Executive Summary

In 2011 the CO made the following significant achievements for the most disadvantaged children within the context of the equity agenda:
- The completion of five human-rights based data collection and research initiatives that have provided solid equity-focused disaggregated data to Belize as a foundation for accelerating the effort towards the MDGs in favour of the rights of the most disadvantaged boys and girls including (a) a ground-breaking country-wide nutrition survey; (b) a WASH survey of schools; (c) a MICS4 survey; (d) The Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Belize 2011: An Ecological Review [1]; (e) a situation analysis of children with disabilities;
- The development and near Cabinet-approval of an Early Childhood Policy and a Youth Policy both designed to provide comprehensive developmental and state-of-the-art approaches to children’s development;
- The completion of a draft fourth CRC Report; signature by the Government of Belize of the Convention on the Rights of the Children with Disabilities; complete prohibition of corporal------punishment in schools.

Among the many strategic partnerships uniting around the children’s agenda, two were particularly significant in 2011:
- The Vital Statistics Unit of the Attorney General’s Office facilitated with UNICEF and OAS support, a 10% point increase in the number of boys and girls registered at birth as part of the country-wide campaign, Make Your Child Count [2]; The campaign reached a total of 9,012 with birth certificates with over 300 new registrations completed; and
- The University of the West Indies Open Campus in Belize worked tirelessly all year to establish a Centre of Excellence on Capacity Building, which operates as a platform to further educate partners on the human rights based approaches to project management effort to supplement the work of UNICEF in its advocacy initiatives.

Two significant shortfalls:
- Delay in the completion of a social budget analysis which will now begin in January 2012 using an external Centre of Excellence
- Delay in the efforts to strengthen the Child Protection System which will now be the focus of attention in 2012 based on the on-going discussions with the Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation.

Country Situation

1. The 2010 Census estimates a population of 312,000: 158,000 males and 155,000 females. The total households are about 79,272 with an average household size of 3.9. Among this population 50% are Mestizo, 21% Creole, 10% Mayan, 4.6% Garinagu and 14.4% includes East Indians, Mennonite, Lebanese, and Taiwanese. The 2010 Census shows a downward household size and the continued immigration of persons who arrive as single adults or smaller family units. There is a notable increase in female-headed households from 27% in 2002 to 30% in 2009.

2. Although both urban and rural populations have grown between 2000 and 2010 by 23.7% and 36.7% respectively, a higher number of people are living in rural areas (171,000 persons) than in urban ones (138,000). Immigration underpins ruralisation. The largest population growth was in Cayo (39% change), followed by Belize (34%), Stann Creek (32%) and Toledo (31%). Toledo has 2,000 more households in 2010 than 2000, Stann Creek an increase of 3,000 and Belize 9,000 over the same period.

3. One major obstacle to social well-being is poverty. [3] Vulnerability due to negative exogenous price shocks, combined more recently with the negative demand shocks from the global economic crisis and natural disasters increase the risks to poverty. The indigence rate increased from 10.8% in 2002 to 15.8% in 2009 - not on track to achieve the target of 6.7% by 2015. With a GINI coefficient of inequality climbing...
from 0.4, rounded up in 2002, to 0.42 in 2009 and above the threshold of 0.40, Belize is a country that can be considered uniquely unequal.

4. According to the UNICEF Situation Analysis of Women and Children 2011, capacity, access, affordability, delivery and quality of education remain challenges (MDG2). Gaps in ECD include inadequate stimulation, malnutrition and weak parenting skills in child development. The total number of pre-schools increased, with a more equitable distribution in Toledo in 2008 (20 schools or 11%) than in 2003 (4 or 4%). However, for Belize District distribution in 2003 (44 or 43%) was better when compared to 2008 (54 or 29%). The primary school net enrolment rate fell from 90.3% in 1992 to 83.7% in 2009. The proportion of students starting Grade 1 who reached the last grade of primary school increased from 87.2% in 2002 to 91.9% in 2009. There is also a high rate of repetition that starts in Grade 1 (14%), resulting in early dropout and low self-esteem. Some 43% of 13-16 year-olds attending school in Stann Creek and 38% of students in Toledo are receiving below-average-age education. The ratio of girls to boys in primary school (MDG 3) increased from 0.939 in 1995 to 1.01 in 2009, indicating that slippage occurred with respect to boys.

5. A 2009 assessment of WASH in schools [4] indicates that conditions are still poor. Some 22.1% of school water resources are unreliable. Up to 70% (384) of schools nationally do not meet international standards for quantity of toilet facilities.

6. Belize is on track to meet the goal of immunization with a rate of 96.6 in 2009, and a target of 100% by 2015 (MDG 4). With respect to the under 5-mortality rate, slow progress was recorded in 2009— 22.5 per 1,000 live births from a baseline of 23.7 per 1,000 in (year?) and in 2010, 17 per 1,000 live births. The proposed target is 8 per 1,000 live births by 2015. IMR has dropped significantly from 23.5 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 16.9 per 1,000 live births in 2010. Maternal Health (MDG 5) has showed signs of improvement between 1993 and 2010. MMR has decreased from a high of 154.8 in 1993 to 55.3/100,000 in 2010. Belize also has the highest HIV prevalence rate (2.1%) of any Central American country.

7. There are a number of challenges faced by Belize relating to child protection. Drug trafficking, crime and violence are common threats to development. Belize is number nine of ten most violent countries in the world. Increasing circulation of small arms and ammunition in the sub-regions, drug trafficking that is insidious, and violence propelled by spatial, social, and economic inequalities are among key causal factors.

8. Since ratification of CRC, the GOB has made several important legislative and policy developments/reforms to meet international standards. The Education Act 2010 and the Social Services Agencies Regulations prohibit corporal punishment in schools and residential care facilities for children. A new social protection programme, BOOST, [5] is being implemented to guarantee the rights of children to health and education. Some standards of CRC have been enacted expressly into law through the Families and Children’s Act (FACA) 2000 [6], and a National Plan of Action (NPA) [7] has been developed including the establishment of a National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) [8].

9. Legal gaps to be incorporated into all domestic legislation include laws related to child labour in the Criminal Code, and the Summary Jurisdiction Act. Further attention is required to ensure: the legal definition of the child; consideration of the child’s evolving capacity; the rights of migrant children and to remove from the law, discriminatory practices related to sexual offences committed to boys and barriers to access to medical services for girls under 16 years. As a follow-up to Belize’s recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, the UNICEF SitAn on children with disabilities [9] will be launched in early 2012.

10. Patterns of discrimination still exist with respect to gender and ethnicity. Structural and cultural barriers influence women’s non-participation in high-level political leadership. Women in Garifuna and Creole villages play a greater role in community life than women in indigenous Mayan communities. The National Garifuna Council[10] trains children and adolescents in the history, language and aspirations of the Garifuna people. A museum has been established in Dangriga beside the Gulisi bilingual education school, which celebrates the Garifuna culture. A similar revival of Mayan culture has taken place with the hard work of the Maya Leaders Alliance of Toledo.
Who are the deprived children in your country context?
Children in Southside Belize City, living in single-room dwellings are at risk of drug abuse and violence; experience dysfunctional patterns of male socialization; have fractured families and benefit from too few socially-approved opportunity structures. The environment is not conducive to well-being -- 45% to 50% of all murders committed annually are committed in the City (Crooks Report 2009). About 1 out of every 6 children living in the poorest homes is abused and 1 out of every 7 adolescents is severely abused. Males are twice more likely than females to be exposed to gang violence, either directly or indirectly. In Toledo and Stann Creek the burden of poverty falls heavily on children – the child poverty rate is 52%, with 21% indigent with increases in the age range 5-17 years old. Lack of official documentation; distance; and costs prevent children in the Banana and Citrus Belts from accessing basic services and put them at risk of exploitation especially child labour. Inequities affect the entire life cycle as access to a good quality education is denied from an early age into secondary level. In San Antonio 78 out of 100 children aged 5 to 14 years were involved in child labour. These children are exposed to harmful agricultural pesticides and hazardous machinery (68%).

Children with disabilities (close to 15%) (IDRM, 2004) many of whom remain invisible are also among the most disadvantaged populations. The percentage of disabled persons in Belize will grow to 9.5% in 2025 and 14.6% in 2050.

Data/Evidence
The CO sharpened the focus on the inequities among the most disadvantaged boys and girls through regular field visits to villages and towns to understand the practical impediments to their development. An expanded network of sub-national partners including Mayors, Village Council leaders, Cultural Councils; sectoral District Officers and NGOs work with UNICEF to mobilize support to address policy bottlenecks, service shortfalls and to provide where feasible, direct service delivery in the areas of education, birth registration, nutrition and WASH. It is apparent that there are a number of avoidable disparities resulting from socio-cultural, religious, economic, political and geographical barriers that stand in the way of development for women and children rural areas in Southern and Northern Belize but also in the growing urban centres of Belize City and Corozal. There is an urgent need to increase dialogue with rights-holders and policy-makers regarding political impediments in particular, strengthening education and civil registry systems in districts, expanding cultural development opportunities and supporting further investment in early childhood and secondary education. Inequality permeates the service delivery structures and the mechanisms through which strategies and policies are designed and implemented. Evidence-based advocacy is being used to promote a more open, accountable and transparent policy environment with the support of the University of Belize.

The CO hosted a Visual Communication Training workshop for twenty-five NGO partners with the objective of improving communication with policy makers and the media, by making data and information about the status of children more accessible.

The Knowledge Portal called – The Belizean Child [13] provides a one-stop site for all information (compiled from 2003-2011) on children living in Belize. The purpose of the site is to facilitate access to key information for policy-makers, researchers and all other interested persons. Work completed in 2011 includes:

- The Situation Analysis of Women and Children in Belize;
- Four video documentaries called the "Knowledge lab series documented “stories” of children, the inequities they face living in rural Toledo and Southside Belize City and highlighted the innovations of four agencies addressing the challenges they face.
- A one-week media training to provide Belizean Media Professionals with a better understanding of children’s rights and to build their capacity to craft ethically-appropriate news stories for traditional and new media.
- A Video Documentary on early childhood education. This video will be used in 2012 to advocate for further investments in ECD and to stimulate parent involvement and commitment to ECD.
- A SitAn on children living with Disabilities and Special Needs will be used to lay the foundation for a deeper focus in programming and policy as a follow up to the GOB’s signature of the Convention on the
Rights of People with Disabilities in 2011.  
Work in 2012 includes:  
An analysis of the debt burden on children; a Budget Analysis; Mapping of the child protection system and services; Study of out of school adolescents; Management Response to WASH assessment; Second stage of MICS4- clinical evaluation of children at risk for a disability.

**Monitoring Mechanism**  
The 2010 Annual Review identified the need to: "Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation component including the IMEP for 2011 and with an emphasis on building a culture for evaluation locally ". The following processes were undertaken in response:

Closing the gap on data collection in areas identified as critical to understanding the situation of children, including the manifestations, causes and main drivers of the inequity especially in areas where no baseline existed. The CO successfully addressed this challenge by conducting studies in the area of WASH in schools; undertaking with the support of the Population Council a study of the services that address the Economic and Social Vulnerability of Adolescents Girls; a SitAn on Children living with Disability or Special Needs; a rapid assessment of the Culture of Rights as a baseline for a C4D response; a study on Exclusion of Youth from the Labor Market; and a Baseline assessment of the 10 Model Quality Child-Friendly Schools.  

