Executive Summary

The rights of the most marginalized and deprived boys and girls continued to be the central focus of UNICEF Belize’s programme in 2014. In spite of significant changes in the office structure and the turnover of staff, 2014 was marked by success in achieving important milestones in the work with national counterparts to advance the rights of children in Belize.

The Government of Belize (GoB) officially committed to submitting the country report to the Child Rights Committee. UNICEF Belize continuously advocated for this commitment, and used the momentum around the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) to reach that goal. UNICEF pledged support to the GoB in ensuring the report is submitted in 2015.

Belize introduced important reforms in secondary education financing, by way of implementing the Education Sector Strategy (2011–2016). UNICEF partnered and worked hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to provide technical and financial assistance toward this initiative, which will positively affect the low enrolment and completion rates in secondary school. The MoE continued with the step-by-step implementation of the Quality Child Friendly Schools (QCFS) framework, conceived with UNICEF’s technical support. More than 60 schools have been classified as QCFS, and the interest among the rest is on the rise, which created improved learning conditions and quality standards for primary school children. Belize took concrete steps toward implementing the early childhood development (ECD) policy developed with UNICEF’s support in 2013, which will significantly increase the ECD coverage and quality in the country. UNICEF provided support to generate an integrated ECD model that would mainstream the current fragmentary interventions by three separate Government Ministries (Ministries of Health, Education and Human Development).

Belize initiated crucial reforms and capacity building activities in the area of juvenile justice. A revised Juvenile Justice Policy was adopted, paving the way for future judicial reforms. With UNICEF’s support, 100 per cent of judges, magistrates, school managers, and social workers, and a significant number of police and health officials, received training in the area of child justice relevant to their work. Belize took action to strengthen the child protection aspects of the judicial system. UNICEF partnered with the Supreme Court of Belize, and provided support to initiate the construction of two Child Friendly Family Courts to deal with children in contact with the law, containing child-friendly rooms and interview chambers, video links and staff trained to deal with vulnerable children.

Belize’s local governments made public commitments to make all municipalities in the country child friendly by signing on to the Sustainable Child Friendly Municipalities (SCFM) initiative promoted by UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Mayor’s Association of Belize. SCFM provides a framework that ensures municipalities plan, budget and act to realize the rights of the most marginalized children. Early results are visible in two of the poorest municipalities in Belize: Dangriga, where more than 1,500 children
have access to child friendly spaces for learning and after-school activities, and Punta Gorda, where more than 350 children have benefited from improved school safety.

Belize has committed to strengthen its social protection system of vulnerable families and children. In partnership with UNICEF, the Ministry of Human Development (MHDSTPA) has initiated the process of evaluating its flagship conditional cash transfers programme–BOOST. The evaluation is part of a general evaluation of the social protection system that will yield concrete recommendations to improve coverage and adequacy of the assistance received by the poorest children. Belize has also made a commitment to ensure child-focused social sectors receive adequate financing. The first-time partnership between UNICEF and the Ministry of Finance has led to the signing of a joint Work Plan to review the country’s social expenditures for children and to strengthen the capacities of the country to monitor child-related expenditure to be better positioned to respond to the needs of children.

The work on raising awareness and education on HIV/AIDS among adolescents in schools by UNICEF’s partner organization, the Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) was stopped due to opposition from the Council of Churches. As a result, the plans to reach more than 3,500 adolescents with HIV/AIDS information faltered. Planning was initiated with the National AIDS Commission (NAC) and additional thematic funds were leveraged and allocated to the effort for 2015.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

There was no major emergency situation as a result of the impact of a hurricane or tropical storm in 2014. UNICEF Belize continued to maintain an up-to-date early warning/early action statutory electronic tool. The 2014 review included possible responses for developing threats such as Chikungunya and the Ebola virus. Further attention will be paid to these threats in 2015, with communication support being given to the Ministry of Health. The small stock of emergency supplies that were held in case of disaster was donated to the National Emergency Management Organization. In parallel, UNICEF Belize started to identify local and international suppliers for emergency supplies that can be rapidly procured and deployed in the aftermath of an emergency.

**Equity Case Study**

In 2014, UNICEF Belize re-focused its equity agenda by promoting an enabling environment for the localization of millennium development goals (MDGs) through a process of municipal capacity development, social mobilization, strengthening of participatory local governance and institutionalization of accountability mechanisms. In collaboration with UNDP, the Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, National Emergency Management, Immigration and Nationality (MLLGRDNEMIN) and BMA, UNICEF Belize initiated a process to transform Belize’s nine urban centres into Sustainable Child Friendly Municipalities (SCFM). In May of 2014, the mayors of the nine municipalities agreed that capacity building and institutional strengthening and commitment at the municipal level are critical to the promotion of equity, reduction of poverty and achieving the MDG goals. They acknowledged that SCFM represents a framework within which these efforts could be undertaken in a structured and coherent manner, while taking into consideration their role, mandate and limitations when it comes to protecting and advancing children’s rights. The work towards creating SCFM began by collecting the required baseline information to understand the equity issues faced by municipalities and the key barriers in terms of the institutional capacity of each municipal government to implement and sustain a child friendly municipality. Municipal profiles and a municipal institutional capacity assessment were completed. A one-day training of the mayors and their Councillors on the
Child Friendly Cities global initiative was conducted. Two sets of consultations were supported, for the duty bearers (the mayors and their respective Steering Committees) and the right holders (children ages 8-16 years living in each municipality). In September, a nation-wide event was held simultaneously across all of Belize’s nine municipalities, with live radio and TV broadcasting, and online streaming to bring national awareness to the commitment made by the nine municipal mayors and endorsed by the Minister of MLLGRDNEMIN.

Results of this initiative to date include: All nine municipal mayors signed agreements to work toward creating a “Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipality. All nine urban municipalities now have a project-generated profile inclusive of population and other MDG relevant data. Priority institutional capacities to be strengthened have been identified and strategic recommendations have been provided. Children’s opinions on issues affecting them in their respective municipalities have been documented and will continue to be through regular consultations. A set of priority areas to be addressed by municipalities in their efforts to make their municipality child friendly has been drafted. Opportunities for south-south cooperation between Belize and Costa Rica on CFC have been identified. Child friendly spaces have been created in the towns of Dangriga and Punta Gorda, benefiting more than 500 children.

WASH in Education – Quality Child Friendly Schools Improved access to quality, basic education in a child-friendly school environment, is a priority for the achievement of MDG 3: achieve universal primary education. Additionally, achieving MDG 7, which focuses on ensuring environmental sustainability by reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, especially in schools, will contribute to improved access to quality basic education. In 2013 and 2014, financial resources from the US Fund for UNICEF directly empowered approximately 24 primary schools to assess their physical needs in terms of water and sanitation facilities. This process enabled capacity building of key stakeholders in the programme, and garnered the commitment of general managers, technical engineers, and the Parent-Teachers’ Association (PTA) as never before. The schools’ self-assessment also evaluated the extent to which their delivery of the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum is impacting health and hygiene practices of students and staff. The results of these assessments motivated the development of various activities which focused on key component standard #5 of the national Quality Child Friendly Schools (QCFS) framework: safe, supportive and learning community. Children’s lack of access to adequate sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices have been identified as major barriers to cultivating a child friendly environment in primary schools in Belize. To address this, in 2014, UNICEF continued its advocacy for WASH in schools. Through the direct support of private donors, and the leveraging of resources, plans are being put in place to fundraise for more support for WASH in schools. In November 2014, UNICEF hosted a donor visit and presented the achievements of the WASH project to date. The visitors were able to see first-hand the difference this intervention has made for the schools where it has been implemented, and to compare the situation with some schools that still require support in the area of WASH. As a result, UNICEF Belize was able to leverage more resources in this area, and will continue to support the schools in the poorest areas on Belize. Pre-construction assessments for an additional seven primary schools in the most vulnerable communities began in December 2014. Work on these schools will be completed in early 2015.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

Acronyms
AG - Attorney General
AMP - Annual Management Plan
BC - Business Continuity Plan
BCVI - Belize Council for the Visually Impaired
ERP - Emergency Response Plan
BGI - Belize Gender Info
BOOST - Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (Conditional Cash Transfer Programme)
C4D – Communication for Development
CDF - Child Development Foundation
CFC - Child Friendly Cities
CMT - Congress of Maya Teachers
CPMP - Country Programme Management Plan
CRC - Convention on the Rights of Children
CXC - Caribbean Education Council
DEC - District Education Centre
ECD - Early Childhood Development
ERMP - Enterprise Risk Management Plan
GAP - Gender Action Plan
GOB - Government of Belize
HFLE - Health and Family Life Education
IPs - Implementing partners
IPSMIS - Inter-agency Public Safety Management Information System
LACRO – Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office
MDG - Millennium Development Goals
MoE - Ministry of Education
MHDSTPA - Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation
MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MLLGRDNEMNI - Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, NEM, Immigration and Nationality
MNS - Ministry of National Security
MoEYS - Ministry of Education Youth and Sports
MoF - Ministry of Finance
MoH - Ministry of Health
MoRES - Monitoring of Results for Equity Systems
MTSP – Mid Term Strategic Plan
NaRCIE - National Resource Centre for Inclusive Education
NCFC - National Committee for Families and Children
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
NPA - National Plan Action
OBMS - Online Business Management System
OPM - Office of the Prime Minister
P2P - Peer-to-Peer
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization
PBIS - Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support
PEP - Parent Empowering Program
POWA - Productive Organization for Women in Action
PTA - Parent - Teacher Association
QCFS - Quality Child-Friendly Schools
RC - Roman Catholic
RCHR - Regional Chief of Human Resources
RNGP - Revised National Gender Policy
SCCC - Stann Creek Coordination Committee
Capacity Development

