1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main opportunities that arose to fulfill the rights of children and adolescents were as follows:

- First year of successful implementation of MDG Joint Programme *Support for the Fight against Anaemia in Vulnerable Groups*, with the objective of decreasing the prevalence of anaemia in boys, girls and pregnant women. Rehabilitation of 33% of the 198 learning centres destroyed by the hurricanes in 2008 in Las Tunas and Camagüey provinces, affecting 12,789 children; of those, 6,105 girls. These children are currently attending their school centres with their basic requirements for quality education already covered.

- Importance of the scientific, evidence-based advocacy role played by UNICEF, which was recognised in the Mid-Term Review (MTR) as an opportunity for the country. Maximising the contributions of the knowledge excellence centres has favoured information-sharing and the design of more effective strategies for the promotion of children’s rights.

- Participation of UNICEF Cuba in the preparatory meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), for which an internal report was prepared that contained achievements, realities and challenges in implementing the Convention.

The most significant shortfalls in achievement

The country’s current economic situation, further compounded by the international economic crisis, has once again become complicated. This economic slowdown has both direct and indirect impacts on national efforts to move faster towards the MDGs. The operational nature of UNICEF’s Cooperation Programme has been affected by the country’s market undersupply and the instability of inputs.

Key partnerships

During the MTR, it was suggested that UNICEF enhance its advocacy role, given its credibility as a United Nations System agency specialised in children and adolescents, both globally and at the country level. In this respect, partnerships with the Knowledge Excellence Centres were strengthened.

2 COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

After the ratification of the CRC by the Cuban State in August 1991, the country has continued to design and implement a legal, regulatory and policy framework focused on ensuring and protecting the rights of children and adolescents. Cuba also relies on the National Plan of Action, to follow up on the commitments contained in the document *A World Fit for Children*. UNICEF assists the Government in monitoring the goals set in the NPA, in the context of the objectives of the Cooperation Programme.

The *Third Country Report on progress towards MDG compliance* indicates that Cuba has fulfilled the following Goals: Achieve universal primary education (MDG 2). Promote gender equality and empower women (MDG 3). Reduce child mortality (MDG 4). Other goals likely to be fulfilled by 2015 include MDG 1, Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; MDG 4, Reduce child mortality in under-fives; MDG 5, Improve maternal health; MDG 6, Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Potentially likely are MDG 7, Ensure environmental sustainability and MDG 8, Develop a global partnership for development. Cuba has facilitated the monitoring of MDG indicators at the sub-national level, submitting data and expanding its related indicators.
Some of the limitations to MDG compliance include the impact of the economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba, imposed by the US Government for almost five decades, which has caused economic losses to the country estimated at US$96 billion, according to conservative estimates, between 1962-2008 (MINREX, 2010).

Some of the major changes in the national context that could affect MDG compliance include the transformation process of the country’s economic model. These changes could affect the extent of benefits that the population is used to having and may bring about adjustments to their life plans, while deepening gaps and inequalities.

3 CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

3.1 CP Analysis

3.1.1 CP Overview

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 2008-2012 Country Programme was carried out through a structured, creative and harmonised process of collective engagement between Government of Cuba counterparts and United Nations System agencies. The MTR process produced general recommendations:

- Emphasising implementation of the results-based management approach, from a baseline and goals agreed upon with the Government counterparts
- Reinforcing UNICEF’s advocacy role to influence socio-economic policies in favour of children
- Strengthening communication for development to add more visibility to children and promoting changed in behaviour to better protect and ensure their rights
- Enhancing the rights-based approach and the gender-based approach, with the relevant monitoring to verify their contribution to the well-being and development of boys, girls and adolescents
- Profiling the situation of children based on timely, reliable statistical information as input for decision-making and monitoring compliance with children’s rights
- Using, as necessary, the inputs prepared by the study centres to enrich knowledge management across programmes and activities
- Promoting public policies in favour of children and their protective environment
- Fostering spaces for citizen participation, particularly children, to reinforce the rights of boys, girls and adolescents.