Advancing the 2005 Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness to "Establish platforms that function as a central point for the creation of opportunities for individual and collective learning, equipping professionals to strengthen national demand for monitoring and evaluation, enhancing quality implementation." The CO has initiated, the development of the platform with the support of University of the West Indies Open Campus, bringing together data users and producers who are active in the social sector. The expectation is that the network will grow and serve as a learning and advisory platform on monitoring and evaluation. It will develop appropriate responses and actions to challenges in the social sector through quarterly gatherings, workshops and the development of M&E practices and tools.  
The IMEP is extensively monitored and updated twice yearly. Despite important progress however, inadequate national capacity in monitoring and evaluation results in rather slow processes at the national level, while counterparts continue to be challenged by a lack of resources - both human and financial. To address these bottlenecks, CO plans to strengthen institutional capacity, promote and provide opportunities to increase domestic demand for evaluations; support the strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation network and extend learning and support through sub-regional collaboration with other Caribbean territories. The CO has also agreed to support the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) to integrate a number of child-related databases at the national level (NPAInfo, GenderInfo; MICS, etc.) in order to streamline sources and reduce duplication. With UNICEF support, the SIB will also adopt, in 2012, more accessible means of data dissemination including the use of visual communication to increase data use for policy and practice.

**Support to National Planning**  
At the national level tracking, assessing and evaluating programmes has traditionally been an ad hoc process and seen as a low priority task. This is especially notable within the NGO community where partner capacity is weak and in some cases partners lacked an understanding of the value and importance of monitoring and evaluating their accomplishments. Few are able to provide proof of the impact of their investments on children and their families using disaggregated data, analysis, and evaluation.  
Within the Government system the Ministry of Health has been a leader and has institutionalized a national database system- the Belize Health Information System. The Ministry of Education has an established system for the collection of data and processing but this is mostly paper-based. The Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation (MHDST) began in 2009, the process of establishing a Single Information System for Beneficiaries. However this is still in the infancy stage and hence, to date, no standardized mechanism exists.
The CO in 2011 provided assistance to NGO partners to identify, validate and properly document through the “Belize Knowledge Lab Series’ stories, innovations, lessons learned and good practices in the pursuit of programme excellence. These processes seek to institutionalize organizational learning, and also help in the generation of new ideas, improved demonstration of human rights-based approaches, and promotion of evidence-based policy and advocacy. This work will continue with capacity building of NGOs and expansion of small projects where feasible. Through the M&E Network mentioned above, several NGOs will participate in a longer-term learning and sharing process.

CO has also provided support to MHDST in the establishment of a Policy and Planning Unit (P&PU). This support should continue in 2012. The Unit is improving coordination, inter-sectoral collaboration and the institutionalization of M&E into the work of the Ministry.

In terms of capacity building in this area CO in 2011 though it’s partnership with UWI conducted a two day session with its partners on Monitoring and Evaluation. At the end of this session it was clear that the support to improve programme monitoring and evaluation would require assistance to establish adequate M&E frameworks and provide in-service training to partners.

Any other relevant information related to data/evidence?
In 2012 CO plans to continue its efforts to support strengthening national capacities and evidence-based advocacy and policy formulation in favour of children and women’s rights.

During 2012, the CO plans to make the evidence it produces both available and accessible while creating innovative methods to increase its use by policy-makers and practitioners. The demand for evidence is ever-increasing and this demand is not always met at the national level. Many times, UNICEF is called upon to close the gaps. UNICEF is seen at the national level as a trustworthy entity that supports the production of good quality data evidence. In this context, UNICEF will conduct 7 studies, 4 evaluations, and will complete the MICS4 and in the process maximize ownership. To ensure that the best evidence is “at the heart of policy development and implementation” (Davies1999a), efforts must be made to get information to its point of use, through dissemination (reports, videos) and new channels of access (web-based). The CO plans to support the Statistical Institute of Belize in the integration of three database platforms: GenderInfo, BelizeInfo, NPAInfo. This will be linked to the Knowledge Portal that was developed in 2011.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

Despite the categorization of Belize as a middle income country and advances made in a number of important areas for children, the SitAn 2011 clearly demonstrates that poverty is still a challenge for Belize and inequities outstanding in health, education and social protection. This complexity suggests that the focus needs to be on intersecting the four types of inequalities in a continuum across the lifecycle of the child namely:

• Economic inequalities: that accord increasing power and influence to those with higher incomes and put excluded groups at the receiving end of an unfair distribution of assets and opportunities;
• Spatial inequalities: that reflect the structures and patterns of economic growth and leave excluded groups living in places that make them harder to reach and/or easier to ignore;
• Cultural inequalities: forms of discrimination and devaluation that treat excluded groups as somehow inferior to others thereby perpetuating social exclusion; and
• Political inequalities: the concentration of economic power and influence among a limited dominant group and the denial of voice and influence in the decisions that affect the lives of excluded groups and their communities.
The goal therefore of the 2013-2016 GOB-UNICEF Country Programme is to reduce these inequalities by supporting national and local level efforts towards the attainment of an equitable standard of living for the most disadvantaged families and children, in line with the international human and child rights standards and as stated in its national development plan, Horizon 2030 [11]. The Country Programme will specifically focus on the bottlenecks and barriers that systematically impede progress for the most at risk, excluded and disadvantaged children at a sub-national level in Southern Belize (Toledo and Stann Creek Districts), South-side Belize City and in Corozal in the North.

The Programme of Cooperation will work towards achievement of health and social well-being of boys and girls by accelerating effort and contributing to an increase in: (a) coverage and access of basic services in ECD, WASH in schools; nutrition and birth registration for children 0-18 years; (b) the number of duty-bearers having skills and capabilities to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the most disadvantaged boys and girls; (c) coverage and access to child-friendly primary schools; (d) the number of boys and girls in the most disadvantaged urban areas that have the skills and opportunity to practice cultural expressions and enterprise. Additionally, a decrease in: (a) the number of adolescent boys and girls out of school at secondary level; (b) the number of children with disabilities who are excluded. Develop institutional capacity for: (a) a stronger domestic legislative framework meeting international standards to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation; (b) to influence development policies that involve redistributions of influence, advantage, or subsidies in favour of poor and disadvantaged children and adolescents and (c) a sub-regional knowledge centre that would monitor child rights and progress towards equity with Caribbean partner offices.

**Effective Advocacy**

*Fully met benchmarks*

During 2011 UNICEF was actively involved in advocacy as an integral strategy to achieve agreed goals for children. Some examples included:

- Promoting children’s rights with focus on the accelerated effort to achieve the MDGs with equity, as a direct follow-up to the findings of the UNICEF Situation Analysis on Children and Women: An Ecological Review, which identified the need for urgent effort to meet basic needs for the most disadvantaged boys and girls in Belize. Key advocacy issues related to attainment of birth registration Make Your Child Count Campaign, meeting nutritional needs, promoting child and adolescent well-being in friendly contexts, expanding access to early childhood development through the Roving Care Givers Programme and WASH including hand-washing, promoting equal rights for adolescent girls, and promoting children’s active participation and engagement.
- Promoting community involvement in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and the value of data collection as a critical component for shaping policy and informing timely investments for children.
- Expanding advocacy around the CRC and CEDAW, and the critical needs of the most disadvantaged boys and girls including those in need of foster care (Foster Care PSAs), protection from violence in all settings (Violence Prevention PSAs), involvement of children in environmental management (Scouts Environmental Campaign), addressing the rights of children with disabilities through expression, inclusion and the need to build supportive systems at multiple levels to improve protective assets including in times of emergency (Protect and Survive brochure).
- Hosting a US Natcom team in March-April 2011 to view first-hand some of the programmes in action such as Roving Care Givers Programme [12]. The visit underscored the challenges faced when working in rural and remote areas on the equity agenda, the tremendous benefits of investments in the early years and the intangible efforts of UNICEF staff.
- Promoting the right to cultural identity for indigenous communities highlighted by the Battle of the Drum primary school programme; bilingual education at the Gulisi and Aguacate R.C. School, the Junkanoo
Competition for Primary school students in Stann Creek; an environmental protection programme by Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) and the Mayan Encounter in mid-2011 in Toledo.

- Children and youth advocated for their rights to expression and were provided with training in the use of new technologies such as social networking tools, digital media to empower children and young people to play an active role in Belize regarding issues that affect them. In addition, advocacy with media houses nation-wide included equipping media professionals with the knowledge, ethics and skills for human rights-based journalism to find compelling ways to maintain the dignity of children whose stories need to be told.

**Changes in Public Policy**

Information sharing, advocacy and relationship building are necessary elements to bring about changes in public policy. The Situation Analysis for Women and children along with other targeted sectoral studies in Belize are providing the data necessary for advocacy of the children’s agenda.

The Early Childhood Policy was drafted and will shape the work in the area of early childhood development in Belize. Endorsement at the highest ministerial level will foster the creation of the enabling environment for children to develop positively. Further advocacy is required to assure early interventions and investments both at national and sub-national and local levels.

The Youth policy was a result of a strategic partnership with the Youth for the Future to advance youth participation and development; support and implement actions that contribute to influencing positive change and fulfillment of youth in Belize. The Policy represents an advancement in Government commitment to address the rights of the most disadvantaged youth although advocacy for increased intersectoral collaboration and investment is still required.

Data generated through the MICS 4 data not only expands the evidence-base regarding progress in rights achievements but serves as an important source and incentive for governmental counterparts seeking to promote positive social change.

It is clear that advocacy and relationship building are key strategies to effectively communicate progress and gaps in the children’s agenda. The CO has expanded the channels of communication for advocacy including new social media and traditional media. A website [14] has been developed to positively influence main audiences in terms of results for children and women. The Representative maintains high level advocacy on sensitive and challenging development issues facing Belize.

**Leveraging Resources**

Belize’s Programme of Cooperation depends quite significantly on regular resources. Since 2009, limited donor support is evident. In 2011, however, the CO increased its advocacy efforts to increase donor support in key areas: the right to education, the right to an identity (BR and Indigenous rights), and the right to be protected from violence and exploitation. New resources were identified especially with the support of the regional office. The CO also developed, posted and discussed with donors several proposals (e.g., adolescent girls, WASH, nutrition, emergency) but none of them attracted resources. The Country Office also supported a second US Fund visit but that did not result in new funding. By the end of the year, however, the RO and HQ provided additional OR basically doubling the budget in comparison to previous years. After negotiation, the Government of Belize renewed its 5-year contribution to the Country Programme totaling $1 million Belize dollars or US$500,000. The new contribution will begin in 2012.
Capacity Development

Fully met benchmarks

Based on past experience and through dialogue with partners, the CO has established specific collaborative arrangements to build the capacity of governmental and non-governmental partners. This is particularly important in Belize where over 160,000 Belizeans have migrated leaving serious gaps in capacity. Two Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with academic institutions. The first MOU is with the University of the West Indies Open Campus to establish a Centre of Excellence for Capacity Building, the second with the University of Washington, Public Health Institute to strengthening the lifecycle approach to child development. The UWI arrangement is designed to facilitate regular training in proposal writing, project management, M&E and practice for the implementation of HACT. These priorities were identified as a response to weaknesses noted in annual reviews with the objective of improving efficiency in the use of programme funds and management. With respect to the implementation of programme work expanded support for equity has called upon the CO to seek additional sub-national partnerships and build their capacity in new areas of work including the management of birth registration processes, financial management and integrated programming. During the year, the CO also facilitated training sessions for policy-makers to promote an integrated approach to the management of Early Childhood Development by supporting the participation of three Chief Executive Officers of the Ministries of Education, Health and Human and Social Development at a sub-regional workshop in St Vincent. A similar south-south collaborative arrangement was made for the Ministry of Education to increase their understanding of the use of participatory methodologies through an exchange visit with Colombia’s Escuela Nueva project. A return visit will be facilitated to continue the collaboration in 2012. The Population Council is working alongside the UNCT in the development of a project to reduce the social and economic vulnerability of adolescent girls. In the process of rolling out a survey tool to assess services in Belize, capacity gaps were noted. UNICEF and UNFPA therefore worked together to ensure local capacity development for the project. The MICS4 survey provided an important opportunity for strengthening the basic skills of the Statistical Institute of Belize. The SIB and local data collectors benefited from a sampling workshop, data analysis and reporting all geared towards assuring a high quality product from the MICS4. UNICEF supported the entire MICS process with a full-time consultant working alongside and providing guidance to SIB with very close collaboration of the Regional Office in Panama.

