions, and give basis for fine-tuning the DepEd sector reform implementation plan and the formulation of the new country programme. The assessment will be completed in 2011.

Finally, in collaboration with the DepEd, the programme is participating in the global Out-of-School Children Study, which aims to improve statistical information and analysis on out-of-school children, and factors for exclusion from schooling. The Philippine study incorporates the terms of reference of the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) study 'Why Boys Do Poorly'. With technical support from EAPRO, the programme undertook initial analysis of data on out-of-school children. The country report is expected to be completed by June 2011.

6. Strategic Partnerships and Inter-Agency Collaboration

The programme continues to support the UN Joint Programme for Youth Employment and Migration, wherein the ILO, IOM and UNFPA are facilitating the integration of employment, gender and migration concepts in the Basic Education-Technical and Livelihood Education, whilst the Education Programme is addressing the problems of high school students at risk of dropping out and enhancing the technical and livelihood skills of students by providing equipment and school grants for the implementation of the Career Pathways-Technical and Vocational Education curriculum.

The programme also continues to cultivate partnerships with the private sector (Johnson & Johnson, Rustan's, Starbucks, Procter & Gamble and GMA Kapuso Foundation) in promoting WASH practices and community participation in ECCD centres and schools. The ECCD linkage with J&J, Rustan's and Starbucks funded the strengthening of 40 day care centres as well as the creation of 72 home-based ECCD sites and 10 ECCD mobile services in disadvantaged communities. The WASH partnership with Procter & Gamble and GMA Kapuso Foundation supported the DepEd's Essential Health Care Programme of promoting daily hand washing and tooth brushing in schools to prevent common diseases such as diarrhoea and dental caries. Some 1,050,600 preschool and elementary pupils in more than 3,100 schools have begun integrating group daily hand washing with soap in their class schedules.

C. Future Work Plan

To support the country in achieving MDGs 2 and 3, the Education Programme will enhance evidence-based advocacy and mobilisation to expand access to ECCD and adoption of innovations in basic education. It will also continue to work for the integration of Education in Emergency preparedness and response in the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda and CPC programming. For 2011, the programme will focus on the following areas:

1. Advocacy and mobilisation for heightened awareness, support and action for ECCD
2. Supporting the DepEd in enhancing child-rights based principles and approaches in its Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda
3. Promoting the mainstreaming of CFSS strategies and scaling up of innovations and alternative delivery modes in the primary level, where appropriate
4. Provision of technical assistance in building the capacity for sector monitoring, evaluation and research in ECCD and basic education
5. Continuing to strengthen the link between supply-side and demand-side interventions by linking the CPC 6 ECCD and basic education interventions more closely with the government's CCT interventions
6. Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and research on ECCD and basic education.

Country Programme Component: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Main MTSP Focus Area Addressed FA 1

Main MTSP KRAs Addressed FA 1 – KRAs 1, 2 and 3

A. Purpose of the Programme Component

The Health and Nutrition Programme is aligned with the UNDAF priority area of cooperation in basic social services, which will contribute to the 2009 UNDAF Outcome 2 – increased and more equitable access to and use of quality, integrated, sustainable, basic social services by the poor and vulnerable.

For the CPC 6 extension years in 2010-2011, the programme aims to

- (1) increase skilled birth attendance by 20 per cent in the project sites of the UN Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Health;
- (2) raise exclusive breastfeeding rates in the six Joint Programme areas by at least 20 per cent and support the national campaign to promote exclusive breastfeeding;
- (3) improve the quality of salt iodisation and prevent the availability of non-iodised salt;

- (4) expand tetanus toxoid coverage in high-risk areas;
- (5) promote hygiene;
- (6) prepare and execute interventions to ensure compliance with the Core Commitments for Children and obligations with relevant cluster partners.

These targets will ultimately contribute to reducing malnutrition rates, infant mortality rates, under-five mortality rates and the maternal mortality ratio through an effective partnership in the delivery of health, nutrition and WASH services, and scaling-up of cost-effective interventions on child survival and growth. The component continues to target the marginalised and disadvantaged sectors of society, in pursuit of MDGs 1, 4 and 5.

The programme has three projects implemented in partnership with the DOH, NEDA, LGUs, and associate agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, National Nutrition Council and Food and Nutrition Research Institute. The projects are guided by 19 annual work plans jointly developed with the partners within the context of health sector reforms and national programme thrusts.

The major donors are AusAID for the Adolescent and Maternal Health Project, UN Development Programme USA for the WASH and Nutrition/Infant and Young Child Feeding activities, and National Committees for the Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination. For the emergency funds, major donors were the governments of Australia, France, Italy, New Zealand and Spain, and Global Thematic Funding. The Section also received funds from EAPRO to support the temperature monitoring study, vaccine storage management, and Regional Infant Feeding in Emergencies.

C. Results Achieved

1. Overall Critical and Analytical Assessment

In coordination with partners, the Section continued implementing three joint programmes officially launched in the latter part of 2009 – the MDGF Joint Programme on Child Food Security and Nutrition, the MDGF Joint Programme on Enhancing Access and Provision of Water Services with Active Participation of the Poor, and the UN Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Health. Active participation in a series of national and local consultation meetings, inception workshops and advocacy resulted in (1) baseline surveys to generate data at provincial and city levels on maternal and newborn health and nutrition; (2) alignment of support to LGU Investment Plans for Health and 2010 Operational Plans; (3) development of tools, manuals, and information, education and communication materials on maternal and newborn care, and infant and young child feeding; (4) integration of cost-effective interventions and strategies into national and local programmes and policies; and (5) drafting of a WASH strategy paper.

The programme contributed significantly to identifying WASH issues in conflict areas in Mindanao and generating baseline data on maternal and neonatal health and malnutrition at provincial and city levels. The data guided UNICEF support on health, nutrition and WASH in development and emergency situations. The support contributed to improving local healthcare delivery systems by giving quality maternal and newborn health and nutrition care in targeted LGUs. It also expanded community-based activities geared towards creating enabling and supportive community structures and systems through community health teams, infant and young child feeding peer support groups, and improved health-seeking and caring behaviours of marginalised women through functional literacy classes.

