

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH ASIA (ROSA)

REGIONAL ANALYSIS REPORT 2010

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Contents

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
PART TWO: TRENDS AND PROGRESS IN THE REGION	2
PART THREE SECTION ONE: ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME STRATEGIES AND RESULTS IN THE REGION	5
3.1.1 Capacity Development	5
3.1.2 Advocacy	5
3.1.3 Partnerships	6
3.1.4 Knowledge Management and Leadership.....	7
3.1.5 Communication for Development.....	7
3.1.6 Human rights based approach to cooperation	7
3.1.7 Gender equality and mainstreaming	8
3.1.8 Environmental sustainability.....	8
PART THREE SECTION TWO: Analysis According to MTSP Focus Area.....	9
3.2.1 Young Child Survival	9
3.2.2 Basic Education and Gender Equality.....	11
3.2.3 HIV/AIDS and Children.....	13
3.2.4 Child Protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	15
3.2.5 Policy Advocacy and Partnerships for Children's Rights	17
PART FOUR SECTION ONE: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (See table summary of results) 19	
Analysis of factors internal and external which supported results	19
Discussion of office management practices.....	19
Discussion of Procurement Services	20
Overview of achievements during 2010 against the Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP) for the biennium 2010-2011	21
PART FOUR SECTION TWO: OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS AND OVERSIGHT-RELATED ACCOUNTABILITIES.....	25
PART FIVE: STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS COMPLETED IN 2010..	27
Assessment of Evaluation function	27
PART SIX: INNOVATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED	28
PART SEVEN: SPECIAL REPORT SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION.....	28
PART EIGHT: REPORT ON UN REFORM AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION	29
Delivery as One Pilot:.....	30
CCAs/UNDAF:	30
Progress in UN joint programme/project and joint office initiatives.....	31

PART ONE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Achievements - The catastrophic floods in Pakistan were the dominant event for the South Asia Region in 2010. The magnitude of the disaster was unprecedented. At the height of the emergency, 20 million people were affected. Nine million people were severely affected including 4.5 million children. According to the World Bank there was an estimated \$9.7 billion in damages including 1.9 million homes and 10,000 schools damaged or destroyed. The Pakistan Flood Emergency Relief and Early Recovery Response Plan totaling \$1.96 billion was the largest Humanitarian Appeal in history. Within UNICEF, the flood triggered an equally impressive response. Clean drinking water was delivered to 3.2 million people on a daily basis and sanitation facilities were provided for 1.5 million. An estimated \$90 million of supplies were procured and effectively distributed. The Pakistan Country Office recruited and deployed 240 temporary staff over three months.

In November ROSA and EAPRO supported a High Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region. Hosted by the Government of China and including representation from all 28 Asia-Pacific countries, the meeting focused on achieving the MDGs with equity by addressing disparities. A systems-approach to child protection and effective disaster risk reduction for children were two other thematic areas for action. The outcome document from the consultations, *The Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region*, laid out a number of specific commitments for participating countries to advance child rights.

Strengthening the evidence base and advocacy for addressing equity was a significant initiative in South Asia. The Regional Office finalized a study on the extent of inequities in South Asia across various dimensions of a child's life including economic status, gender, geographic location, and caste, ethnicity, or religion. The findings of the report "*When National Averages are Not Enough*" helped UNICEF ROSA enhance its analysis on the most deprived and excluded children in the region.

Shortfalls - Variation in progress amongst the countries of South Asia to achieve the MDGs remains the single largest challenge. While South Asia as a whole is on track in nine indicators, the gaps in progress, both between countries and within countries, are huge with Afghanistan unlikely to meet any of the MDGs by 2015. Even in countries where significant MDG progress has been made, such as in Sri Lanka and Maldives disparities within the country remain or are widening. Gaps can be observed in every country between urban and rural areas, between rich and poor, between girls and boys, and between the many different ethnic and religious minorities and castes to which South Asia is home.

The floods in Pakistan highlighted the importance of the organization delivering on what it promises. The perceived slow start to UNICEF's flood response led to global consequences among some partners highlighting the fact that failure to meet expectations locally can quickly become a crisis of confidence at institutional level.

Collaborative partnerships - In the effort to achieve the MDGs equitably, a key initiative for maternal newborn and child health is the investment case approach. As a methodology, the investment cases aim to improve maternal and child mortality rates by identifying bottlenecks and funding strategies to ensure valuable resources are used effectively. Working closely with academic institutions, government partners and country offices, the regional office has worked with partners including the Asian Development Bank, the University of Queensland Consortium, WHO, the World Bank, national governments and local research institutions.

UNICEF's strategic partnership in South Asian also includes working closely with other UN agencies and international NGOs. UNICEF is an active partner in 'Delivering as One' in Pakistan and among DaO self starters Bhutan and Bangladesh. In Pakistan, the Country Office co-leads, with UNESCO and UNDP respectively, the Education and Environment UN Joint Programmes. UNICEF is also a very strong partner in the Humanitarian Country Teams in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Collaboration with the SAARC Secretariat continued, especially on the issue of social protection for children affected by HIV/AIDS, and on the finalization of the Assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child (2001-2010), which was presented to the SAARC Member States. A joint report is to be released in 2011. Consultations with the Asian Development Bank during the year led to a joint MOU signed in September between the Executive Director of UNICEF and the President of the ADB. The partnership will harness the complementary advantage of the ADB and UNICEF in efforts towards inclusive growth and development and focuses on reaching the most disadvantaged children.

PART TWO: TRENDS AND PROGRESS IN THE REGION

The catastrophic floods in Pakistan were the dominant event for the South Asia Region in 2010. The 'slow moving tsunami,' as it was called by the UN Secretary General was unique in many ways. The magnitude of the disaster over an area the combined size of Austria, Switzerland and Belgium was unprecedented as was the number of people affected. At the height of the emergency 20 million people were affected by extensive damage to livelihoods and homes. Nine million Pakistanis were severely affected including 4.5 million children. According to the World Bank there was an estimated \$9.7 billion in damages including 1.9 million homes and 10,000 schools damaged or destroyed. The Pakistan Flood Emergency Relief and Early Recovery Response Plan totaling \$1.96 billion was, as of February 2011, the largest humanitarian appeal in history.

The floods triggered an equally extraordinary response from UNICEF. Clean drinking water was delivered to 3.2 million people on a daily basis, sanitation facilities were provided for 1.5 million and hygiene promotion to 1.9 million people. Almost 3000 temporary learning centres and 1000 child friendly centres were established. An estimated \$90 million of supplies were procured and distributed to women and children. UNICEF established three additional sub offices, recruited and deployed 240 temporary staff over three months. The Regional Director of ROSA led the emergency response from October to December as the Executive Director's Special Representative. There were many lessons in the flood response that will help guide UNICEF and other humanitarian agencies especially in the response to so-called "mega emergencies." Although unprecedented in damage, the floods presented opportunities to reach communities with services that may not have otherwise been reached. Gains were made in education, health and child protection such as, the increase of primary school enrolment, especially for girls, in UNICEF districts from 350,000 to 530,000 or the 9.2 million children vaccinated for polio. Other examples of impressive achievements include the training of more than 60,000 lady health workers. The goal for the coming year will be to maintain the momentum of these achievements.

In both Pakistan and Afghanistan, UNICEF continued to face increasing insecurity. Increased security incidents led to fears of increasing political polarization and the loss of the moderate voice in Pakistan. In the FATA region 1.2 million Pakistanis remained displaced by military operations. In Afghanistan UNSS recorded a 69% rise in security incidents compared to the same period (Jan-Oct) the previous year. Fortunately, unlike 2009, no UNICEF staff lives were lost but the increasingly volatile security situation in both countries severely constrained programming and resulted in higher costs to keep staff safe.

Conversely countries such as Sri Lanka and Nepal continued to move from conflict to development. In 2010, the Sri Lanka country programme benefitted from the end of hostilities, the return of almost all displaced populations and the mid-term review to refocus more on long term development challenges. The office also successfully managed the significant scaling back of resources. A major breakthrough in the Nepali peace process was the UN administered discharge of 3,000 children from the Maoist army in 2010. The UN provided rehabilitation packages for the discharges.

Strengthening the evidence base and advocacy for addressing equity in child rights has been an ongoing priority in South Asia. In 2010, the Regional Office undertook an analysis of the sources and extent of inequities across various dimensions of a child's life. The findings of the report "*When National Averages are Not Enough*" helped UNICEF enhance its analysis on the most deprived and excluded children in the region. Many countries, such as Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Bhutan expanded the evidence base with a focus on collecting sub-national data to examine equitable access to, and provision of services.

UNICEF's response to the increasing disparities throughout the region continues to emphasize improved analysis and data collection especially at the sub-national level, increased geographical targeting in areas where disparities are greatest and ongoing partnerships and investment to reduce bottlenecks and improve service delivery at the community level. The approach based on hard-won victories in the health sector has influenced global approaches and methodology to accelerate equitable achievements towards Millennium Development Goals One, Four and Five. Evidence-based advocacy to address the effects and root causes of disparity such as discrimination according to gender, caste, ethnicity and religion are integrated across the sectors.

In September UNICEF and the Asian Development Bank signed an MOU that formalized a key partnership in the Asia and Pacific Region. The global partnership will help both organizations harness complementary advantages towards inclusive growth and placed children, especially the

most disadvantaged, at the centre of the fight against poverty. In October, the Government of China hosted a High Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region, within the framework of South-South cooperation, with support from UNICEF EAPRO and ROSA. The meeting, which included representation from all 28 Asia-Pacific countries, was an opportunity to share best practices, experiences and lessons learned in the realization of child rights in the Asia-Pacific region. The outcome document, *The Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region*, laid out a number of specific commitments for participating countries to advance child rights.

As a region, South Asia's MDG progress toward the Millennium Development Goals was mixed. According to the 2010/11 Asia-Pacific MDG report, South Asia as a whole was on track, or has achieved targets, only in nine areas. Variation in progress amongst the countries of South Asia is large, with Afghanistan unlikely to meet any of the MDGs by 2015.¹ Even in countries where significant MDG progress has been made, such as in Sri Lanka and Maldives, disparities within the country remain or are widening. Gaps can be observed in every country between urban and rural areas, between rich and poor, between girls and boys, and between the many different ethnic and religious minorities and castes to which South Asia is home.

Indeed, the generally strong economic growth in South Asia, led by the expansion in India over the last two decades has been undermined by growing income inequality in the region. This has resulted in slow progress in **reducing the number of people living with less than \$1.25 per day (MDG1)**. Over the last 20 years income inequality has increased dramatically. South Asia as a region faces acute challenges in terms of **hunger and under-nutrition** with more undernourished children than anywhere else in the world. Some 48% of children under 5 years old are stunted, 19% wasted and 42% underweight.² Except for Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, the region has made insufficient progress towards the MDG goal. Across the region, underweight prevalence is highest in the poorest households: 56% of South Asian children under age five in the poorest quintile are underweight.³ Sub-national geographic disparities are widespread and exist even in countries such as the Maldives where the gaps are more moderate. For Sri Lanka, which continues to struggle to meet the nutrition target despite success in other MDGs, mother's education plays a strong role in underweight prevalence of children.⁴

All countries in South Asia have made strong gains in **MDG2** through **increasing primary school attendance**. A landmark event was the new Right to Education Act in India. Throughout the region 81% of primary aged children are in school today, compared to 60% in 1990. Nonetheless an estimated 33 million children are not in school and most of these are girls (53%).⁵ South Asia is close to achievement of gender parity in primary school, with 83% of boys and 80% of girls.⁶ The Maldives and Sri Lanka have already achieved gender parity in primary school attendance, while in Bangladesh boys are now slightly disadvantaged in relation to girls. The other five countries, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan, still have fewer girls than boys in school.⁷ The gender gap is greatest in Afghanistan where the enrolment rate for boys is about 66% whereas for girls it is only 40%. Despite relative successes, national figures hide inequities. Pockets of children remain out of school in poor households, remote regions, informal settlements and among ethnic/linguistic minorities. Quality of education continues to be an issue; long distances between schools and home, out-of pocket expenses (including transport, books and materials and lost income) are often still high, contributing to high drop-out rates, grade repetition and poor performance.

As a measure of **gender equality (MDG3)**, gender parity in secondary school enrolment continues to lag behind in South Asia, with 53% of boys enrolled and 45% of girls.⁸ At the extreme in Afghanistan, only 18% of women over 15 years of age are literate, as opposed to 49% of men.⁹ However, there are more girls than boys in secondary school in Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives. Deeply rooted patriarchal social values continue to define gender relations within households in South Asia. Traditional exclusion from education is part of a larger pernicious pattern of female exclusion, where girls are married young, kept from the formal job sector and sequestered to the domestic sphere through *purdah* and sharia law in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Maldives.

¹ Based on the most recent internationally comparable data set covering the period up to 2008, ADB,

² UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2011)

³ DHS, pDHS, MICS, NFHS & other household surveys, WHO, and UNICEF. Cited in UNICEF Progress for Children 2010. p 51.

⁴ *When National Averages are Not Enough*, UNICEF ROSA 2010

⁵ UNICEF Progress for Children, 2010

⁶ UNICEF State of the World's Children 2011

⁷ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), MICS, and DHS. Cited in: UNICEF Progress for Children 2010 (UNICEF Pfc). p.52-55.