Capacity development continued to be a strong focus in 2014. A number of trainings were conducted for Government, civil society, non-governmental organizations and others. In partnership with the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) and the Supreme Court of Belize, all judges and magistrates and school managers in the country were trained in international norms, standards and best practices in child justice, and their implementation in Belize. In partnership with the NCFC, UNICEF Belize built the capacities of all government social workers, labour and immigration officials, as well as key stakeholders from the national police forces and medical officers, in concepts of child justice relevant for their work. In the area of Child Rights Monitoring, UNICEF Belize established a partnership with the University of West Indies to deliver capacity building for civil society and government partners in the areas of monitoring and evaluation, project cycle management, and financial management. Thirty public officials and NGO staff have benefited from this programme to date, leading to improved national capacity for programme implementation related to children’s rights. UNICEF Belize, with the support of the Regional Office, provided capacity building for more than 25 national partners from government and civil society in gender sensitive planning and programming, which is aimed to increase the awareness and quality of national interventions in the area of gender equality. UNICEF Belize supported the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to a conference in Peru on investment in children, which increased their knowledge and understanding in the area of public finance for children (PF4C). Immediately following the visit to Peru, a work plan between UNICEF and the MoF was signed that paves the way for PF4C training for all relevant government stakeholders in 2015. South-South Cooperation exchanges enhanced the capacity of a number of government stakeholders in the areas of child justice, education, HIV/Aids and ECD.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

One of the most significant contributions of UNICEF toward the progress in the realization of children’s rights in Belize has been the work conducted in the area of evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy. Significant progress was made in drafting the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Policy, to serve as a basis for a number of forthcoming judicial reforms. UNICEF Belize, in partnership with the NCFC and the Supreme Court of Belize, supported the drafting of the JJ Policy, setting the minimum standards and guidance for comprehensive juvenile justice reform. The policy was developed through wide consultation process involving an array of national experts and stakeholders, which also included contributions from UNICEF experts from the region and Headquarters. The policy was approved by the Government. UNICEF’s advocacy
efforts resulted in commitments by Government partners to strengthen the systems of public finance and social protection for children and families. UNICEF supported a horizontal exchange between Belize and Eastern Caribbean countries regarding Belize’s flagship conditional cash transfer (CCT) social programme, -BOOST, which has been implemented since 2011 and is considered a model to emulate by neighbouring countries. UNICEF signed an agreement with MHDSTPA to conduct a thorough evaluation of BOOST to provide evidence and recommendations for its strengthening. UNICEF Belize also successfully advocated for the evaluation of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPA), which expires at the end of 2015. This evaluation will lead to the drafting of a new NPA for 2015 and beyond, which will incorporate the lessons learned so far, focus on the remaining bottlenecks to realization of children’s rights, and incorporate the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals as they arise. UNICEF Belize engaged with the Ministry of Education and followed up on the draft ECD policy to produce an integrated ECD service model that would bring coherence among the actions currently undertaken by the Ministry of Health and MHDSTPA and Ministry of Education. Work on the model began in November of 2014 and is expected to be completed in February 2015.

### Partnerships

For the first time ever, UNICEF Belize engaged in strategic partnerships with the Supreme Court of Belize to strengthen the child protection aspects of the judicial system. This partnership was the result of a south-south exchange visit of a high level delegation from Belize to Guatemala. UNICEF Belize also partnered with the Belize Mayors Association for the development of sustainable child-friendly municipalities. UNICEF partnerships also materialised with the signing of a Rolling Work Plan (RWP) with the Ministry of Finance, which opens the possibility to perform in-depth studies on the budget allocations for social sectors for children. In 2014, partnerships were maintained with the key ministries of government, including Health, Education Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation, and Poverty Alleviation. These ministries have established an inter-sectoral mechanism for planning and implementing social programmes and policies, ensuring effective coordination and implementation of UNICEF-supported programmes. In committing to global programme partnerships such as Committing to Child Survival, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between UNICEF Belize and the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)/World Health Organisation (WHO) to jointly support the Ministry of Health in sharpening national strategies for maternal, newborn and child health to strengthen the commitment to “A Promise Renewed”. UNICEF continued to seek opportunities to engage in joint programmes with sister UN agencies in an effort to strengthen UN coordination, maximize resources and ensure impact of UN programmes in Belize. A micro and macro assessment of national partners will be conducted jointly between UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA in 2015 to ensure Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) compliance. Partnership was re-established with the National AIDS Commission to address the issues of capacity building and awareness raising on HIV/AIDS-related matters. UNICEF Belize strengthened ongoing collaborations with the tertiary institutions to provide capacity building for national partners; with the Office of the Special Envoy for Women and Children for enhanced advocacy on the issues of children with disabilities and violence against children; and with civil society organizations and media for ensuring child rights visibility and public awareness.

### External Communication and Public Advocacy

UNICEF repositioned itself as an outspoken actor on children’s issues through increasing appearances in the media by the Representative, Programme Officers and national partners, jointly fostering discussion on children’s rights, violence against children and ECD.
The relationship with media houses was strengthened through proactive communication and outreach, which resulted in increased media interest and coverage of UNICEF activities and events, including, for the first time in Belize, live TV and radio streaming of a Government/UNICEF event. The media provided generous airtime on topics such as the Sustainable Child Friendly Municipalities, Violence Against Children and World Breastfeeding Week.

UNICEF Belize increased its international visibility through strengthened relationships and dialogue with several National Committees and bilateral donors. Stories about Belizean children were published as part of the fundraising initiatives of the UK National Committee and the US Fund for UNICEF, and one was featured in the international newspaper The Guardian. The European Union chose UNICEF Belize to showcase the successful joint development cooperation in the area of child protection, and the British High Commission and the EU widely disseminated a UNICEF Belize-produced child-friendly animated video summarizing the progress the country has made in realizing the rights of children over the past 25 years.

UNICEF Belize adjusted its communication approach in accordance with the new Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy by creating a space for children to express their views and opinions. Children and youth from across the country were interviewed and their concerns and aspirations were shared with policy makers and disseminated online.

UNICEF headed the development of a two year communication and Communication for Development (C4D) strategy for the National Task Force to End Violence against Children. The strategy included an extensive communication and advocacy campaign, community outreach, and youth participation activities. UNICEF Belize conducted nationwide in-depth focus group consultations and psychodrama workshops with children and youth, discussing their experiences with violence in a safe and engaging environment.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

In 2014, three UNICEF Belize, UNICEF Brazil and UNICEF Jamaica facilitated two South-South Cooperation exchanges that included the participation of key national stakeholders from Belize in country study visits to Brazil and Jamaica. As a result of these visits, and following the In-Depth Programme Review that identified the priorities for UNICEF and Belize in the area of prevention and protection from HIV/AIDS, UNICEF Belize and the National AIDS Commission (NAC) agreed on a one year work plan to address the issues of capacity and information on HIV/AIDS related matters. This will further enable the organizations to actively engage in strengthening the capacities of all service providers and other stakeholders in the area of HIV/AIDS.

Another major exchange was as a result of an activity within the ECD agenda for the Government of Belize. Detailed coordination and preparations took place to accommodate a delegation of five senior government officials from Belize to learn from the Cuban ECD model, "Educa tu Hijo". The Belizean delegation was hosted by UNICEF Cuba and had the opportunity to interact with senior officials from the Cuban government who stand ready to assist Belize in strengthening the implementation of the ECD policy. Further collaborations will be explored in 2015, when Cuban officials will be invited to participate in ECD development activities.

A first time partnership was established with the Supreme Court of Belize, partly as a result of a south-south exchange/study tour to Guatemala. The partnership has led to the signing of a work
plan and the initiation of the construction of Child Friendly Family Courts dealing with children in contact with the law as victims, witnesses and perpetrators. The visit to the Guatemalan judicial school gave rise to new ideas and approaches to judicial education in Belize. Of note was a brief exchange between the Ministries of Education in Belize and Guatemala, where technical officials from Guatemala conducted capacity building in Monitoring of Results for Equity Systems (MoRES) in Education for the Belizean education officials. Further collaboration will continue in the sharing of lessons learned in MoRES.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

For the first time in Belize, UNICEF engaged with the Ministry of Finance through a Rolling Work Plan that included data and evidence generation on public investment in children, as well as in capacity building for relevant stakeholders in government on issues such as child friendly budgeting, and monitoring social expenditures. This process is aimed at strengthening the national public finance management system for children, and providing evidence for the link between improved investments and social outcomes. Belize aims to emulate successful models for planning and monitoring expenditures towards social sectors for children, some of which were presented at the “Public Investments for Children” Conference in Peru, which Belize delegates attended with UNICEF’s support. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to generate support for increased investments in social protection, health and education for children.