Communication For Development

Mostly met benchmarks

Each of the three programme areas includes a component of communication to effect behaviour change and advocacy to promote social mobilization and engagement. The birth registration campaign ‘Make Your Child Count’ is a multiple partnership arrangement which, targets parents/guardians of unregistered children under the age of 18 to achieve universal birth registration in Belize by the end of 2012. Success through the Campaign is providing policy-makers with evidence of the value of a sustainable birth registration system supported by trained staff functioning in an efficient network across the country, especially in rural areas where systems are weak. The MICS4 project ‘Get in the MICS: Improving the lives of our children’ used a multi-pronged approach to engage audiences’ interest in participation in the MICS4 survey. With children’s involvement in the media campaign, UNICEF and the Statistical Institute of Belize disseminated advocacy materials including a ‘catchy’ MICS4 jingle to raise awareness of the survey and its value to children’s well-being. The Campaign helped to achieve a 96% response rate.
UNICEF in collaboration with the University of the West Indies Open Campus, built the capacity of professional journalists to adopt high ethical standards in reporting on children’s issues. At the same time UNICEF reinforced through training on child rights, the critical role of media in respecting, protecting and promoting the fulfillment of rights engaging the journalists on a critical review of the UNICEF Situation Analysis on Children and Women.

The Situation Analysis on Children and Women 2011: An Ecological Review, was used as an important advocacy opportunity to promote the equity agenda. The study focused on the interrelatedness of conditions and systems that foster development or act as barriers to development. Discussions were held with a wide cross-section of partners in formal settings, in multiple television programmes to discuss the findings and recommendations on various rights. The study was featured on the Belize Knowledge Portal and the UNICEF Belize website, both of which created awareness and provide platforms for more effective planning. The sites are complemented by social communication tools such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to increase dialogue and social outreach and engagement.

Following a KAP study on child rights, it was noted that in order to address many of the needed behavioural changes, UNICEF and partners must focus in coming years on creating a stronger culture of child rights and a better understanding of the institutions that exist to protect children. C4D methodologies will require application of essential information that has been gathered; help to develop skills and self-confidence in partners so that they can make informed decisions on issues that affect children’s lives. Communication for development further underscores the role of interpersonal relations in channeling and shaping opinions required to induce social change. UNICEF action will ensure that all actors recognize the importance of including change agents, beneficiaries and communicators in bringing about the social changes necessary in the development process. Consequently, a communication strategy was developed in a structured, planned and participatory manner to support the programmatic work.

Service Delivery

*Partially met benchmarks*

In keeping with the equity agenda, the CO applied a dual approach to programming by ensuring that the most disadvantaged children were reached with services through a strong presence at the local level, while at the same time engaging with policy and decision makers to advocate for strengthening policies in favour of the most disadvantaged.

After careful analysis of the local context three priority areas for service delivery were identified: Birth Registration, Early Childhood Development and Quality Education.

Three of the poorest districts identified in the Country Poverty Assessment were targeted for birth registration services in 2011. These include Toledo, Stann Creek and Corozal Districts. Toledo and Stann Creek are home to large indigenous Garifuna and Maya Populations. In Toledo, in particular, most communities are located in very rural areas with limited road access. In some instances reaching communities require almost three hour trips on rough terrain. Working in partnership with government, NGOs, and community leaders, UNICEF was able to reach 110 communities in these 3 districts serving over 10,000 children and their families. Families were able to acquire birth certificates and register children.

Such services are not available to rural communities and therefore communities greatly benefitted from this direct service delivery approach. Recognizing the weaknesses in the birth registration system that continues to contribute to inequitable access to services, UNICEF supported capacity building sessions for staff of the Vital Statistics Unit, partnered with the OAS to strengthen infrastructure for birth registration and held regular sessions with decision makers to identify the bottle necks impeding access to services. Another area where UNICEF partnered with the government to engage in direct service delivery was early childhood development. Data shows that the district of Toledo has the lowest number of pre-schools (10%
of all preschools nationally are in Toledo with only 522 children in Toledo benefitting from pre-school education. This represents 17.1% of children of pre-school age. In order to ensure that children in Toledo benefit from early developmental activities, 13 rovers in the Roving Care-Givers Programme (RCP) covered seven villages in the Toledo District conducting early childhood stimulation to over 350 children and providing parenting skills to over 300 families. Capacity building of the care givers focused on family literacy, culturally appropriate toys and skill-based trainings for sustainability. UNICEF also worked directly with District Education centres and schools in Belize and Toledo to support the roll out of the Child Friendly Schools initiative. While a strong focus was placed on planning and monitoring at the national level, targeting resources to schools at the community level resulted in quicker gains as schools were able to leverage support from the communities and invest the much needed resources to create more child friendly environments. This approach demonstrated that by building the capacity of school administrators and empowering administrators and teachers to identify steps necessary to create child friendly schools, benefits are accrued to children at a quicker rate than working only with the Ministry of Education at the central level.

### Strategic Partnerships

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF Belize has identified the following categories of partnerships: academic, religious, non-governmental organizations, governmental (national and sub-national), bilateral and multilateral agencies, regional institutions and UN partners. Within each category the CO has identified a small number of strategic partners that support the programme goals by improving efficiency, increasing advocacy and scale, leveraging resources and creating a momentum around priority issues.

Examples of good practices with strategic partners include:

- University of Belize (UB) and UNICEF signed an Annual-Workplan to create the first Policy Observatory which will contribute to the development of sound child-focused policy and sound decision-making in the long term. The work of the Observatory is designed to overcome a number of challenges, including inadequate institutional frameworks and capacities, insufficient data and weak monitoring and evaluation practices, supremacy of political over technical considerations and insufficient prior considerations of financial implications of policies. The Policy Observatory will also help to increase the capacity, presence and visibility of UB as a national development actor and will increase participation of stakeholders in all relevant policy-related processes.

- University of the West Indies Open Campus (UWIOC) and UNICEF-CO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure collaboration to develop national capacities for the respect, protection and fulfillment of children's rights in Belize. The goals obtained were (1) development of a new relationship between both institutions in which UNICEF seeks to provide technical support and financial sponsorship for the development and delivery of specific and agreed institutional and individual capacity development services, such as training, education, information dissemination and research, aimed at building a strong system of services for child rights and (2) establishment of a hub for capacity building of human resources and a platform to further educate audiences on human development issues that may warrant policy interventions.

- The Belize Council of Churches is composed of nine members including the Anglican, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, among others. They have had a long-standing relationship with UNICEF and in 2011 partnered to celebrate together with the Religions of Peace the World Day of Prayer. A consultation with religious leaders to discuss protective environments for children was held on 17 November. The consultation was one result of a conference held a few days earlier on 'Coordinating the Child Protection System' that was organized by the National Committee for Families and Children. On 20 and 27 November religious leaders included the need to protect children from violence in their prayers, messages and sermons. They also discussed the topic on talk shows and panels and will be working with UNICEF in 2012 to promote positive parenting.
UNICEF has partnered with indigenous cultural councils to ensure that the cultural rights of the indigenous people are respected, protected and fulfilled. Through the promotion of rights to the use of their own language in schools, the celebration of important cultural festivals and the promotion of traditional music and dance, the most disadvantaged girls and boys are building their self-esteem, identity and keeping alive their traditions.

**Mobilizing Partners**

UNICEF CO has increased the number of partners in 2011 in promoting child health and nutrition, collecting disaggregated data, providing quality education for all, upgrading water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, and protecting children from violence and exploitation. UNICEF CO recognizes the potential for partners to continue to make an identifiable and lasting contribution towards improving children’s lives and protecting their rights with a vision to use a more strategic and proactive approach to leverage the full range of resources that can be contributed.

UNICEF Belize CO is currently exploring a new partnership with a Centre of Excellence with Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in the Philippines and the National Public Policy Observatory with the University of Belize. This important partnership builds on the ongoing work of UB to exchange new ideas and build local capacity for social policy work. The ongoing relationship with the Tumul K’in Center of Learning and Ya’axché Conservation Trust along with the Red Cross is designed to assure a skilled presence in the most vulnerable southern regions of the country to protect children in times of emergency. The agencies facilitate preparedness, response and support storage of contingency supplies for UNICEF. An increasing number of NGOs have worked alongside UNICEF during 2011 to close the gap on birth registration in over 100 villages in Belize.

Notably, the Toledo Association for Children and Adolescents (TOLCA) and the National Committee for Families and Children are two important networks. The former convenes CBOs that reach out to the most vulnerable children and women in villages. UNICEF supports their work on strategic planning, coordination and programme management. The small but efficient POWA, or the Productive Organization for Women in Action, is a women’s empowerment group from Dangriga. They provided significant support to the birth registration campaign in the Stann Creek District and continue to support the expansion of efforts to reduce the social and economic vulnerability of adolescent girls.

At the request of the Belize Teachers Union, UNICEF is providing guidance on alternative disciplinary practices to support the Government’s initiative to stop corporal punishment in schools. This initiative is of strategic significance especially for children from poor families in urban centres where violence is a significant threat in children’s lives. By mobilizing teachers in public and private schools as actors of change the programme goal is to increase the momentum along with that of the religious authorities to break the cycle of violence in homes and schools.

**Knowledge Management**

*Partially met benchmarks*

The CO has become one of Belize’s “knowledge builders” and is also positioning itself as a “connector” to international and regional experts and knowledge leaders in sectoral areas. The CO in 2011 has invested an increasing amount of funds to not only generate new knowledge but also to improve its management and use. The CO built new alliances among academic and research institutions, and put in place capacity building opportunities to make use of visual communication, support the development of a national strategy for statistics and to bring in to the country new expertise in the process of the development of the MICS4. As a “knowledge builder”, the CO looked at the functional role of statistics in Belize; investigated how citizens see and evaluate information and the role that media plays in respect of dissemination of the evidence for social change.
The first initiative the CO undertook was aimed at getting data off the shelves and in front of key stakeholders. The Visual Communication Training was targeted to partners working in the field, to critically look at data; develop effective knowledge design strategies and compelling communications platforms that could build on the data the already exist. As a spin off from the training, the CO conducted a KAP study to assess knowledge of rights among partners and to learn about the most appropriate communication channels for different partners. The findings will be used to reposition the UNICEF communication for development strategy, which is evidence-based.

Aimed at achieving an integrated and highly synergistic approach to the knowledge functions, the CO will continue to strengthen linkages between research functions and field operations as the main generators of new evidence on children. The CO has developed various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) as well a knowledge portal.

In 2011, a strong focus of CO was not only to institutionalize organizational learning, but also help in the generation of new ideas, improved demonstration of human rights-based approaches, and promotion of evidence-based policy and advocacy. The “Belize Knowledge Lab Series” was designed to support the growth of high impact programmes for children and adolescents. This series transformed information into knowledge by identifying, validating and properly documenting “stories, innovations, lessons learned and good practices” which are a necessary part of organizational learning in the pursuit of programme excellence.

CO also developed a video documentary of the 2011 Situation Analysis with the objective to capture the situation of women and children in Belize and to present some of the ecological nuances and challenges presented in the 2011 SitAn. The overall goal of this documentation is to bring focus on investments in the early years.

### Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

**Mostly met benchmarks**

The Government of Belize, as signatory to nine human rights conventions thereby committing to the attainment of the highest international standards of development based on the universal principles of human rights. In 2011, the GOB became a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The process of programme development with partners in Belize is therefore framed against the CRC and CEDAW standards and those of other key Conventions with the intention of supporting the Governments effort to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of children and women with a special focus on the poorest and most disadvantaged.