The most important strategic results that UNICEF Cuba aims to achieve for the most disadvantaged children in the next two years include:

- Promotion of greater equality and inclusion in the country should be further enhanced; particularly, in light of the impact of the global financial crisis on the most vulnerable population (boys, girls, adolescents and women).
- It is necessary to have access to updated, disaggregated information on aspects of interest to the Organisation, mainly focused on the quality of education, health services and violence-related issues.
- The country has an advanced legislative framework for social well-being, composed of a set of laws and regulations whose full enforcement has had a positive impact on fulfilling the goals for children and adolescents. However, UNICEF has recommended undertaking a comprehensive analysis and update of the national legal framework for children and adolescents.

3.1.2 Programme Strategy

3.1.2.1 Capacity Development

From a strategic perspective, in addition to social awareness and mobilisation around children’s rights, counterparts’ capacities have been developed and strengthened on
issues pertaining to children and adolescents to obtain efficient, participatory programmes oriented towards the fulfilment of rights.

In this regard, support was given to collecting updated data, information and knowledge on children and adolescents in the country. The capacity of National Office for Statistics (ONE) to use instruments for disseminating disaggregated sex/age data was also supported. The Cuba-Info database was prepared in conjunction with ONE. Work has been carried out with some of the country’s research centres (CESJ, Juan Marinello Centre, CIPS, CITMA’s Cluster of Social Sciences, the Centre for Studies on Women, among others) to support documentation of Cuba’s experiences in the various fields of development of children and adolescents and to promote a culture of knowledge at the UNICEF Office.

During the preparation of UNICEF’s report for the CRC preparatory meetings, advocacy work was carried out with the Ministry responsible for preparing the national report, based on UNICEF’s interest in supporting the presentation and dissemination of the country report on the CRC.

Results-based strategic planning capacities must continue to be strengthened, particularly within social sector institutions, as a way to ensure that programmes and actions are implemented based on results.

Counterparts’ capacities must also be reinforced for programming analysis and monitoring and for the design of future actions through simple, didactic methodologies.

Another important aspect is strengthening national capacity to disaggregate information in order to better address disparities and influence the design of public policies.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy

UNICEF’s Cooperation Programme in Cuba relied on several advocacy opportunities to protect the rights of children and adolescents:

The tenth anniversary of nationwide project For a World of Rights became a good space for advocacy.

Presence at the Gibara Non-Budget Film Festival, where a workshop was held with children and adolescents, who related their experience during the 2008 hurricane in an audio-visual presentation they produced themselves. This film debuted at the closing ceremony to an audience composed of delegates from over 30 countries and the inhabitants of Gibara. The message was designed under the concept of solidarity with the boys and girls in Haiti, just weeks after the earthquake.

The programme strategy of using culture as a means to summon and profile concepts has had valuable results. Adolescents have received special care from the programmatic standpoint, among other examples, through projects that favour healthy, safe and educational recreation.

The Puberty series, intended for adolescents, has been acclaimed by this population sector. This product, jointly developed by the National Centre for Sex Education (CENESEX), the Cuban Film Institute (ICAIC) and UNICEF, relied on the participation of adolescents and members/goodwill ambassadors of La Colmenita theater.

Particularly relevant was the first flashmob in Cuba, adding to the global UNITE FOR CHILDREN campaign. Some 400 male and female dancers from all ballet and dancing schools in the capital participated in the event. Its choreography was put together by the
senior choreographer of Cuba’s National Ballet, based on the music by singer-songwriter Raúl Paz, a recently appointed Goodwill Ambassador.

The webpage UNICEF.CU, hosted on a national server, intends to become an important source of information and advocacy on children’s rights for its users, considering the population’s difficulties in accessing the Internet.

UNICEF’s presence on national and international media (TeleSur and Cubavisión Internacional) and on news programmes, talk shows and Mesa Redonda (a daily prime-time talk show centred on political, economic or social issues, has expanded the spaces for debate about the situation of children and adolescents in the country and the region.

### 3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships

During 2010 new and important partnerships were established with mass media reporters.

Linkages with the Office of the City Historian were strengthened in preparing a project for adolescents with the support of the European Union.

Establishing relations with institutions such as PM Records made it possible to facilitate the participation of adolescents at a Music and Art Festival held at the end of the summer. Other activities included a concert with renowned local musicians, workshops for children, artistic performances and graffiti display.

Gatherings with José Martí Primary Students’ Organisation, which includes most of the country’s children and adolescents, have placed priority on issues relating to rights. An example of this relationship was an activity held in all of Cuba’s schools to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CRC.