Significant health and nutrition policies on maternal and child health and nutrition were approved during the year. These are Administrative Order No. 0014 allowing midwives to administer life-saving medicines, Republic Act 10028 or the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotions Act, and inclusion of pentavalent vaccines, measles, mumps and rubella into the national Expanded Programme on Immunisation.

WASH activities contributed to improving water, basic sanitation and hygiene education for school children and communities, with the active participation of the beneficiary communities as a main strategy. About 350,000 people benefitted from WASH projects and service deliveries both for emergencies and development interventions.

2. Main Activities and Specific Results

- a. UNICEF's support to the Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Health, in collaboration with the WHO and UNFPA, improved the capacity of 29 health facilities and about 500 health workers on essential newborn care. The Maternity Care Package health facilities accredited by Philhealth in Joint Programme sites increased by 38 per cent from 16 in 2009 to 22 in 2010. Essential drugs and equipment were distributed to 98 *barangay* health stations in geographically isolated and depressed areas.
- b. The programme harmonised three maternal and newborn care manuals for midwives into one official manual that will be used for both pre-service and in-service trainings, and advocated for the approval of Administrative Order No. 0014 allowing midwives to give lifesaving drugs in certain situations as a temporary measure prior to referral.
- c. Two surveys were initiated with the University of the Philippines System and the National Statistics Office. Provincial and city data on 10 maternal and newborn health indicators were generated using the Small Area Estimates method. The University of the Philippines College of Public Health, in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, is conducting a baseline survey on MDGF which is expected to finish in February 2011.
- d. The Philippines received 3.1 million doses of WHO-donated H1N1 pandemic vaccines. In partnership with the WHO and USAID, UNICEF assisted the DOH in printing and disseminating the guidelines and brochures to ensure effective administration and communication of the importance of the new vaccine to priority groups. Only about 28 per cent or 940,000 doses were used, targeting health workers and critical staff, pregnant women and high-risk adults.
- e. With technical assistance from EAPRO, UNICEF supported the tetanus toxoid campaign in the poor, remote municipality of Solana in Cagayan Province. Three doses of the tetanus toxoid vaccine were administered to 74 per cent of the targeted 15,260 females. Parallel to this campaign, an eight-person delegation from the US Fund/Kiwanis International produced video and print materials for the UNICEF/Kiwanis Project Eliminate Global Launch and advocacy campaign on Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination in June in Las Vegas.
- f. To sustain vaccine security support, the DOH and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November to continue the use of UNICEF Procurement Services for the Expanded Programme on Immunisation, using the World Bank loan for the national health sector support programme. This 2010 memorandum covers a total value of USD19.7 million, 8 per cent higher than the USD18 million in 2009.
- g. From January to June, a measles outbreak caused one death and almost 200 confirmed cases in six regions. It infected mostly 1- to 4-year-old children, of whom 50 per cent were not vaccinated. UNICEF gave technical assistance and 1.4 million doses of measles vaccine to replenish routine stocks, as outbreak response needs were not included in the forecast.
- h. The primary focus of the MDG on Child Food Security and Nutrition is to reduce the under-nutrition status of children 0 to 2 years old through core activities that support exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding. The final Joint Programme on Child Food Security and Nutrition took off with a series of meetings and inception workshops and the hiring of a programme coordinator. The final report of the baseline study will be available by February 2011.

- i. The programme held preliminary activities to widen the scope and reach of infant and young child feeding, and community management of acute malnutrition. The activities include (1) a public hearing on the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotions Act; (2) a Milk Code orientation for media and professional groups; (3) the piloting of a training module for Milk Code monitoring; (4) the Infant and Young Child Feeding Peer Counselling Training to strengthen community mobilisation, peer group formation and supportive supervision; and (5) the drafting, based on a proven distribution system, of iron-folic acid distribution guidelines for pregnant women. Capacity development in community management of acute malnutrition is ongoing in the ARMM in cooperation with local and international NGOs.
- j. Under the GAIN-UNICEF Universal Salt Iodisation Partnership and with support from USAID, a strategy plan was reviewed with several government, industry and development partners. The plan is being incorporated into the Medium-Term Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition. UNICEF also supported a province-wide social marketing pilot for iron-fortified rice done by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute.
- k. As a cross-cutting intervention for disparity reduction, WASH is being developed as an entry project to support the implementation of other programmes such as maternal and neonatal health, nutrition, ECCD and primary education. UNICEF distributed non-local materials to the DepEd and LGUs for the construction of WASH facilities in the schools and communities of identified disparity areas. LGUs and Parent-Teacher-Community Associations provided the labour and local materials such as sand and gravel. The programme likewise supported orientations of school children on the importance of proper hand washing as well as hygiene promotion through advocacy, a hand washing campaign and child-to-parents/community approach.
- l. With help from two WASH international specialists, wide consultations amongst the national government, local NGOs, international NGOs, UN agencies, WB and ADB, accelerated the WASH programme implementation and the development of a WASH strategy paper.

3. Emergency

As Nutrition Cluster lead, the programme coordinated with partners on emergency response and preparedness activities, including (1) piloting a re-lactation programme in communities affected by Tropical Storm Ondoy, (2) training of 550 health workers on infant feeding in emergencies, (3) formation of 124 peer support groups for infant and young child feeding, (4) lactation/re-lactation support to 3,200 mother-infant pairs, and (5) piloting of the five-day Nutrition in Emergencies Training to be rolled out in 2011. The Country Office hosted and participated in the Regional Meeting on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies in August.

Out of emergency funds for Luzon, the programme procured 1.4 million doses of measles vaccines and 73 units of ice-lined refrigerators. It responded to Typhoon Megi victims in Isabela Province by giving basic emergency health kits, iron-folic acid tablets, multiple micronutrient powders, infant and young child feeding posters, tarpaulins and fans to 19 affected municipalities, the provincial hospital and three district hospitals.