Development cooperation with Belize is geared towards the achievement of the MDG goals and human rights principles underlie all programme areas. The Government is fully committed to an accelerated effort towards the achievement of the lagging goals particularly in nutrition, water and sanitation, environment and education. The entire programme cycle benefited from a rights-based in-depth analysis through two SitAns – one in 2004 and the other in 2011. In the process of programme design, the MTR and in M&E processes the human rights principles have been applied and discussed including: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; nondiscrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law. The CO has to go beyond application of the processes towards capacity building particularly of NGOs and partners at the sub-national levels. This is especially important for claims-holders to understand the human rights and how to make use of the opportunity they have to build rights-based programmes and advocate for rights-based policies. The UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children and Women 2011: An Ecological Review which was widely
disseminated and discussed presented a detailed set of claims, obligations and bottlenecks. A number of frameworks were used to demonstrate the principle of interrelatedness among rights. These frameworks facilitated an improved analysis of the underlying issues that work together as obstacles to achievement of the rights of claim-holders. UNICEF ensured that where capacities of claim-holders and duty-bearers was weak appropriate investments were made to support capacity-building. This work will continue in 2012. UNICEF was also engaged in a process with the Ministry of Youth to promote the right to participation through nation-wide consultations geared towards the development of a new Youth Policy. More work is required to instill an openness among duty-bearers with respect to youth participation particularly in decision-making processes at national, district and local levels.

Gender

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF maintains its commitment to promote and mainstream gender equality and equity in its work with partners in the country. In 2011 in Belize, UNICEF financed the GenderInfo, which is a database of basic gender indicators designed to provide evidence of progress in the achievement of gender equality. This national set will be used to provide baseline data to address gender equality through programming and policy development. Empowerment is critical to effective achievement of gender equality particularly for the most vulnerable girls and women. UNICEF along with UN agencies is therefore working together on a joint project designed to promote the right of adolescent girls to services in health, education and development. The project includes a coverage study and institutional capacity development to ensure that duty-bearers can meet the demands of rights.

Regional Consultations were conducted in Belize in conjunction with the Women’s Department, Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation, which contributed to the development of the CEDAW Report for Belize. The Report is currently before Cabinet for approval. Targeted groups ranging from women’s to men’s groups, vulnerable minority groups such as Community Nurse Aides, academia and representatives from Village Councils, Civil Society, Youth organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations all took part in the dialogue and development of the report.

A National Gender-Based Violence Plan of Action 2010-2013 is being implemented through the Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation. The Plan of Action is addressing the comparative condition and position of men and women, especially to better understand the reasons some men feel unduly threatened by the pursuit of gender equality and equity.

International Women’s Day was commemorated on 17 March 2011 at the 6th Annual Women’s Summit, which was celebrated under the theme: "Valuing Ourselves: Promoting Shared Responsibility". The Day focused on paying tribute to women and their environmental, economic, social and cultural contributions to Belize’s development, while at the same time emphasizing the urgent need to create more opportunities for women throughout the country allowing them to be economically empowered. The UNICEF Representative, Christine Norton presented at this important event on the topic: “Bridging the Gender Equality Gap”, which provided women from urban and rural communities with information about the theme that would promote women’s economic empowerment in their communities.

The Government of Belize is strengthening the National Plan of Action to ensure the inclusion of gender equality in National Plans including the within Ministerial Plans. Focal points for gender were activated in nine Government Ministries, which shows the Government of Belize commitment to gender equity and equality. Goals and objectives of the National Plan of Action incorporated the following: (1) that there is zero-tolerance for gender-based violence in Belize; (2) that survivors of gender-based violence in both urban and rural areas are provided with adequate services and support; (3) that gender-based violence in Belize is reduced, and ultimately eliminated; and (4) that the means exist to measure both the extent of gender-based violence in Belize and the effectiveness of strategies to respond to it.
Environmental Sustainability

Mostly met benchmarks

Belize, a geographically vulnerable low-lying coastal country is extremely susceptible to the effects of climate change. While it is endowed with key environmental assets, its importance to economic and social development, particularly poverty reduction, is not fully recognized. In an effort to build awareness and promote the creation of a greener Belize, UNICEF Belize partnered with The Scout Association of Belize to call attention to the need to safeguard and protect the environment and stimulate two thousand Belizean Scouts to serve as agents and guardians of the environment in fulfillment of their right to a healthy environment.

The Scouts raised awareness and participated in the creation of a healthier and cleaner Belize. The activities consisted of planting hundreds of trees during World Environment Day and promoting the concepts of Reuse, Reduce and Recycle though collection of hundreds of recyclable soda bottles which normally becomes litter along waterways and highways. Through TIDE, girls from rural villages in Toledo used sports for development as a vehicle to promote protection of the environment. They further advocated for a healthier environment through their national call for action through various media including television and radio, in schools and community, as they engaged entire communities nationwide to participate in their annual National Beach and Riverways Clean-up. These clean-ups were conducted in all urban centres such as Belize City, Dangriga, Corozal, Toledo which are located in the vulnerable coastal belt.

Support was provided for a trainers’ workshop on Environmental Conservation focusing on the connection between ecosystem services and how they affect national development plans. The duty bearers’ role was noted as essential in ensuring that environmental protection be realized to enable the fulfillment of human rights, particularly the rights to food, safe water, sanitation, housing, and health. Vulnerable and excluded groups are generally denied access to, and control of environmental resources with subsequent lack of participation in environmentally related matters including decision making.

Environmental change-related risks include greater incidences of floods, hurricanes, coral bleaching and impairment in natural and human ecosystem functions are expected annually. Disadvantaged families are greatly affected when they lose their homes, access to water and food. Recognizing the likelihood and consequences of natural disasters, UNICEF worked with partners in disaster prevention and management. In taking preparatory measures in the face of various impending disasters, a Protect and Survive booklet was produced to inform those affected by a natural disaster with priority focused on protecting the family’s health and well-being during this period. These are to be distributed by the National Emergency Managing Organization in the event of such an incident.

The country’s exposure to natural hazards and environmental fragility, in part a result of its location, climate, and topography has led to various agencies consolidating their disaster management skills. UNICEF Belize continues to have a strengthened early warning system through its collaboration with UN and national partners in ensuring the level of readiness required to respond to annual natural disaster threats and to maintain children’s rights to education and health and well-being.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Opportunities for South-south collaboration are growing for Belize as Latin American and Caribbean countries expand programme practices and achieve higher standards of policy development. Belize benefited from inter-country exchanges in the areas of education, adolescent girls development, and early childhood development. In order to promote inter-sectoral linkages in the area of ECD, three CEOs from Health, Education and Human and Social Development and Transformation benefited from participation in a...
learning seminar in the Eastern Caribbean on holistic ECD. This experience has resulted in stronger intersectoral planning among the three Ministries to build coherence. The Ministry of Education benefited from participatory methodologies through an exchange in Colombia with the Escuela Nueva.

With respect to adolescent girls programming, the Population Council has helped to build skills for the conduct of the UN inter-agency study aimed at reducing the economic and social vulnerability of adolescent girls while the Adolescent Development/HIV Officer participated in an inter-agency working training workshop in Guatemala on the promotion of adolescent girls’ rights and programme practices. UNICEF Belize continues to support the Framework for Action for Children with CARICOM with focus on education and knowledge management, pushing forward progress on education reform and knowledge management. Belize is also involved in a Commonwealth Project on Civil Paths for Peace in which experiences will be compared among selected Commonwealth countries. This project address child protection and adolescent development issues and holds the promise for identifying alternative ways of promoting citizen safety and violence prevention.
Country Programme Component: Child survival, education and development

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

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<th>OTDetails</th>
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Resources Used in 2011(USD)

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<th>Resource Type</th>
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Results Achieved

The following Intermediate Results were planned for Programme 1:
1. By 2012, strengthened capacity of relevant national and community-based services providers, with an emphasis on Southside Belize City and Toledo District, to develop and implement comprehensive child-sensitive policies and programmes to reach the most vulnerable boys and girls.
2. By 2012, 50% of vulnerable boys, girls and families in Southside Belize City and Toledo District are benefiting from increased coverage of an integrated package of ECD services and improved parenting, care and nutrition practices.
3. By 2012, 50% of the most disadvantaged boys and girls in Southside Belize City and Toledo District are benefiting from improved school readiness practices and increased access to quality learning supported by communities, teachers and families.

In 2011, the ECD assessment and policy was completed and the Ministry of Education and Youth (MoEY), Ministry of Health (MoH), and Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation (MoHDST), all collaborated to ensure that the draft policy was finalized. Support to this process was given in February, 2011 by the sub-regional advisor for the Caribbean, where various stakeholders participated in a two days technical meeting. The Chief Executive Officers from both the MoE and MoHDST participated in the meetings.

Twenty (20) rovers in the Roving Care-Givers Programme (RCP) covered seven villages in the Toledo District and seven communities in Southside, Belize City, conducting early childhood stimulation to over 350 children and providing parenting skills to over 300 families. The RCP trainings this year focused on family literacy, culturally appropriate toys and skill-based trainings for sustainability.

Data collection was completed for the first national nutrition survey to analyze micronutrient levels in non-pregnant women of child-bearing age and children ages 6-59 months. There was random selection in 4 health regions in the country with a response rate of over 95%. Other accomplishments for the MoH focused on increased awareness in nutrition with improved job aid tools on infant and young child feeding practices; food fortification for the prevention of chronic under nutrition in children with a life cycle approach; and 71.4% of hospitals and clinics being certified as baby friendly, with two hospitals being re-certified this year. The Quality Child-Friendly Schools (QCFS) standards have been expanded to at least 5 schools in each district, now reaching a total of approximately 35 schools and 8,500 children nationwide. Technical officers
from the MoE also benefitted from an Escuela Nueva study mission to Colombia. As part of the QCFS, an international consultant in May, 2011 completed a comprehensive analysis of WASH in schools which contributed to the MoE’s continued investment necessary in WASH.

Other achievements in quality learning address the inclusion of indigenous Garifuna and Mayan boys and girls, in the Inter-cultural Bilingual Education project in Toledo; the inclusion of the most disadvantaged children with disabilities in preschools; and the creation of child-friendly environments and programmes at 9 libraries in the Belize and Toledo districts, to address literacy across the life-cycle.

**Most Critical Factors and Constraints**

In the pursuit of an equity focus, UNICEF sought to strengthen its work in sub-national areas. However, in programme one, much time was necessary to establish relationships with the District Education Centers in the most disadvantaged districts such as Stann Creek and Toledo. The education managers in these districts were happy for the direct support that could be given by UNICEF to close the disparities in education as it related to the quality of learning; but progress was slow because of the heavy bureaucracy in the government which makes the process of receiving support long and time consuming. The lack of empowerment felt by the district education managers speak also to limited capacity and expertise in the speedy implementation of the Quality Child Friendly Schools (QCFS) framework. The participation of technical officers from the Ministry of Education in a study tour of Escuela Nueva in Colombia has opened the door for training opportunities in leadership and management at the district level.

The Ministry of Health has concerns about the shortage of quality staff and resources in the health care system. These factors slowed the progress of the completion of the national nutrition survey since there was limited expertise for the laboratory components of the survey. In an effort to build capacity, the Ministry of Health paid for a coordinator to do the field work of the survey, complementing UNICEF’s support to an international nutrition survey coordinator. Acute disparities in access to maternal and child health care in rural areas, especially in rural Toledo will be lessened due to UNICEF’s contribution of a vehicle to the unit.

**Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration**

Strategic collaboration was strengthened this year as UNICEF continued work with the sister agency, UNDP for the advancement of the MDG Acceleration Framework for Water and Sanitation. The framework and action plan will be launched in early 2012 and it highlights UNICEF’s own priorities for the advancement of WASH in schools. These two agencies have combined resources to launch a television and radio WASH campaign in February, 2012 leading up to Global Hand-washing Day in October, 2012.