The list of Goodwill Ambassadors added two important Cuban performers: X Alfonso and Raúl Paz. These two musicians, well-known among adolescents and young people, have been working consistently with UNICEF and have a high commitment to its principles.

The link with the network of Computer Science Youth Clubs has been particularly important in promoting rights. The Clubs are present in 169 municipalities. Their centres, are an important vehicle for promoting use of UNICEF webpage, and for training and consultations on the national intranet.

The values of African contribution to Caribbean culture and, particularly, to that of Cuba have been further reinforced. The links with the III Traveling Caribbean Film Showcase, with a regular section for boys, girls and adolescents, have been strengthened. The productions have toured tens of countries within and outside the Caribbean sub-region, accompanied by debates and presentations.

Contribution by the Knowledge Excellence Centres was instrumental in preparing the Situation Analysis (SITAN) and holding training sessions on different issues of importance to the organisation.

Work carried out with UNIAL (Network of Audio-visual Universe of Latin American Children) continued during 2010, including national workshops with foreign participation.

### 3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management

Cuba relies on noteworthy scientific potential that is being increasingly maximised by UNICEF. Partnerships with various Knowledge Excellence Centres, particularly in areas such as health/social sciences and humanities, have favoured the inclusion of its results
in the situation analysis, the identification of strategic aspects, design of actions, training and monitoring/evaluation.

Knowledge management within the Office was strengthened with an internal data and study base, for the transparent and expeditious sharing of basic UNICEF and Country Office documents and studies/research conducted in the country. In this regard, a systematic search was undertaken to include reference materials such as the Statistical Yearbooks from ONE and MINSAP, as well as other sources of data, studies and research. Given the Office's Internet connection limitations, this was a quick reference choice to consult documents already downloaded from the Internet. The current challenge is to strengthen the use of available information relevant to each area.

Achieving Strategic Knowledge messages relating to the UN system-wide coherence were regularly circulated within the Office and enhanced the information on UN coherence practices and questions by other offices.

3.1.2.5 C4D - Communication for Development

Although the actions of the UNICEF Cooperation Programme in Cuba have been characterised by a high level of community participation, the need has been identified to strengthen Communication for Development actions, particularly taking into consideration the impact of projects on behavioural changes in the population. The successful experience of the *Para la Vida* (Facts for Life) Programme in Cuba left unforgettable traces, between mass media messages and community. Although TV messages are still played on the current programme scheduling, renewing the concept of the video spots potential of this programme at the community level and maximizing the C4D strategies should be considered.

The *Educate Your Child* Programme, an initiative consolidated at the community and family level, is a good example of implementing C4D strategies. This programme, beyond its success in terms of coverage, has fostered community and family participation, highlighting the importance of early stimulation for the appropriate development of boys and girls. Communication actions through community engagement and the national/local mass media have turned the *Educate Your Child* Programme into a successful experience that can be replicated in other places, as is the case at present.

Mainstreaming issues, such as gender equality, the promotion of children’s rights, climate change and the work with adolescents through non-formal methods, still require a communication strategy to bring about a change in behaviour. These aspects would facilitate greater cohesion between communications and programmes.

The link established by TV stations and local media with UNICEF programmes and projects will strengthen C4D actions. There are still a large number of underutilised spaces for such actions.

The need to document experiences was identified, to disseminate the successes achieved in the context of the UNICEF Cooperation Programme in Cuba, particularly in relation to the implementation of C4D strategies.

3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

The 2006-2009 Mid-Term Strategy Programme facilitated the Cooperation approach and accompanied project implementation with a rights-based approach. The objectives of the Country Programme were defined from the outlook of the rights of children and
adolescents, taking into account the cross-cutting issues of gender and HIV/AIDS approach. These criteria did not call for any adjustments; monitoring/evaluation was reinforced to increase programme results.

The UNCT has supported the promotion and execution of inter-agency projects aimed at working both efficiently and in a coordinated fashion in promoting rights. The objective is to seek synergies and make progress, based on the comparative advantages of each agency, in the area of knowledge management, as well as to show the potential of the collaborative work. UNICEF is engaged in the coordination of two Inter-Agency Groups: Human Development and Communications.