As WASH Cluster co-lead, UNICEF engaged five humanitarian agencies and NGOs in implementing various WASH interventions. A total of 338 LGU frontline workers in 41 municipalities were mobilised and trained on cluster orientation; some helped develop guidelines and tools on WASH in emergency. Moreover, 70,000 families directly benefitted from water supply provision, safe water collection and storage, distribution of hygiene kits, household water treatment, disinfection, and rehabilitation and construction of drinking water wells/points, emergency communal toilets, household latrines and bathing cubicles.

The WASH Cluster Joint Rapid Assessment of armed conflict areas/IDPs in Mindanao showed that water and sanitation facilities are sorely insufficient to meet the growing population. In response,

4. Summary of Monitoring, Study and Evaluation Activities

The evaluation of a pre-pregnancy package of services implemented in Davao City from mid-2008 to August 2009 by the Davao Medical School Foundation with technical assistance from the Australian Knowledge Hub, resulted in a technical report and cleaned merged data ready for analysis. The DOH, Davao City, Australian Knowledge Hub and UNICEF agreed on action points.

Documentation of the Maternal Death Review experience of Eastern Samar showed that the review contributed to upgrading the healthcare system, as it guided the planning and implementation of the maternal and child healthcare programme, and rationalised the Emergency Obstetric Care Needs Assessment in 2004. From 2000 to 2006, the focus was on building the capacities of strategic health facilities on BEmONC (Basic Emergency Obstetric & Neonatal Care).

The UNICEF-funded Soil-Transmitted Helminth parasitological follow-up sentinel monitoring for 6- to 7-year-old school children showed little decline in prevalence from 54 per cent in 2004 to 47 per cent in 2009. The DOH adjusted the programme in 2010 by targeting all 1- to 12-year-old children and issuing guidelines on adverse events.

UNICEF conducted a temperature monitoring study using a new electronic device. The study showed that no frozen vaccines from six vaccination sites met discard standards. Information on the risk of vaccine freezing at some points of transport and storage at sub-regional levels will be disseminated to alert health workers on the potential risks.

D. Future Work Plan

At the national level, the programme will concentrate on advocacy and alliance building within the context of the Health Sector Reform Agenda's Universal Health Care initiatives on reducing neonatal mortality and malnutrition, and sustaining gains in immunisation. Moreover, the programme will help implement the initiatives on strengthening demand-driven local health systems in vulnerable LGUs and a situation, needs and interventions assessment on health and nutrition, including improving information management. This expands naturally to health and nutrition interventions during humanitarian crises.

The WASH programme will continue to address many challenges such as the absence of a proper database and accurate figures on coverage, access and quality; the lack of WASH access amongst 22 million people; the poor attention given by government to WASH strategies; the lack of standards and technical skills in resource management decentralisation; and the emergencies erupting from time to time due to typhoons, floods and armed conflicts.

Country Programme Component:

HIV

Main MTSP Focus Area Addressed

FA 3: HIV/AIDS and Children

Main MTSP KRAs Addressed

KRA 1 and 3

A. Purpose of Programme Component

The focus of the 2010-2011 programme extension period is on adolescent prevention and addressing HIV and syphilis in pregnancy to prevent child morbidity and mortality. Given the concentrated nature of the Philippine HIV epidemic in selected sub-populations and

geographic areas, the HIV programme targets youth and women at higher risk of contracting HIV in an attempt to restrict the virus from spreading to the general population.

The HIV programme goal is, “by 2011, the risk of HIV infection is maintained low amongst young people and women in the context of significantly expanding at-risk population”. With this focus, UNICEF seeks to contribute to the country’s achievement of MDG 6 to halt and reverse the spread of HIV, and the objective to “maintain the low prevalence of HIV infection in the country”, as spelled out in the National AIDS Medium-Term Plan 4 (2005-2010).

The results for 2010 are:

By 2011, policy guidance is available and disseminated for HIV/STI programming for children, young people and pregnant women

By 2011, child-friendly high schools implement HIV/STI prevention campaign

By 2011, LGUs implement and evaluate model interventions for most-at-risk children and young people

By 2011, 80 per cent of pregnant women accessing antenatal care in five HIV priority cities are screened for syphilis and verbally screened for HIV risk

Donations to HIV programming poured in from AusAID, Thematic Funds, the Hong Kong National Committee, the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund and Private Sector Fundraising.

B. Results Achieved

1. MDG Dimension

Out of 63 countries that submitted data to the UNAIDS Global Report 2010, the Philippines was one of only seven countries that reported rising HIV cases (five-fold increase between 2007 to 2009, from 1/1,000 to 5/1,000 people infected among most-at-risk populations (DoH 2009 IHBSS)., as most other countries already have stable or even decreasing infection rates. 2010 DoH data already show 53% HIV infection rates among people who inject drugs in one city in the Philippines, from 0.6% in 2009. In a joint effort with national stakeholders working to halt the spread of HIV, the UNICEF HIV Programme contributed to reducing the risk of HIV infection amongst children, young people and women through policy advocacy, evidence-based strategy development and targeted interventions aimed at youth and women at higher risk of HIV.

2. Major Activities and Specific Results

a. By 2011, policy guidance is available and disseminated for HIV/STI programming for children, young people and pregnant women.

To counter the lack of approaches for most-at-risk children and young people (MARCY) in the national HIV response, UNICEF promoted data availability as a base for policy development and programming. As such, the HIV programme supported the age- and gender-disaggregation of national HIV data, and an analysis on the extent that the current national AIDS response considered gender and age. Building on these data and localising international recommendations for countries with concentrated epidemic stage such as the Philippines, UNICEF worked with national stakeholders from both the government and civil society to finalise the National Strategy Framework for the Country HIV Response for Children and Young People, which was approved by the CWC board in 2010. This framework and the aforementioned data informed the development of the next National AIDS Medium-

Term Plan. Acknowledged by the key stakeholders as critical, gender- and age-responsiveness was included as a guiding principle in the draft AIDS Medium-Term Plan 5.

b. By 2011, child-friendly high schools implement HIV/STI prevention campaign.