Other strategic partnerships continued with agencies such as INCAP/FANCAP and CDC Atlanta for the successful processing of laboratory samples and reporting of the nutrition survey which will be completed by the ending of the first quarter, 2012. Support from key UNICEF advisors in Early Childhood Development and Education (TACRO) also strengthened the work of the country programme. UNICEF will support key partnerships with the Escuela Nueva foundation to strengthen the work of the Ministry of Education (MoE) as it relates to the seven components of Quality Child Friendly Schools (QCFS). It is envisaged that part of the 2012 annual work plan from the MoE will include work for the piloting of certain Escuela Nueva methodologies in multi-grade schools in rural Toledo. This will strengthen the on-going work of QCFS in the district.

In 2012, collaborations will be developed with the religious leaders from various denominations to advance the work of child protection in the home, school and community. This group of community leaders will partner with UNICEF to advocate for zero tolerance for violence against children. The work plan will include collaboration with the National Committee for Families and Children for parenting conference and trainings; and the MoE for alternative discipline in schools, leading up to the awareness of the Day of Prayer and Action (DPAC) for violence against children in November.
The Belize CO, however, continues its important partnerships with the Congress of Maya Teachers (CMT) which was formed out of the Inter-cultural Bilingual Education (IBE) project. It has also re-established strong ties with the National Garifuna Council in an effort to promote the work of IBE and relevant cultural education in quality schools for those in the most disadvantaged, indigenous areas.

**Humanitarian Situations**

Not applicable

**Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations**

In May, 2011 an international consultant presented a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of WASH in schools. This substantial effort contributed greatly to the Belize’s CO 2011 publication of the Situational Analysis of Women and Children in Belize; it also contributed to the Ministry of Education’s understanding of the importance of WASH in schools and the investment necessary. The final report evaluates the implementation of the WASH evaluation and improvement of WASH in schools since August, 2010. The report also analyses the baseline data collected on the status of water, sanitation and hygiene condition in two hundred sixty six (266) schools across the country. This survey was conducted in April, 2009. This final report by the Ministry of Education, supported by UNICEF, recommended national standards for WASH in schools and provided a short monitoring tool intended for use in the EMIS annual data collection. A map of actors for WASH in schools is presented, including recommended roles and responsibilities for each party including students, school staff, parents and local and national government officials.

The results of the assessment were important to targeting schools throughout the country for direct interventions. Since the project is key to the broader child-friendly school interventions, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with school managements and communities is seeking to develop a national strategy for improving water and sanitation facilities and WASH education in a comprehensive and sustainable manner. The complete evaluation and analysis will be published in early 2012.

The implementation and collection of data for the National Nutrition Survey was completed in 2011. The final report for the survey which will inform on micronutrients deficiency and nutrition related interventions should be finally completed by the end of April, 2012 as laboratory work on samples are still being processed by international consulting agencies.

The final draft of the Early Childhood Development policy was completed this year and submitted by the MoE to various stakeholders for review. The process was facilitated by the collaboration of the Chief Executive Officers in the Ministries of Education and Youth, Health and Human Development. The document will be printed early next year as an advocacy tool for promoting ECD. Final reviews and documentation should be completed early next year.

Finally, UNICEF captured the best practice of a rural school in Toledo which highlights Inter-Cultural Bilingual Education as an element of quality learning. Aguacate Primary School, under the transformational leadership of its principal, provided a sound example of a child friendly school reaching the most marginalized and indigenous population.

**Future Work Plan**

In a continuing need to mainstream gender issues that are fundamental to achieving equity and improving the wellbeing of women and children, the future work plan reflects a strengthened programme coherence, focus and strategy. Direct interventions will not only target the most disadvantaged but will also seek to
close the gaps in 2012, the last year of the CPAP. These gaps will be addressed with management responses to key evaluations and assessments of programme components for child survival, education and development.

2012 will focus on removing the bottlenecks in early childhood development to address access to early education, school readiness practices, and quality of preschool learning, materials and infrastructure. A major collaboration will be with the UWI Open Campus to provide specialized training and certification for ECD workers in the Ministries of Education, Health and Human Development. The work in ECD will continue to highlight the investment that is necessary in a nation’s children for optimal results in the future. UNICEF will continue to support the work of the MoE in establishing clear guidelines for school WASH and clear roles and responsibilities for school WASH stakeholders. Resources will be contributed to providing adequate basic sanitation services to schools and promoting adequate hygiene practices and materials for hand-washing. Strengthened collaboration with UNDP will seek to increase student and local community involvement in WASH in schools.

In addressing the MoE’s national phased rollout of QCFS, UNICEF will continue to support the work with an impact evaluation on QCFS pilot schools. Important deliverables from this exercise will seek to provide effective monitoring and evaluation with an effort to strengthen the QCFS framework and draft documents. The MoE’s collaboration with an international consultant versed in Child Friendly Schools will help the ongoing development and capacity building of the technical education officers at a sub-national level. UNICEF will continue to invest in health and nutrition across the life cycle with the supply of multiple-micronutrients/food fortification program and the promotion of breastfeeding. Results from the national nutrition survey report will aid in the direct planning for a sustained intervention for addressing health and nutrition in women and children. Resources will also focus on behavioural impact interventions in nutrition.

Country Programme Component: HIV and AIDS, violence and adolescent development

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

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<th>PCR</th>
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Results Achieved

1. By 2012, the child protection system at the national and community level, with an emphasis on Toledo and South Side Belize City, is providing a comprehensive continuum of care, support and
...developmental services for the most vulnerable boys and girls birth to 18 years, including adolescents out of school and vulnerability to emergencies and climate change.

2. By 2012, the most vulnerable adolescent girls in Southside Belize City and Southern Region have increased capacities and access to integrated services and support that reduce their social and economic vulnerability, poor reproductive health outcomes and better manage interpersonal relationship with boys and men.

3. By 2012, national policies and programmes, targeting adolescents, have established mechanisms including media and culture for full participation of the most disadvantaged boys and girls, converting their opinions into actions.

Birth registration rates increased by 11.1% and 1% in Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, respectively. These communities are among the most rural communities, feature large indigenous populations and are listed among the most disadvantaged populations. A total of 110 communities were reached through UNICEF’s Make Your Child Count Campaign. This represents 50% of communities in Belize with a total of 9,012 new birth certificates distributed and 352 late registrations completed.

The first ever UN Joint Programme on Adolescent Girls was launched in the first quarter of 2011. The UN in Belize, led by UNICEF partnered with the Population Council to advance girls rights to protection and development. In its first phase the programme focused on vulnerable adolescent girls in Toledo, Stann Creek and South Side Belize City. A Coverage Exercise was conducted to assess the extent to which vulnerable girls are being reached by programmes and services. Data was gathered from 27 sites in 3 geographic areas where girls access services. A total of 3,550 adolescent girls and boys were reached through the Coverage Exercise. The data is currently being analyzed and will inform the roll out of the Joint UN Programme on Adolescent Girls.

The National Youth Development Policy was developed through a participatory youth led process that resulted in consultations with over 3,000 adolescents and youth country wide. The National Youth Development Policy will be presented to Cabinet during the first quarter of 2012.

In addition to young people’s active participation in the development of the national youth policy, a variety of platforms to promote adolescent participation was supported. Belize’s first ever Youth Media group was established. In partnership with the University of Belize and with technical support from HQ, 30 young journalists were trained in media. Young journalist used forums such as the launch of the UNICEF Situation Analysis to sharpen their skills in journalism. Through partnership with TIDE, Sports for Development was used as a vehicle for promoting girls participation and protection of the environment. The programme reached 25 schools in the Toledo District impacting over 5,000 students. The TIDE model is being considered for replication in Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay.

**Most Critical Factors and Constraints**

In the implementation of the 2011 work plan, the CO adopted a strong equity approach which saw the implementation of several programmes at the community level. These included birth registration, programming for adolescent girls, and the development of the national youth policy. While this approach proved very effective in reaching the most disadvantaged boys and girls with services, planned results were delayed in many instances owing to the geography, cultural factors and lack of infrastructure and services in many communities. For example, it was anticipated that 100% of communities in 6 districts would be reached with birth registration services. However, many communities proved hard to reach and required multiple visits before results were achieved. Thus at the end of the year only 50% of the target was achieved.

In many instances, specifically in indigenous communities, entry points had to be established with community leaders before any work could commence. This was an important lesson learnt especially in programming for adolescent girls since traditionally they are not a target of any development response. One key lesson learnt is that although results take longer to achieve when employing an equity focus that achieves results at the community level, this approach allows quicker identification and removal of bottlenecks.
Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The United Nations (UN) in Belize - UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and UNAIDS - collaborated with the Population Council (an international, nonprofit, nongovernmental organization established in 1952 by John D. Rockefeller III) to implement a joint UN Programme on Adolescent Girls. This programme entitled “Reducing the Social and Economic Vulnerability of girls in rural and urban Belize” initiated in 2011 and is scheduled to be completed in 2012.

The UN agencies in Belize have established partnership with over 15 organizations that are working with girls to address a number of vulnerabilities. Organizations such as The Women’s Issues Network of Belize is the only network of organizations in Belize whose focus is on the empowerment of women. The Belize Family Life Association (BFLA) is dedicated primarily to family planning and reproductive health. Youth Enhancement Services (YES) is a non-profit, non-governmental agency that has been providing services to the young women and girls of Belize since 1989. The Toledo Maya Women's Council (TMWC) was established in 1997 as the result of the organized efforts of Mayan Kekchi and Mayan Mopán women from Toledo, a district in the south of Belize and The Productive Organisation for Women in Action is (POWA) a community-based organization composed of a broad cross-section of women: single, married, household heads, employed, unemployed and women whose work is not recognized or remunerated.

UN agencies are working together on this Coverage Exercise to identify what programmes are serving girls in general and the most vulnerable girls, in particular. The Coverage Exercise is allowing the UN to identify the gaps in programme and services for vulnerable girls and aid in strategically positioning support. The results of the Coverage Exercise are available and will be disseminated in February 2012. The Coverage Study was conducted in the Southern Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo as well as in the urban areas of Belize District. The Stann Creek and Toledo Districts are home to large population of indigenous people including the Garifuna and the Maya.

Partnerships with young people, in particular through the youth media was also an important feature of the programme. Young people’s leadership capacity was expanded as they partnered with UNICEF to lead the youth policy development process as well as provide media coverage of a number of important events including the launch of the Situation Analysis.

A key factor in achieving the result for Birth Registration was the establishment of strong partnerships with communities. Civil Society Organizations such as POWA and TOLCA played a critical role in reaching vulnerable, hard to reach communities with BR services. Additionally, partnerships with community leaders especially in indigenous communities facilitated entry into these traditional communities and allowed for staff to learn more about the culture and traditions of these communities. This understanding of the culture and traditions made it easier to address bottle necks to birth registration.

Humanitarian Situations

Not applicable

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

The Adolescent Girls Coverage Exercise was the only study conducted during the reporting period. The objective of the Coverage Exercise was to identify the extent to which vulnerable girls were being served by existing programmes and services. The study was conducted in partnership with Population Council and the UN and covered 27 sites reaching approximately 3550 girls. Data analysis is currently being conducted and the report of findings will be available within the first quarter of 2012. Findings from the Coverage Exercise will be used by UNICEF and the UN to support strengthening programmes and services for adolescent girls in 3 of the most disadvantaged areas of Belize.

Additionally, in an effort to promote evaluation and documentation of good practices, 3 programmes focusing on adolescent development were documented. The Julian Cho High School and Tumul Kin Centre of
Learning provided sound examples of models in secondary education reaching the most marginalized indigenous population with their right to education. The Samuel Haynes Institute of Excellence provided an example of a model of protective environments at the community level and demonstrates how community led efforts can result in the establishment of safe spaces for children and adolescents even in areas where high crime rates exist. Documenting and disseminating these models will support scaling up and replication in other areas where similar interventions are needed.