From the conceptual point of view, the UNDAF has assessed the importance of articulating the rights-based approach and the concept of local accountability/governance. We understand that in order for the fulfilment of these rights to become a constant and tenable reality, it is necessary to enhance and strengthen experiences seeking to generate good local accountability and keeping in line with the commitment of fulfilling the MDGs.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

As part of the MTR process and taking into account the global review of gender policy, the cooperation cycle projects were also examined. The findings of this analysis identified the need to continue strengthening project design with a more visible gender-based approach and through on-going preparation and training, both within the Office and with counterparts.

There is no inter-agency gender group. However, an ad-hoc working group was established this year with the participation of several UNS agencies, in order to lead a situation analysis on women and gender equality. A group of experts from some of the country’s excellence centres provided support for such initiative. The objective of this analysis is to implement a nationwide diagnosis of the positive and negative impacts of the country’s transformation process and economic model adjustments. This analysis will further identify recommendations and proposed actions and initiatives that could be supported from the UNS in line with the envisaged scenarios, considering such transformations as an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of women and gender equality.

3.2 Programme Components

**Title: Integrated early childhood development**

**Purpose**

- To support boys, girls and pregnant women, mainly those with pre-natal risk, to receive higher-quality medical care. Programme focuses on pregnant women with pre-natal risk requiring on-going, integrated and differentiated healthcare.
- To continue supporting the various components of the National Immunization Programme.
- In the field of nutrition, to support the furtherance and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding up to the sixth month of life and supplementary nourishment up to the second year of life, as well as the enrichment of basic foods widely consumed by children; along with food education, nutrition and hygiene actions. Furthermore, to encourage research and studies on the nutritional status of this age group and strengthen the food and nutritional surveillance systems.
- To support quality early education for all boys and girls in this age group, both at the institutional and non-institutional levels, particularly for those living in rural and mountainous areas and those with special educational needs.
• To support actions favouring access to drinking water and sanitation, particularly for the most vulnerable sectors and the surrounding rural and urban areas.

The main expected results from this Programme are:

100% of boys, girls and pregnant women in low human development priority areas will enjoy medical care, prevention, education and promotion.

Anaemia levels will have decreased to one-third of the current figures for pregnant women, infants and under-fives.

The results of family training and the development levels reached by boys and girls will have increased by 20%, particularly for those in rural areas and those with special educational needs.

98% of families and communities will have access to drinking water and 96.5% will enjoy basic sanitation.

Resources Used
Total available for 2010 as per CPD: US$678,000
Total available for 2010 from all sources:
RR: US$260,832 (including re-phasing from 2009)
MICS4: US$100,000
OR: US$540,862 (including re-phasing from 2009)
Joint Programme: US$469,910
Emergency funds: US$361,713
Total available: US$1,733,317
Total spent: US$1,590,603

List of donors:
'Basic Education/Gender Equality' (Thematic Funds).
'Policy and Advocacy' (Thematic Funds).
UNICEF Spanish Committee to support the National Vaccination and Immunization Programme.
UNICEF Basque Country Committee to support actions for the dissemination of rights based on the CRC.
Spanish Committee/Balearic Government Agreement to support vaccination and immunisation activities.
Global humanitarian response thematic funds to support 2008 post-emergency recovery actions.

Results Achieved
• 100% of all boys and girls aged 0-1 (114,834) across the country were provided with better healthcare as a result of the achievements in childcare
• 4,036 health professionals engaged in childcare were provided with more knowledge in issues such as Quality Assessment of Medical Appointments.
• Partnerships between Childcare and other Programmes were reinforced, with actions aimed at promoting a healthy life, such as the Educate Your Child Programme and the use of Food Guides in boys and girls under two years of age.
• 130,000 twelve-month-old children were immunised against mumps, rubella and measles, accounting for over 95% of vaccination coverage.
• Approximately 571 pregnant women, their families and health staff, who have either been in or passed by these health institutions (11 Maternity Homes).
- Support was provided for an assessment of health care for seriously ill pregnant women in 10 Maternity Hospitals. Monitoring and evaluation activities were implemented by strengthening the surveillance and guarantee system. This action has benefited 400,000 children under 36 months of age. Food Guides for Cuban boys and girls up to two years of age were implemented, with sector-wide and multidisciplinary participation.
- The anthropometric tables for the nutritional evaluation of Cuban pregnant women were made available and are being disseminated.
- 525 educational agents (34%) engaged in the Educate Your Child Programme are better trained in the appropriate process for guiding families with children aged 0-6, covering 473,168 children, including 235,882 girls.
- 95.5% of pre-school children in rural areas assessed have reached the development level to start first grade. 93.8% of children diagnosed under the community-based Educate Your Child Programme have reached development levels to start the first grade. Approximately 4,408 families were trained, with greater engagement and participation of fathers in their children’s educational process.
- 2,199 families with boys and girls aged 0-6 that have special educational needs are better prepared to enhance development and care of their children.
- The quality of the early stimulation process improved in 5,482 children, aged 0-6, with development difficulties; and 4,044 families are better prepared to provide care for their children with special educational needs.
- Knowledge management was strengthened through the IX International Early and Pre-School Education Gathering, with 325 participants from 20 countries.
- Risk prevention capacity was strengthened following preparedness exercises for early warning groups and the training provided to 8,940 students and community members in Niceto Pérez municipality, Guantánamo province.
- Thirty-four educational centres were rehabilitated, accounting for 46% of the total number of centres planned for refurbishment after damage by Hurricane Ike in 2008.