UNICEF and the DepEd successfully collaborated on the “Power of You” HIV prevention campaign, using the approach with an interactive video and facilitated discussion developed in 2009. The campaign is being implemented in all urban child-friendly schools and priority schools in HIV focus areas. The ongoing evaluation will generate critical data to inform a policy dialogue with DepEd on the future directions of systematic HIV/STI prevention education in schools as part of broader life skills and adolescent health education in partnership with the Philippine National AIDS Council and UNFPA.

Even if the Power of You distribution was deliberately limited because of the ongoing evaluation with a control-group design, it has already proven to be a tool with which many stakeholders can easily identify and get encouraged to be involved in the HIV response. One city not involved in the evaluation jumped at the opportunity of the Power of You launch to self-organise and implement a comprehensive and creative Power of You campaign for 31 of its high schools for World AIDS Day 2010. The city campaign included viewing of the video, discussions, song, arts, poster and essay contests, quizzes and ‘smart talking’ competitions. The city trained the remaining high schools shortly after World AIDS Day, reaching 100 per cent involvement of high schools. Another indication of the culture-sensitivity of the Power of You is that the Philippine Catholic HIV/AIDS Network approved its contents and expressed its eagerness to use this tool during the bishops’ formation seminar on HIV in January 2011 and to distribute it to Catholic schools, organisations, dioceses and families.

c. By 2011, LGUs implement and evaluate model interventions for most-at-risk children and young people.

With the sharp rise of new HIV infections in 2009, targeted, proven and effective behaviour change interventions for high-risk children and young people are critical to curbing the further spread of HIV. The 2009 UNICEF-commissioned external evaluation of the HIV- and STI-prevention activities targeting most-at-risk young people recommended harmonising the peer education system and national capacity building, which were started in 2009. In 2010, UNICEF supported LGU teams, consisting of city health and social welfare staff, NGOs and young peer educators, in implementing model interventions for MARCY, following a structured, multi-session programme with a reference system.

Equity focus: Most-at-risk children and young people are the most disadvantaged population because of substantial access barriers despite their high-risk behaviours. Blame and uncertainty on how to address high risk-taking amongst teenagers often result in exclusion from services. UNICEF supported LGUs to proactively reach out to MARCY in a caring, rights-based manner, aiming towards behaviour change and linking MARCY with available health, social and educational services.

d. By 2011, 80 per cent of pregnant women accessing antenatal care in five HIV priority cities are screened for syphilis and verbally screened for HIV risk.

The 2008-2009 thrust of supporting the national implementation of prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission in a more inclusive ‘STI in pregnancy’ approach was maintained in 2010, considering the 2008 findings of the review on prevention of mother-to-child transmission. The integrated strategy focused on universal syphilis screening for antenatal women, combined with a verbal risk assessment for HIV and referral for those who test positive.

After the operational guide on syphilis in pregnancy was developed, UNICEF supported its dissemination.

Equity focus: Women at high risk of HIV and syphilis infection are often stigmatised because of their or their partners' risk-taking behaviour. They are unlikely to avail of syphilis screening and prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission. UNICEF supported the drafting of a strategy on the national prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, with an outreach and communication strategy specifically targeting these high-risk groups to help keep the women and their babies safe from HIV and STIs.

3. Critical Factors and Constraints Affecting Performance

The increasing HIV epidemic clearly points to the fact that the country's HIV response is lacking in scope and quality, partially due to low prioritization and an unfavourable policy environment.

The country's approach to separate STIs and HIV from antenatal care in the health system continues to pose a challenge to interventions in STI and HIV during pregnancy. Whilst syphilis screening during pregnancy is amongst the most cost-effective interventions for antenatal care because of very low unit cost, it still requires extra effort on the part of health workers. The low prevalence rate of 0.3 per cent likewise reduces health workers' motivation for universal screening.

That HIV testing requires parental consent for under-18 adolescents remains a substantial barrier to their access to HIV testing and related treatment. In a second national consultation in 2010, UNICEF worked with key stakeholders to review the legal and procedural requirements. The consultation gathered key recommendations and mobilised additional stakeholders such as the Commission on Human Rights. The recommendations shall be presented to the CWC board in early 2011. The activities with MARCY and the national consultation created a substantial amount of demand for a feasible option for adolescents to access HIV testing, and in turn increased pressure on national government agencies to find a pragmatic solution.

4. Key Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The main government partners of the HIV Programme are the DOH, DepEd and DSWD. UNICEF's key membership in policy- and decision-making bodies include membership in the CWC HIV Committee, an interagency body composed of the government, NGOs, civil society and international organisations. The Committee is the focal mechanism for coordination, policy reform, advocacy, research, monitoring and evaluation of the country response on HIV for children and young people. UNICEF is also an active member of the technical working group on HIV of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria; GFATM grants comprised 56% of the country's AIDS spending in 2009.

The UN Joint Team on AIDS continued to work following a UN Joint HIV annual work plan. At the end of 2010, the process of a UN Joint Programme on Most-At-Risk Populations for HIV was initiated.

UNICEF closely collaborated with youth-led and youth-serving civil society organisations active in the HIV response, and lobbied for and supported their participation in capacity development and key policy- and decision-making forums.

5. Emergency Response

UNICEF initiated discussions on HIV in emergencies in the current concentrated epidemic setting. An approach is being formulated for various possible scenarios: short versus longer displacement, affecting high HIV-burden areas versus low-burden areas. This includes guidelines and messages for other clusters on integrating HIV into their

response, and a referral directory for HIV in emergencies. This is expected to be final by the end of 2010.