**Future Work Plan**

In 2012, the last year of the CPAP, a strong focus will be on Child Protection. Child Protection is identified as one of the areas where the greatest gaps lie in terms of realizing the goals articulated in the CPAP. Efforts will be made to reach the remaining 50% of the country with birth registration services, identifying and addressing the bottlenecks that impede access to registration. Technical assistance will be provided to the Ministry of Human Development to strengthen the child protection system by ensuring that the necessary policies and legislation are adequately resourced and monitored and that resources are available to implement programmes to prevent child abuse and sexual abuse.

Programming for Adolescent Girls will remain a strong focus in the programme area. In 2012, evidence from the Coverage Exercise conducted will be utilized to roll out the Joint UN Programme on Adolescent Girls in Stann Creek District while building capacity of other stakeholders in Toledo and Belize District. This will be complemented by strong advocacy for the protection of adolescent girls.

UNICEF will continue to invest in adolescent development through the creation of platforms for participation of the most disadvantaged adolescents. This includes partnering with the National Institute for Culture and History and Pan Trinbago to engage vulnerable boys in positive expression through music. It also includes further strengthening the Belize Youth Media Group to ensure that adolescent voices are mainstreamed in the media as well as a focus on youth governance through the strengthening of National and local level youth councils. The CO will also continue to partner with TIDE to promote girls participation in sports and to use sports for development as a vehicle for reaching children and their families with information and behaviour change messages on the environment and climate change.

**Country Programme Component: Disparity reduction through public policy, investment and participatory governance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCR</th>
<th>EQRank</th>
<th>OTDetails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessible and relevant data available and utilized, to underpin a strong regulatory framework that guides decision-making for improvements in the area of survival, development, protection and participation of the most disadvantaged women, and boys and girls 0-19 yrs, in keeping with the CRC and MDGs.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>FA1OT11, FA4OT9, FA5OT1, FA5OT2, FA5OT3, FA5OT4, FA5OT5, FA5OT6, FA5OT7, FA5OT9, FA1OT10</td>
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### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)</th>
<th>Allocated in 2011</th>
<th>Estimated Year-End Expenditure</th>
<th>%Spent (4)/(3) * 100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td><strong>$505,799.00</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Results Achieved

By 2012, strengthened capacity of relevant national and community-based service providers, with an emphasis on Southside Belize City and Toledo District, to develop and implement comprehensive, child-sensitive policies and programmes to reach the most vulnerable boys and girls; By 2012, national systems, with support from centres of excellence, have adopted more effective practices for the generation, use and dissemination of disaggregated data and knowledge related to children's well-being;

Advancing towards these results required establishing the necessary linkages and capacity development in collaboration with a network of partners.

1. **National Women’s Commission- “Sex-Disaggregated Data to Advance Women’s Priorities in Public Policies”**
   The Sex-disaggregated Data to Advance Women’s Priorities in Public Policies project (Belize Gender Info) has been progressing well. The initiative seamlessly complements on-going efforts of the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB), the National AIDS Commission (NAC) and the National Committee for Families and Children (NCFC) in their efforts towards a common data management and dissemination system based on DevInfo technology.

2. **University of Belize- “Development and Implementation of a strategic Policy Observatory for Belize”**;
   The partnership with UB initiated on September 1st has resulted in the establishment of the Policy Observatory (PO). Conversations have started with governmental partners to communicate the establishment of the PO and to discuss potential areas of collaboration to fill knowledge gaps in relation to policy development tasks. Inter-institutional research collaboration has begun with the University of Quintana Roo, Chetumal Campus. In addition, preparatory works have been initiated to identify and select the policy areas that the PO will pursue as its initial portfolio of research and advisory services on children.

3. **University of the West Indies-“Collaboration to Develop National Capacities for the Respect, Protection and Fulfilment of Children’s Rights in Belize.”**
   Through this partnership;
   - 70 individuals representing over 15 NGO’s benefited from capacity development in: HACT; Project Management, Grant Proposal Writing, Financial Management.
   - 30 journalist and media professionals were exposed to practical framework for understanding children’s rights in the context of reporting and documenting issues facing Belizean children, while respecting ethical standards of reporting.
   - A national central repository for free and publicly accessible knowledge generated on children in Belize- launched in December can be visited at [http://www.dbzchild.org/](http://www.dbzchild.org/)
   - A group of M&E officers, from civil society and government - created a platform that offers advice on responses and actions to challenges in planning, monitoring and evaluation in the social sector.

4. **Statistical Institute of Belize- MICS4**
   The year saw a strong sensitization campaign- to increase national ownership, wide-spread knowledge, understanding and use of the MICS4 process and product; the design, preparation and implementation of the survey and constant surveillance and quality checks during the entire phase.
5. Situational Analysis of Children and Women 2011: An Ecological Review
This document was successfully launched in August of 2011, included four levels of analysis to describe the current status of social well-being in Belize.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints
The absence of a Social Policy Officer is a major impediment to advancing this programme area. Despite two advertisements for the posts, candidates were found to be weak in experience and skills for the task. As a result certain planned programme areas have been delayed including the budget analysis. The CO therefore is now identified a Centre of Excellence and an expert in Social Policy to facilitate national learning and capacity building as well as programme implementation. The post will be advertised one more time in early 2012.

There is increasing recognition that policy development and resource allocation mechanisms rely on the functional areas of planning and monitoring & evaluation (M&E). In order to enhance both the quality and quantity of their contributions in this respect, Planning and M&E professionals in vital public sector entities came together to address this need. The increasing demand for UNICEF's support in the development of national capacity in these areas, presents a great opportunity for partnership and for monitoring and evaluation to be country-led. However, it is clear that this initiative will require a leader - someone with the necessary skill set and passion to advance the development and institutionalization of a National M&E system. UNICEF is currently supporting the area and will work towards the identification of the appropriate leader.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration
In 2011, CO partnered with:
· GOB - to build a sound evidence base that is being used to monitor child poverty and influence national policy formation in favor of the most disadvantaged;
· University of Belize and George Washington University, - to support institutional capacity building, for social policy development that will allow for advocacy of transformative public governance practices that are more integrated and collaborative, thus delivering better results for rights-holders;
· University of the West Indies – to develop national capacities in favor of the respect, protection and fulfillment of children’s rights in Belize. CO’s aimed towards an integrated and highly synergistic approach to its knowledge functions, to strengthen linkages between knowledge management work, research functions and other knowledge-oriented areas such as technical services and field operations;
· South-south partnerships - stimulate and enrich programme delivery. UNICEF has fostered relationships with neighboring Latin American countries including Cuba for ECD, Colombia for CFS and Guatemala for internal staff training on adolescent girls programming. Specialized regional Centres of Excellence guide national capacity development and innovation in specific priority areas.

Humanitarian Situations
Humanitarian action accomplished in 2011 covered only preparedness and the ability to respond immediately, if necessary. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to ensure that supplies were in stock to respond to disaster. In addition, UNICEF established a formal partnership with Ya'aché Conservation Trust through a PCA as a strategic local partner in Southern Belize to store and to provide life-saving supplies to the vulnerable population in the District of Toledo at the request of the GOB. UNICEF controls the distribution of supplies based on the rapid assessment conducted and Ya'aché provides early response capacity. With respect to the Red Cross, discussions are still undergoing to formalize the relationship between UNICEF and Red Cross, however, emergency supplies are stored on the Red Cross compound in the Central Zone of the Country, another strategic location to respond to vulnerable
Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations
Monitoring of actions under this Programme component was generally achieved via quarterly field visits to assess results, meet with the implementing partners to review progress, identify ways in which to address notable challenges and calibrate the AWP if/where necessary.

To support the achievement of PCR3 two studies was conducted:
1. The 2011 Situation Analysis of Children and Women is a comprehensive, multi-domain review of information and data on factors related to the achievement of well-being, rights and equity.
2. Exclusion Youth from Labor Market and Analysis of Disparity by Quintiles (on LSMS 2009) was conducted in collaboration with CEPAL. This study identified:
   - Types of labour market exclusion as key problem of social inclusion/exclusion
   - How serious is the problem of labour market exclusion – and who is affected?
   - Specifically, what is the situation and what are the perspectives for the labour market inclusion of young people (15 – 24): Belize, LSMS 2009

Some policy lessons
To ensure that CO and GOB reach the most disadvantaged who suffer social and economic disparities, inequity and exclusion all data produced is transformed into useful evidence. This new evidence will be utilized in shaping policy and practice regarding the rights of children and women in Belize including changing the current ecology.

- The knowledge gave insight to areas where CO has made some gain and area where attention must be given, make judgments about a program to improve its effectiveness, and/or to inform programming decisions.
- Serious disparities are masked by national averages. CO must continue to support ongoing efforts to improve information systems, strengthen data collection and disaggregation.
- Promote and support DevInfo as a meaningful data dissemination tool to prepare progressive reports on development strategies and goals.
- The information gained from the various studies, research and data collection reveals that the CO needs to expand its sub-national focus to include Stann Creek and Corozal districts if CO aims to reach the most disadvantaged children. This new programme focus will improve efficiency in resource allocation based on human rights principles and will serve as the basis for the new CPD design in 2013-2016.
- Combining a direct, equity-focused and ‘upstream’ policy approach improves results for the most disadvantaged boys and girls. Experience in birth registration has demonstrated that this approach is more effective than an ‘upstream-only’ approach.

Future Work Plan
Poverty is still a challenge for Belize and inequities remain in a number of areas such as health, education and social protection. The complexity suggests that the focus needs to be on intersecting the four types of inequalities in a continuum across the lifecycle of the child namely: Economic inequalities, Spatial and environmental inequalities, Cultural inequalities, Political inequalities.

The goal of the 2012-and for the new Country programme is to reduce these inequalities by supporting current national and local level efforts towards the attainment of an equitable standard of living for the most disadvantaged families and children, in line with the international human and child rights standards ratified by Belize and as agreed in its national development plan, Horizon 2030. The country programme will specifically focus on those bottlenecks and barriers that systematically impede progress for the most at risk and disadvantaged children at a sub-national level in Southern Belize (Toledo and Stann Creek Districts) South-side Belize City and in Corozal in the North.

In addition the Programme of Cooperation with linkages to a Caribbean sub-regional effort, will remove the bottlenecks and barriers to the achievement of health and social well-being of boys and girls by accelerating
effort and contributing to: (a) an increase in coverage and access of basic services in ECD, WASH in schools; nutrition and birth registration for children 0-18 years; (b) an increase in the number of parents, caregivers, police officers, magistrates, teachers and media officials having skills and capabilities to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of boys and girls in Belize especially of those who are the most disadvantaged; (c) an increase in the coverage and access to primary schools that meet child-friendly criteria; (d) a reduction in the number of adolescent boys and girls out of school at secondary level; (e) an increase in the number of boys and girls in the most disadvantaged urban areas that have the skills and opportunity to practice cultural expressions and enterprise; (f) a decrease in the number of children with disabilities who are excluded; (g) a stronger domestic legislative framework meeting international standards to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation; (h) an increase in the number of development policies that involve redistributions of influence, advantage, or subsidies away from dominant groups and in favour of poor and disadvantaged children and adolescents and (i) the establishment an effective functioning of a mechanism to monitor achievement of child rights and progress towards equity as part of a Caribbean sub-regional effort.

### Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral costs

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCR</th>
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<td>Well-resourced, evidence-based communication for development, research and lessons learnt from evaluations of existing programmes, are facilitating more strategic and cost-effective responses to ensure the respect, protection and fulfillment of children’s rights</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>FA1OT8, FA1OT12, FA2OT9, FA3OT6, FA4OT1, FA5OT3, FA5OT5, FA5OT8, FA5OT9, FA6OT9, Support 6</td>
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#### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

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<th>Resource Type</th>
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<th>Allocated in 2011</th>
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<td><strong>$204,939.00</strong></td>
<td>96.29</td>
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</table>

#### Results Achieved

In 2011 this programme area included actions to facilitate well-resourced, more strategic and cost-effective responses to ensure the respect, protection and fulfillment of children’s rights was maintained in the country. In Belize, cross-sectoral costs covered the costs of the Planning and M&E officer and programme-related travel costs, communication for development, advocacy and monitoring and Evaluation. UNICEF Belize improved its country programme planning and management of field trips, continued to strengthen its partnerships particularly at field level, conducted more field visits for the sake of M&E, and engaged in advocacy and visibility for the entire programmatic area.