**The most critical factors or difficulties in 2010**
- Limitations in the availability of material resources
- Instability of national markets
- Presence of complex operational processes at the national level (local currency availability, storage, transport, distribution)

**Monitoring, studies and evaluations in 2010**

Strengthening of Maternity Homes in selected municipalities of the five eastern provinces (2008-2009). This was part of the Mid-Term Evaluation Process of the Cooperation Programme. Monitoring supported in early childhood educational care, conducted by the National Technical Team and coordinated by MINED. Strategic partners include (national institutions) MINSAP, MINED, MINAL and (UN System) UNDP, PAHO-WHO, WFP, FAO and UNESCO. UNICEF Spanish Committee. Initial implementation of Joint Programme (JP): Support for the Fight against Anaemia in Vulnerable Groups in Cuba, with MDG-F. UNICEF’s Country Programme complements its actions with the JP and achieves synergy in this component, contributing to the access to foodstuffs rich in micronutrients, mainly iron; adequate use of these foodstuffs and strengthening of surveillance/monitoring mechanisms.

Inter-Agency Group for Health and AIDS (GISS): Joint proposals have been developed to access UNAIDS PAF Funds, with PAF A being approved, under UNICEF. Monitoring on 2010 UNGASS Report continued.

Inter-Agency Group for Food Security (GISA): Implementation of Joint Programme with MDG-F has started. UNICEF and WFP are jointly participating in a pilot study relating to the evaluation of micronutrient powders for anaemia prevention and control in children aged 12-24.

Future Workplan

- Enhance the inter-sectoral nature of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Development Programme, particularly in the areas of education, health and nutrition.
- Follow up on the quality of childcare, early childhood immunisation and education, including boys and girls with special educational needs.
- Enhance the quality of care for pregnant women with pre-natal risk, the approach to preventing pregnancy in adolescents and their differentiated treatment and maternal morbidity/mortality, focusing on seriously ill pregnant women.
- Strengthen work on the promotion strategy for exclusive breastfeeding, to increase families’ awareness and expand the Human Milk Bank service to all provinces.
- Strengthen nutritional/food education and implement intervention protocols for mother-child nutritional guidance (including food guides for pregnant women, anthropometric tables for teenage pregnant women and the prevention of anaemia/obesity in early childhood).
- Redesign the expected impact of access to water and basic sanitation towards issues relating to water quality, the hygienic-sanitary education component and surveillance/monitoring systems.
- Emphasise mainstreaming issues such as the rights- and gender-based approach, environmental education and emergency preparedness.

Title: Integrated development of girls and boys 6-11 years old

Purpose

1. Assist Government efforts to improve the quality of learning and the equality of opportunities, prioritising rural areas and including boys and girls with special educational needs and socially disadvantaged families.
2. Support health, nutrition, water and sanitation actions within schools and promote the participation of boys and girls in cultural, recreational and sports activities.
3. Support actions focused on emergency risk prevention.

Some of the main results planned in the CPAP for 2008-2012 are:

- 100% of boys and girls in primary schools will have improved education outcomes.
- Schoolchildren in 80% of primary centres will have received care in the areas of health, nutrition, drinking water and sanitation, emphasising least developed areas.
- School children aged 5-14 will have reduced their accident-related mortality rate to under 6.5 per 100,000.
- Emergency preparedness and response capability improved in the provinces most affected by extreme weather events.