D. Future Work Plan

The priority for 2011 is to follow through on the MARCY operations research and National Strategy Framework dissemination. This will be complemented by actions to strengthen the policy environment, such as giving adolescents access to HIV testing and counselling, and developing the capacity to implement the Strategy Framework. Specific attention will be paid to supporting child protection stakeholders in reviewing the HIV-responsiveness of their policies and programmes, particularly related to adolescents most-at-risk of HIV, many of who experience abuse and exploitation. For pregnant women, the focus will be on advocacy for inclusion into the national health insurance outpatient package and an outreach strategy for high-risk women who otherwise would not access the services.

Country Programme Component:

SOCIAL POLICY

Main MTSP Focus Area Addressed

FA 5: Policy Advocacy and Partnerships for Children's Rights and Gender Equality

Main MTSP KRAs Addressed

KRA 1,2 and 3

A. Purpose of the Programme Component

1. Goal

By 2011, child rights and gender equality are prioritised in national and local policies and programmes, including the national poverty reduction agenda, fiscal policies and local governance.

2. Results

The 2010/2011 results are:

a, by 2011, the programme has contributed to the sustained, improved and efficient delivery of the supply component of the 4P programme in 8 target LGUs

b, by 2011, child and gender sensitive social policies are incorporated in the Philippine Urban Development Framework and Strategy

c, by 2011, child and gender sensitive social policies are incorporated in the Mindanao 2020 Peace and Devt Framework Plan and in the ARMM Development Plan

d, by 2011, Health Investment plans of the focus area LGUs optimally allocate resources on the health sector

B.

B. Results Achieved

1. MDG Dimension

As the policy advocacy component of the Country Programme, Social Policy supports MDG 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, MDG 3 on promoting gender equality, and MDG 8 on developing a global partnership for development.

2. Major Activities

a. Strengthening of the rights-based approach to planning and policymaking of key government institutions

With UNDP, UNICEF helped NEDA organise five-day training of trainers for 60 NEDA national and regional staff whilst they were preparing the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. The training discussed human rights principles with emphasis on the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and their application. It included practical exercises on integrating the principles into policy formulation and governance and sector planning. NEDA Social Development staff in turn echoed the training to 44 participants representing 20 agencies that would contribute to the Plan.

Likewise UNICEF extended financial and technical assistance on the rights-based approach to the CWC and National Youth Commission as they prepared the National Plan of Action for Children and the Medium-Term Youth Development Plan.

b. Child-sensitive social protection

UNICEF assisted the DSWD in enhancing the Family Development Sessions manual. Attending the sessions is one condition for CCT recipient families. The sessions aim to empower the CCT beneficiaries to become better parents and spouses, as they are taught child discipline, nutrition and financial literacy, amongst others. The Family Development Sessions will hopefully inculcate in them the value of sending their children to school and to health centres even when the cash transfer is over. Through the MDG Fund on Youth Employment and Migration, young people who are not part of the CCT (above 15 years old) were taught life skills and vocational skills. UNICEF also assisted in the strengthening of local advisory councils/local councils for the protection of children in the focus LGUs of UNICEF.

c. Child-friendly local governments

Assessing the degree of child-friendliness of cities and communities is one of the nine building blocks of the global Child-Friendly Cities Initiative launched more than a decade ago. Although a number of assessment tools emerged to monitor child rights, the assessments came from the perspectives of individuals and groups working outside of communities. Largely missing were the views and opinions of community members, including children.

The Child-Friendly Cities global research seeks to improve the status of children living in different cities and communities by (1) enhancing the capacity of cities and communities to assess and monitor their level of fulfilling children's rights through the participation of children themselves; (2) improving the quality and breadth of data collected on children by children and their mothers to better inform policies and programmes; (3) raising awareness on child rights amongst city stakeholders such as children, caregivers, community members and local leaders; and (4) refining the action-research tools in cities/communities in different socioeconomic, cultural and political contexts.

3. Mindanao

The Memorandum of Agreement between UNICEF and the Mindanao Development Authority was signed in November 2010 in the presence of President Benigno Aquino III. The ARG (ARMM Regional Government) -UNICEF Memorandum of Agreement covering the period January 2010 to December 2011 was signed in March 2010. As stipulated in the Memorandum, a Regional Project and Monitoring Unit was established to serve as the overall coordinator of all programmes for children and women being implemented in the ARMM and assisted by UNICEF and other official development assistance.

A consultative meeting with the ARMM LGUs and a workshop on the formulation of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Situational Analysis were held in October 2010. Data were also gathered from regional and provincial partners for the first draft of

the ARMM Situational Analysis for Children and Women. The Regional Planning and Development Office started the 4Ps Supply Side Assessment for the provinces of Maguindanao and Sulu. Meetings with 4Ps coordinators and field monitoring in 4Ps target *barangays* in Maguindanao and Sulu were completed. Based on field visits and the assessment report submitted by the DSWD-ARMM, many gaps prevail on the supply side such as inadequate chairs, school buildings, medicines, equipment and materials in schools, day care centres and *barangay* health centres.

4. Equity Focus

UNICEF commissioned a mapping study on children with disability and convened a forum on the rights and state of children with disabilities. The study and the forum assisted the CWC Sub-Committee on Children with Disabilities, the National Council for Disability Affairs and civil society organisations in aligning their policy advocacy strategy. With the members of the UN Interagency Advisory Committee on Indigenous Peoples, UNICEF supported the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the nationwide survey and development of the Indigenous Peoples Master Plan, which will be integrated in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

As a member of the Joint Programme on Enhancing Access to and Provision of Water Services with the Active Participation of the Poor, the Section participated in the deliberation, critiquing and finalisation of three research outputs: (1) incentives mechanisms and partnership modalities for public and private investments in 'waterless' and poor communities; 2) national government-LGU cost-sharing policy; and 3) review of the Presidential Priority Programme on Water.