⁸ UNICEF, Progress for Children, 2010

⁹ UNICEF State of the World's Children,2011).

South Asia has experienced some decline in **child mortality (MDG4)**, with a reduction from 124 deaths per 1,000 births in 1990 to 76 deaths per 1,000 births in 2008, a decrease of 39%.¹⁰ The Maldives has achieved MDG4 and Bangladesh and Nepal are on track with rapid decline in U5MR. However, U5MR is stagnating in Bhutan at 79, India at 66 and Sri Lanka 15, with Afghanistan and Pakistan showing insufficient progress.¹¹ More of a concern, is that the decline in under-five mortality rates in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan is occurring with increasing inequality and gaps between the poorest and the richest.¹² U5MR remains critical in Afghanistan, which has the highest under-5 mortality rate in the world at 199 deaths per 1,000 live births¹³, with insufficient progress since 1990 when the rate was 250.¹⁴ Across the region, children from poorer households remain disproportionately vulnerable. In South Asia, a child from the poorest household is 2.7 times more likely to die than a child from a rich household.¹⁵ This is especially true in the case of India where the U5MR for the poorest households is triple that of the richest households.

Country progress on **MDG 5** is varied – with Afghanistan at 1,400 for 100,000 live births; India at 230 and Sri Lanka at 39.¹⁶ Early marriage and childbearing, high fertility, poor nutrition and poor maternal care still expose many girls and women to risks of maternal morbidity and mortality in South Asia. Early childbearing rates vary through the region. In Bangladesh 40% of girls aged 20-24 gave birth to their first child before they turn 18 – one of the highest rates of early childbearing in the world.¹⁷ Coverage of skilled attendance has increased in the region from 28% in 1990 to 48% in 2009.¹⁸ Poverty is a key barrier to seeking skilled attendance at birth, with many women fearing high costs. Across the region, only 17% of women from the poorest quintile receive skilled attendance compared to 83% of women from the richest quintile.¹⁹

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Asia is considered low with adult HIV infection at 0.3%. All countries in the region are on course to **halt and reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemic (MDG6)**. However, countries need to stay alert to the growing concentration of HIV/AIDS infections among groups engaging in high-risk behaviours such as sharing of unsterile injecting equipment, and unprotected sex in the context of sex work and male-to-male sex. Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS remains insufficient in the region with young men better informed (36%) than young women (17%).²⁰ Stigma and a lack of knowledge around HIV/AIDS means that many young people do not have the capacity to protect themselves or seek appropriate care when they are infected. Young women are especially vulnerable.

Regional coverage on **MDG7 targets for safe drinking water** is optimistic according to the latest WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme snapshot which observed that all countries except Bangladesh are on track for the water target. The region however, with the exception of Sri Lanka and the Maldives, is not on track to achieve the sanitation target. The biggest challenge for South Asia has in **basic sanitation** is the staggering number of 716 million people who practice open defecation.²¹ South Asia accounts for almost two-thirds of the global population practicing open defecation.²² Lack of sanitation is a significant problem, increasing risks of infectious diseases and the frequency of episodes of diarrhoea contributing to high rates of under nutrition. Significant disparities exist in sanitation coverage by geography and wealth status. In rural India, only 1% of the poorest quintile use improved sanitation facilities compared with 100% of the richest urban areas.²³

(MDG 8) In partnership with international organizations and a vibrant civil society, governments of South Asia supported policy mechanisms, capacity building initiatives aimed at addressing disparities and improving child's rights in South Asia. Two conferences on Public-Private-Partnerships and on Social Protection were organized with ADB and attended by the ROSA Regional Director in April 2010. The MoU signed in September 2010 confirmed collaboration on issues related to *inter alia* poverty reduction and reaching the MDGs. Collaboration with SAARC remained strong.

¹⁰ UNICEF Progress for Children 2010

¹¹ Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), September 2010

¹² Narrowing the Gap, UNICEF 2010

¹³ IGME September 2010

¹⁴ IGME September 2010

¹⁵ UNICEF Progress for Children 2010

¹⁶ UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2011

¹⁷ UNICEF Progress for Children 2010

¹⁸ UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2011

¹⁹ UNICEF Progress for Children 2010

²⁰ Children and AIDS, 5th Stocktaking Report, 2010, UNICEF/UNAIDS/WHO/UNFPA, page 45 and UNICEF PFC, 2010

²¹ UNICEF Progress for Children 2010.

²² UNICEF Progress for Children 2010.

²³ *When National Averages are Not Enough*, UNICEF ROSA, 2010

South Asia continues to exhibit some of the worst **child protection indicators** in the world. Despite progress in recent years, the majority of children in South Asia still do not have their **births registered**, with the worst trends in Afghanistan with only 6% of births registered. Sri Lanka stands alone with nearly universal coverage of 97%. Wealth quintile data for India and Nepal show pronounced disparities whereby the prevalence of birth registration increases with wealth. Large geographical disparities are also observed, particularly in India. Early marriage rates in South Asia are the highest in the world with 46% of young women marrying before age 18.²⁴ While rates are declining, particularly for marriages below the age of 15, the decline is slow and does not reflect the huge gains of getting girls into school or other efforts at promoting female empowerment, highlighting the intractability of gender exclusion in the region. Where data is available, it shows unacceptably high rates of child labour, up to 34% in Nepal, and an average of 12% in the region.²⁵

PART THREE SECTION ONE: ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME STRATEGIES AND RESULTS IN THE REGION

3.1.1 Capacity Development

Investing in a systematic approach to capacity development, based on high quality data and evidence, was a key strategy in the region. UNICEF Bangladesh strengthened its efforts to build the capacity of its partners in 2010, particularly that of the Government. For the first time in Bangladesh, the MICS 2009 survey was conducted at the sub-district level covering 300,000 households and the results revealed significant geographical disparities in performance in the district and sub-district levels including rural-urban and male-female differences. Key ministers and policy makers from the Government and civil society were actively involved in the discussions on the importance of addressing inequalities in achieving progress towards the MDGs and poverty reduction. Through regional and national workshops, ROSA supported capacity building in quality evidence for improving the equity and cost-effectiveness of health systems, using the investment case approach and training about 1000 central and district planning officers on bottleneck analysis and strategic planning and budgeting. The Regional office also supported the Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan Country offices to build capacity of Government and national institutions in the investment cases.

Capacity development and system strengthening in the flagship social sector programmes of India is a key element of the upstream work of the India Country Office. Following its Mid-Term Review, the Country Office in India undertook a strategic shift to further concentrate capacity development interventions on systems strengthening. Examples of the shift included moving from training state functionaries to reviving training institutions; from procurement of services to strengthening government procurement systems and moving towards accessing and leveraging government resources and promoting convergence between government flagship programmes. In Maldives, a similar approach was taken with the institutionalization of various training programmes. A training module on International Standards on Juvenile Justice, for example, was embedded into the basic training programme for police officers' offered at the Police Training Academy.

Governments were not the only target of capacity development strategies. In Pakistan, a great deal of attention was focused on building the capacity of cluster partners. When the floods revealed a crisis of nutrition, the cluster undertook a mapping and a rapid scaling up of capacity building to support partners. Of course working at the community level remained critical. In Pakistan over 60,000 lady health workers were trained to provide emergency health services at the community level. In Afghanistan the office worked closely with Community Development Councils at both the national and community levels to build their capacities for programme design, planning, implementation and monitoring with the aim to ensure sustainability once external support is withdrawn. UNICEF Afghanistan also improved the capacity of Basic Package of Health Services NGOs to increase coverage to remote populations through sustainable outreach services.

3.1.2 Advocacy

Advocacy strategies in the region were on varied themes and for different audiences. In many country offices, programme sections and Field Offices engage in evidence-based advocacy and policy dialogue with decision-makers to generate consensus for enhanced policies, laws and resources to accelerate achievement of the MDGs. The most significant regional advocacy strategies focused on efforts to enhance focus on disparities and promotion of children's rights.

²⁴ UNICEF Progress for Children, 2010

²⁵ UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2011

In Afghanistan an enhanced equity focus approach was taken up with donors, UN and partners at high level meetings. UNICEF advocacy efforts led to government support for the preparation of an Investment Case for reaching MDGs One, Four and Five with equity. In order to make a compelling case for targeting low performing districts, three policy documents were produced in Bangladesh looking at 'Targeting of Basic Social Services, Investing in Vulnerable Children and Understanding Urban Inequalities. The documents examined how equity-focused strategies could be used in the Bangladesh context and translated into improved policies, programmes and budget allocations. This approach has also been used to increase the equity focus of the UNDAF through influence across the UN system.

In India advocacy efforts for inclusive development are focused on a wide range of stakeholders at the national, state and district levels including parliamentarians, academic institutions, the private sector, media, civil society, child rights coalitions and youth groups. Efforts are also made to collaborate with the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission for Women and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

In Nepal the Constituent Assembly Parliamentary Forum for Child's Rights was used to highlight disparities faced by women and children in citizenship rights and other issues related to the drafting of a new constitution. A growing group of female parliamentarians joined by male colleagues undertook strong advocacy and legislative work on girls' education. In the Maldives the overall advocacy approach for 2010 was to foster public discourse on child rights, achievement of MDGs, and UNDAF outcomes to ensure policy makers, civil society partners and communities were well aware of related issues.

Using sports, especially cricket, provided a wide range of advocacy opportunities. In Pakistan, the Healthy Hat Trick initiative of the Regional Office for South Asia with the engagement of the Pakistan Cricket Team was undertaken and included key messages on good nutrition, improved sanitation and girls' education. In Sri Lanka preparing for the 2011 Asia Cricket, UNICEF has partnered with UNAIDS, the Sri Lankan Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council to use the tournament as a vehicle for raising public awareness on HIV and reducing stigma and discrimination.

3.1.3 Partnerships

South Asia UNICEF offices have a rich array of partnerships and partnership strategies. The India country office's continuing partnership with IKEA Social Initiative is a unique partnership and has helped deliver tangible benefits in promoting child rights, particularly in the Health, Child Protection and Child Environment programmes. IKEA, the largest corporate donor for the India Country Office, shares a common vision of fulfilling the rights of children through high quality, cost-effective interventions. UNICEF India has also entered into strategic partnerships with the private sector that go beyond financial resources. The most recent example of this approach is the partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industries to influence Corporate Social Responsibility practices in the education sector, especially in light of the recently notified Right to Education Act. In 2010 Maldives worked closely with private media partners including Dhiraagu, the national telecom service provider and DhiTV and DhiFM to mark the Global Handwashing Day. Furthermore, with the establishment of Maldives Media Council in early 2010, a national code of ethics for media is being developed and discussions are underway to incorporate ethical reporting on children.

UNICEF's strategic partnership role in the Delivering as One UN programme in the region is demonstrated in Pakistan and self starter countries of Bhutan and Bangladesh. In Pakistan the Country Office co-leads, with UNESCO and UNDP respectively, the Education and Environment UN Joint Programmes. UNICEF is a very strong partner in the Humanitarian Country Teams in Pakistan and Afghanistan. To ensure effective coordination, information sharing and gap analysis for improved response, UNICEF Pakistan deployed over 60 dedicated Cluster Coordinators and Information Management staff, working in all affected provinces and at federal level for one of the most extensive humanitarian partnerships in history.

Aside from UN Partnerships UNICEF ROSA also works closely with SAARC especially on protection, care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS and Social Policy initiatives. As mentioned a relationship with the Asian Development Banks has been formalized through the signing of a formal MOU in September.

3.1.4 Knowledge Management and Leadership

Country offices in the South Asia region as well as the Regional Office made significant investments in disaggregated data collection and analysis to identify disparities and equity gaps. Bangladesh undertook a series of studies based on the findings of the sub-national 2009 MICS highlighting geographic and rural urban disparities. Recommendations for geographic targeting were adopted into UNDAF with the UN agencies agreeing to focus on 20 of the most disadvantaged/vulnerable districts in the country. In Bhutan plans for first district disaggregated socio-economic survey is expected to form the basis for future poverty disparity reduction strategies. The Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS) also included data on disabilities in the survey and is expected to provide a reliable estimate of disability prevalence, types and severity. Similar aspirations exist for Afghanistan.

Development of national databases on children all advanced in the region. The AfghanInfo socio-Economic Database, developed within the Central Statistics Organization with technical and financial support from UNICEF was launched. In Bhutan the UN supported the development of BhutanInfo as a human development monitoring tool to comply with Committee on the Rights of the Child recommendation for a national database on children. UNICEF Nepal contributed to establishment of the District Poverty Monitoring and Analysis System by using DevInfo to facilitate access to information related to women and children at sub-national levels. NepalInfo will become web-based and managed by the Central Bureau of Statistics in early 2011, increasing its utility as well as improving access.

In Sri Lanka, amongst other countries, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health, in development of District Investment Case Analysis (DICA) in pilot districts to identify potential bottlenecks in the health system and to improve planning. As a result of the exercise, DICA reports will be available for evidence and equity-based planning and management in 2011. In addition, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health document 'Health and Nutrition Profiles' for 25 districts to enable equity-based analysis across districts to inform decision-making and resource allocation within health and nutrition sectors.

ROSA conducted a disparity analysis "*When National Averages are Not Enough*" to identify regional trends. The regional office is also in the process of compiling a regional DevInfo database that includes a range of child welfare, demographic, and socio-economic indicators across all sectors. The primary purpose is to more specifically map child welfare issues across the region and conduct a cluster analysis to see how these various indicators correlate.