Resources Used

Total available for 2010 as per CPD: US$523,000
Total available for 2010 from all sources:
  RR: US$203,562 (including re-phasing from 2009)
  OR: US$296,478 (including re-phasing from 2009)
  Emergency funds: US$1,562,944
Total available: US$2,062,984
Total spent: US$2,012,598

List of donors:
- Basic Education/Gender Equality (Thematic Funds)
- Policy and Advocacy (Thematic Funds)
- Children’s Protection Thematic Funds
- UNICEF Basque Country Committee to support actions for the dissemination of rights based on the CRC.
Funds from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID) for the refurbishment of hurricane-destroyed centres in Camagüey province. Emergency Funds from the Spanish Committee for the rehabilitation of 12 centres in Las Tunas province.

Results Achieved

Overall Assessment:
In 2010 the programme had satisfactory results according to the objectives planned in the CPAP. Work has been done to decrease differences in the quality of primary education between the urban and rural sectors. Children have participated in several events to prevent accidents and increase health education. Emergency risk reduction preparedness has been supported in the most vulnerable areas.

The results achieved in terms of progress towards CPAP objectives are:
The educational level of 36,779 teaching staff and executives from the rural sector continues to increase. Family education schools have been enhanced with the participation of over 11,543 family members. The living and study conditions of 590 boys and 531 girls continue to be improved in 19 schools in Granma, Guantánamo, Villa Clara and Matanzas provinces. Living and study conditions of 212 boys and 114 girls were also improved at three special education centres in Sagua de Tánamo, Gibara and Las Tunas municipalities.

Health promotion actions for 1,125 boys and 931 girls received support, and food service improved in two special education centres in II and III Frente municipalities. Environmental education has also progressed positively; children participated in a nationwide contest. Nearly 9,000 boys and 4,680 girls are enjoying their right to recreation through participation in learning/recreational activities at students’ camps in Puerto Padre and Santiago de Cuba municipalities. The nationwide sporting event called Soccer for All was attended by 43,788 boys and girls.

Advocacy initiatives were promoted to bring about changes to legislation on road safety education to decrease the accident-related mortality rate. Children’s participation in the Children and Traffic contest increased by 23% over 2009. The swimming learning programme for early childhood was implemented in over 70% of the swimming pools scheduled for 2010.

Surveillance of iodised salt was strengthened through quantitative and qualitative methods. The second study on the impact of iodised salt on 660 boys and girls in the three western provinces is already underway. The integrated surveillance system of food-borne disease agents was also strengthened, although there was an increase in confirmed outbreaks compared to previous years.
1,453 boys and 1,615 girls are better prepared to mitigate and prevent emergency-related disasters at La Coloma People’s Council and Pinar del Río City, in six municipalities of Las Tunas province and in Guisa municipality. 80% of the centres destroyed by hurricanes Ike and Paloma in Las Tunas province were rehabilitated. In Camagüey province, 50% of the 112 centres are at an advanced stage of physical construction; 21 have been completed.

Constraints
Limitations on resource availability, leading to imports and therefore to more complex and protracted operations.

Monitoring, studies and evaluations conducted in 2010
The National Accident Survey on children under 20 was released. Its findings were shared with authorities from the Ministry of Public Health and a plan of action was established in response to the recommendations. Some of the main recommendations from the survey were:
• Conducting household surveys to determine the number of accidents or unintentional injuries not reported at emergency wards in health units, to complement available information
• Increasing actions intended to promote safe attitudes and behaviour in communities
• Six field visits were made to the five eastern provinces and to Camagüey, Ciego de Ávila and Pinar de Río.

**Key strategic partners and inter-agency cooperation**
Inter-Agency Group for Natural Disasters and Risks and Inter-Agency Group for Environment and Energy: The UNDAF area relating to these priorities areas has been systematically monitored throughout the year. Jointly with UNDP and UN Habitat, the following project is being implemented: *Strengthening Local Management Capacity for Risk Reduction in Granma Province.*
There is a close relationship with the provincial working groups in the five eastern provinces, which accounts for 50% of total funds in this component. Strategic partners include Civil Defense, CLAMED, MINED, INDER, MINSAP and UN System, Spanish National Committee and Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development.