5. Critical Factors

a. CCT Expansion

The CCT programme or 4Ps was expanded from approximately 341,000 households in Set 1 to 1 million household beneficiaries by end-2010, covering 17 administrative regions, 80 provinces, and 733 cities and municipalities. The national programme has already reached 770,662 households. The Aquino administration further increased the target by end-2011 to 2.3 million households or half of the 4 million poorest households included in the DSWD's National Household Targeting System. Given the rapid expansion, the DSWD has been overwhelmed by the giving of cash grants and hence needed assistance in ensuring that local governments respond to the rise in demand and in monitoring that the cash is used for the benefit of children.

Aligning the Section more closely to support the CCT would ensure that the flagship national social protection programme is child-sensitive. UNICEF is participating at the policy table with a voice for children. The DSWD has also requested UNICEF assistance in developing a national framework for social protection, establishing an objective and transparent targeting system, improving models through the experience in focus LGUs, creating a donors forum and a think tank on child-sensitive social protection, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction identified 4 million of the poorest families in the country. Government agencies and international agencies like UNICEF can use the database to determine convergence points for their programmes.

The findings of the initial impact evaluation of the CCT will serve as a basis for enhancing the Family Development Sessions Manual and for UNICEF's assistance to DSWD in a rapid assessment on the role of local councils for the protection of children in 4Ps areas.

7. Strategic Partnerships and Inter-agency Collaboration

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Gender Mainstreaming Committee, the Official Development Assistance Gender and Development Network, the UN Interagency Technical Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, the Philippine Urban Consortium and the CWC Sub-Task Force on Children with Disability. It is also a member of the Interagency Advisory Committee on Child-Friendly Local Governance.

D. Future Work Plan

In 2011, the Social Policy and Local Development Section will focus on child-sensitive budgeting and will work with the Department of Budget and Management, Congress and Social Watch. It will help the DSWD in convening a donors' forum on social protection and in improving CCT monitoring and evaluation. UNICEF will also engage the newly elected officials through the reorganised Interagency Advisory Committee on Child-Friendly Local Governance.

E. Strategic Partnerships

The Section's main implementing partners are NEDA, DSWD, CWC, Department of Interior and Local Government, National Youth Commission, Philippine Commission on Women, National Statistical Coordination Board, National Statistics Office, Philippine Institute of Development Studies, leagues of local governments, and the planning and development offices of the focus LGUs.

IV. V. V. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Title	Year	Sequence No.	Type of Report	Recommended or Not for Inclusion	Themes and Subject Areas covered
Gender Audit	2009-10	2009-003	Study		Gender mainstreaming in UNICEF
Mapping of Policies and Programs for Children with disabilities	2009-10	2009-004	Study	Recommended	Children with Disabilities
Sentinel Surveillance of Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis in School Children in Selected Local Government Units in the Philippines: Follow-up Assessment	2009-10	2009-005	Survey		Child Health
To assess the results obtained in the frame of CPAP 1999-2003 and 2005-2009, and to capture lessons learnt to inform the new country programme (2012-2016)	2010	2010-001	Country Program Evaluation	Recommended	Country Programme evaluation
HIV prevention for students of child-friendly schools – to evaluate the facilitators training and the actual Power of You campaign	2010-11	2010-002	Impact Evaluation	Recommended	HIV prevention evaluation
Progress Evaluation of the Education in Emergencies and Post-Crisis Transition Programme	2010-11	2010-003	Outcome Evaluation	Ongoing	Education in Emergencies
Lessons Learnt Exercise: The Philippines Response for Typhoons	2010	2010-004	Lessons Learnt		Emergency Response
Updated Situation Analysis	2010	2010-005	Study	Recommended	Updated situation analysis of women and Children in Philippines
Process Evaluation of the Alternative Delivery Modes and Child Friendly High School	2010-11	2010-006	Process Evaluation	Ongoing	Education – Child Friendly Schools evaluation
Formative research for Health and nutrition	2010-11	2010-007	Survey and research	Ongoing	Infant and young child feeding policy mapping and baseline on

Title	Year	Sequence No.	Type of Report	Recommended or Not for Inclusion	Themes and Subject Areas covered
					behaviour and practice.
Global Out-Of-School Children (OOSC) Study	2010-11	2010-008	Study	Ongoing	Education, out of school youth
Small Area Estimate (SAE) Baseline Data Collection and Analysis	2010	2010-009	Study	Recommended	SAE techniques for baseline on Maternal and Neonatal Health
Baseline Study on Peer Violence and Bullying in Secondary Schools	2010-2011	2010-010	Baseline study	Ongoing	Secondary education and child protection/violence
Research on HIV prevention interventions for most-at-risk children and young people (MARCY)	2010-11	2010-011	Study	Ongoing	HIV prevention for MARCY
The Future of Filipino Children: Development Issues and Trends	2010-11	2010-012	Study	Launch set for Feb 2011	Situation of children and trends in future