UNICEF Belize continued to support the Metamorphosis project, an innovative approach to providing support for children who are identified as vulnerable. The project was piloted two years ago by a national government entity called RESTORE Belize with UNICEF’s support and targets vulnerable children and provides intensive psychosocial support, including a literacy programme and out-of-school activities that give the children an opportunity to engage in productive learning activities as opposed to spending time on the street or being at risk of exposure to violence and abuse. Activities involve parents, guardians, teachers, the police and community workers, all of whom are involved in identifying and supporting the children at some stage. Of the 35 children involved in the programme so far, nearly all have managed to advance academically and improve their life-skills, and none has fallen victim to violence, crime, or abuse.

UNICEF Belize embarked on an innovative child justice reform process, through incorporating global best practices in administering child justice in the country. The initiative focuses on creating progressive legislative and holistic institutional reforms. It introduces ‘child sensitive’ procedures for children witnesses, victims or offenders. The reform includes building two child-friendly family courts, installing remote video systems, training and empowering social workers during court proceedings.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

UNICEF Belize enhanced its emphasis on cross-sectoral links between the different programmes by streamlining actions and focusing the activities around four key country priorities: reducing violence against children, strengthening the national child justice system, improving access to and quality of education and ECD services, and strengthening the system of social protection in the country. All programme activities and results are aimed at contributing directly or indirectly to the outcomes in the Country Programme Action Plan as related to these four priorities. As a result, the Social Policy programme, which resumed in April of 2014, provided an opportunity for improved coordination among UNICEF’s activities across all programmes, as well as for the initiation of activities in previously overlooked areas such as public finance for children (PF4C) and integrated social protection for children. Under the
former, UNICEF Belize will be looking at financial expenditures for children relevant to all programme areas. The latter will enable improved social protection policies directly contributing to better educational and health outcomes for children. In the area of Justice for Children (J4C), the Child Protection section, in partnership with the Supreme Court, successfully advocated for the provision of free legal aid for all children in conflict with the law. The Social Policy section provided support by conducting a cost assessment for this reform. Similarly, the social policy programme will conduct a costing assessment for the draft-ECD policy which was successfully advocated for by the Education/ECD section. The cross-sectoral coordination was also evident in the work done with regard to Child Friendly Municipalities (CFM). The M&E section advocated for the adoption of a CFM model adopted by all municipalities, which requires them to reach education and health-related goals that are the principle focus of the Education/ECD section and the Health programme component. This cross-sectoral integration will be further strengthened in 2015, enabling UNICEF to focus its limited resources where they are most needed and to address the needs of the most vulnerable children.

**Service Delivery**

UNICEF Belize partnered with UNDP to assess the capacities of the nine municipalities in the country for resource management and service delivery. UNICEF introduced the concept of Child Friendly Municipalities (CFM), a framework for improving local governance capacities for advancing children’s rights. The CFM concept guides municipalities in planning and budgeting for children, identifying and removing bottlenecks in the realization of children’s rights. The progress has been remarkable. All nine municipalities signed declarations committing them to building child-friendly municipalities. All municipalities produced child-sensitive municipal development plans. The adoption of the concept will guide the work of all municipalities in the areas of education, health and social services by working toward achieving measurable progress against predetermined benchmarks and indicators. UNICEF continued to fulfil its role in building the capacities of civil society to realize children’s rights in the country, and to provide social services complementary to the ones provided by the country, if and where necessary. As a result, UNICEF supported non-governmental organizations in their efforts to provide essential services and information in the areas of child protection. UNICEF supported the Child Development Foundation (CDF) to provide information and sensitize all students in 15 primary and 5 secondary schools in Southside Belize City on child sexual abuse, the forms it could take and the laws and services available to protect children from abuse. Under this initiative, parents were also sensitized, and children and parents that were identified and referred by the schools as victims were provided psychosocial support. A similar initiative was supported by UNICEF in Dangriga, Stann Creek District, where the local NGO POWA performed outreach, support and education services to all primary and secondary school children regarding sexual violence and abuse, along with training for teachers and parents. UNICEF Belize also supported RESTORE Belize, a government programme that provides support to the vulnerable children at-risk or victims of violence, including armed violence and abuse. The Metamorphosis project involving in-depth psychosocial intervention involving counsellors, parents, police officers, social workers and the community, helped more than 35 affected children to overcome deep traumas caused by violence.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

UNICEF Belize continued to focus on the most vulnerable as per the Country Programme Document (CPD) and the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) 2013-2016. The CPD was formulated and guided by the 2012 Global Evaluation Recommendations. With that in mind, UNICEF Belize continued to implement and support country level activities aimed at addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children. The Work Plans signed with all national partners
contain specific objectives and measurable indicators to track progress towards the improvement of the situation of the most vulnerable families and children. The primary focus of the County Programme continued to be the South of the Country (the districts of Toledo and Stann Creek), and Southside Belize City. Surveys and research show that children in those areas appear to be affected more seriously by poverty and lack of access to services, preventing them from realizing their rights. UNICEF Belize supported the Municipalities in the Southern Districts to create municipal improvement plans, create child-friendly spaces and improve the safety and accessibility of their schools. As a result, more than 9,000 children benefited from improved education and out-of-school opportunities in the towns of Dangriga and Punta Gorda. Those municipalities are also part of the UNICEF-initiated Child Friendly Municipalities initiative, which aims to further enhance their capacities to address children’s rights at the local level. The Social Policy programme established a partnership with MHDSTPA to conduct an evaluation of the CCT programme, to determine whether it reaches the poorest and most vulnerable children. The evaluation will be finalized in 2015. The Education ECD programme built on the support provided to the most vulnerable schools in improving their WASH facilities in 2013. Plans were drafted and funds leveraged from external donors to support the (re)construction of WASH facilities in 16 new schools affecting 6,000 children in the poorest areas of Belize in 2015.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

In 2014, UNICEF Belize undertook two gender-focused programme initiatives. UNICEF, UNDP, BMA and MLLGRDNEMIN initiated a joint partnership with a view to transform the country’s cities into “Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities” (SCFM). This joint collaboration was based on Belize’s unequal MDG progress with gender-based and other disparities, and the critical role that municipalities play in creating an enabling environment to give boys and girls a voice, space and a mechanism through which they can participate in public policy developments that impact their lives. Two baseline assessments were conducted. The first “Municipal Profiles”, provided a snapshot of the situation of men, women, boys and girls with regard to some fundamental outcomes related to basic rights such as health, education, and political empowerment by municipality. The second, “A Rapid Assessment of Local Governments’ Capacities in Belize”, was an analysis of five pre-selected institutional capacity sub-dimensions, and produced results in terms of how male and female respondents rated their respective local governments’ institutional capacities. As a result of the assessments, an agreement was signed by all mayors to work toward making their municipalities’ child friendly, and was endorsed by MLLGRDNEMIN to institutionalize a mechanism to monitor municipal achievements. This ongoing initiative will impact more than 130,000 males and females including more than 60,000 children ages 0-18 years, or 42 per cent of the population. The budget for this initiative was US$ 170,000 for 2014-2016.

The In-depth Annual Review in 2014 presented an opportunity to incorporate a gender analytical lens, highlighting the extent to which gender was mainstreamed in the programme. As a part of this process, the Regional Office (RO) supported capacity building sessions for both UNICEF staff and more than 20 national implementing partners on gender focused planning, programming and mainstreaming. As a result, UNICEF Belize identified and addressed critical gender information gaps and bottlenecks; staff and partners gained understanding of the situation of girls, boys and women in programming; and the CPAP results matrix was realigned with the Mid Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) and Gender Action Plan (GAP). The budget for this initiative was US$20,000.
Environmental Sustainability

Given the country's vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather conditions, such as floods and hurricanes, UNICEF Belize continued to invest a portion of its limited resources in activities linked to raising awareness among children and youth about the environment and the need to protect it. For the first half of the year, and for the third consecutive year, UNICEF partnered with the Toledo Institute for Development (TIDE), to engage in activities that led to increased education and awareness about environmental issues, while simultaneously placing a strong focus on child protection. Through outreach and education activities, TIDE works in 14 communities in the southern district of Toledo, the poorest district in the country, reaching more than 1,000 children. Resources from UNICEF and TIDE supported the Fresh Water Cup Competition, a sports for development initiative which provided an opportunity for boys and girls to participate in learning and showcasing sports skills while enhancing their self-awareness and learning about the environment. Twenty teams with more than 360 boys and girls participated in the activity. As a prerequisite for participating in the competition, the teams prepared and presented a project on the need to protect the environment and on ways to respond to climate change. The benefits of this partnership extend beyond the environmental ones, as the activities provide alternatives for children and adolescents who would otherwise remain vulnerable to crime and violence, early pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. TIDE worked closely with the schools to promote healthy habits in schools, such as regular and proper hand-washing practices, as well as to promote gender equality and remove social barriers to participation of girls in sports. UNICEF Belize is currently looking for opportunities to leverage additional resources to expand this initiative in line with the global sports for development concept, and to strengthen linkages between its child protection, education and environmental components.