**Future Workplan**
During 2011 this programme plans to:
• Follow up on the objectives scheduled in the cooperation cycle, this programme component has intended to work on the following lines in 2011:
  • Continue supporting the quality of learning in rural areas in order to diminish disparities, with family engagement.
  • Contribute to comprehensive quality education, including environmental elements, accident-related risk reduction in emergency situations and health education (nutrition, healthy lifestyles, HIV/AIDS prevention and school hygiene).
  • Contribute to the work related training of boys and girls with special educational needs for their insertion into the world of labor and to the care of boys and girls without parental guidance.
  • Continue promoting the right to healthy, safe and educated recreation and to children’s participation.
  • Continue strengthening the local capacities in emergency situations.
  • Emphasise mainstreaming issues such as the rights- and gender-based approach, environmental education and emergency preparedness.

**Title:** *Integrated adolescent development*

**Purpose**
To support the Government in providing quality health and education services to adolescents, on an equal basis, through a model centred on human and social values, comprehensive learning and the appropriation of skills for life.

To support the promotion of effective forms of adolescent participation in family, school and community affairs, promoting safe and responsible behaviour. Priority will be given to adolescents at risk or in socially disadvantaged situations.

To promote the establishment and permanence of spaces for recreational activities and the exchange of views among generations.

**Some of the main results planned in the CPAP for 2008-2012 are as follows:**
• 100% of adolescents in priority areas turning 17 years of age will have reached the general school level of 9th grade and have basic labour and professional training.
• 40% of adolescents in priority areas will have increased their knowledge about health education and promotion issues, as well as about STD and HIV/AIDS prevention.
• 30% of adolescents (boys and girls) in priority areas will be participating in the design and implementation of programmes and services affecting them.

Resources Used
Total available for 2010 as per CPD: US$439 000
Total available for 2010 from all sources:
RR: US$188 518 (including rephasing from 2009)
OR: US$314 985 (including rephasing from 2009)
Total available: US$503 503
Total spent: US$394 400

List of donors
Basic Education/Gender Equality (Thematic Funds)
Policy and Advocacy (Thematic Funds)
UNICEF Basque Country Committee to support actions for the dissemination of rights based on the CRC.

Results Achieved
Programme results in 2010 can be considered satisfactory. Advocacy and the promotion of rights have been intensified as CPAP goals are pursued. Results have also been obtained in health, comprehensive education, healthy, safe and educated recreation and protection/participation, focusing on the most disadvantaged groups.
The main results of progress towards CPAP fulfilment are as follows: The promotion of comprehensive healthcare was strengthened as a right through the training and participation of adolescents and professionals. Environmental risk management was carried out in schools located in vulnerable areas of Pinar del Río province. In relation to preventing unintentional injuries in adolescents, 91 professionals and 31 adolescents were trained as promoters.
In the area of preventing STD and HIV/AIDS, promoters and guidance counsellors were trained in eight municipal prevention centres. Nearly 1,000 adolescents, youth and adults received training in Holguín and Granma provinces. Some 1,827 boys, girls, adolescents and young people, and 30 teenage volunteer promoters, were trained in living a Healthy Lifestyle (in Guisa and Granma).
Preparation for labour and social insertion improved among 765 students with special educational needs in six schools (Las Tunas and Santiago de Cuba provinces).
The promotion of the rights of children and adolescents reinforced. Capacities were strengthened in the 16 existing Referral Centres. Participation reached 2,566 students in 160 Vocational Study Clubs on Rights. Increased participation with 1,632 essays submitted in the nationwide contest A World of Rights.

A culture of rights was promoted through sex education (puberty and sexual abuse prevention). Some 165 adolescents (104 females and 61 males) and 152 social workers (94 females and 58 males) were trained. An audiovisual series was broadcast on national television.
Rights were promoted through culture in the communities of Jiguaní and Granma. Capacities were strengthened at Charco Redondo community. A total of 532,857 artworks were presented at a nationwide painting contest ‘Donde crece la palma’. Capacities were strengthened at the Evaluation, Care and Guidance Centre and the protective environments improved at 10 Comprehensive Training Schools for adolescents accused of committing crimes.
Capacities for the exercise of rights to healthy, safe and educated recreation and participation were strengthened in Manatí (580 boys and girls and 838 adolescents) and Guantánamo (4,383 girls, 4,611 boys and 5,847 adolescents, 3,439 female).
The exercise of the right to culture strengthened. Capacities were expanded in the national library system and children participated in art and creative workshops. Research on adolescents’ cultural consumption received support. The value of African contributions to Cuban culture was reinforced, particularly through the III Traveling Caribbean Film Showcase (24 countries of the region). Capacities were improved for the implementation of physical activities by adolescents in educational centres in two provinces. Mass media capacity was strengthened with technical advice and means to improve programme design. Several spots on rights and education for life were produced and broadcast. Children’s and adolescents’ participation in activities at Havana’s historical sites was strengthened as a result of work with the Office of the City Historian.