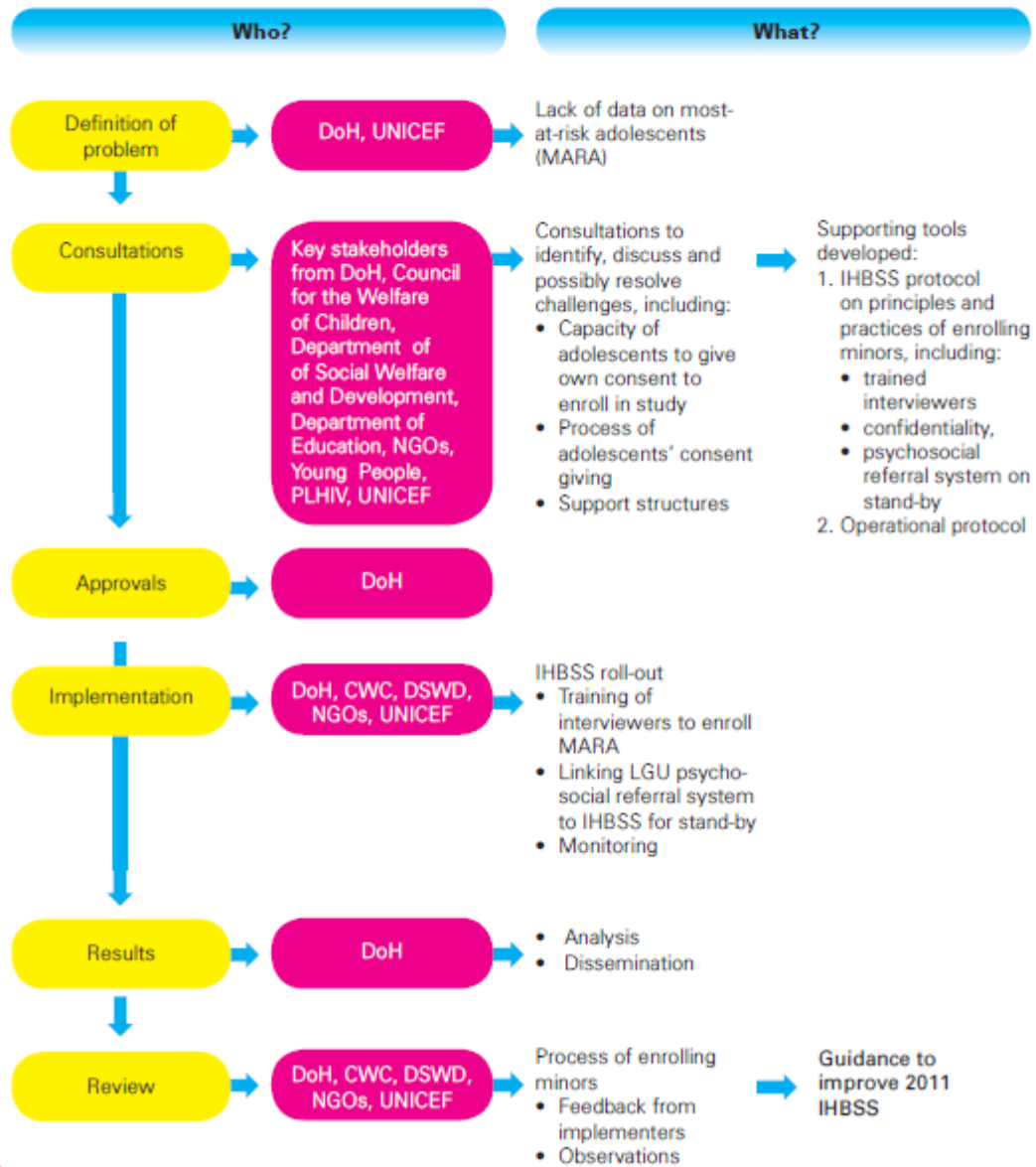
VI. INNOVATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Category: <i>Innovation</i>
MTSP Focus Area or Cross-Cutting Strategy: <i>Focus Area 3: HIV/AIDS and Children</i>
Country: <i>Philippines</i>
Title: <i>Integrating Most-at-Risk Adolescents into the National Integrated HIV Behavioural and Serologic Surveillance (IHBSS) in the Philippines</i>
Related links: <i>DoH NEC data – not yet online</i>
Contact person: <i>Gudrun Nadoll, HIV/AIDS specialist, gnadoll@unicef.org</i>
<p>Abstract:</p> <p><i>Because of increasing trends of risk behaviour and HIV infection among young people, UNICEF worked with DoH and other national stakeholders to include 15-17 year old most-at-risk adolescents (MARA) for the first time in the HIV surveillance for people who inject drugs, females in prostitution, and males engaging in sex with other males. The important information gained from this data will further strengthen the health, social and education system response in its integration or linkage with the HIV response in the Philippines.</i></p>
<p>Innovation or Lessons Learned:</p> <p><i>Due to procedural challenges of research with minors in this sensitive thematic area, HIV surveillance in the past was limited to adults. The experience presented here shows that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>Integration of MARA in HIV surveillance is possible.</u> International guidance on HIV research among minors was followed. Reports from implementers and observers indicate that MARA were included in the 2009 IHBSS according to protocol. MARA will be regularly included in the IHBSS, done every two years, to provide critical behavioral and serologic trends for HIV strategic planning in the Philippines.</i> • <i><u>Integration of MARA in HIV surveillance is relevant.</u> The strategic information for MARA from IHBSS will be used to contribute to MARA population size estimates, monitor MARA behavioral trends, and strengthen MARA policies, programmatic strategies and advocacy.</i> • <i><u>Integration of MARA in HIV surveillance is effective:</u> Including MARA in the IHBSS as compared to a separate MARA study raised the risk and vulnerability profile of MARA among key stakeholders involved in the national HIV response. It was cost-effective and not time consuming since the content of the questionnaire, the implementers involved in surveillance and the geographic surveillance sites were largely the same for younger and older most-at-risk populations.</i>
<p>Potential application:</p> <p><i>The AIDS Commission Report recommends focusing HIV programming on prevention among populations with high-risk behaviours. Therefore, data on the sub-category of adolescents with high-risk behaviours is critical for policy advocacy and targeted programming. Without dedicated attention on this very vulnerable young population, national HIV response tends to focus on adult most-at-risk populations. Rights-based, caring approaches to protect adolescents from engaging in high-risk behavior are much needed in low and concentrated epidemics for an effective response to contain the virus spread.</i></p>
<p>Issue:</p> <p><i>Since 2007, passive HIV case reporting in the Philippines showed an increasing number of cases from younger age-groups (20-29 years). Anecdotal reports also indicated that substantial proportions of most-at-risk populations (MARPs) were adolescents. It was critical to understand patterns of sexual behavior and drug-use among Filipino most-at-risk adolescents (MARA) to establish an effective prevention program and deliver needed services. Since the National HIV Surveillance was limited to adult</i></p>

populations of people who inject drugs, females in prostitution and males having sex with males, there was no official data on MARA for better targeted programming. The strategic value of a separate MARA study as compared with MARA data gathering as part of the IHBSS was discussed. Considerations to opt for integration included cost-effectiveness, time limitations of implementers, and sustainability.