- Increased visibility and understanding of the Programme of Cooperation’s objectives and goals through fruitful engagement of key partners in meetings;
- Increased developmental opportunities for children including the expansion of the number of child-friendly spaces.
- Engaged media as a change agent making use of data generated through the Programme communicating with the public in an ongoing dialogue on children’s rights;
Most Critical Factors and Constraints
In the implementation of the 2011 work plan, our work focused on creating a culture of rights with several actors such as the media and others stakeholders identified as key to advancing the children's agenda. Some of the constraints are: lack of knowledge of the role that media can play in the development of the child; lack of child-centred programming; the high standards needed in ethical pro-children reporting and maintaining these standards. While the CO initiated capacity building of the media, there needs to be continuous work to strengthen the media for them to play a better role in providing accurate information to the populace; advocate for the fulfillment of children's rights and be able to shape and guide public discourse in meaningful policy reforms that promote the children's agenda. With respect to communication, increasing the capacity in this area would increase participation and inform more stakeholders about policies that affect their lives. In addition, communication technology in Belize is also a challenge due to access and cost, especially as it relates to the rural communities who are often the most disadvantaged. In many instances, reaching out specifically in indigenous communities, required outreach to community leaders before any work could start, which in some instances proved difficult.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration
UNICEF continues to invest in expanding and strengthening partnerships. The CO has also built capacity of partners to enable meaningful advocacy for the fulfillment of child rights both at local and national level where policies are made. UNICEF engaged in:

- Strengthening partnerships through capacity building by University of West Indies in technical areas such as financial management and operations, ethical reporting by media professionals, data management by the statistical institute and key policy-makers; key civil society organisations; and the donor community; visual communication.
- Partnered with the Indigenous councils raising awareness of the rights of the indigenous children in Belize. Through work plan activities with the ethnic councils, the Garifuna, Q'eqchi and Creole Councils, increased investment in fulfillment of the rights of some of the most disadvantaged children
- Extended inter-agency partnerships to include more direct partnerships with IOM, the UN Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights, Organization of American States, the Population Council, along with other locally based UN agencies such as PAHO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNWOMEN.

These actions were taken in close collaboration with the NCFC, Office of Special Envoy for Women and Children, Vital Statistics Office, Social Security Board, Ministry of Health, Education and Youth and Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation. As part of the Situation Analysis 2011 presentation and the Annual Review, UNICEF engaged CEOs, ministers and partners to discuss key sectoral issues; young people to share their perspectives of life in communities and schools; the media to strengthen their role in addressing children's rights; and the key agencies to foster a rich interchange of experiences. All these groups play key roles in advocating for social transformation and are our strategic partners. The multiple dialogues informed for programming for 2012 and will guide the new country programme that is being drafted. In the most disadvantaged areas of Toledo, UNICEF leveraged its resources through strategic partnerships with NGOs to increase on-the-ground work. During preparatory phases for disaster risk reduction, during the hurricane season, the Red Cross, NEMO and other technical partners worked closely.
Humanitarian Situations

Humanitarian action accomplished in 2011 covered only preparedness and the ability to respond immediately, if needed. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to ensure that supplies were in stock to respond to disaster. In addition, UNICEF established a formal partnership with Ya'ché Conservation Trust through a PCA as a strategic local partner in Southern Belize to store and to provide life-saving supplies to the vulnerable population in the District of Toledo at the request of the GOB. UNICEF controls the distribution of supplies based on the rapid assessment conducted and Ya'ache provides early response capacity. With respect to the Red Cross, discussions are still undergoing to formalize the relationship between UNICEF and Red Cross, however, emergency supplies are stored on the Red Cross compound in the Central Zone of the Country, another strategic location to respond to vulnerable groups, if the need arises.

Protect &Survive pamphlet was prepared in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and was submitted to the nine district organizations. This pamphlet was distributed through the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) to households immediately after a disaster and a Fast Fact Sheet was distributed to key stakeholders.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response includes:

- Strengthening participation of children in disaster preparedness and climate change
- Procurement and storage of emergency supplies in country for quick delivery to the affected population
- Updating with UN and other partners preparedness plans
- Providing technical support to the Belize Red Cross and National Emergency Management Organization
- Providing quick response and resources to prevent nutritional crises
- Providing resources to keep children in school.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

A Communication for Development Study: A culture of rights was conducted during this reporting period. The objective of the study was to determine the knowledge, attitudes and practices specific to children’s rights in Belize. The study was conducted nationwide and consisted of both a quantitative survey and a qualitative research component. Data was collected about the communication environment and its use; participant analysis; behavior analysis communication; channel analysis; and problem and program analysis regarding the culture of rights. Findings from this study will be used to guide the CO to reposition itself using effective communication tools to effect behavioral change. The assessment of available and appropriate communication channels for different levels of participants was made and will guide the communication/advocacy campaigns and dissemination plans. This study also provides essential quantitative and qualitative data for informing the Communication for Development (C4D) strategy and action plan for the upcoming communication country program; and information generated from this analysis will also serve as a basis for further C4D planning in specific program sectors.

Future Work Plan

In 2012 this cross-sectoral area will continue to contribute to the following PCR:

PCR: Well resourced, evidence-based communication for development, research and lessons learnt from evaluations of existing programmes, are facilitating more strategic and cost-effective responses to ensure the respect, protection and fulfillment of children’s rights

IR 1: By 2014, positive behavioural outcomes are evident among key duty-bearers, resulting in the creation of child-friendly environments and practices. (Gender marker 2)

IR 2: By 2012, state-of-the-art research is informing policy that influences the achievement of outcomes in early childhood and adolescence in Southside Belize city and Toledo District, including influence on MDG outcomes. (Gender marker 2)

IR 3: By 2011, supplies are forecasted and procured in a timely manner to ensure rapid access and smooth workflow for programmes, including during emergencies. (Gender marker 1)
Effective Governance Structure

At the beginning of 2011, the Country Office reviewed and rotated staff and streamlined the governance structures including to improve efficiency, allocation of staff time and to minimize stress on staff members of a relatively small office. The CRC, PSB met at regular intervals as required, keeping the CO functioning at a high level of efficiency with respect to the UNICEF standards for contracts and the disposal of assets. The CMT and PGM met on a monthly basis and sometimes as required to improve planning, programme coherence and field visit efficiency. The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer led the Country Team under the direction of the Representative to support oversight with the development of useful tools for monitoring and evaluation. The reporting processes to donors and HQ was improved, thus breaking Belize’s cycle of late reporting. Field visits were well-coordinated but continue to require more time for individual monitoring and oversight of field actions especially among newly engaged sub-national partners.

The Representative discussed in several CMT meetings and at regular staff meetings the objectives and goals of the Country Programme. The Belize team worked very efficiently in 2011 to play an active part in the definition of the office objectives, to set priorities, to understand the role of staff especially in the development and implementation of the Birth Registration campaign and in the preparedness phase of the annual hurricane season. The Programme Specialist led the team along with the Driver (Field Support) on emergency risk management by investing time and effort of the entire team in the development of early warning system online. She held briefing sessions with the team to ensure improved understanding of the emergency phases, the national expectations of UNICEF and how staff could prepare themselves and their families for emergencies. The Business Information Report (BIR) was used at each CMT to understand and guide progress geared towards improving efficiency of the teams work. The result of the year’s efforts paid off in a high rate of implementation (97%) and a high rating on the development of the Early Warning System (93%).

Strategic Risk Management

The Belize Country Office continues to maintain a high level of awareness and readiness among staff for potential risks to the disruption of workflow in Belize, including natural disasters, (hurricane, floods), security threats due to the high levels of crime and violence, the circulation of arms, loss of infrastructure, loss of personal property that may even result in death of staff members. Issues of security and mitigation measures are regularly monitored by the Security focal point, with the support of the Country Security Focal Point, the DO and United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in Guatemala. Necessary safety equipment is in place and staff members have all been briefed on ways to mitigate and report potential threats or experiences in their environs. As natural disaster is the norm, Belize CO sought support from the TACRO Emergency advisors to learn about and update the new Early Warning System (EWS). The Belize CO appointed two office emergency focal points who have been trained for the purpose and who ensure that the EWS is kept up to date. Part of risk-management preparations also included updating the Business Continuity Plan to include new staff and reallocation of tasks and responsibilities. With respect to programme, the AWPs give consideration to potential risks due to failures on the part of partners and/or UNICEF to put measures in place to mitigate risks or challenging circumstances. The Table of Authorities was updated several times during the year to ensure correct delegation of authority during fluctuating staffing arrangements. The CO participated in the update of the ERM system and the RCSA, which provided an opportunity to review and prepare responses to risks and to take steps to mitigate the potential development of new risks identified in the ERM. The CMT met regularly and discussed key risk and management issues, taking a solutions-oriented approach to addressing impediments to proper workflow. With the support of the RO and HQ, funding of the programme were improved, doubling the amount of OR to the country programme in 2011. Staff agreed among the team to familiarize themselves with each other’s programme and operations areas in order to establish efficiency in workflow even during times of absence of staff members. The CMT and staff members discussed and agreed on the importance of neutrality as a core value and the respect for UNICEF’s core values of integrity and commitment.
Evaluation

At the start of 2011, the planning group approved six studies, 2 surveys, 4 evaluations, supported the completion 2 reports- CRC and CEDAW and 2 policies-ECD and Youth. Achievement of the activities was track at each programme meeting where a monthly update was presented. At the midyear review it was agreed that the ‘Study of the factors contributing to adolescents out of School (NEET),’ and ‘Mapping the Child Protection System’ would be reassigned to the 2012 IMEP to guarantee national ownership and validation. This delay would guarantee that actions outlined in the management response to the ‘Mapping of the Child Protection System’ would be supported and delivered by MHDST.

The completion of MICS 4 and National Nutritional Survey report would be ready for consumption in 2012. At the end of 2011, the only evaluation conducted was the assessment of WASH in primary schools. The findings from the WASH evaluation were presented by the MOE at the Annual Review in December 2012 and action plan will be developed with MoE in 2012.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

Major improvements were made in Information Technology. Replacement of 94% of computer hardware resulted in faster and reliable workflow while ensuring UNICEF’s compliance with standards in preparation for VISION. Acquisition of equipment such as photographic and video cameras, laptops for the use of the young citizen journalists further assisted young people in advocating for their rights.

Reliability of internet services in country improved slightly. Belize’s small pool of internet service providers and limited coverage results in high client cost by the only reliable service provider BTL Ltd. A switch to the UNICEF-managed IPSec services allowed for better e-communication. This change provided the required stability in internet connectivity to minimize interruption and impact on online business processes. Common ICT services are not possible as the four UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and PAHO) are housed in different locations except during emergencies when the UNDP office accommodates all UN agencies at a ‘common emergency centre’. Negotiation with BTL is limited as the Government of Belize (GOB) is not in a position to reduce IT costs. During 2011, the GOB launched a new IT strategy opening up the possibility for improved efficiency of government.

Remarkable progress has been seen in the use of ICT to influence policies and actions. Effective communication of the information and results derived from the programmes, helped in shaping policies and changing societal and institutional attitudes towards the rights of children and women. UNICEF Belize implemented successful programme activities and leveraged those successes to increase awareness of the issues facing children and women, and has simultaneously positioned itself as the knowledge leader on children’s issues in Belize.