Effective Leadership

In 2014, the Country Management Team (CMT) was faced with a number of challenges that required effective decision-making and concrete actions. Under the guidance and leadership of the CMT, UNICEF Belize successfully completed four recruitment processes for posts either established or modified by the 2014 programme and budget review.

In the second half of 2014, UNICEF Belize was subject to a remote audit, which resulted in high marks for efficiency and transparency, as well as nine medium and low-risk recommendations. Actions were taken immediately which resulted in the closure of six of the recommendations. Notable progress was made on the other three, which UNICEF Belize expects to close in early 2015. One of the recommendations from the Audit was linked to the issue of HACT compliance. UNICEF Belize successfully advocated with the other United Nations Development Group member agencies to invest resources in activities aimed at ensuring that all agencies are HACT compliant by early 2015.

The CMT revised the membership and functioning of the in-house committees. The Programme Cooperation Agreements Review Committee (PCARC) was strengthened in line with the audit recommendations, providing stricter oversight to the contracting processes. UNICEF Belize also strengthened the oversight of trip reporting and field monitoring results in timely follow-up actions and results.

UNICEF Belize invested a considerable amount of time in carefully revising Annual Management Plan (AMP) indicators, and the CMT agenda regularly included review of the AMP. UNICEF Belize also updated its Enterprise Risk Management and Business Continuity Plans (BCP), and ensured that they are in line with the office capacity and resources. The office also identified risks and program/operational responses to a potential emergency situation in the
Early Warning Early Action on-line system, and assigned roles and responsibilities to staff members, complying with the commitments made for children in humanitarian situations.

The BCP was updated taking into consideration the remote access facilities provided by the "LIGHT/server-less" project, being implemented by UNICEF Belize since December 2013.

**Financial Resources Management**

UNICEF Belize significantly strengthened the financial oversight and the frequency of budget and expenditure reviews. Within the Programme Group Meetings, funding and cash transfers were regularly reviewed and potential issues identified, as well as the mitigating actions and persons responsible for them. The decisions were fed into the Country Management Team Meeting where the decisions were endorsed and further oversight and guidance was provided. The office maintains a rolling 'Funding Forecast' anticipating cash requirements based expected monthly disbursements, in compliance with the financial rules and procedures.

Periodic on site reviews were performed to assess the accuracy of the financial records for Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) to the Implementing Partner (IP) and the status of the programme implementation as per the activities outlined in the work plan. Spot check findings were discussed with the financial officers and corrective actions to be taken were planned, with strict deadlines. UNICEF Belize worked very closely with the IPs in order for them to meet UNICEF reporting guidelines. A refresher course on HACT guidelines was conducted with the Financial Officers (FO) and incoming FOs. DCTs over 3-6 months were closely monitored, and monthly reminders were sent for submission of Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures reporting expenditures. Cash monitoring sheets were insisted on to better track expenditures under each activity implemented, and constant reminders were sent to the programme officers to monitor closely the spot check findings and to follow up with the IP technical officers to ensure that work plans were adjusted as necessary.

UNICEF Belize, under the guidance of the Resident Coordinator Office, heads a working group on HACT that has initiated the process to complete macro-assessment in the country and micro-assessments of all the IPs. The process is to be completed in the first quarter of 2015.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF Belize submitted all donor reports in a timely manner, while simultaneously meeting the organizational quality benchmarks. This was done through an effective internal mechanism of planning and early notifications that are issued through regular monitoring by the CMT and during Programme Meetings. All donor reports were reviewed initially internally before sharing with Public Partnerships Division for additional review and quality control. UNICEF Belize was allocated a total of US$1,042,133 of Regular Resources (RR) for programme activities, of which US$948,359 were fully used, indicating a funds implementation rate of 91 per cent. With regard to the Other Resources, a total of US$628,394 was allocated, of which US$532,603 was fully implemented, representing an implementation rate of 84.7 per cent. The overall implementation rate for the total amount allocated in the current Country Programme (2013-2016) is 77 per cent, or US$2,896,042. In 2014, UNICEF Belize invested US$634,480 under Outcome 1: Quality Child Services with Equity, and an additional US$349,543 in the Outcome 2 “Child Rights Monitoring” (which included activities in the area of social inclusion and policy dialogue, as well as advocacy activities). These funds were allocated strictly toward programmatic activities and do not include operational costs. UNICEF Belize successfully leveraged additional resources to the allocated Regular Resources, specifically toward addressing HIV/AIDS issues in the country (US$50,000 - Global thematic funds), Birth Registration (US$31,000 – other
resources), Education, including ECD and WASH in schools (US$500,000 thematic and donor funds).

**Evaluation**

In-Depth Review

2014 marked the mid-point of the Country Programme of Cooperation. UNICEF Belize conducted an In-Depth Review (IDR) of the programme in order to assess progress toward the agreed upon targets and outcomes, and to make strategic programmatic adjustments. The IDR was grounded in the human rights based normative framework and had a strong focus on gender and equity. The IDR was participatory, ensuring the views of children, national, UN agencies and international partners were taken into account.

For the purpose of the IDR, UNICEF Belize conducted bottleneck analyses per programme section, consulted children regarding their views about issues affecting the realization of their rights, hosted validation workshops with all national partners to assess and validate progress and programme results, and conducted a gender review of the country programme to ensure gender issues are mainstreamed in all interventions, and requested inputs on UNICEF’s Efficiency and Effectiveness agenda.

**Evaluations**

UNICEF Belize conducted a Rapid Assessment of Local Governments’ Capacities to serve as baseline data for the rolling out of the Sustainable Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative. In addition, two evaluation/mapping exercises are underway with a view to disseminate the results by April, 2015. Those are a “Process Evaluation of the School Community Liaison and Security Programme” to support the country’s efforts towards increasing primary education enrolment and completion rates’ and a mapping and analysis of ECD services to provide information and recommendations for designing an integrated ECD model for testing and adoption by the government.

UNICEF Belize also supported an evaluation of the National Plan of Action for Children 2006-2015, and has agreed with the Government to conduct an evaluation of the Social Protection System to ensure it is effective in addressing the issues of the poor and deprived families and children.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

Cost savings continued to be realised in 2014 in the areas of communications, travel, ICT and supply. UNICEF Belize utilized the Microsoft Office 365/Lync tool, our installed teleconference and video conference links and VOIP lines. With all these measures in place, the average monthly savings for telephone is US$500.

Use of those communications tools also contributed to reduced travel costs. When travel was required, staff were encouraged to consolidate field visits so as to reduce the cost of transportation and other logistical costs International travel was planned well in advance to curtail higher airfare procurement costs.

In promoting the procuring of goods and services as ONE UN, the UN OMT identified local suppliers and established LTAs for procuring flight tickets, toners, inks and paper. Annual cost savings amounted to US$1,000.
Staff members were encouraged to take an active role in reducing costs by turning off lights when not needed, and to be conscious of use of office supplies, telephone costs and promoting a green environment by printing/copying less.

**Supply Management**

UNICEF Belize’s supplies plan continued to be minimal for consumables, services, emergency and construction. The supply plan was approved at the beginning of the year and emergency supplies stock was monitored regularly.

Belize is highly vulnerable to natural disasters due to its geographical location. As a result of this threat, UNICEF Belize stored a minimal amount of basic emergency supplies (oral rehydration solution, water collapsible, ECD kits, school in-a-box, hygiene kits and recreation kits). These were stored in two controlled warehouses in different parts of the country. Following an internal assessment of the in-house emergency response capacities, and in order to ensure that these supplies are most effectively used in case of national emergencies, UNICEF Belize decided to donate the containers and their contents to the Belize National Emergency Management Organization, which is uniquely situated to provide an effective emergency response, and to ensure supplies reach affected communities.

UNICEF Belize is currently in the process of identifying potential suppliers of emergency stocks that can be made available to the country within 24 hours of an emergency. This would represent the country’s immediate response in support of efforts to deal with the consequences of a natural or man-made disaster. The challenge in the early stages of the market research is the small market and relatively high prices of some essential commodities due to import taxes, shipping or freight cost. UNICEF Belize has considered seeking out-of-country suppliers, provided that goods and emergency supplies can be delivered in a timely manner and distributed to the affected communities.

UNICEF Belize ensured that all implementing partners were trained in UNICEF’s procurement guidelines and regulations, and UNICEF staff participated in or reviewed the procurement processes for goods and services of the implementing partners.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

To address rising safety and security concerns in Belize, the UN Senior Management Team and United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) Guatemala/Belize established the post of UNDSS Local Security Associate (LSA) with main responsibilities of implementing, mitigating and addressing issues related to Safety and Security for UN personnel in Belize. The LSA was successfully recruited and assumed duties in June 2014. Safety and security and mitigation measures were regularly monitored by the Representative (DO), UNDSS LSA and Agency Security Focal Point along with support from the UNSMT and UNDSS Guatemala/Belize. The necessary safety equipment was installed, maintained and tested regularly. All staff members attended a quarterly ‘Safety and Security’ briefing facilitated by the LSA and were updated regularly with regard to potential treats with bulletins, alerts, notices and crime statistics. Guidance was shared on ways to mitigate and report potential threats or negative experiences in their respective environment that might threaten their safety or the programme delivery.