Strategy and Implementation:

Figure 1: Process of including MARA in IHBSS



Progress and Results:

Data disaggregated by age, site and risk-group is now available. Findings show that in some surveillance sites, up to 34% of the most-at-risk populations sampled were 15-17 year olds. This age-group's knowledge about HIV prevention was low (18-24%); they practiced high risk behavior, were vulnerable to STI and HIV but had limited access to services. Also, the median age of initiation to sex and drug use among the most-at-risk populations was 14-19 years.

MARA will be regularly included in the IHBSS, done every two years, to provide critical behavioral and serologic trends for HIV strategic planning in the Philippines.

Next steps: *This data will be used together with the newly developed HIV strategy framework for children and young people and documentation of effective interventions to further strengthen the health, social and education system response in its integration or linkage with the HIV response.*

Category: *Innovation*

MTSP Focus Area or Cross-Cutting Strategy: *MTSP focus Area 1*

Country: *Central Mindanao, Philippines*

Title: *Modeling Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) in the context of a complex emergency.*

Related links:

http://www.unicef.org/har2010/files/HAR-MYR2010_PHILIPPINES.pdf

http://www.unicef.org/supply/files/Update_on_Global_Efforts_to_Scale-up_Management_of_SAM.pdf

<http://home.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp216157.pdf>

Contact person: *Michael Emerson P Gnilo MD; email: megnilo@unicef.org, Pura Rayco-Solon, Nutrition Specialist, praycosolon@unicef.org*

Abstract:

In conflict affected southern Mindanao, health workers in the IDP camps observed a continuing stream of malnourished children into the mobile clinics. As the emergency shifted from critical to chronic, many international NGOs who were previously delivering services, closed their operations and withdrew staff. Through strong partnership of local government, UN agencies, local NGOs and the communities themselves, treatment for cases of severe and moderate acute malnutrition has continued, and importantly ownership for the delivery and quality of services is now firmly in local community hands.

Innovation: *The program is divided into 4 components: 1) an In-patient Treatment Program (ITP) in government hospitals, 2) an Out-patient Treatment Program (OTP) in rural health units by mentoring the rural health workers, 3) a targeted Supplementary Feeding Program to prevent deterioration of those with moderate malnutrition and 4) a Community Mobilization component with volunteers from the community, local NGO partners, and engaging other sectors like education, WASH and protection.*

Potential application: *Although the approach used was for nutrition interventions in an emergency context, there are many potential applications in the country context. In particular, how local government and NGO partnerships can work in synergy. In a devolved health care set up like that of the Philippines, the NGO partners can provide technical stewardship to provide quality health care services at relatively low cost.*

Issue: *As some of the international humanitarian NGOs prepared to exit from the chronic emergency, the Nutrition Cluster co-chaired by the DOH and UNICEF shifted its attention from the NGOs as humanitarian service providers of nutrition services to modelling an innovative and integrated approach. This allowed for continued service delivery through maximizing partnerships between government, UN agencies, NGO partners through the Nutrition Cluster and with the communities themselves using the model of CMAM.*

Strategy and Implementation: *At the onset of the emergency, UNICEF originally supported NGO partners who provided direct nutrition services through provision of supplies like Ready to Use Therapeutic Food, therapeutic milk products and other medical supplies and equipment. As the situation transitioned and sustainability and exit strategies were discussed, the methods of intervention shifted to a*

capacity development approach, partnering with local government, community members, and local NGOs. This provided for i, continued services for considerably less resources, ii, greater ownership of the interventions by the local partners and community and iii, research opportunity for possible models to replicate in future emergencies and development settings.

Progress and Results: *Currently CMAM is being scaled up to 12 municipalities in Central Mindanao. At the time of this report 17,000 children have been screened and over 500 children treated for severe acute malnutrition and over 1000 children referred and treated for moderate acute malnutrition. Challenges were: 1) Lack of a common database making monitoring and evaluation across different UN and NGO partners difficult. 2) Cross referrals and coordination between clusters can still be improved particularly in ensuring protection rations and enrolment of the families with SAM children into food for work programs, availability and access to other health services, including safe water in the health facilities. 3) Proper tertiary level care and management of SAM with complications.*

Next steps: *Going into 2011, UNICEF-Philippines is exploring how the dramatic impact on the malnourished children can be used to advocate and develop a national protocol for CMAM through a Department of Health lead CMAM taskforce. The learning from these experiences in CMAM in conflict areas can provide avenues for integration in existing government nutrition programs (ie IYCF and c-IMCI), Disaster Risk Reduction for the nutrition sector, models for LGU-NGO partnerships in the health and nutrition sector and multi-sectoral approaches to address malnutrition.*

SPECIAL REPORT: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

ASEAN children's forum (ACF)

UNICEF supported the Philippines government through CWC (council for the welfare of children) to host the first ASEAN children's forum (ACF). This was the culmination of many years of discussion and modelling by the Philippine government, with strong support from Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. In December 2008, the decision to hold the first ASEAN children's meeting was approved at the ASEAN Ministers of Social Welfare meeting in the region. It then took 18 months to gain funding and approval from ASEAN secretariat and membership. During this process UNICEF EAPRO and Philippines worked to ensure discussions were taking the process forward, including developing a formal agreement with ASEAN on support for children's rights.

The first ACF took place in the Philippines in October 2010 and all ASEAN member countries participated in the meeting, sending up to 3 young delegates each, aged between 13-18 years, and including children with disabilities. A delegate of young people then attended the ASEAN social welfare ministers meeting in Brunei in November 2010, and succeeded in securing the approval from the ministers for the continuation of the meeting every two years. The next ACF will be hosted by Singapore in 2012.

Incorporating children and adolescent views and perspectives into ASEAN structures and processes is an important step forward for realisation of children's rights in the region. Beyond the meetings themselves, an online discussion is beginning through the ACF website, that is intended to motivate and support them to take forward participatory processes with young people in their home countries and communities.