3.1.5 Communication for Development

Not unsurprisingly most of the Communication for Development strategies in South Asia support good health and hygiene behaviours. There are several unique and innovative strategies within the region.

The first is the Women's Courtyards in Afghanistan under which women visit households to spread health messages. The methodology is used as an entry point for routine immunization and basic child survival interventions in four cities. Household decision-makers in high risk areas were mobilised through a network of social mobilisers mullahs, village elders, teachers and CHWs leading to increasing acceptance of polio vaccination in high risk polio transmission areas.

In Pakistan sets of 'Meena' story books and films are translated in local languages and produced as part of the Early Recovery Education Communication Strategy. A comprehensive social mobilization initiative, including a series of interactive sessions with school children, is planned in 2011 using the 'Meena' materials.

Global Handwashing Day was used in nearly all countries in the region to reach families and relay good sanitation and hygiene practices. Animation spots, live and recorded TV and radio programmes, as well as interactive theatre, were found to be effective in the awareness raising and internalisation of social responsibility messages.

3.1.6 Human rights based approach to cooperation

Human Rights principles inform programme design throughout the region. In 2010 many country offices took advantage of major milestones to further strengthen the human rights based approach within programming. In India, social inclusion, is the main pillar of the country programme to address the complex social and economic disparities that inhibit the country's progress towards the MDGs. During its MTR the India Country office used "Inclusion by Design" to reinforce its overall commitment to equity and support the Indian Government's commitment to inclusiveness. At the state level, the

office developed 13 state roadmaps to social inclusion to translate inclusive equity commitments to state specific social and geographic contexts.

In Nepal, the country office took advantage of the 2009 MTR, UNICEF's re-emphasis on equity and implementation of the new results-based planning approach (Programme Component and Intermediate Results, Rolling Work Plans) to recalibrate its human rights-based results. The modified results focus on further reducing disparities and addressing issues affecting disadvantaged groups, particularly adolescent girls. UNICEF Bhutan also took advantage of the 2010 MTR process to thoroughly analyse each programme to ensure focus on the most disadvantaged children. Like other countries in the region, such as India and Bangladesh, Bhutan used increased geographical programme convergence by focusing on areas with the worst social and economic indicators.

Supporting governments to honor their commitments to children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) underpins all UNICEF's work. In Afghanistan the CRC report is under review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. UNICEF prepared a detailed submission for the pre-session discussion of the CRC in October 2010 and supported translation and dissemination of the CRC report. In September 2010, a Sri Lankan Government delegation met the Committee following submission of the Committee's report in 2008. The Committee issued its conclusions in October 2010. The national child rights monitoring committee in Sri Lanka has developed an action plan for addressing recommendations and UNICEF has been asked to support.

3.1.7 Gender equality and mainstreaming

Following the UNICEF Global Gender Consultation ROSA organised a Regional Gender Consultation in Sri Lanka in March to build momentum and energize staff in the region to operationalize the Gender Policy. All eight country offices participated in the consultation and agreed to develop country-level Strategic Priority Action Plans following the format provided by HQ. By the end of 2010, five Country offices had either a draft or final SPAP. Gender mainstreaming and equality also featured on the agendas of both RMT meetings, in the regional network meetings on education, HIV and AIDS and child protection and with capacity building initiatives with partners.

With the support of the UN Country team in Bhutan, the National Commission for Women and Children conducted a three-day High-Level Gender Sensitization workshop on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women for senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and MPs in July. The Prime Minister gave the keynote address.

Several COs have ensured that UNICEF's monitoring and evaluation activities take full account of gender dynamics and the implications on gender equality. In Sri Lanka the office monitoring and evaluation framework was finalised and includes sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive indicators. In Bhutan, UNICEF participated in the UNDAFMTR outcome evaluation on gender across all five thematic areas (poverty, health, education, governance, environment). Gender audits have been conducted in Bangladesh for three projects and plans are underway to conduct more in 2011.

Gender training remained firmly on the agenda. In Afghanistan, training was conducted on 'Gender dimensions in education' for Government and UNICEF staff and for the Afghanistan Girls Initiative partners. Gender equality training for key stakeholders such as police and teachers was provided in India. A two-day workshop on gender-responsive budgeting and reviewing the draft UNDAF action plan from a gender equality and social inclusion perspective was organised by the Maldives Country Office and UNFPA. In Pakistan, the government-managed Lady Health Workers initiative received a gender sensitivity orientation and in Nepal all staff received a half day gender orientation on the gender policy of UNICEF and on key gender concepts.

3.1.8 Environmental sustainability

Given the risk of natural disasters in the ROSA region, exacerbated by climate change, Country Offices have promoted environmental sustainability in a variety of ways. In the Maldives, UNICEF has provided modest support to the Ministry of Education to develop a new set of teacher handbooks and resources for environmental studies. A toolkit was developed along with relevant training schemes for the teachers.

In Pakistan, UNICEF co-leads the One UN Environment Programme, which includes the WASH programme. Prior to the floods, UNICEF Pakistan completed a study on the adaptation of the WASH programme to climate change, which included a road map of interventions required for addressing envisaged climate change impact. In Sri Lanka, like other countries in the region, UNICEF supported

the Ministry of Disaster Management to assist in disaster risk assessment, mitigation and longer term sustainable strategies to reduce environmental damage and risks to population.

PART THREE SECTION TWO: Analysis According to MTSP Focus Area

3.2.1 Young Child Survival

Major initiatives - In 2010 several countries in South Asia have launched or built on existing MNCH initiatives. For example in Bangladesh a Joint Government–UN-MNCH Initiative was successfully scaled up in six additional districts and in Bhutan a joint UN Reproductive Health Review was successfully launched through a joint mission with UNFPA and WHO. Results from the review will inform the national health plan and guide Ministry of Health in its MNCH future action plan. A joint UNFPA-WHO-UNICEF mission was successfully accomplished in Afghanistan, repositioning maternal mortality as a key priority in the political agenda.

Health sector investment cases in 13 lower performing districts of five South Asian countries continue to be an important initiative in the region and are being used to influence planning, programming and resource allocation within government budgets to reach the unreached. UNICEF leads in three out of the five investment case countries in the region, namely Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, whereas in India and Nepal, partners such as University of Queensland conduct the analysis. Since inequities in South Asia are particularly pronounced at the sub-national level, the focus is on rigorous district-based investment cases.

UNICEF made significant contributions to WASH sector policy, ranging from developing national WASH policy and WASH-in-school guidelines in Afghanistan to supporting provincial sector policies, strategies, and action plans in Pakistan. Promoting good behaviour through Global Handwashing Day is still one of the most cost-effective interventions for child health.

Building on partnerships with the Global Alliance For vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), WHO and the Gates Foundation, UNICEF has committed to social mobilization and communication efforts in EPI. More efforts have been made to recruit additional polio programme staff in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India to rapidly accelerate immunization efforts. Strengthening routine immunization and reaching unimmunized populations, such as through the Reaching Each District approach in 15 low performing districts in Bangladesh, is the mainstay of EPI in South Asia. Nepal, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, all made efforts to prioritize districts with low DPT3 coverage.

Key Results - Maternal and Newborn deaths are the greatest indicator of health and nutrition inequity within South Asia countries and yet are largely preventable. In all countries except Afghanistan and Bhutan, more than one-half of all child deaths occur in the first month of life. Partnerships with WHO and UNFPA continued to improve the focus on maternal mortality and paid off, for example, with mother and newborn health being confirmed as one of the five priorities for the UN's draft Integrated Strategic Framework in Afghanistan. Given this success, mother and child health will remain firmly on the agenda of the health programmes.

Bangladesh has been instrumental in demonstrating how sub-national MICS analysis, highlighting inequities, combined with the investment case approach can promote decentralized, integrated planning for MNCH. In Afghanistan despite an unstable security situation an investment case process has been initiated in collaboration with Government stakeholders and other development partners.

Through strong UNICEF-WHO partnership, immunization coverage, has shown significant improvement in recent years reaching more than 83% DPT3 coverage in all countries except India (66%). Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bhutan reached almost universal coverage (98%, 97% and 96% respectively). In Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan more than 80% coverage has been achieved (86%, 85%, 83% and 83% respectively) in 2009 according to the Joint WHO UNICEF Reporting Form, 2009 and State of the World's Children 2011.

The reduction in the child mortality rate in South Asia of 43% since 1990 has been largely attributable to a reduction in vaccine-preventable diseases, especially measles. A reduction of wild polio cases in South Asia from 868 in 2009 to 217 in 2010 was achieved. In India a total of 42 wild polio cases were reported in 2010 compared to 741 cases in 2009, Nepal had 6 cases, Afghanistan had 25 cases compared to 38 cases in 2009. In Pakistan, however, the trend was significantly worse with a total of 144 cases identified in 2010 compared to 89 cases in 2009. The floods in 2010 and population movement resulting from military activity encouraged a spread of the virus to previous polio free areas

but also revealed the inefficiency of the routine health system and its incapacity to cover the most deprived population.

Several capacity development activities in the region covering sanitation, hygiene promotion, water quality monitoring, surveillance and treatment were supported benefitting thousands of Government and NGO staff as well as community workers. These include the community hygiene promoters in Bangladesh, village facilitators in Nepal and CDC members in Afghanistan. UNICEF also supported the Government of India in drafting sanitation and water strategies for 2012-2022 and initiated evidence-based advocacy for sanitation in several states.

Over the last year, individual countries also took steps to address key nutrition concerns. Major actions and results for 2010 in India included increasing the skills of 450,000 frontline workers to counsel and support mothers and families on appropriate breastfeeding, complementary feeding and related maternal nutrition practices. To support improved maternal nutrition and reduce low birth weight, the adolescent anaemia control programme was scaled up in 11 states with a total of 16.4 million adolescent girls being reached with iron and folic acid supplements weekly, deworming prophylaxis biannually, and counselling and support to improve their diets and prevent anaemia.

Management of severe acute malnutrition may be soon scaled up due to availability of standardised protocols for the admission, care, discharge and follow-up of children. In Bangladesh, preliminary data suggest that such integration of nutrition in MNCH has led to positive results, such as increases in early initiation of breastfeeding. In Pakistan, great effort has been invested into the establishment of feeding centres and national capacity development. The Pakistan flood experience highlighted the global challenge to find new approaches to deliver the nutrition response in large-scale emergencies when the pre-crisis nutrition situation and capacity was poor. In 2010 399,022 children under five and 140,023 pregnant and lactating women were screened for malnutrition and 43,341 women were enrolled in feeding programmes. In Afghanistan the integration of Infant and Young Child feeding into the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition operational guidelines as well as the formation of 340 breastfeeding support groups was positive. In Sri Lanka advocacy around the 2010 Nutrition and Food Security Survey conducted by UNICEF with the Ministry of Health and with the World Food Programme contributed to the prioritization of nutrition as a social equity issue and its inclusion in the Government's November 2010 budget. In the Maldives, a situation assessment and analysis was supported by UNICEF and will be used as a basis for the development of a Food Security and Nutrition strategy, bringing together four key ministries (Health, Agriculture, Economic Development and Trade & Commerce).

Major Partnerships - Since the APRM initiative in 2008, countries have engaged in partnerships with national institutions in order to build up capacity around the investment case approach. In Pakistan the Institute of Public Health in Punjab, and recently Aga Khan University in Sindh province are major partners. In Bangladesh BRAC University, and the Institute of Health Policy in Sri Lanka with UNICEF country offices have supported decentralised results-based analysis around MNH in low performing districts. UNICEF worked closely with the University of Queensland which took the lead in the process, in partnership with New Era in Nepal and with the Public Health Foundation of India. All these initiatives leverage other partners such as ADB, the World Bank or the Global Partnership for Maternal and Newborn Health (PMNCH) to further strengthen convergence of partners support to National health plans.

Partnerships are also a cornerstone of UNICEF's work in WASH. Increasingly, UN agencies collaborate in their support for WASH. In Bangladesh, UNICEF and UNDP developed a joint Community Action Plan for water and sanitation in Rangpur district, while UNICEF, WHO, FAO and Water and Sanitation Programme together produced an arsenic advocacy document, resulting in Government of Bangladesh setting up an arsenic mitigation fund of US\$ 200 million. UNICEF implemented a wide range of activities to fulfil the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian WASH throughout the region as part of its emergency response cluster leadership particularly in the massive water and sanitation effort in Pakistan with Oxfam and hundreds of local partners.

As a result of efforts made in 2010, Nepal and Bangladesh, will be a part of a €20 million EU funded project. The aim of the *Maternal and Young Child Nutrition Security project* is to reduce stunting and micronutrient deficiencies. In addition to targeting positive changes in anthropometry, micronutrient status and key infant and young child feeding practices, the project will also work to increase knowledge and understanding of what good nutrition means among policy makers and medical

professionals. The project aims to innovate and build on current policies and practices in countries and highlight nutrition as an Asian priority in achievement of the MDGs.

Common Constraints and factors - Rapid urbanization is a major challenge in South Asia. Since urbanization affects UNICEF sectors equally all programmes will have to focus more on the urban poor in the future. Lack of decentralised planning and resource allocation in most of the countries in South Asia was also a challenge in successful implementation of the investment case process and district micro-planning.