UNICEF Belize worked mainly on the Southside of Belize City, and in the west and south of the
country. Security is now part of programme and operations planning through the Programme Group Meetings (PGM) and CMT. For travel beyond duty station to areas considered high risk, once security clearance was given, the LSA would share a ‘snapshot’ that contained the contacts for local law enforcement (Police), Health Centre and other relevant information as it related to the area/proposed travel routes such as problematic radio reception, road hazards, etc. This system was an effective mechanism that provided staff members, visiting representatives and partners with clear guidance on the actions to take in the event of a security and/or safety threat.

In 2014 Belize saw a rise in crime and violence. UN agencies in Belize will see the implementation of a National Security Clearance System in 2015 where it will be mandatory for UNICEF staff to obtain clearance to operate / visit certain areas of Belize.

The following security operational tools were updated in 2014: Minimum Operating Security Standards, Minimum Operating Residential Security Standards and United Nations Belize Security Plan. UNICEF obtained an 83.6 per cent on MOSS compliance. Areas requiring improvement included adding handheld radios for communication and including some emergencies supplies. UNICEF Belize scheduled a twice yearly exercise to update the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) tool on UNICEF’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems and the Business Continuity Plan. Both tools have been updated.

The UNICEF Belize office premises passed the UNDSS building inspection early in 2014 and the evacuation plan was successfully tested in July 2014.

**Human Resources**

With the arrival of the new management, the office conducted an in-house programme review, taking a critical look at the CPD and CPAP and the existing human resource structure to respond to programmatic areas. The Adolescent HIV/AIDS programme focused primarily on child justice and violence, which are typically under the umbrella of child protection. When the Adolescent HIV/AIDS Officer resigned, the post was abolished and a new Child Protection Officer post at NO-B level was created.

The in-house review exercise also identified the need to further strengthen the human resource base to meet operations and programme requirements. A GS4 Administrative Assistant was created to address issues such as ‘segregation of duties’ that were identified by the auditors as an area where office functionalities required strengthening. This post would also ensure that a critical back-up and support system was in place to ensure business continuity at all times, and ensure effective and timely programme implementation.

The creation of both posts was approved by the Regional PBR effective 1 August 2014. The positions have been filled and both candidates will take on their duties in January 2015. The office will then have a total of 14 staff members, which is sufficient to implement the current Country Programme effectively.

The e-performance appraisal system (PAS)/PAS system is being utilized effectively, using SMART outputs and results. There was an improvement in the ‘timely completion rate’ from 82 per cent in 2013 to 100 per cent for 2014 mid-year.

UNICEF Belize had 90 per cent participation in the 2014 Global Staff Survey. The peer-to-peer support system remained a vital tool in ‘staff well-being’. The office currently has only one
trained PSV and intends to train another staff member in 2015. The Local Staff Association and Joint Consultative Committee continued to be invaluable resources in addressing staff concerns.

In May 2014, the Regional Chief of Human Resources (RCHR) visited UNICEF Belize. Through bilateral meetings, staff members were able to share their concerns (working environment, personal/professional goals, their contributions to UNICEF, etc.) and receive feedback. An all staff ethics/work life balance training was conducted by the RCHR with support of local staff association and human resources’ representatives. All staff participated in the UN Cares Learning Workshop facilitated by the RCO/UNDP in August 2014. It served as a refresher on policies, information on access to care, condoms and PEP kits.

UNICEF Belize scheduled a twice yearly exercise to update the EWEA tool on UNICEF’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems and the BCP. Both tools have been updated.

The approved funding for posts (RR 44 per cent, OR 5 per cent and IB 70 per cent) were based on submissions from UNICEF Belize to 2014 Regional PBR.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

A concerted effort between ICT personnel from Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) and New York Headquarters made the LIGHT project a reality in mid-December 2013. After one year of being “LIGHT”, the UNICEF Belize experience continued to be positive. In the area of advanced technology, UNICEF Belize faced some financial and technical challenges due to internet speed limitations and connectivity issues, but these were dealt with without affecting programme implementation.

“LIGHT” is ideal for the UNICEF Belize situation because of its small field presence, comprising only 14 staff members. It facilitates the rapid deployment and/or redeployment of staff in any situation, including emergencies. It is also ideal for One UN scenarios as it simplifies sharing arrangements because an internet connection is all that staff need. UNICEF Belize is now a server-less field office, lightweight and agile from an IT infrastructure point of view; with a very low IT footprint -- hence the term “LIGHT Office”.

UNICEF Belize re-launched its Facebook page in 2014 by actively communicating and reporting “from the field” using professional photography, videos, and by sharing impressions and children’s voices from activities and meetings. This significantly inspired discussions and engagement and resulted in a 192 per cent increase in followers. Partners such as the European Union and the British High Commission, donors, and local partners also engaged in sharing, liking and commenting on Facebook. The UNICEF Belize YouTube page was revived and videos from local media interviews, as well as UNICEF- produced videos, were uploaded and disseminated by UNICEF and partners.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** The Country Office (CO) has increased the efficiency level in its use of all resources for 2014 - human, institutional and financial - by providing a greater level of
transparency in the use of regular resources and other grants and ensuring a clear selection process and up-to-date information for advocacy and C4D.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Cost saving continued to be realised in 2014 with the measures enacted in 2012 and 2013 for the areas of communications, travel, ICT and supply. In communications, UNICEF Belize utilized the Microsoft Office 365/Lync tool, teleconference and video conference links and VOIP lines. The average monthly savings for telephone is US$500. Travel costs were also reduced by using those communications tools. When travel is required, colleagues are encouraged to consolidate field visits so as to reduce the cost of transportation and other logistical costs. International travel was planned well in advance to curtail higher airfare procurement cost.

Staff members were encouraged to take an active role in reducing costs by turning off lights when not needed, and to be conscious of the use of office supplies, telephone costs and promoting a green environment by printing and copying less.

**OUTPUT 1** CO has a functioning mechanism for operation and programme support.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Belize continued its successful participation in the Panama Shared Services Centre (SSC), which it joined in January 2013. The Operations Assistant remained the SSC Focal Point. Participation in the SSC helped mitigate some the inherent ‘role conflicts’ that result due to the small size of the staff in the use of VISION. It also contributed to efficiency gains in the area of Human Resource management (recruitment and staffing), operations management (funds management, ICT support) and programme management (DCT management, planning and implementation support).

UNICEF Belize reviewed its BCP, and updated assigned roles and responsibilities. The Programme Group Meetings (PGM) and in-house committees met with greater frequency and revised the monitoring and reporting mechanisms to strengthen control and oversight of programme implementation. The PGM and the Country Management Team (CMT) meetings were used to review and update the Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM), the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) activities and plans, and the Annual Management Plan and indicators. UNICEF Belize had the highest EWEA completion score in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Updated, realistic targets and performance measurements were reviewed at the CMT meetings. The Contract Review Committee, Property Survey Board and Central Review Board, which moved to the SSC with representation from the SSC country offices, continued to meet as needed. The Learning Committee established and met the learning priorities based on the input from staff. The Local Staff Association worked with management to represent staff interests and share critical information for staff development and protection. The Joint Consultative Committee served as a forum for the Staff Association and Management to raise and address key issues related to staff well-being.

In 2014 UNICEF Belize benefited from an in-country UNDSS Local Security Associate (LSA) whose responsibility was to ensure the resident agencies’ staff safety and security in Belize. This also helped assess the risks associated with natural disasters, emergency and security that the UN faces in Belize. UNICEF staff members received Personal Security Awareness Training and the LSA also carried out premises and residential inspections.
UNICEF Belize was subject to a remote Audit in the second half of 2014. As a result, nine medium to low-risk recommendations were issued. Immediate actions were undertaken and within three months UNICEF Belize was able to close 6 of the 9 recommendations, with the remaining three scheduled for closure in early 2015.

OUTPUT 2 Financial stewardship

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Belize significantly strengthened financial oversight and increased the frequency of budget and expenditure reviews. Within the Programme Group Meetings, funding and cash transfers were regularly reviewed and potential issues were identified, as well as the mitigating actions and persons responsible. Decisions were fed into the Country Management Team Meeting (CMT) where they were endorsed and further oversight and guidance provided. UNICEF Belize maintained a rolling 'Funding Forecast' anticipating cash requirements based on expected monthly disbursements, in compliance with the financial rules and procedures.

Periodic on-site reviews were performed to assess the accuracy of the financial records for Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) to the Implementing Partner (IP) and the status of the programme implementation per the activities outlined in the work plan. Spot check findings were discussed with the financial officers and corrective actions were planned, with strict deadlines. UNICEF Belize worked very closely with the IPs in order for them to meet UNICEF reporting guidelines. A refresher course on HACT guidelines was conducted with the Financial Officers (FO) and incoming FOs. DCTs over 3-6 months were closely monitored, monthly reminders were sent for submission of FACE reporting expenditures, and cash monitoring sheets were required to better track expenditures under each activity implemented. Constant reminders were sent to the programme officers to closely monitor the spot check findings and to follow up with the IP technical officers and to ensure that work plans were adjusted as necessary.

Under the guidance of the Resident Coordinator Office, UNICEF Belize headed a working group on HACT that initiated the process to complete macro-assessment in the country and micro-assessments of all the IPs. The process is to be completed in the first quarter of 2015.