This type of communication has increased the visibility of UNICEF and its mandate with a rating in knowledge of UNICEF’s work currently climbing to about 70%. More work is required over the next programme period to improve this rating. UNICEF used strategic communication and interaction with key stakeholders: the news media, social partners, and the Government of Belize. Communication for Development (C4D) activities included promotion of children rights to national identity and to a voice using a systematic, planned and evidence-based approach. The CO used research and consultative processes to promote human rights, mobilize leadership and societies, influence attitudes and support the behaviours. Information-sharing was also improved through the establishment of the Knowledge Portal – the Belize Child developed to provide information about related issues. The country website was also developed as another source of information. The creation and maintenance of information-sharing mechanisms consisted of various social media including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube designed to positively influence all audiences.

In 2011, equipment was disposed through donations to schools, technical institutions or partners providing
after-school ICT classes, following Property Review standards. This allowed for partners to strengthen and expand in areas of ICT for development.

Fund Raising and Donor Relations

A fundraising strategy based on three pillars: focused proposals for submission to Natcoms and external donors, sub-regional multi-country proposals with Caribbean offices in areas of education and knowledge management and renewed government funding to support administration and limited programming around social policy was developed in 2011. This was supported through engagement of all stakeholders. Programme efficiency was improved through adequate management of DCT’s, timely donor reporting and high visibility communication about UNICEF’s work. While this approach is slow in terms of resource mobilization it is likely to lead to more sustainable donor relationships in the long-term. The support in resource mobilization provided by RO and HQ allowed the CO to focus on a wide spectrum of change management and programme processes. The CO-RO-HQ partnership resulted in a doubling of the total resources (from $1.4 million to $2.6 million in 2010) to the CO which allowed for greater investments at sub-national levels. 97% of expenditure was realized in 2011; a much higher level of achievement than in previous years.

Donor proposals were developed and disseminated online and direct means. However there was no particular donor interest in Belize. Donors and Natcoms appear to have pre-conceived ideas of areas to be funded. In one instance request was made for a proposal on “street children”. Although the CO works with disadvantaged children not “children living on the streets.” there was no opportunity to re-orient the Natcom’s thinking on the issue. A visit of a US Fund contingent of 7-8 participants to Toledo also did not result in new funding.

The CO collaborated with other Caribbean Offices to co-develop joint proposals on Learning and Knowledge Management in response to a CARICOM request. With RO’s support these proposals are more likely to lead to funding once completed in early 2012.

The CO improved its poor donor reporting reputation by ensuring submission of timely reports of quality standards. There were no special appeal needs in 2011 therefore the CO repaid to HQ 50% of funds allocated in 2010 for emergency use. The balance of $50,000 will be repaid in 2012. All expiring PBAs were above 95% utilization levels and/or completely utilized avoiding the need to request extensions of PBAs. The CO mobilized resources from UN partners (UNFPA and UNDP) as part of a joint project on adolescent girls. This action reduced the burden on UNICEF for funding. While the CO lost the US Natcom’s support to its ECD programme it gained the support from the Spanish and the Norwegian governments. The EU also approached UNICEF to submit a proposal through its local funding mechanisms with the Government of Belize. A proposal was submitted in the area of education and adolescent development to support work in the Banana Belt. That proposal should bear fruit in 2013, if successful. The GOB renewed its commitment to UNICEF for 5 years beginning 2012 for a total of US$500,000 annually. These resources will reduce the burden on SB funding for administration cost (50%) and programme ($50%).

Management of Financial and Other Assets

The CO took steps through the CMT to meet high standards of efficiency in the use of resources. Belize managed to achieve 97% of planned resources to planned results. The Sr. Operations Assistant consistently took steps to meet the standards set out for bank reconciliations and financial procedures holding each responsible officer accountable to these standards and procedures. The CO has managed to develop with the support of Programme Assistants a very positive and clearly thought out process for the management of liquidations. Through training of partners as part of the UWI capacity building relationship,
HACT training has become a pre-requisite for cash assistance. The practice of monthly and quarterly oversight visits is onstream with programme officers and assistants sharing the responsibility. Belize was able to reduce to 0% all outstanding DCT by year end. The CO has definitely achieved efficiency gains in the use and management of resources but has not fared as well on cost savings initiatives. The key challenge on cost savings relate to the rise in administrative overheads – rental, telephone and electricity and materials cost. The CO held joint meeting with UN partners to review possible cost-savings plans but so far no specific savings are feasible except in the area of transportation among agencies. The Office will continue to monitor the situation and will work towards cost-savings in energy, telephone, environmental costs (greening UNICEF) and field work costs.

While the CO was able to avoid additional purchases of cars during 2011, the expansion of field work may result in a need to buy at least one vehicle to update in 2012 the now over-used vehicles currently in operation.

Supply Management

The Annual Supplies plan was submitted to the Representative for approval and then to the CRC for review and recommendation/s to the Representative for local procurement of office and kitchen supplies and offshore procurement of Emergency and IT supplies.

Since the supply side of the CP is very minimal, the only monitoring required is the Emergency supplies since Belize has a potentially high threat for natural disasters. The need for emergency supplies is minimal, (ORS packets, hygiene kits, school in a box, ECD Kits, Recreation Kits, collapsible water bottles) and are kept at our warehouses. This year we have established two-controlled warehouses one located in Belmopan City and the other in Toledo District. Most items stored are distributed during the hurricane recovery phase to Government counterparts. The CO emergency focal point coordinates with the Administrative Assistant to perform inventory checks once every quarter to update inventory list, check and destroy expired supplies. Destroying expired supplies is done with the assistance of the Government and in order to maintain pre-positioning requirements.

UNICEF Belize Country Office conducted a review of existing suppliers countrywide and found still limited supply possibilities locally since Belize does not have a large manufacturing or even private sectors. The CO also found rather drastic increases in cost of some supply items due to import taxes. Recommendation was strongly made highlighting the importance of coordination with the RO and other nearby countries especially for emergency supplies when needed urgently in order to reduce costs.

Human Resources

The CO is very focused on the achievement of results for children and has designed its staffing requirements on the basis of staff profile and mix. The Belize team has a high level of achievement with respect to programme results and all members worked consistently to achieve stated goals. Despite the effort made however, weaknesses in staff capabilities are evident in such areas as time management, overcoming obstacles, and judgment and team-building. Given the fact that at least 50% of the team has no more than one year’s experience, adjusting to UNICEF multitasking demands and standards of efficiency have placed high levels of stress on staff. Staff demonstrated, despite the demands significant interests and evidence in meeting programme goals. They volunteered to support efforts outside of their areas of focus, for example, to ensure that birth registration goals were achieved. Continuing competencies in team spirit and team-building were the subject of at least two workshops in 2011. One and one discussions were held over the year between the Representative, the Programme Specialist with individual staff members to address workplace challenges and to plan approaches to overcome challenges. A peer-to-peer support
system was established led by one of the Programme Assistants and staff made good use of this mechanism to address internal issues. Further work is needed to enhance the team spirit and team-building effort in order to maintain a more enabling environment to meet the demands of the programme. The CO was able to realize 90% of planned activities in its staff learning and development plan. Although a significant amount of resources and time was invested in preparing staff for the roll out of VISION, staff at various levels benefitted from capacity development in a number of areas including emergency, defensive driving, competency based interviewing, IPSAS and Gender. Staff also benefitted significantly from professional and personal development sessions delivered by Stephen Covey Foundation which focused on the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Staff indicated that the sessions were extremely helpful and applying the habits to personal and professional life can contribute significantly to the creation of an enabling work environment.

The communication officer built her capacity through participation in a global learning course on C4D in Athens, Ohio. This intensive eight-month C4D training provided an opportunity to meet face to face with world renowned practitioners in C4D and work through challenges/issues and projects with colleagues in the field. The global course strengthened critical thinking and leadership skills of participants in the application of behaviour and social change theories, methods and tools to the design and evaluation of integrated and human-rights based C4D strategies to strengthen UNICEF’s programming and policy advocacy work. C4D was underscored as a key cross-cutting strategy to enhance UNICEF programming using an equity approach.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

To achieve efficiency gains and cost savings the CO met with UN colleagues to review the possibilities for streamlining aspects of operations including travel, supply purchases and at times of emergencies. In order to avoid annual payment of contingency accommodation for all staff and family at resident hotels in Belmopan, the UN team agreed to use UNDP office as the secure location for all UN staff saving the country team the usual allocation of $3,000 to the hotel facility as a non-refundable deposit and the potential thousands should the team have been required to move during the hurricane season. Fortunately, the season was a friendly one for Belize and therefore no demand was placed on internal resources. The UNCT also shared whenever feasible driving costs and drivers to and from Belmopan and Belize City. UNICEF supported UN colleagues in this initiative whenever requested and the same was returned for the UNICEF team from sister agencies. The UNCT also shared conference costs by rotating location of UNCT meetings with each agency taking on minimal costs of service.

Consideration was also given to travel, supplies and field visits as potential areas of saving. The UNCT discovered that because the Belize market is particularly small with very limited travel options by airlines (only AA and TACA), these companies were not particularly interested in reducing costs of travel and the same is true for travel agencies which have very low negotiating power. One option might be for UNICEF in New York or the Region to negotiate good prices on behalf of small offices/small countries based on a global relationship. UNICEF Belize also found that prices are better if airline tickets could be purchased online but there is no credit card system to allow online purchasing. Further guidance on using this possibility would be helpful.

With respect to supplies, again little savings are feasible. The cost of most supplies increased in 2011 due to import tax. Sharing costs of field visits remains a possibility but would require coordinated planning and timelines, often a challenge for the teams and partners.
## Changes in AMP and CPMP

The Country Programme comes to an end in 2012 beginning a new country programme covering a period of four years, 2013-2016. The reduced period of the new country programme is meant to compensate for the extension of the 2007-2011 by one year extension. This therefore is one of the major changes envisaged in the CPMP. Secondly, the RO envisages the inclusion of the Belize Country Programme into a sub-regional operational hub in Panama along with Panama CO and the Venezuela CO. The implications of this new operational mechanism will certainly have a bearing on the CPMP as it relates to costs and possibly staffing. The details are at this point unclear. With respect to programme efficiency, the CO will delimit two posts: UNV and JPO due to the complete impossibility of filling these posts despite numerous requests and calls for support to HQ and UNDP. Additional changes envisaged will relate to the possibility of establishing a Programme Assistant post at the G3 level to support the M&E-Communication-Social Policy platform – built as a continuum.

## Summary Notes and Acronyms

12. The Rovers Care Givers Programme - [http://fieldnotes.unicefusa.org/2010/04/krista_schmidt_is_a_senior.html](http://fieldnotes.unicefusa.org/2010/04/krista_schmidt_is_a_senior.html)
## Evaluation

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<td>Communication for Development Study: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice on Children Rights</td>
<td>BZE/2011/002</td>
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<td>National Assessment of WASH in Schools-Belize: Analysis of 2009 survey data to assess water, sanitation and hygiene in Belizean Schools</td>
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## Other Publications

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<tr>
<td>1 67 second Public service announcement on Birth Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Make your child count poster</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Make Your Child Count Brochure, banner, t-shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Protect and Survive Booklet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Safeguarding the Rights of Indigenous Children in Belize Brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Get in the MICS 4 improving the lives of our children promotional materials</td>
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<td>7 Get in the MICS 4 improving the lives of our children 3 minute public service announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Knowledge Series: Julian Cho Technical High School-holistic/inclusive Secondary Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Knowledge Series: Tumul K’in Center of Learning; Intercultural Bilingual Education (IBE) at Secondary Level</td>
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<td>10 Environmental Buttons: Children have a right to a healthy environment</td>
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<td>11 Knowledge Series: Samuel Haynes School of Excellence: Child Friendly Space</td>
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<td>12 Knowledge Series: Aguacate Primary School: Intercultural Bilingual Education (IBE) at Primary Level</td>
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## Lessons Learned

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## Programme Documents

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