Security and emergencies in the region still pose a major constraint for increased access to health services. Two major emergencies severely affected the situation of children and women in Pakistan in 2010 namely displacement due to conflict and the unprecedented flooding during the monsoon season. The floods caused severe damage to the rural health care infrastructure and displaced health care personnel such as Lady Health Workers and vaccinators. The prevailing security situation in Afghanistan continues to hamper access to children as well as programme monitoring.

Validated lessons learned

In all countries, UNICEF seeks to maintain a careful balance between policy advocacy work and field-based activities aimed at innovation. In Afghanistan, a study on the use of bio-sand water filters informed strategies for scaling-up home drinking water treatment. In Bangladesh, UNICEF piloted arsenic testing for users/owners of hand pumps for a small fee. As a result, many owners of arsenic contaminated wells turned to other sources for drinking and cooking purposes. In India, social exclusion was addressed through communication and programme strategies to find innovative solutions for water supply in tribal areas and among excluded groups.

Another example is anchoring the healthcare investment case methodology in the government health planning agenda helps ensure that the exercise really influences budget allocations and removes bottlenecks.

ROSA Value Added - UNICEF ROSA provided technical support in the area of MNCH, WASH and strengthening immunization programmes through various country missions and will continue support in 2011. ROSA will prioritize the investment cases as a critical contribution to leveraging national resources and using an evidence-based approach to improve response across the continuum of care.

ROSA created a MNCH web-enabled database containing over 500 documents and publications accessible to over 60 MNCH South Asia network members. Similarly the "Monthly Investment Case E-Learning" system and "Investment Case Tool Kit" through the Drop box Link has been established. These databases have started to facilitate knowledge and cross country experience exchange through shared updates, reports, presentations and published articles across South Asia.

ROSA actively contributed to the global equity research agenda using experience from Bangladesh and Pakistan. The regional office supported simultaneous information and equity research demands from national government, UNICEF Country Offices, Headquarters and academia by providing policy analysis based on real experience of policy. ROSA will continue to support the polio eradication initiative through C4D support and technical assistance to routine immunization.

3.2.2 Basic Education and Gender Equality

Major initiatives - ROSA participated in the global Out of School Children Initiative and facilitated development of the conceptual framework. Five countries in the region - Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka - plan to take part in the initiative to improve statistical information and analysis on out of school children. The initiative will accelerate in early 2011 and will be finalized by the end of the year in order to recommend policy actions for education sector reform.

Fulfilling every child's right to water, sanitation and hygiene education remains a major challenge in many countries. The proportion of schools with adequate toilets for girls in South Asia ranges from 35 per cent (Bangladesh) to 93 per cent (Maldives). In April, UNICEF and partners issued a global call-to-action for WASH-in-Schools, asking for increased investments and collaborative planning and action. In August, UNICEF and the Ministries of Education, Rural Development and Reconstruction and Health issued a similar call-to-action for WASH-in-schools in Afghanistan.

Key results in 2010 - Special efforts were undertaken by the Regional Office to analyse the relationship between education achievements and progress of other MDGs. These efforts supported

countries in their disparity analysis and evidence based advocacy. With strategic support from the Regional Office, Nepal and Bangladesh Country Offices positioned themselves strategically in the debate around the national education sectors plans resulting in key policy decisions promoting equity.

Most countries have started to invest more in early stimulation and early learning as a strategy to ensure equitable education opportunities. UNICEF India and other partners have identified successful approaches to school readiness to support early learning and primary education achievement while Bhutan and the Maldives contributed to building models of pre-primary education provision through capacity building, technical assistance and leveraging of resources. Bangladesh supported large scale acceleration of preschool provision resulting in over 400,000 children completing one year of pre-school in 11 Convergence Districts. At the same time, through UNICEF's leveraging efforts, pre-primary education was included under the new education sector plan. The Regional Office supported the Bhutan and Bangladesh early childhood programmes with additional funding, and provided technical input to the Nepal Country Office's early childhood development scaling up study with the Brookings Institute.

Several countries including Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka continued to use the Child Friendly School approach with success, resulting in increased quality of education. In Bhutan, the child friendly school principle was strategically aligned to the Gross National Happiness Initiative resulting in a reduction of corporal punishment and increased community participation. The Maldives used the approach to teach environmental studies in a more child-centred and activity-based manner. In India, states have used the child friendly schools and systems to undertake planning for implementation of the Right to Education Act. Both Nepal and Pakistan endorsed a national level framework on Child Friendly Schools and Minimum Standards for Quality Education to inform needs-based budgeting and programming.

Due to the floods in Pakistan a large number of children stopped going to school. UNICEF's efforts resulted in the establishment of approximately 3,000 Temporary Learning Centres, including 120 Early Childhood Education facilities in flood affected districts, benefiting 165,000 children. Some 208,000 children received education supplies through the centres and 3,700 teachers were trained on teaching in emergency situations. Assessments after the floods showed that many children reached by the temporary learning modalities were introduced to education for the first time and efforts now focus on keeping these children in school.

Both the Maldives and Bhutan improved access to education for children with disabilities. Bhutan used the Bhutan MICS process to identify the children with special needs and to follow-up on their requirements. In the Maldives, UNICEF technical assistance was provided to analyse the data on children with special needs.

Most countries of the region made efforts in inclusive education focussing on ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities. In Afghanistan, learning for minority children was made possible through development and field testing of third official language textbooks and capacity development for teachers. India continues to work on multilingual education which resulted in scaled-up interventions to reach Scheduled Tribes in Orissa and multilingual education programme coverage in about 2,500 schools Andhra. Nepal is progressing on work with Madrasas.

To improve post primary education for disadvantaged groups both Afghanistan and Bangladesh supported models linking non formal education and family literacy. Over 58,000 women developed literacy skills through 2,343 literacy centres, and 133 post-literacy resource centres in 34 provinces in Afghanistan. In Bangladesh, 80,600 of 116,500 children (10-14 years) have completed the 40-month course with functional literacy and enhanced life skills within the programme of Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children.

Menstrual hygiene management is increasingly part of WASH-in-Schools programmes. In Afghanistan, some 257,000 students (40% girls) and 7,650 teachers (30% female) in 682 schools were provided with safe water and sanitary toilets. In Bangladesh, the preparation of national standards allowed WASH-in-schools to be mainstreamed into the national education system. UNICEF supported hygiene education in 8,800 rural schools, benefiting 2.3 million students. In Bhutan, UNICEF supported the construction of WASH facilities in 60 schools and repaired school WASH facilities damaged in the 2009 earthquake. In India, the new Right to Education Act mandates water and sanitation provisions in schools, which facilitated WASH for 470,000 schools. In Nepal, Education and WASH are jointly rolling out WASH-in-schools nationwide, building on School-led Total Sanitation

approaches. In Pakistan, the flood emergency temporarily halted the school WASH programme, after the completion of 240 of the 1,500 target schools. In Sri Lanka, UNICEF worked with Education and Health to develop approaches, strategies, key messages and specific communication materials for WASH-in-Schools. ‘

Major Partnerships The United Nations Girl's Education Initiative (UNGEI) continues to remain a key nexus for partnership building with currently 13 active partnerships in five countries up from eight partnerships in 2009. Five state-level partnerships were formed to promote education for marginalised girls under the Right to Education Act in India, while a national level partnership in Pakistan and a girls' education partnership in Herat, Afghanistan were launched. Young people participate and help carry these partnerships forward in most countries.

UNICEF has been positioning itself strategically among the development partners and in the donor community in the context of the Sector Wide Approaches. In Nepal and Bangladesh this partnership has led to a stronger equity focus in Education Sector Plans with, for example, emergency preparedness and response and ECD included in the policies and budget. In Bhutan and Nepal leveraging including through the Education For all-Fast Track Initiative ensured a focus on participatory processes of the education policy formulation and a greater focus on equity.

Education Clusters have been used extensively by several countries facilitating collaboration and coordination among stakeholders. In Pakistan after the floods an extensive coordination system was put in place with Save the Children as co-lead. In Sri Lanka UNICEF, as co-facilitator of the Education cluster, contributed to the stabilisation and improvement of education in the Northern Province. In Afghanistan, capacity development of education cluster members was undertaken in the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies minimum standards to plan and respond to emergencies.

Common constraints and factors - Emergencies affected schools and the educational systems in the region. Pakistan was affected by the floods with a least 10,000 schools damaged. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan continue to experience high levels of insecurity constraining access to education, especially for girls. Although progress had been made on increased awareness of Girls' Education, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Maldives continue to face pressure against girls' education making progress difficult.

Validated good practices and lessons learned The education sector in South Asia is changing considerably with fewer donors and direct contributions to Ministries of Education through pool funds. UNICEF has a comparative advantage at the policy because it is a development partner with an understanding of field realities. Experience in Bangladesh, Nepal and with a lesser extent Sri Lanka and Bhutan show that technical assistance and capacity building in targeted geographical areas and targeting specific excluded groups should be combined with advocacy and policy level work.

ROSA added Value - ROSA's support to the countries for the national level Out of School Children Initiative and facilitation of learning among the countries has resulted in a fruitful initial phase at country level. It also ensured that the global conceptual and methodological framework reflected feedback from South Asia. Within this context ROSA facilitated the collaboration with UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) and UNESCO to ensure a constructive partnership in the region.

Assistance to Bangladesh and Nepal with their work on the Sector Wide Approach strengthened UNICEF's positioning in the education sector and increased cross-country learning on how best to utilize National Education Plans for equitable educational policies. ROSA's stock taking and regional analysis of equitable educational policies in South Asia contributed to further thought and action to achieve equity in education.

3.2.3 HIV/AIDS and Children

Major Initiatives - A major strategic shift in programming for children and AIDS was the adoption and roll-out of the new WHO guidelines on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), Infant Feeding and Antiretroviral Therapy for paediatric AIDS and capacity development of national and regional partners. Two countries in South Asia, India and Pakistan, conducted national consultations on Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) to reach a consensus on adoption of the revised WHO guidelines. As a result Pakistan developed a National HIV and prevention of parent to child training curricula for district headquarters hospitals in partnership with the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Key results in 2010 - The regional office contributed to several strategic upstream milestones for children and AIDS using evidence-based advocacy and high quality technical assistance to national governments. In Afghanistan, the revised 2010-2015 national multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS policy addressed the issue of most-at-risk adolescents as well as protection, care and support for children affected by AIDS and prevention of vertical transmission. In Bangladesh, the Children's Act revised in late 2010 addressed both most at risk and children affected by AIDS. Another major upstream result was the finalization of operational guidelines for implementation of the Policy Framework for Children and AIDS and its pilot in 10 districts in India.

Another key achievement was development of a Regional Conceptual Framework for Elimination of Paediatric HIV and Syphilis in Asia-Pacific which provided guidance to countries on programme-specific strategies. Standards of practice for safe delivery for mothers with known or unknown HIV status were developed in Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The commitment by India in late 2010 on the elimination of paediatric HIV was a major milestone.

In the area of enhancing social protection, ROSA with SAARC completed the first assessment on Orphans and Vulnerable Children Policy Planning Effort Index in South Asia. Amongst the positive developments of this cooperation were national guidelines for care and support of Children Affected by HIV and AIDS in Pakistan and Nepal. The inclusion of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS into the India Integrated Child Protection Scheme was also positive.

Perhaps the most significant contribution in leveraging resources for children and AIDS was the inclusion of protection, care and support for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS and PMTCT in the Nepal national Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Round 10 proposal. Nepal was awarded US\$ 57.3 million for its HIV and AIDS proposal. This is the first time that significant funding has been leveraged for children and AIDS in South Asia and is a major contribution in programming for children in Nepal.

The first Population Size Estimation on Most-at-Risk Adolescent was successfully completed with resources leveraged from UNAIDS and included in the 2010 UNICEF Global 5th stocktaking report on children and AIDS. Similar estimation exercises were underway in Bangladesh and the Maldives in December, 2010. Results from both studies will enhance the much needed data to plan and support interventions for Most-at-Risk Adolescents.

Major partnerships ROSA actively contributed to the UNAIDS Regional Technical Working Group and other Regional Task Forces. Equally strategic partnerships with civil societies, research and academic institutions including, the recently launched UNAIDS Technical Support Facility for South Asia in Kathmandu increased opportunities to situate children in the HIV/AIDS regional agenda. UNICEF ROSA also works closely with SAARC, especially on care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

In India, high level advocacy to tackle HIV/AIDS stigmatization saw the strategic engagement with faith-based groups through an advocacy summit on HIV in Bangalore with about 500 participants. As a result of the summit, a declaration of commitment was agreed and signed by religious leaders to address stigma and discrimination against children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in partnership with UNAIDS.

Revitalization of the partnership with the International Cricket Council and UNAIDS saw the strategic use of cricket to address HIV prevention and stigma reduction in South Asia. Three cricket playing countries, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, developed action plans with outcomes on HIV prevention in readiness for the February 2011 World Cricket Cup.

Common constraints and factors While the South Asia epidemic appears to be stable overall, HIV prevalence is increasing in some parts of the region, such as Bangladesh and Pakistan (UNAIDS 2010). A particularly challenging feature of the epidemic is the rising prevalence rates among the mobile labour force in the region. National plans of action to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS are increasingly geared towards reaching most-at-risk populations. Coverage of HIV prevention and harm reduction interventions is increasing but still low, particularly for sex workers and men-having-sex-with-men.