OUTPUT 3 Human Capacity

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With the arrival of new management, UNICEF Belize conducted an in-house programme review and took a critical look at the CPD and CPAP and the existing human resource structure. It became evident that under the outcome 1 “Quality of Social Services with Equity”, the Adolescent HIV/AIDS programme focused primarily on child justice and violence, areas typically under the umbrella of child protection. This coincided with the post of Adolescent HIV/AIDS Officer becoming vacant due to resignation of the incumbent. As a result, the existing post was abolished and a new Child Protection Officer post at NO-B level was created.

The review exercise also identified the need to further strengthen the human resource base to meet operations and programme requirements. As a result, a GS4 Administrative Assistant post was created. This addressed issues such as ‘segregation of duties’, which has been identified by the auditors as an area where office functionalities required strengthening. This post also
ensured that a critical back-up and support system was in place to ensure business continuity at all times.

The creation of both posts was approved by the Regional PBR effective 1 August 2014. Both posts were filled the candidates will take on their duties in January 2015. The office will have a total of 14 staff members, which is sufficient to implement the current Country Programme effectively.

The e-PAS/PAS system is being utilized effectively, using SMART outputs and results. There was an improvement in the ‘timely completion rate’ from 82 per cent in 2013 to 100 per cent for 2014 mid-year.

UNICEF Belize had 90 per cent participation in the 2014 Global Staff Survey. The peer-to-peer support system remained a vital tool in ‘staff well-being’. UNICEF Belize currently has only one trained PSV, and intends to train another staff member in 2015. The LSA and JCC continued to be invaluable resources in addressing staff concerns.

In May 2014, the RCHR visited UNICEF Belize. Through bilateral meetings, staff shared their concerns (regarding working environment, personal/professional goals, their contributions to UNICEF, etc.) and received feedback. An all staff ethics/work life balance training was conducted by the RCHR with support from local SA and HR representatives. The importance of ethical behaviour, its relevance and applicability in working and everyday environments, and ways to improve work/life balance were discussed at these sessions.

All staff participated in the UN Cares Learning Workshop facilitated by the RCO/UNDP in August 2014, which served as a refresher on policies, information on access to care, condoms and PEP kits in the respective agencies.

UNICEF Belize scheduled a twice yearly exercise to update the EWEA tool on UNICEF’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems and the BCP. Both tools have been updated.

The approved funding for posts (RR 44 per cent, OR 5 per cent and IB 70 per cent) are based on submissions from UNICEF Belize to 2014 Regional PBR.

OUTPUT 4 Advocacy and Communication

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Belize headed the development of a two year communication and C4D strategy for the National Task Force to End Violence against Children. The strategy includes an extensive communication and advocacy campaign, community outreach, and youth participation activities. UNICEF Belize conducted nationwide in-depth focus group consultations and psychodrama workshops with children and youth, discussing their experiences of violence in a safe and engaging environment.

As a result of successful advocacy, rolling work plans were signed with the Ministry of Human Development, Poverty Alleviation and Social Transformation to strengthen the social protection system for children, and with the Ministry of Finance to enhance the country's public finance management and resource allocation for the most vulnerable children. This is the first formal relationship between UNICEF and these national counterparts.
Also as a result of intensive advocacy efforts, the country's mayors made a commitment to work towards making all municipalities child friendly, in line with the global Child Friendly Cities initiative. The Sustainable Child Friendly Municipalities initiative has specific measurable indicators that municipalities need to implement to become certified child friendly.

Successful advocacy and communication led to the commitment by the highest level of government to submit the country report to the CRC. UNICEF will be support the national authorities in producing the report in 2015.

UNICEF positioned itself as an outspoken actor on children’s issues through increasing appearances in the media by the Representative, Programme Officers and national partners, jointly fostering discussion on children’s rights, violence against children and ECD. Communication and advocacy strategies increasingly contributed to the programmatic efforts and improved the visibility of UNICEF and its activities.

The relationship with media houses was strengthened through proactive communication and outreach, which resulted in increased media interest and coverage of UNICEF’s activities and events, including, for the first time in Belize, live TV and radio streaming of a Government/UNICEF event. The media provided generous airtime on topics such as the Sustainable Child Friendly Municipalities, Violence Against Children and World Breastfeeding Week.

UNICEF Belize increased its international visibility through strengthened relationships and dialogue with several National Committees and bilateral donors. Stories about Belizean children were published as part of the fundraising initiatives of the UK National Committee and the US Fund for UNICEF, and one was featured in the international newspaper The Guardian. The European Union chose UNICEF Belize to showcase the successful joint development cooperation in the area of child protection, and the British High Commission and the EU widely disseminated a UNICEF Belize-produced child-friendly animated video summarizing the progress the country has made in realizing the rights of children over the past 25 years.

UNICEF Belize adjusted its communication approach in accordance with the new Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy by creating a space for children to express their views and opinions. Children and youth from across the country were interviewed and their concerns and aspirations were shared with policy makers and disseminated online.

**OUTCOME 2** By the end of 2016, most excluded boys and girls in Toledo, Stann Creek, and Belize South Side are reached by policies and programmes with a gender perspective that increases protection, early childhood development, culturally-appropriate and child- friendly education and learning opportunities, across the lifecycle 0-18 including during periods of emergency.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

Achievements in 2014 included major reform to the quality assurance component of Quality Child Friendly Schools (QCFs) for development and expansion. The capacity of 273 teachers and school administrators was built in Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (PBIS), impacting 5,000 students. The Secondary School Finance Reform Initiative provided assistance for secondary examination fees to 1,382 Form 4 students. The ECD policy was reviewed, with...
the intention to design a new integrated ECD model to increase access to quality ECD services. A Promise Renewed Action Plan 2014-2016, developed in coordination with PAHO and the MOH, contributed to the reduction of under-five mortality rates from 155 in 2013 to 99 in 2014. A Juvenile Justice Policy was drafted and adopted by the Government. The Supreme Court began construction of child-friendly family courts in two districts, which will become operational in 2015, significantly strengthening the child protection aspects of the juvenile justice system.

As a result of the In-Depth Review conducted with all national government and non-government partners, UNICEF Belize revised some outputs and corresponding indicators. These will be reflected and amended accordingly, upon receiving a written endorsement from the Government of Belize.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2016, social services promoting social well-being of children by addressing identified deprivations and by improving supply, quality demand and enabling environment in Stann Creek, Belize and Toledo Districts

**Strengthening Quality Child Friendly Schools (QCFS) Framework**

In 2014, the six District Education Centres (DEC) in Belize were restructured, after the passage of the Education (Amendment) Rules, 2010 (EAR) which provided a legal basis for both the internal quality assurance practices advocated for in the QCFS framework and a complementary system of external quality assurance. The DEC is the operational unit with responsibility for managing and implementing educational development in the district and is tasked with planning and conducting regular school supervision to guide and monitor school improvement and development guided by agreed standards in the QCFS framework, for school quality and student achievement. The most important aspect of the restructuring was a delineation of roles within the DECs. The new structure reduced the administrative duties of some officers and increased their role in school supervision and support activities. Plans were put in place to increase the number and elevate the status of DEC officers who monitor and support schools. Training began to equip DEC officers with the necessary knowledge and skills to support schools in the other six key areas of the QCFS.

The changes in the DEC organizational structure and roles were accompanied by a new model for school supervision called “School Supervision for Improvement”, which includes revised guidelines, instruments, and reporting templates, and incorporates the principles and key areas of the QCFS framework, as well as other criteria related to education regulations and the policy objectives of the Ministry. After much consultation with Ministry and institutional stakeholders, the model is being piloted and revised for implementation in the 2015-16 academic year.

**Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (PBIS)**

In 2014, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports (MoEYS) and the Belize National Teachers Union to train 273 teachers and school administrators in Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (PBIS), impacting 5,000 students. This new programme is a direct result of the MoEYS’ response to alternative discipline in QCFS since the abolishment of corporal punishment in primary schools nationwide. The overall objective of Positive Behaviour Intervention and Support (PBIS) is to equip teachers and support schools in using a positive proactive approach to deal with student behaviour. In 2014, teachers and principals engaged in capacity building of two modules in PBIS which teach resilience by ensuring competence in creating a positive and supportive learning environment and dealing with challenging behaviour, especially in those situations where students are currently made vulnerable when there is not a
clear understanding that punishment is different from discipline. Ongoing coaching and monitoring will continue in 2015, with further expansion into more schools.

**Secondary School Finance Reform Initiative**

With UNICEF support, MoEYS embarked on a Secondary School Finance Reform Initiative to more equitably distribute public funds to finance secondary education. The reform also seeks to increase access for students who previously were disenfranchised because of high fees and little support initiatives at school. Under this initiative, financing is now based on a per student basis.

The MoEYS assisted 1,382 Form 4 students with financing for Caribbean Education Council (CXC) examination fees. There was an increase of 17.4 per cent student participation rate in sitting these regional exams over the last year. There was also a significant increase in the number of subject entries, indicating that students took advantage of the opportunity to sit more CXC exams. Students were assisted with sitting from one to six exams. If students sat more than six subjects, they were responsible for paying for them. The Secondary School Reform Initiative will continue in 2015; all households will be surveyed. A more comprehensive report will be available at the end of 2015.