Greater collaboration with relevant health partners in MNCH, nutrition as well as relevant UN co-sponsors and the private sector is needed to achieve the goal of elimination of pediatric HIV infection

and death. Practical mechanisms for such linkages are currently either limited or too weak to yield the desired results.

Validated good practices and lessons learned A joint regional partnership by UNICEF EAPRO/ROSA/APSSC with WHO/UNAIDS/UNFPA contributed to the successful conduct and outcome of the 8th Asia Pacific Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Task Force Meeting in Vientiane, LAO PDR in November 2010.

ROSA Added value Advocacy with UNAIDS to leverage resources for Population Size Estimation on CABA and MARA was useful in Nepal. In collaboration with SAARC, ROSA/APSSC implemented the first OPPEI assessment in South Asia. The results of the assessment have been used as a powerful advocacy tool to commit resources and strengthen capacity of national governments on protection, care and support for children affected by AIDS.

3.2.4 Child Protection from violence, exploitation and abuse

Major initiatives - Building strong regional networks has been a major initiative of ROSA in 2010. With UNICEF support the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG) and South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) have established a strong relationship with SAARC. It is planned to formalise the SAIEVAC link with SAARC by requesting SAIEVAC become a SAARC Apex body.

In response to the global campaign for the ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the CRC, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Welfare in Pakistan to conduct a legal review to prepare for ratification of both Optional Protocols to the CRC. It is expected that the review will provide the required information for the Government of Pakistan to ratify the Protocols.

Key results - Key results were achieved in legal and policy reforms in the region. Bangladesh adopted the revised Children Act and a draft Children Policy was finalised. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Child Protection Act and the Pakistan Administered Kashmir Child Protection Policy were approved in Pakistan and in India MoUs were signed by 30 States and Union Territories as part of the roll out of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme. In Maldives, UNICEF continued to provide support to the drafting of the Juvenile Justice Bill and the Children's Rights, Child Care and Protection Bill, while the adoption of the Child Care and Protection Bill and the Adoption Bill are expected in Bhutan in 2011. The Regional Office provided feedback to a number of these Acts/Bills and policies.

UNICEF continues to provide support to governments in the area of alternative care. In Nepal, UNICEF supported the implementation of an alternative care scheme in two remote rural districts through support to family preservation, kinship care, foster care or domestic adoption. In India UNICEF's advocacy contributed to a more family-centred and less institution-focused approach, which is, for example, evident in the development of guidelines for sponsorship and foster care schemes by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. UNICEF provided support to the FIT Persons Order Scheme in Sri Lanka, which offers a means of legal fostering for separated children and children at risk of separation. In Bangladesh UNICEF assisted the Ministry of Social Welfare in providing cash transfers to Orphans and Vulnerable Children which encouraged family/community-based care rather than institutionalisation.

In the area of data collection and analysis the Maldives saw the launch of the Maldives Child Protection Database which currently connects four agencies and in Orissa, India, UNICEF supports the Management Information System that aims to track children in need of care and protection and children in contact with the law. In Bangladesh, UNICEF supported the government in establishing the online Birth Registration Information System which has been rolled out in 725 registrar offices. Child protection information management systems are currently planned for Bangladesh and Pakistan, which could utilize lessons from the experiences in other countries in the region.

Following the positive developments regarding the release of children from armed groups last year, Sri Lanka saw the reunification of 568 children, including 201 girls, with their families by the end of May. In Nepal, 2,973 Verified Minors and Late Recruits were discharged from Maoists cantonments. Some 7,500 children formerly associated with armed groups and 3,000 children affected by armed conflict as well as 337 of the verified minors discharged received reintegration support for school enrolment and vocational training. An advocacy campaign by the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms Task Force in Afghanistan resulted in a law being passed by the Government prohibiting

under-age recruitment into the Afghan National Police. In Pakistan, 150 children rescued from militant groups in KP were provided with support for rehabilitation and reintegration through the Sabawoon Academy, the first of its kind in the country.

In Pakistan, UNICEF led the emergency Child Protection sub-cluster and co-led the GBV sub-cluster until November with UNFPA in close cooperation with the Ministry/Department of Social Welfare. Child protection interventions reached more than 223,000 children (40 per cent girls) with educational and recreational activities through 926 static and mobile child friendly spaces and child protection committees. Almost 180,000 children received psychosocial support and referral services.

Capacity development, with a focus on social work/child protection, has been a key focus of UNICEF in the region. This included the continuation of the social work coaching projects in Afghanistan and the formalization of the role of social workers through the signing of an agreement between several ministries. The two tier child-centred professional social work training and practicum for government and NGO social workers in Bangladesh, the supervisory skills training of managers and case workers of Family and Children's Service Centres in Maldives, and the training of government staff for a Child Protection Diploma in Sri Lanka were other examples.

Major partnerships - Strong partnerships with government, civil society and other UN agencies have been crucial in moving the child protection agenda forward in the region. UNICEF has been able to build a number of critical partnerships at country level ranging from the department of social welfare to national and international NGOs. In the Maldives, UNICEF continued its strategic engagement with the Human Rights Commission of Maldives in raising issues related to the protection of children's and women's rights with a focus on neglect in 2010. In Bhutan new partnerships were established with the Royal Court of Bhutan in the area of justice for children and the Parliament in following up to the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. As part of the partnership with Parliament, UNICEF supported the participation of members of parliament in the intensive course on Children's Rights and Globalization and in the regional Training-of-Trainers on child trafficking.

Common constraints and factors - As throughout the world, violence against and abuse, neglect and exploitation of children is under-reported in the region. This is mainly due to guilt, shame, stigma or fear of retaliation as well as acceptance of violence as inevitable and normal. Although good practices, such as child help lines, have emerged in the region, children continue to lack access to trusted adults to report the violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation. These challenges are further compounded by social values that often perceive issues concerning children as "private troubles" of the family, rather than "public issues". Deep rooted socioeconomic attitudes around gender, class, economic status and in some places caste, further compound the harmful effect of some social values on children.

While countries are making progress in strengthening child protection systems as evident in some of the key results, the emphasis has been placed particularly on the response side. It is crucial that this is complemented by an increased focus on prevention of violence, abuse and exploitation.

State provision of social welfare, and in particular child protection services, continue, in many respects, to be excluded from the mainstream political agenda. As a consequence, ministries responsible for child protection are often typified by low budgetary allocations, limited human capacity, diffuse and often confusing mandates across diverse agencies and an insufficient staff cadre. This, in turn, results in the challenge of fulfilling their mandate, including to provide a functional child protection system throughout the country.

Validated good practices and lessons learned - Progress is being made in the various features of the child protection system in the region including the legal and policy frameworks, social welfare and justice systems and behaviour change. To effectively address child protection, it has become clear that each feature relies on and should link with the other. For example, child marriage cannot be addressed solely by putting in place the right laws and policies, but must be accompanied by social behaviour change and by a functioning social welfare and justice system. It is critical that such systems are non-discriminatory and take into account the cultural context in which they operate.

Working on social welfare and justice systems that are child-friendly remained a feature in a number of countries. In Sri Lanka, UNICEF promoted collective decision making through case and family group conferences as an effective approach to supporting families and in Maldives UNICEF supported the Juvenile Justice Unit, which carried out a rapid assessment to understand the trends and types of

juvenile crimes. Bangladesh piloted a small scale the strengthening of the social welfare system by providing cash transfers to more than 2,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children affected by the 2007 Cyclone Sydr. The pilot underlined that well-trained social workers can effectively advance child-sensitive social protection and that cash transfer programmes can provide a valuable contribution to the alleviation on poverty, the empowerment of vulnerable families and to family- and community-based care, including following emergencies.

ROSA value added - Providing advice to COs during their MTR or during the drafting of their CPDs to strengthen child protection systems was a major area of support. These milestones in the programming cycle provide a unique opportunity for both Country Offices and the Regional Office to strategically shift our work in child protection from an issue-based to a child protection systems approach in line with UNICEF's global child protection strategy.

ROSA, in collaboration with HQ, strengthened capacity of UNICEF and partner staff in the implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for grave violations against children in armed conflict and child trafficking through two regional training events. The regional child protection network meeting was used to familiarise child protection staff with key components of the child protection strategy, social norms. The regional office also provided technical advice on a number of draft policies and laws as well as on terms of reference received from COs and assisted them in identifying consultants.

3.2.5 Policy Advocacy and Partnerships for Children's Rights

Major Initiatives - Strengthening the evidence base and advocacy for addressing equity in child welfare was a significant initiative in all country offices in South Asia. In Bangladesh, UNICEF used the analysis of the MICS4 findings for high level advocacy with government to pursue equity focused strategies. Other countries, including Nepal, Afghanistan and Bhutan undertook MICS in 2010, with plans to use the findings for equity focused analysis and advocacy in 2011. In India, following the MTR programming emphasis has been placed on equity and inclusion, as well as adolescent girls, to help break the intergenerational cycle of multiple deprivations. In Sri Lanka, thanks in part to the UNICEF advocacy, nutrition and social equity have become public policy priorities.

The regional Social Policy section undertook a cross sectoral study of the sources and the extent of inequities in South Asia across various dimensions of a child's life including economic status, gender, geographic location, and caste, ethnicity, or religion. The findings of the report "*When National Averages are Not Enough*" helped UNICEF programmes further enhance the focus on reaching the most deprived and excluded children. As part of this effort, a series of related advocacy products and analysis from the Global Equity Tracker reports were produced to inform the November 2010 RMT discussions and broader country level planning processes to sharpen the equity focus. This research also formed part of the joint UNICEF ROSA and EAPRO paper on *MDGs with Equity in Asia-Pacific* presented at the High Level Meeting on Child Rights held in Beijing November, 2010. The Social Policy section produced a series of equity country fact sheets using MICS and DHS data.

Advocacy on equity was further intensified through joint work on media messaging with communications section around the Global MDG Summit (September, 2010) and the High Level Meeting in Beijing, as well as through substantive support to the Regional Director's participation at the Eighth Meeting of the Kolkata Group (supported by UNICEF India, Professor Amartya Sen and the Harvard-based Global Equity Initiative).

Key results - Social protection has gained further interest by governments in South Asia, in part due to sustained UNICEF calls for protecting the most vulnerable populations from exogenous shocks to which the region remains highly vulnerable. In 2010, UNICEF continued its advocacy on the establishment of more comprehensive and more child-sensitive social protection systems. A new Child Grant was introduced for children 0-5 years, in five districts in Nepal. In Bangladesh, the cash transfer scheme for orphans and vulnerable children continued, with plans to extend to urban slums. A proposal for a universal child grant in Pakistan will be presented to the government and partners in 2011. Various other papers published have promoted the debate on child-centred social policies. For example, in India, policy briefs and research summaries based on national, state and district level research on allocations and expenditures in social sector programming have been completed

The Government of India approved UNICEF's proposal to provide much needed data on key child related indicators at the national and state level in a more regular manner. The Survey on Monitoring

of Outcomes for Children will be conducted bi-annually. The Indian Forum on Child Statistics has also been established to institutionalise co-ordination and collaboration for improving the scope, timeliness and quality of data on children to enable informed policy decisions and planning.

As part of ongoing collaboration with Asian Development Bank, UNICEF ROSA facilitated and chaired a special session on child sensitive social protection at the ADB high level regional conference, contributing to policy dialogue and experience exchange, through conference papers and presentations. This was a significant joint ADB-UNICEF advocacy effort which fed into the signing of the ADB-UNICEF MoU in 2010.

UNICEF ROSA successfully advocated for the inclusion of issues and concerns related to children affected by migration into the Asia-Pacific delegation agenda at the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) held in Mexico in November 2010. As part of its work for the United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, UNICEF ROSA co-organized the Asia-Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the GFMD held on 22-24 September in Bangkok. The "Bangkok Statement on Migration and Development," a declaration endorsed by 31 participating Governments, stressed that children have distinct needs and vulnerabilities that are often overlooked in migration policies and that their rights need to be protected. Concerns over children in irregular migration in South Asia were also voiced by UNICEF HQ with UNICEF ROSA's support at the High Level Experts Meeting of the Global Migration Group (Geneva, October 2010) which served as input into the GFMD.

Major partnerships - 2010 saw a global UNICEF emphasis on strengthening partnerships with International Finance Institutions including IMF, World Bank, and ADB with the aim to drive the child rights agenda forward at the global policy level. As part of this, UNICEF ROSA Social Policy section participated in consultations with IMF and World Bank held on the sides of the annual Spring Meetings of the IMF and WB Group, (24-25 April) in Washington, DC. to discuss social investment for children. Initial country level discussions took place in Pakistan and Nepal which are the selected pilots for closer UNICEF-IMF collaboration.

UNICEF ROSA explored opportunities with the World Bank's new Director of Social Protection and Labour for more in-depth collaboration in the area of social protection. UNICEF ROSA worked with the Poverty Reduction, Gender, and Social Development Division of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support two regional meetings, on public-private partnerships for service delivery, and a high level meeting on social protection, both held at ADB HQ in April, 2010. These meetings were both attended by the UNICEF ROSA Regional Director confirming the commitment to the ADB-UNICEF MoU (2010) and acceleration of joint work in the region. The country level dialogue and collaboration began in some countries and was strongly encouraged by the RD.

Work with the SAARC Secretariat continued on the finalization of the Assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child (2001-2010) findings of which UNICEF ROSA presented to the SAARC Member States. The joint Report is being updated by SAARC and to be released in 2011.

Other partners included the ESCAP/IOM chaired inter-agency group on Migration and Human Trafficking composed of 12 UN agencies; UNESCO as well as the UN inter-agency group on social protection; Save the Children Fund (UNICEF Nepal and Save the Children signed an MOU) and ROSA Social Policy section held an initial dialogue on joint work on governance for child rights.

Common constraints and factors - Although most South Asian governments have strong traditions of social development, there is a disconnect between the aspirations to reduce inequality and consistently slow progress in human development indicators. To address disparities, more work is needed to improve intersectoral understanding of exclusion. This is limited by significant data gaps for the most vulnerable populations in most countries in the region.

From the operational point of view, although social policy has come a long way in terms of recognition within UNICEF South Asia, a lot of work remains to formulate the FA5 strategy in the region. Only India and Nepal have adequate FA5 staff capacity; in all other countries Social Policy is mostly managed by national M&E officers or child protection officers.

In addition, contexts of emergencies, such as conflict and large scale natural disasters in Afghanistan and Pakistan make hands-on advisory support to COs difficult, and often translate into less emphasis on policy level work.

Validated Good practices and any lessons learned - Social policy section's lead on mapping data and analysis for equity has placed new emphasis on the surveys and methodologies needed in UNICEF to conduct research and identify the most marginalized groups as well as the systemic and social determinants of inequity. Amongst other issues, this work reveals major gaps in data on urban, ethnic and religious groups as well as migrants and people affected by migration (IDPs, trafficking victims, etc.).

Value added - UNICEF ROSA has continued to build capacity of UNICEF staff on social policy. As part of the Social policy series of trainings 22 staff were trained in Sri Lanka in advance of the office's MTR process and further training is planned for India, Bhutan, and Pakistan in 2011.

The social policy section activity on IFI partnerships in 2010, has generated high level dialogue between UNICEF and ADB, as well as initial dialogue with IMF in a number of countries which need to be sustained.

PART FOUR SECTION ONE: MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (See table summary of results)

Analysis of factors internal and external which supported results

Open communication between the regional office and the country offices through regular calls by the Regional Director to Country Representatives ensures that issues are addressed promptly. The same degree of openness within the regional office encourages an inter-sectoral approach and supports complementarity and coherence among regional advisors.

The continuing and increased focus on equity in 2010 has facilitated strengthening of the linkages between sectors. The UNICEF ROSA Equity Task force, led by Planning, with support from Social Policy, was established to bring all sectors into dialogue and programming on equity, ensure convergence and advise and monitor country office programme shifts toward a sharper equity focus.

In September the Executive Director requested the Regional Directors of ROSA and EAPRO to reconstitute the core capacities of the two regional offices by deploying resources from the Asia Pacific Shared Services Center. The Executive Director also requested a 'good lessons' exercise to capture the innovations and experience of the APSSC and requested the Regional Offices to work with Division of Human Resources to ensure a smooth transition plan for staff. Concerned staff of APSSC, EAPRO and ROSA worked hard to ensure a strong participatory and transparent transition process supported by a human resources consultant.

Throughout 2010, APSSC provided strong support for technical assistance to Country Offices in the region monitored through an innovative request tracking system. In 2010, APSSC responded to all of the 185 requests received from Country Offices in ROSA. A total of 243 days of technical assistance/surge was provided to support the Pakistan mega-floods response. Weekly meetings from APSSC Emergency support of Section Chiefs with videocom link up to APSSC continue to support and strengthen coordination and ensure potential problems are identified and addressed early. ROSA began work with APSSC to implement the Country Office support tracking system.

ROSA's mid-year and year-end retreats facilitate inter-sectoral coordination, team building, as well as assessment of issues and challenges affecting work planning. Sessions on Change management, equity, gender mainstreaming and the decommissioning of APSSC helped prepare the office manage areas requiring attention as well as, likely changes in structures.

Headquarters generated office management reports on business information reporting for quality assurance are useful tools as the reports are improved and streamlined they will become even more useful for routine oversight.

Discussion of office management practices

A Common Services Unit (CSU) was established for ROSA and the Nepal Country Office in 2009. In 2010 a client satisfaction survey of staff from both offices showed general satisfaction with the delivery of services and the CSU is increasingly seen as a cost effective method of providing support to multiple offices.

Country offices across the Region applied focused efforts towards the strengthening ICT infrastructure and telecommunications systems in preparation for the VISION launch. Enhancements to applications and ProMS 9.1 were installed and implemented in all offices as a crucial step in the startup of the

Revised Programme Structure. The successful rollout of SAP/HR to 5 country offices was used as preparation of the future SAP environment.

The need to improve core infrastructure to support the new systems delivery models that are Internet centric is a challenge. The need for adequate training of users and support to the new processes and concepts is vital to the success of VISION and IPSAS. The delivery of the systems to locations with heightened levels of emergencies will need to be well coordinated. Competing priorities for budgets where ICT is often the first to be cut is likely to impede the achievement of the desired goals.

Discussion of Procurement Services

The region saw a reduction of 34.5% (\$74 million) in Procurement Services activities largely influenced by a \$54 million (44%) drop in vaccine procurement by India. Nevertheless, growth in the provision of essential supplies via the Procurement Services mechanism continued to increase. Procurement Services now contributes to supplying 90% of all vaccines shipped to ROSA country offices. Vaccines remain the core PS commodity (98%). While GAVI continues to fund 38% of PS vaccines, governments now contribute to 62% of PS activities, confirming a continuing shift in funding source from national budgets towards critical essential commodities for children. At the regional level, Procurement Services accounts for 55% of all supplies provided by UNICEF.

The Programme Supply Component continues to contribute to 30% of ROSA programme activities. The continuing large-scale emergencies in the Region, and especially Pakistan in 2010 contributed to sustaining this level for supply inputs. As national economies improve, local supply options continue to expand, offering a rapidly improving and wider choice of goods locally. With the enhancement of local markets and increase local availability, there is a growing shift to local procurement. In 2010 local procurement activities by COs increased 20% across the region and now represents 72% of all programme supply spend. It will be important to conduct appropriate assessments in future on how to best position the supply operations in country offices to contribute to building capacities of national partners and counterparts in a region that has high incidence of corruption. In 2010 five country offices have Corruption Perception Index ratings of 3.0 and below while Afghanistan remains among the top five 'most corrupt' countries for the third year running.

Technical support via secondment of staff continued, cutting across regions and strengthening cross-fertilization of global technical supply support. Supply staff from Bhutan spent almost two months supporting the Dzud Emergency in Mongolia, while staff from Nepal was seconded to support Tanzania and Sierra Leone for three-month periods. Inter-regional secondments supported the major Pakistan emergency and significant support was received in significant volume from Supply Division.

The future will continue gradual expansion of individual Country Logistics Assessments through UNICEF's joint partnership with WFP, while another look at how the basic essentials commodity assessment can be refined to more appropriately serve children through appropriate use towards potential implementation in the Region.

Overview of achievements during 2010 against the Regional Office Management Plan (ROMP) for the biennium 2010-2011

FUNCTION	EXPECTED RESULT No.	EXPECTED RESULTS FOR THE OFFICES (2010-2011)	PRIMARY CLIENTS	KEY STRATEGIES (INCLUDING CHANGES PROPOSED)	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR			STATUS OF EXPECTED RESULTS (END OF 2010)
					Key Indicator	Base-line	Target	
FUNCTION 2	1	UNICEF advocacy messages are increasingly influencing "upstream" policy and decision making across the Asia Pacific	Partners at all levels, UN, NGO, corporate, media, governments, youth & children	Use relevant evidence-based knowledge to update priorities for children in Asia Pacific focused on equity and taking into account emerging threats.	# of high profile UNICEF advocacy visibility events	N/A	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A High Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region hosted by the Government of China included representation from all 28 Asia-Pacific countries supported by ROSA Factors influencing disparities in child protection paper presented at the HLM in Beijing November, 2010 developed by Child Protection ROSA led to sharper focus on child rights and equity. DDR paper presented to HLM in Beijing developed under APSSC supervision. ROSA input to Addressing Equities background paper Contribution to development & dissemination of Asia Pacific regional conceptual framework on elimination of vertical transmission by UNICEF /WHO /UNAIDS /UNFPA Adoption, roll-out & capacity development of partners on new WHO guidelines on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), Infant Feeding and Antiretroviral Therapy for pediatric AIDS. International visibility in the media generated by Regional Media Hub on adoptions, return of child soldiers resulting in improved controls in Nepal; Increased visibility following media advocacy on under-nutrition in flood-affected Pakistan led to improved measures of prevention and control; Media visibility led to increase funds for Pakistan. Increased visibility regarding "South Asian paradoxes" (strong economic growth weak performance on progress/poverty reduction; toilets and mobile phones; sanitation challenges; inequities) has led to improved public awareness
					# of policy shifts due to UNICEF Advocacy	N/A	10	
	2	Strategic partnerships developed and strengthened to deliver results and resources for children and women.	SAARC, ASEAN, PIF, ADB, UN, partners, appropriate private sector organizations	Undertake an approach that enhances existing partnerships, identifies high value new ones and maps out partnerships to help advance delivery of results for children post APRM	Partnership plan of action developed & implemented	Partial	Done	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF ROSA facilitated & chaired a special session on child sensitive social protection at the ADB high level regional conference supported signature of ADB-UNICEF MoU in September 2010. All Asia Cricket Council & South Asian cricketers at Asia Cup raised awareness on nutrition, sanitation & girls education (Healthy HatTrick). New partnership with HIMAL South Asia in 2010 resulted in 100 % increase in UNICEF issues. Partnership was strengthened with TED Global and TEDx India highlighting children's issues in South Asia. UNGEI remains the main nexus for partnership building with 13 active partnerships in five countries up from eight partnerships in 2009
				% increase in new strategic partners	tbc	25%		
				# of new opportunities	N/A	10		

FUNCTION	EXPECTED RESULT No.	EXPECTED RESULTS FOR THE OFFICES (2010-2011)	PRIMARY CLIENTS	KEY STRATEGIES (INCLUDING CHANGES PROPOSED)	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR			STATUS OF EXPECTED RESULTS (END OF 2010)
					Key Indicator	Base-line	Target	
FUNCTION 4	3	Knowledge management for children in Asia Pacific provided through generation, analysis and dissemination of information and data	Partners at all levels, UN, NGO, corporate, media, governments, youth and children	Review knowledge management systems & institute stronger linkages with global systems & RO/APSSC. Advisory & Technical services to capture & disseminate new knowledge on APRM & issues that affect children. Identify gaps and fill through research and use successful strategies to achieve MDGs with equity.	Sharepoint collaborative platform reaches the two ROs and 22 COs	0	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharepoint not rolled out by NY HQ Two regional thematic evaluations planned for 2011. Support to use of MICS4 for equity focused data collection & analysis in Bangladesh and under way in Nepal, Afghanistan and Bhutan. Regional Event 'Using Data in Evidence Based Decision Making - Launch of DevInfo 6.0 in Asia - Pacific (Cambodia, February, 2010) Strengthened Knowledge Management Systems to undertake studies and research (India and Bangladesh). Evaluations in Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka met global standards for good quality and among 35 best globally UNICEF Data is promoted through sms text messaging (DevInfo) used regularly by media Thematic approach to ROSA website resulted in a more streamlined, systematic use of knowledge and information. Regional initiation of the UNCESCO/UNICEF Out of School Children Initiative Investment cases in 13 Districts throughout South Asia identified bottlenecks and barriers.
				Thematic regional evaluations done annually;	0	5		
				Good practice reports done by MTSP priority and cross cutting themes	0	1-2		
	4	(a) Quality assurance and oversight of programming, operations, and management in the country offices achieved, in the context of UN Coherence.	Country offices in both regions	This will be done through RO participation in milestone programme processes, country visits, sharing of lessons and best practices and use of management exception reports based on RMT approved benchmarks. Will also include incorporation of post APRM strategic shifts and follow up to gender evaluation	CO in both regions undergoing MTR/CPD/UN DAF process supported;	Partial	Full	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Strategic Priority Action Plans regularly monitored through regional consultations and RMTs Support by RO to CPD/UNDAF for Maldives in line with global policies Support by RO to MTRs of India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka in line with organizational policies RO reviews country office KPIs biannually at RMT Team meetings.
				KPIs in all offices at or better than agreed benchmarks.	Partial	Full		
				Gender perspective in CPDs highlighted	Partial	Full		