**Inclusive Education in QCFS**

UNICEF’s support to NGOs such as the Belize Council for the Visually Impaired (BCVI) and the Congress of Maya Teachers continued to impact the quality of education for the most disadvantaged population. The work with BCVI focused on improving inclusive education for children who are blind. BCVI supported children in primary and high schools with direct interventions. UNICEF’s funds were used to support the continuous training of Rehabilitative Field Officers to introduce the Curriculum Plus Skills and to provide support to the students and their teachers in schools across the country. Each student received an updated Curriculum and Individualized Education Plan to prepare for the following school year.

Indigenous Mayan boys and girls were included in the Inter-cultural Bilingual Education (IBE) project in Toledo and Stann Creek. IBE has been integrated as a component of Quality Child Friendly Schools (QCFS). The work in 2014 continued directly in five IBE schools. Activities such as the Spelling Maya competition impacted more than 600 indigenous children from all the Mayan schools/communities in rural Toledo. (Spelling Maya is a spelling bee in the Mayan language.) This competition serves as an awareness activity to highlight the importance of IBE and to advocate for more schools to develop School Improvement Plans in IBE. The IBE project also expanded into a Parental Involvement Intervention Programme (PIIP), where UNICEF continued to mobilize parents, school principals, teachers and key village leaders in local PTAs. This project has greatly increased and strengthened community and parental involvement in the indigenous communities. Further developmental work will continue on this initiative in 2015.

**Investment in Early Childhood Development**

The Ministries of Health, Human Development, and Education were UNICEF’s key counterparts in establishing an inter-sectoral mechanism for planning and implementing the ECD policy. The Chief Executive Officers from those ministries managed a consultancy that will be completed in early 2015, which seeks to recommend models for increased access to ECD services. The consultancy will identify, organize and analyse relevant information pertaining to ECD services, national capacity (service structures and staff, support components, etc.) and existing gaps between present results for young children and families and what is proposed nationally: NPA targets, sector strategy plans and objectives; and regional commitments.
OUTPUT 2 By 2016 required and existing legislation are being enacted and applied to protect girls and boys in Southside Belize City, Stann Creek and Toledo from violence and abuse, including sexual abuse; Justice officials, social workers and police officers are trained on procedures and services for children in contact with the law, and children and families in Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo are accessing targeted birth registration services

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Belize led the development of a two year communication and C4D strategy for the National Task Force to End Violence against Children that includes an extensive communication and advocacy campaign, community outreach, and youth participation activities. UNICEF Belize conducted nationwide in-depth focus group consultations and psychodrama workshops with children and youth, discussing their experiences of violence in a safe and engaging environment.

Awareness raising and community level interventions continued, with the implementation of activities in some of the poorest areas of Belize, such as Dangriga and Southside Belize City, where NGO partners reached more than 2,500 children, and nearly an equal number of parents and teachers, to educate and provide support in the area of violence, including child sexual violence and abuse. Social workers, counsellors and community workers provided training, communication materials and direct support to children in those communities to be able to recognize, report and deal with issues of violence and abuse.

The child protection programme also focused heavily on strengthening the country’s child justice system. Through the partnership with the National Committee for Families and Children, the national Juvenile Justice Policy was drafted and adopted by the government. Training and capacity building was provided for 100 per cent of judges, magistrates and prosecutors, as well as school managers and social workers, on child justice related issues, with a strong focus on child protection issues in dealing with children in contact with the law.

UNICEF Belize also facilitated a south-south exchange with Guatemala, supporting a high-level visit from Belizean officials to Guatemala to learn about administering child justice in child-friendly courts settings. As a result, UNICEF signed a work plan with the Supreme Court of Belize to support the construction and equipping of two such family courts. The work on the courts is in full swing and they are expected to become operational in March and June 2015.

OUTPUT 3 By end of 2016, adolescents in the Stann Creek district have increased knowledge on the prevention of HIV and early pregnancy; adolescents in the Stann Creek District are accessing services to prevent HIV and early pregnancy; and babies born to HIV positive mothers are testing negative for HIV.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2014, title of the “Adolescents and HIV/Aids Officer” was changed to “Child Protection Officer”, reflecting the priorities as set out in the CPD and CPAP. This change helped ensure that the Child Protection programme focused its limited resources and led the way in areas where it could have the greatest impact (violence against children and child justice), while also committing to providing technical and financial support to key national counterparts in the area of HIV. The change in the post title coincided with the departure of the incumbent officer, upon which the responsibility for programme management was temporarily assigned to the Social
Policy Specialist.

At the beginning of 2014, UNICEF Belize facilitated a South-South cooperation exchange in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, protection and service delivery between Jamaica, Brazil and Belize. Key Belizean stakeholders from the Government (Ministry of Health, Education and the National AIDS Commission) and civil society were able to learn about the excellent initiatives implemented in Brazil and Jamaica, and to replicate some of the lessons learned and adapt them to the context in Belize.

Two of UNICEF’s principal partners in the implementation of the HIV/AIDS related activities faced challenges in 2014. The Belize Family Life Association (BFLA), a long time implementing partner, was prevented from working on information and awareness raising on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention in schools as originally planned. At the request of the Council of Churches, which has the oversight of the school management in 70 per cent of schools in the country, BFLA had to curtail its programme activities and seek alternative venues for its activities. This caused significant delays and, as a result of the expiring grant, approximately US$33,000 remained unimplemented. Only about half of the originally planned 3,500 children and adolescents in the schools were reached. BFLA continued to implement activities outside the school settings, outside of UNICEF’s support.

The National AIDS Commission (NAC) faced challenges related to management staff turnover. UNICEF Belize remained in constant communication with NAC to exchange information and preserve the momentum generated by the South-South exchange. UNICEF also advocated for additional financial support and leveraged an additional US$50,000 for the HIV/AIDS area. Once new management was in place at the NAC, UNICEF Belize and NAC engaged in joint planning and signed a one year Work Plan that included awareness raising activities and capacity building of 100 per cent of stakeholders providing HIV/AIDS related services and information. The NAC has committed to work on certifying the country as achieving zero mother-to-child HIV transmission rates, and to strengthening national legislation removing existing bottlenecks that prevent children below the age of 16 from receiving HIV/AIDS services without consent from their parents, and children under 18 from receiving sexual reproductive health services (including condoms) without parental consent.

A Promise Renewed
UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health’s A Promise Renewed Action Plan 2014-2016, developed in collaboration with PAHO, which contributed to the reduction of under-five mortality rates, from 155 in 2013 to 99 in 2014. The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with local and international partners, is committed to reducing the number of preventable deaths and neonatal deaths and to reducing the under-five mortality rate in Belize.

In 2014, UNICEF supported the strengthening of prenatal and postnatal care. Trainings were conducted and the six health regions now have local capacity in ensuring continuous education sessions in neonatal resuscitation, advanced life support in obstetrics and helping babies breathe. Increased health education strategies at community level through the network of community health workers also were supported. The MoH relied on UNICEF support for C4D interventions to improve communication in pre-pregnancy and antenatal messages for early intervention. This support will continue in 2015.

The Belize A Promise Renewed Action Plan 2014-2016 was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and PAHO. The following strategies were considered: a Promise Renewed, Early Childhood Development, Integrated Child Health Services and Community
IMCI and the Every Newborn Action Plan. The outputs and outcomes included in the plan are in response to regional indicators considering the local context.

OUTPUT 4 Effective and efficient technical support to programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:

This output is associated with project costs linked to salaries of programme and support staff. At the end of 2014, 72 per cent of the budgeted project costs was utilized.

OUTCOME 3 By the end of 2016, a well-constructed monitoring and evaluation system is being used to direct CRC reporting, social budgets, national plans and legislation, examining delays and bottlenecks impeding child rights policy implementation

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Sustainable and Child Friendly Initiative was endorsed by all nine municipal mayors (100 per cent), through signed agreements committing each local government to work toward making their municipalities child friendly. This initiative will impact more than 60,000 children ages 0-18 years of age (42 per cent of all children in Belize). The Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, National Emergency Management, Immigration and Nationality (MLLGRDNEMIN) agreed to institutionalize a mechanism to monitor the achievements by municipality. A basic profile for each municipality was created, including population and MDGs relevant data. The Ministry of Finance and UNICEF signed a joint Rolling Work Plan to ensure public finance management systems are child friendly, allocations toward social budgets for children are adequate, and internal capacities for monitoring and reporting on child-focused budget allocations is in place. The Belize Government publicly committed to submitting the country report to the CRC in 2015. The Government also committed to implement the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) (the third country survey), and preparations for the MICS are underway. The Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA) and UNICEF Belize signed a two-year plan to evaluate the social protection system with a specific focus on child-related programmes and BOOST, the flagship national conditional cash transfers programme.

As a result of the Country Programme In-Depth Review conducted with all national government and non-government partners, UNICEF Belize revised some outputs and corresponding indicators. These will be reflected and amended accordingly, upon receiving a written endorsement by the Government of Belize.

OUTPUT 1 Key outcomes and impact for children and women being measured at national and subnational levels and the situation children and women is regularly and comprehensively analysed.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2014, UNICEF Belize expanded on efforts started in 2013 to ensure the availability of disaggregated data.
UNICEF Belize provided technical support to National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) for the completion of the NPA Monitoring Report. Efforts are ongoing to finalize the report for dissemination by end of second quarter in 2015.