FUNCTION	EXPECTED RESULT No.	EXPECTED RESULTS FOR THE OFFICES (2010-2011)	PRIMARY CLIENTS	KEY STRATEGIES (INCLUDING CHANGES PROPOSED)	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR			STATUS OF EXPECTED RESULTS (END OF 2010)										
					Key Indicator	Base-line	Target											
	4	(b) Quality assurance and oversight in technical areas under APSSC achieved in country offices in the context of humanitarian reform.	Country offices in both regions	Development of quality standards and guidelines for KM &E and emergencies. Establish rating system and participate in steering committee for major evaluations. Involvement in MTRs and UNDAF and establishment of tracking system for management responses to evaluations and audits. Documentation and dissemination of good practices and knowledge products.	Systems in place to support key strategies	Partial	Full	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production and distribution of 'Rapid Assessment Samplings in Emergency Situations' by APSSC. ROSA supported emergency response in Pakistan through deployment of Regional Director as UNICEF Special Representative, dedicated in-country missions towards ensuring implementation of CCCs and UNICEF accountabilities ROSA Support to Programme Criticality reviews. 										
	5	Country offices and ROs benefitting from the delivery of enhanced high quality technical assistance and knowledge management systems provided through APSSC	Country Offices and Regional Offices	Timely response to CO requests for technical assistance in relevant MTSP focus areas and emergency through own expertise or use of institutional collaborative arrangements	<table border="1"> <tr> <td># COs receiving technical assistance from APSSC</td> <td>Partial</td> <td>22</td> <td rowspan="4"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2010, 100% of the 185 requests for APSSC Technical Assistance that were received from COs in ROSA were responded to. Evaluability study completed 2010 concluding APSSC not evaluable. Exec Dir decision memo Sept 2010 to reconstitute RO capacities. Lessons study to be conducted in 2011 Orientation on UNICEF's knowledge management framework provided to COs in Asia –Pacific onsite (Bangladesh, India, Nepal) and during the Annual M&E Meetings. Dissemination of good practices through Webinars: experiences of India and Bangladesh in professionalizing evaluation. Evaluate (9 issues) and Occasional Learning Series (2 issues). A total of 243 days of technical assistance / surge provided as part of APSSC Emergency support for the Pakistan mega-floods response covering 5 different functions: overall response coordination/field support (1 staff for 44 days); WASH (2 staff for 29 days); Nutrition (1 staff for 49 days); Education (3 staff for 80 days); Knowledge Management Time-Line Exercise (1 staff for 41 days). </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Client Satisfaction Survey;</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evaluation of APSSC</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>Done</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consultant Roster</td> <td>None</td> <td>Done</td> </tr> </table>	# COs receiving technical assistance from APSSC	Partial	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2010, 100% of the 185 requests for APSSC Technical Assistance that were received from COs in ROSA were responded to. Evaluability study completed 2010 concluding APSSC not evaluable. Exec Dir decision memo Sept 2010 to reconstitute RO capacities. Lessons study to be conducted in 2011 Orientation on UNICEF's knowledge management framework provided to COs in Asia –Pacific onsite (Bangladesh, India, Nepal) and during the Annual M&E Meetings. Dissemination of good practices through Webinars: experiences of India and Bangladesh in professionalizing evaluation. Evaluate (9 issues) and Occasional Learning Series (2 issues). A total of 243 days of technical assistance / surge provided as part of APSSC Emergency support for the Pakistan mega-floods response covering 5 different functions: overall response coordination/field support (1 staff for 44 days); WASH (2 staff for 29 days); Nutrition (1 staff for 49 days); Education (3 staff for 80 days); Knowledge Management Time-Line Exercise (1 staff for 41 days). 	Client Satisfaction Survey;	1	1	Evaluation of APSSC	N/A	Done	Consultant Roster	None	Done
# COs receiving technical assistance from APSSC	Partial	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2010, 100% of the 185 requests for APSSC Technical Assistance that were received from COs in ROSA were responded to. Evaluability study completed 2010 concluding APSSC not evaluable. Exec Dir decision memo Sept 2010 to reconstitute RO capacities. Lessons study to be conducted in 2011 Orientation on UNICEF's knowledge management framework provided to COs in Asia –Pacific onsite (Bangladesh, India, Nepal) and during the Annual M&E Meetings. Dissemination of good practices through Webinars: experiences of India and Bangladesh in professionalizing evaluation. Evaluate (9 issues) and Occasional Learning Series (2 issues). A total of 243 days of technical assistance / surge provided as part of APSSC Emergency support for the Pakistan mega-floods response covering 5 different functions: overall response coordination/field support (1 staff for 44 days); WASH (2 staff for 29 days); Nutrition (1 staff for 49 days); Education (3 staff for 80 days); Knowledge Management Time-Line Exercise (1 staff for 41 days). 															
Client Satisfaction Survey;	1	1																
Evaluation of APSSC	N/A	Done																
Consultant Roster	None	Done																

FUNCTION	EXPECTED RESULT No.	EXPECTED RESULTS FOR THE OFFICES (2010-2011)	PRIMARY CLIENTS	KEY STRATEGIES (INCLUDING CHANGES PROPOSED)	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR			STATUS OF EXPECTED RESULTS (END OF 2010)
					Key Indicator	Base-line	Target	
					created			
	6	Collaborative institutional arrangement identified and partnerships with them developed and functioning	Country Offices and Regional Offices	In concert with COs, develop effective institutional arrangements and use them for technical expertise and support mindful of post APRM	Plan on use of institutions	Partial	Full	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APSSC actively participating in inter-agency collaboration mechanisms (i.e. Regional IASC Network; Regional Contingency Planning missions) With UNICEF support the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG) and South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) have established a strong relationship with SAARC
					Regional Data Bases exploited	Partial	Full	
Reg. networks IASC & clusters established					Partial	Full		
7	UNICEF playing and seen to be playing an active role in furthering UN Coherence.	Countries, UNCTs, and country offices	Through active participation in RDT, analyzing and providing advice to Country Offices (and UNCTs), sharing of best practices, and seeking/facilitating greater clarity.	Timeliness & quality of UNICEF support where UNICEF QSA/convenor	Partial	Full	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF active in the UNDG Asia Pacific Peer Support group providing timely feedback on Maldives and Bangladesh UNDAF Technical assistance was provided to the RC's Office in India in the frame of the UNDAF Mid Term Review. 	
				# of RDT decisions where UNICEF actions required				
FUNCTION 7	8	UNICEF mandate in Asia and the Pacific, along with action and results more visible in the media, professional publications and on the web.	Partners at all levels, UN, NGO, corporate, media, governments and ultimately children	Strategic engagement of media and professional publications, and other outreach channels within a regional specific advocacy strategy context.	Increased UNICEF media visibility	tbc	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web portal abandoned as per EAPRO/ROSA agreement Major increase of UNICEF (South Asia) visibility - CNN World View (up 100% from 2009); Coverage on return of child soldiers in Nepal across several global media; Specials with Washington Post (Women Deliver) and New York Times (malnutrition India, Nepal); Notable in the numbers of visits to ROSA website and on global site of South Asia issues generated by or supported by ROSA Media Hub blog, YouTube products. This can be measured on Urchin tool as well as CARMA media monitoring reports (showing significant spike in coverage during Pakistan floods)
					Increase in number of professional publications	N/A	5	
					AP web portal developed & use increased	tbc	25% increase	

PART FOUR SECTION TWO: OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS AND OVERSIGHT-RELATED ACCOUNTABILITIES

The Regional Office continued to monitor country offices' management performance through the quarterly Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reports. Performance results are shared and discussed by the Regional Director during the Regional Management Team (RMT) meetings and during the one-to-one meetings with the Representatives. The KPIs are reviewed on a regular basis by the RMT and updated in line with the changing management environment and desired performance benchmarks. In addition to quarterly KPI reports, the ROSA Country Office Focal Points also review the Office Management Reports (OMR) on a quarterly basis. However, discrepancies between the ProMS and the OMR continue to be an issue, which will hopefully be resolved with the implementation of the manager's dashboard in VISION.

The Regional Office also regularly prepares a) an analysis of internal audit ratings, b) trends in implementation of previous audit recommendations, and c) any recurring audit observations. This analysis is shared with the Representatives during the RMT meetings and presented during the Deputy Rep/Ops Officer (DROPS) meeting each year. Regional Advisers (particularly Operations, HR and Planning) and the RD and the DRD follow-up on implementation of audit recommendations during visits to country offices.

While all internal audit recommendations have been officially closed since March 2010, offices continue to monitor actions taken to ensure sustainability of the implementation of the audit recommendations. External audit was conducted in Sri Lanka in Nov. 2010 and although the official report has not yet been issued, the office has already established an action plan to address the issues raised. Pakistan had the Peshawar zonal office in the KP Province during the last quarter and an action plan for addressing the issues raised has already been prepared. Nepal continues to work on closing the remaining external audit recommendations.

Most of the offices in the Region have maximized the use of their Support Budget. Due to increases in local salaries and other operating costs, most offices struggled to cover their core expenses in 2010. Despite the additional security budget provided to Afghanistan (US\$1m) and Pakistan (US\$1.5m), the offices had difficulty meeting their escalating security expenses which also prevented them from achieving cost efficiencies. Zone Offices in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and India have yet to achieve full MOSS compliance.

Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have more than 9 months DCT as at the year-end. Pakistan and Sri Lanka have more than 2 years DCT. Pakistan was under tremendous work-load due to the flood activities but is working towards a more effective way to ensure timely donor reporting. Afghanistan is working on improving the quality of its donor reports.

The Bank Optimization initiative started in June 2008 continues to be effective tool for monitoring financial resources management. Most of the offices were able to meet the benchmark except in January when many of the offices were unable to disburse funds as planned due to the delays in finalizing the AWP. As of the end of the year, all offices except for Bangladesh and Nepal met the benchmark. Afghanistan continued to maintain optimal cash balance within the set benchmark as a result of close coordination between programme and operations in managing cash flow.

The following examples of efficiency gains and cost-savings were reported:

- Afghanistan reduced common costs in joint office arrangement with other UN agencies in a number of its zone offices. The Office also realized gain on foreign exchange transactions.
- Bangladesh reduced transaction processing by streamlining the CRC process and simplifying the travel procedures. Continued HACT implementation promoted higher delivery of country programme.
- Use of LTAs in India reduced transaction processing while full implementation of HACT allowed staff to focus on substantive reviews.
- Savings in rent and maintenance costs in Maldives resulted from a review of rental and maintenance payments to UNDP.

- ROSA gained cost efficiency by conducting its regional budget review through mail-poll. The active participation of the Staff Association in the process has been documentarily evidenced by the signature of the Chair on the budget submissions.

Enterprise Risk Management trainings facilitated by HQ and coordinated by the Regional Office were conducted in Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka to strengthen the Regional Office and country offices capacity for risk management. ERM focal points and selected staff from the other offices (Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and the APSSC) participated in these training and replicated the exercise in their offices. Results from these training/exercise as well as best practices were presented by selected Representatives during the RMT meeting in Nov. 2010.

All offices except for Pakistan have completed their risk assessments and submitted their reports to NYHQ. Due to the flood emergency Pakistan was not able to complete the exercise last year but is scheduled to do it in February 2011. These offices have also established a monitoring mechanism to ensure that planned actions to manage the risks identified are implemented. Areas identified by country offices requiring regional support to address key risks are being reviewed by the Regional Office for incorporation in the Regional Annual Work Plan. The final consolidated regional ERM reports will be discussed during the RMT in March this year to maintain awareness of the risks faced by country offices in the Region and provide the necessary guidance and support. ERM and overall risk management, including tracking audit follow-up and sustainability were also discussed at the Programme and Operations Officers' meeting in November 2010.

To strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Country Office in internal controls and risk management, an international Internal Control Officer post has been established and filled-up at the beginning of the year. Pakistan has also established five similar national Internal Control and Assessment Officers posts. Following these positive experiences, ROSA advised other country offices to focus human resources on effective risk management in biennium budget submissions.

ROSA and country offices in the Region have completed the IPSAS introductory e-training courses. Within two weeks of the announcement, all operations staff from Pakistan completed the mandatory courses in the midst of the flood emergency. Bangladesh and India were the first two offices that completed all the required trainings. As of the end of October, the South Asia Region has the highest completion rate. ROSA devoted two afternoons for IPSAS training and completion was monitored during the weekly Section Heads' meeting monthly by the ROMT. All staff including the DRD have completed the basic courses with some Regional Advisers completing five to seven courses. We hope to continue this level of enthusiasm as we get closer to the implementation date.

PART FIVE: STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS COMPLETED IN 2010

TITLE	YEAR	SEQ. #	TYPE OF REPORT	Inclusion UNICEF database	THEME
EDUCATION					
Young Champions for Education Trainers' Manual	2010		Trainers' Manual	Yes	Training Manual to be used by young people
CHILD PROTECTION					
The Rescue Recovery, Repatriation and Integration of trafficked children. A Resource Pack	2010		Operational guidelines	Yes	Child protection – child trafficking
Caring for Children. Case Management and Child Friendly Interviewing. A Resource Pack	2010		Manual and training materials	Yes	Child protection – child trafficking
HIV/AIDS					
Assessment on the National Response to Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in the SAARC Region, 2010			Study Assessment	Yes	Protection, care and support for children affected by HIV and AIDS
Rapid situation assessment of PM TCT among most at risk and especially vulnerable adolescent girls in South Asia			Study Assessment	Yes	Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of Adolescent PMTCT in Nepal and Bangladesh
Study on Centres of excellence for paediatric HIV care Improving quality of care in India)			Study Assessment	Yes	Paediatric care and treatment (This study was by ICO but used widely in the region
SOCIAL POLICY					
Statistical Pocketbook Socio Economic Indicators 2010	2010		Statistical Pocketbook	Yes	statistics
When National Averages are not Enough;	2010		Regional Report	Yes	MDGs with equity

Assessment of Evaluation function

The region has made progress in the following areas: improving the strategic planning, quality and use of evaluations and supporting the conceptualization and implementation of national evaluation capacity development initiatives. A south-south cooperation strategy was initiated in 2010 aimed at promoting county-to-country support to devise or reinforce country led monitoring and evaluation systems as well as the creation of national evaluation professional bodies.