In 2014, UNICEF Belize continued its collaboration with NCFC and Stann Creek Coordination Committee to establish a mechanism and framework for monitoring, with a view to highlight the levels of disparities. Meetings were conducted with community members of the nine targeted communities to build their capacity for participatory monitoring and evaluation. Community members identified areas of concern and agreed to a core set of indicators to be tracked;

UNICEF Belize also established a partnership with the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) to build the capacity of these community members to monitor and report on progress in their individual communities and to expand the platform for real time community monitoring.

OUTPUT 2 The national budgets for social sectors are being analysed in terms of child poverty/disparities and specified policy interventions and targets and forum for public dialogue on budget-related bottlenecks at all levels that affect children are operational.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The post of Social Policy Specialist was vacant until April 28, which resulted in a late start of the program activities in this area. With the departure of the Adolescent Development Officer, the responsibilities of running the Child Protection programme ad interim were assigned to the Social Policy Specialist, which further delayed the implementation of Social Inclusion related activities.

A two-year Rolling Work Plan (RWP) was successfully agreed upon and signed with the Ministry of Finance (MoF). This is the first time UNICEF Belize established a formal relationship with the Ministry of Finance, allowing for important work to take place in the area of public finance management for children. More specifically, the RWP enabled UNICEF Belize to facilitate the participation of representatives from the MoF in a conference in Peru on investing in children. As a result, the MoF made a commitment to conducting a child-focused public expenditure review, to work on generating a tool for monitoring and reporting on child-related social expenditure, and to conduct capacity building for all stakeholders in the relevant ministries and government agencies on planning, budgeting, monitoring and reporting expenditures for children. This crucial work began with the drafting of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for an international consultant who will provide technical support in implementing these initiatives. Results are expected in the first half of 2015, with visible impact level results at the end of 2015, and early 2016.

UNICEF supported a knowledge exchange conference in Belize in May 2014 on the merits and functioning of the national Conditional Cash Transfer programme - BOOST. The Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA), supported by UNICEF and UNDP, hosted representatives from seven English-speaking Caribbean countries to present the BOOST programme and its results for the most vulnerable families and children. This created a momentum for exporting the benefits of the BOOST programme, as well as to initiate an important internal review of BOOST’s efficiency and effectiveness. Lengthy negotiations and advocacy efforts led to the signing of a RWP with the MHDSTPA to evaluate the effectiveness of the national social protection system, and more specifically the BOOST programme, to obtain results of its impact on children. An inter-agency agreement with UNDP
was signed to support the preparation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the evaluation, a process which is currently underway. The RWP also contains provisions to develop a Wraparound Service Model (a form of an integrated social protection system model) for the most vulnerable families and children, and to pilot this model in the Southside Belize city area, with a potential for scaling it up to the national level at a later stage. The RWP also includes activities to build the capacities of all the country's social workers to enable them to gain essential skills in dealing with the most vulnerable children.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2016 quality assurance systems based on common minimum standards of service delivery applied across all educational institutions for health, education and child protection

**OUTPUT 4** At least three municipalities are measuring the performance of actions/ interventions toward improvements in quality of life and gender equality and social inequity

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014, UNICEF Belize established partnerships with the Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, NEM, Immigration and Nationality, Belize Mayors’ Association, and UNDP to advance efforts initiated in 2013 to establish child friendly municipalities.

Meetings were conducted with the Minister of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development, NEM, Immigration and Nationality to ensure buy-in at the highest level. On 26 September, with the full endorsement of the Minister, the Sustainable Child-Friendly Municipalities (SCFM) Initiative was launched through a nation-wide event held simultaneously across all of Belize's nine municipalities, with live radio and TV broadcasting, and online streaming. All mayors signed a commitment to work toward making their municipality child friendly.

A Project Steering Committee was established to provide guidance and feedback to the project manager on work plans and budget; direct the Project Manager on resource mobilization initiatives; lead the Project Manager in the planning and launch of the SCFM; provide technical, managerial approval and oversight responsibilities for all activities of the project; and convene a quarterly meeting with Partner Ministry, UN Agencies, Mayors and other organizations.

On August 26, 2014, a workshop on "Planning for the Implementation of Sustainable and Child Friendly Municipalities Initiative" was held. A total of 46 Mayors and Town Council Members and personnel were in attendance from seven municipalities. Representatives from each municipality chose MDGs/indicators and six building blocks aimed at making their municipality child friendly.

Focus group discussions were conducted with children and adolescents (9-16 years old), including a special tailored group discussion with children and adolescents with a disability. These discussions documented the perception, opinions and concerns that children and adolescents hold about issues that directly and indirectly them, and to identify the agents of change to address identified challenges or gaps.

The focus group discussions were organized in all nine municipalities of Belize: Corozal Town, Orange Walk Town, San Pedro Town, Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Ignacio/Santa Elena,
Dangriga, Punta Gorda, the City of Belmopan and Belize City. The event with the children with disabilities was organized in collaboration with Special Envoy for Women and Children's Office.

During 2014, the required baseline assessments were completed to understand the equity issues and the key barriers in terms of the institutional capacity of each municipal government to implement and sustain a child friendly municipality. The Rapid Assessment of Local Governments’ Capacities in Belize serves as a baseline to craft an integrated support to strengthen and expand local governments’ roles and functions in public policy and development. It focused on five pre-selected institutional capacity sub-dimensions: legal framework, local public policies, public services, transparency and accountability, and citizen participation. The Municipal Profiles generate a basic profile for each municipality, including population and MDGs relevant data. The data points tracked MDGs at 2000 and 2010. In the absence of related data from the Census, MICS data for the period 2006 and 2012 were used. This initiative is intended to assess Belize’s progress toward the final push to achieve the MDGs by 2015, and in particular to ascertain any geographical disparities particularly at the urban level.

UNICEF Belize established Small Scale Agreements (SSA) with the Town Councils in Dangriga and Punta Gorda, with a view to close the equity gaps. The SSA with Dangriga Town Council supported the establishment of four child friendly spaces. These spaces targeting adolescents provide afterschool support in a safe environment where children have the opportunity to receive assistance with school assignments and access to free internet service. The SSA with Punta Gorda Town Council supported the establishment of a Quality Child Friendly School and the development of a strategic plan for the implementation of SCFM.

OUTCOME 4 By 2016, development supported communication tools are enabling a co-equal knowledge-sharing process between users and source to raise consciousness and community participation in the design, implementation and measurement of results for ECD, continuous learning, WASH, and child protection activities, which are built on non-material development indices as self-determination, self-reliance, cultural autonomy, ecological balance and human rights with equity especially in times of emergency.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF repositioned itself as an outspoken actor on children’s issues through increasing appearances in the media by the Representative, Programme Officers and national partners, jointly fostering discussion on children’s rights, violence against children and ECD. Communication and advocacy increasingly contributed to programmatic efforts and improved the visibility of UNICEF Belize and its activities.

The relationship with media houses was strengthened through proactive communication and outreach, which resulted in increased media interest and coverage - at no cost - of UNICEF activities and events, including, for the first time in Belize, live TV and radio streaming of a Government/UNICEF event. The media provided generous airtime on topics such as the Sustainable Child Friendly Municipalities, Violence Against Children and World Breastfeeding Week.

UNICEF Belize increased its international visibility through strengthened relationships and dialogue with several National Committees and bilateral donors. Stories about Belizean children were published as part of the fundraising initiatives of the UK National Committee and the US
UNICEF Belize adjusted its communication approach in accordance with the new Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy by creating a space for children to express their views and opinions. Children and youth from across the country were interviewed and their concerns and aspirations were shared with policy makers and disseminated online.

UNICEF led the development of a two year communication and C4D strategy for the National Task Force to End Violence against Children that includes an extensive communication and advocacy campaign, community outreach, and youth participation activities. UNICEF Belize conducted nationwide in-depth focus group consultations and psychodrama workshops with children and youth, who discussed their experiences of violence in a safe and engaging environment.

**OUTPUT 1** By 2016, a mechanism is established for the "dialogic exchange of gender balance information, knowledge, ideas and values among individuals and worst of communities in areas of ECD, lifelong learning, WASH and child protection, including in times of emergencies

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF Belize re-launched its Facebook page in 2014 by actively communicating and reporting "from the field" using professional photography, videos, and by sharing impressions and children’s voices from activities and meetings. This significantly inspired discussions and engagement and resulted in a 192 per cent increase in followers. Partners such as the European Union and the British High Commission, donors, and local partners also engaged in sharing, liking and commenting on the Facebook page. The UNICEF Belize YouTube page was revived and videos from local media interviews and UNICEF-produced videos were uploaded and subsequently disseminated by UNICEF and partners.

Emergency preparedness and response was strengthened in all programme outcomes and outputs. UNICEF Belize updated its EW/EA electronic tool and is currently identifying potential national and international suppliers to establish Long Term Agreements for timely procurement and distribution of emergency supplies.

**Document Center**

**Other Publication**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Assessment of Belize Local Governments’ Capacities - Belize - Municipal Profile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>