The Evaluation Office rated the 35 best evaluations (global, regional, country level) completed in 2010. Four ROSA countries have at least one high quality evaluation: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh. Initiatives towards achieving higher quality evaluation included, *inter-alia*, quality assurance of Terms of Reference and of evaluation reports of major evaluations, participation in reference groups of evaluations; technical assistance, broad dissemination of guidance documents and quality standards.

Partnership with academic institutions improved over the year. The agreement between UNICEF Bangladesh and BRAC University was renewed in 2010. A curriculum was developed and an Executive Level Course on Evaluation delivered. The India Country Office signed an agreement with the Indian School of Business for a certification course on evaluation that will target policy and decision makers as well as evaluation service providers. A ToT was delivered jointly by APSSC and India CO to faculty members. The roll out of the course will start in 2011.

Through the Community of Practice for M&E focal points in Asia-Pacific, access to knowledge on evaluation related matters was broadened and an exchange of information and good practices was promoted. Two knowledge products are being periodically disseminated: "Evaluate", a bimonthly information package and "Occasional Learning Series", a product aimed at disseminating the linkages between knowledge and evaluation.

Despite the progress evaluation is often approached as a lower profile function in some countries. Monitoring and Social Policy are functions that often share staff with the evaluation function and this leads to a lack of focus. More clarity on the linkages and the distinctiveness of these functions is still

needed. Both human and financial resources at the regional and national levels need to be increased if evaluation is to be addressed as a strategic and distinct function.

PART SIX: INNOVATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

ROSA continued to play an active role in the inter-agency South Asia Coordinating Group on Actions against Violence against Women and Children (SACG) and in its support to the government-led South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC). This strategic partnership resulted in the adoption by SAIEVAC of its governance structure and of its five year work plan to end violence against children, which is based on the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, and led to the appointment of a Director General for SAIEVAC to support the initiative on a day-to-day basis. This unique initiative saw the first Governing Board meeting of SAIEVAC in November which was attended by the SRSG on Violence against Children thereby establishing a strong link between the SRSG's office, SAIEVAC and SACG. ROSA has been elected as the chair of SACG with Plan International as the co-chair for 2011-2012 with the important task to ensure that the SACG support to SAIEVAC translates into tangible results for children in the eight South Asian countries.

Across the region country offices have demonstrated many innovative strategies. In Pakistan the use of Research Organizations as third party monitors proved to be an effective performance and quality assurance mechanism especially in highly insecure environments. The field monitors focused on UNICEF interventions and the wider situation of affected populations through quantitative and qualitative assessment which were then collated and analysed on a weekly basis.

At a time when social networking is gaining increasing ground, Nepal's toll-free SMS Initiative appeals directly to the youth. Initiated in partnership with the popular youth-based radio Saathi sanga Manka Kura (chatting with my best friend) the sms system allows youth to use their phones to register their views on different social issues and has been a very cost effective tool to conduct quick surveys. UNICEF Nepal now has a database with over 10,000 names from young people across the country including remote areas which can be reached awareness-raising messages.

The Maldives Child Protection database is proving to be a comprehensive child protection tool. Key features of the database combine referral and case management, case relationships, case worker activities and messaging thereby enabling an overview of case progress, important data and improvements to service provision.

A partnership with Community Development Councils in Afghanistan has been used to ensure access to basic WASH services for some of the most vulnerable communities in remote and insecure areas. As CDCs are part of the community they ensure ownership, sustainability and flexibility. They also enable UNICEF to implement projects in a timely manner by bypassing centralized and bureaucratic government structures. One lesson learned from implementation is the critical need to assess and build capacity before engaging in project implementation. Over 25,000 CDCs have been established country wide and each CDC can receive up to \$60,000 for individual development projects. A women's group is incorporated into each CDC.

PART SEVEN: SPECIAL REPORT SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

In November the Government of China hosted a High Level Meeting on Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region, within the framework of South-South cooperation. Supported by UNICEF ROSA and EAPRO the High Level Meeting had representation from all 28 Asia-Pacific countries, including several Ministers and was opened by the Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping and Tony Lake, UNICEF's Executive Director.

The objective of the meeting was to share best practices, experiences and lessons learned in the realization of child rights in the Asia-Pacific region. Enhancing political commitment and leveraging resources to address socio-economic disparities as well as fostering stronger cooperation with and between governments on behalf of children were also key objectives. The meeting focused on three main themes: (i) achieving the MDGs with equity by addressing disparities; (ii) the development of a systems-building approach to child protection and child welfare; and (iii) saving and enhancing lives through more effective disaster risk reduction for children. The outcome document, *The Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region*, was adopted by consensus at the conclusion of the three-day meeting and laid out a number of specific commitments

for participating countries to advance child rights. Aside from the outcome document a key result of the meeting was also the many bilateral exchanges and initiatives among governments on child rights issues.

ROSA and EAPRO developed the thematic paper on Child Protection and Child Welfare in Asia and the Pacific with input from Child Frontiers, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision International, and UNICEF Cos. Apart from a call to action to prevent child maltreatment and acknowledge the „private troubles of children and their families arising from child maltreatment as „public issues, the paper provided a number of suggestions to strengthen South-South Cooperation on child protection in the region, including enhancing inter-country exchange and the sharing of good practices to develop a professional cadre of qualified staff working in child protection and sharing legislation and policies that have been recognized as in line with the CRC and other relevant international instruments for protecting children as well as good practices in implementing and enforcing them. ROSA also contributed to the background papers on the two other conference themes.

Two initiatives under UNGEI contribute towards greater South-South cooperation. The first, an ongoing activity in six countries of South Asia, has engaged young women and men not only in promoting girls' education and gender equality, but also as advocates for change around issues of protection, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. In Bhutan, youth organisations participated in implementation of the national youth policy and the national plan of action on gender while in the Maldives the education section and HIV and AIDS worked together to address issues related to at-risk adolescents, through capacity building of young champions and youth organisations. In Pakistan, over 500 young women and men completed a mapping exercise of children from marginalised communities who are out of school. The information will be used to advocate for new schools in those locations. The second initiative involves the use of multi-party alliances of women parliamentarians to advocate for gender equality in education. This initiative was first introduced under UNGEI in Nepal, has now been adapted in Bangladesh and is planned for Pakistan at the request of UNGEI country partners.

Elsewhere senior officials from the Government of Cambodia and Bangladesh exchanged visits to share experience on child protection systems. At the World Urban Forum Government of Bangladesh senior officials were able to exchange experiences on the many challenges created by urbanization – something which affects all countries in the region. Senior Officials from Sri Lanka's Health Ministry visited Bangladesh to participate in a workshop on marginal budgeting for Bottlenecks. The visit and experience from other countries was useful in developing the District Investment Case Analysis in four districts in Sri Lanka. UNICEF Sri Lanka as a member of the National Steering Committee is also supporting the Government efforts to host the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV) and the search for means to accelerate progress to sanitation which affects millions of children across the region.

In April officials from the Maldives and UNICEF participated in a meeting hosted by ADB and the UNICEF on social protection and the role of non-state providers in delivering basic services for children. The meeting held in Manila was important for the Maldives as it expands its own social protection programme. Nepal saw a number of exchanges including on immunization, girl's education and participatory assessment tools.

Focus on child friendly schools was the object of a series of meetings between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Thailand. Pakistan representatives from the Ministry of Education and provincial education departments participated in CFS training courses by the Thai Ministry of Education and EAPRO. Thai Ministry officials also supported drafting CFS national standards for Pakistan.

PART EIGHT: REPORT ON UN REFORM AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

The UNDG-AP has supported implementation of the simplified and streamlined UNDAF guidelines and continued its support for strategic direction and programme oversight in the region. Throughout 2010, the Regional Office supported the Peer Support Group of the UNDG-Asia Pacific and participated in discussions on the future of the PSG. Last year saw a significant change in the role of PSG. Rather than supporting quality assurance of the UNDAFs which is now entirely the responsibility

of the UNCT and Resident Coordinator's office, the PSG supports UNDAF rollout by ensuring the process, such as the roadmap and overall time line is on track.

The ROSA and EAPRO joint RMT in Beijing featured an open and frank discussion on UN coherence which was an opportunity for the Executive Director to hear the views of colleagues throughout Asia. The wide ranging discussion highlighted concerns from Representatives on the Resident Coordinator firewall and expectations of the Resident Coordinators to undertake fundraising for UNDP. Annex B in the COARs revealed that most offices in South Asia are content with the management and accountability system although the firewall remains problematic in some countries. There is an ongoing challenge of maintaining momentum for progress and results at country level without becoming distracted by long processes linked to sub-optimal consensus agreements.

The UN-house construction in Bhutan continues to be a protracted affair. The current process started in 2003 and has not progressed to the actual construction phase. After very lengthy discussions with UNDP, a contract modality was finally agreed upon with UNDP signing a contract with UNOPS. However this clearly highlights the need for an institutional agreement on UN co-locations and construction.

Delivery as One Pilot:

Recurrent emergencies in 2010 seriously delayed or reduced the resources and efforts for the Delivering as One (DaO) 'Programme' in Pakistan. Resources and attention were diverted from Delivery as One Goals to urgent humanitarian work as a result of the floods. Ongoing insecurity also continued to affect Delivery as One by constraining access and increasing security costs. Late in the year, Pakistan UNCT began deliberations on the future 2013-2017 programme including consideration of a common programme document. As a result of emergencies the UN DaO programme has been extended twice. The UNICEF Representative in Pakistan was fully occupied in his role as Humanitarian Coordinator and delegated the majority of his UNICEF tasks to the Deputy Representative and Operations Manager.

In Bhutan, a Delivering as One self starter, UNICEF's Mid Term review was integrated into the UNDAF/cCPAP MTR which in turn fed into the government's 10th Five year Plan MTR. The UNDAF/cCPAP MTR findings were approved by the Country Programme Board consisting of secretaries of line ministries and heads of agencies chaired by the secretary of the Gross National Happiness Commission and the UNRC. Five joint 18-month rolling work plans in Bhutan developed by the UNCT continue to add value. The joint rolling work plans based on the UNDAF country team outcomes and outputs instead of agency specific work plans has reduced duplication and increased synergies across the UN in several activities.

In Bangladesh, also a self starter, there are hopes for a new phase of UN collaboration. The UNCT's work the previous year to establish a clear division of labour, the integration of geographical targeting on the most vulnerable and least performing districts of the country in the new UNDAF and greater clarity on the UNDAF funding alternatives are seen to be improving overall UN collaboration.

CCAs/UNDAF:

Aside from the development of a new UNDAF in Bangladesh, 2010 also saw Maldives conclude their UNDAF. The development of the Maldives 2011-2015 UNDAF was seen by the UNCT as a positive example of unity and agencies' willingness to jointly prioritize efforts and deliver results. The expanded partnership in the new UNDAF from 5 agencies to 16 agencies was an indication of the interest and commitment of agencies to assist Maldives in a comprehensive manner. Much of the UNDAF development was led by the UNICEF Representative acting as the Resident Coordinator ad interim,

2010 also saw preparations for new cycles in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka which will all begin new UNDAFs in 2013. In 2010 UNICEF ROSA agreed to act as Convening Agency for the India 2013-2017 UNDAF. 2010 also saw the India UNCT conduct the Mid Term Review (MTR) of UNDAF through an external review team, highlighting the programmatic results achieved and coordination mechanisms at sub-national level. Late in the year the Bhutan UNCT decided to extend the UNDAF for an additional year to 2013 in order to synchronize with the Government's five year plan.

Progress in UN joint programme/project and joint office initiatives.

Implementation of joint programming continues in South Asia. UNICEF's experience with the Peace Programmes in Afghanistan and Nepal has been positive. In Afghanistan 'The Peace Through Justice Programme, implemented together with UNDP and the Ministry of Justice involved very little funding for UNICEF, but provided important opportunities for advocacy and networking on justice for children with key justice institutions, including the office of the Attorney General. The UN Peace Trust Fund in Nepal, designed to strengthen coherence across the UN to support of the peace process, continued to attract donor funding and was seen as an effective mechanism to enhance interagency collaboration. Following an H4+ mission in Afghanistan, it is likely that a new joint programme on maternal and newborn health will emerge. This builds on the initiative by UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO to make maternal mortality a key priority and part of the draft Integrated Strategic Framework.

In Bangladesh the Joint Community Development Initiative for Cox's Bazaar has faced delays in implementation, as the Government of Bangladesh has been concerned on the impact the development assistance may have on the flow of Rohingya migrants from Myanmar. UNICEF, in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA and WFP, continues to lead the UN joint programme and work with the government to resolve concerns and to ensure equitable support to all children.

The UN joint programme with UNIFEM and UNFPA to prevent and respond to gender based violence was launched in Nepal. The joint programme has already made the issue of GBV more visible and led to government budgets allocations and programmes.

All countries in the region recognized the importance of relationships with IFIs and called for continued emphasis and greater complementarity. Working closely with the World Bank on poverty analysis especially small area analysis will be an important component of future work on equity as well as building on the MOU signed with Asian Development Bank in September 2010.