**Constraints:** Delays in the editing and delivery of publications.

**Monitoring, studies and evaluations conducted in 2010:** The results of three studies on the knowledge of rights were documented and analysed. A text was prepared with the analysis of results from the national survey on adolescents’ cultural consumption. Financial and programmatic implementation of the work plan was monitored as were all decentralised cooperation projects in the five eastern provinces.

**Key strategic partners and inter-agency cooperation:** Existing partnerships have continued to become stronger (MINCULT, MINJUS, CESJ, CENESEX, MINSAP, MINED, CITMA, MININT, INDER, ICRT, OHCH). Advocacy and technical exchanges with the Attorney-General’s Office of the Republic and the Supreme Court have increased. Thematic issues also continue to be strengthened. The design of strategies for decentralised cooperation with LHDP/UNDP continues to take place. The exchange of views with UNESCO continues. A new partnership with the European Union was added this year.

**Future Workplan**
To maintain the main goals defined for this cooperation cycle: comprehensive health and education; promotion of rights through culture and other means; healthy, safe and educated recreation.
Based on these areas, advocacy and actions should continue to focus on:

1. Adolescents’ participation, through the training, design and generation of communication actions and products on issues of their interest
2. Targeting disparities and the conditions that cause vulnerability, and reinforcing equality
3. Systematising, documenting and disseminating best practices and successful experiences
4. Strengthening partnerships with Knowledge Excellence Centres
5. Emphasising mainstreaming issues such as the rights- and gender-based approaches, environmental education and emergency preparedness
6. Strategic use of culture and mass media to raise awareness and spark debates and actions on the rights of children and adolescents
7. Reinforcing the partnership with the EU Office to implement the project on the Centre for Adolescents in Old Havana and identify new cooperation opportunities.
4 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure
The existing CPMP for 2008-2012 clearly sets forth the specific results and strategies planned by the Office, as well as the management and monitoring system in operation with satisfactory results.

Staff structure has remained consistent with the CPMP, with the job descriptions for each post updated and pursuant to the current responsibilities of each staff member. All Committees that form part of the Office’s management structure were updated early in the year, both in their terms of reference and membership. Meetings are convened according to plan, minutes are recorded.

The focal points for each theme/area were also updated early in the year, as were the Authorities Table.

The Annual Management Plan and the IMEP were completed early in the year and sent to the Regional Office on time.

The Operations Management Team (OMT) remains active with regular meetings. As a result of the work done in 2010, a database on suppliers of goods and services has been consolidated in order to facilitate the tender processes, particularly in emergencies.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management
During 2010 the Programme Coordinator and Operations Officer were trained by the Regional Office to facilitate the Risk Management analysis.

In the context of the Mid-Term Management Review, the Office staff engaged in a two-day process that resulted in a draft of the Office’s Risk Control Library. This draft was completed, with observations from the MTR and the CMT included in the final document, which was sent to NYHQ and TACRO in November.

An important aspect of this process was that the entire Office was able to engage in lengthy discussions about the Organisation’s culture of risk management and its adaptation to the Office’s specific conditions within the country context. This analysis enhances the approach to situations that may occur in various areas of Management. The Office is prepared from the personal standpoint and from its facilities to provide an effective response to emergencies, mainly hurricanes and tropical storms, which are the most frequent weather events due to Cuba’s geographic location.

The evaluation of MOSS compliance in the Office was conducted by the Regional Security Advisor in December, with a score of 99%.

4.1.3 Evaluation
The IMEP was revised and updated in the context of the MTR. Main results included:

- National Accident Survey on children under 20 in Cuba disseminated.
- Study completed on adolescents’ cultural consumption in rural and urban areas. Final document is in progress. Results used by culture institutions and the programming area for children and adolescents by national television to train its professionals. To be disseminated in 2011.
- Situation Analysis on Children and Adolescents conducted. Results used in the MTR of the Cooperation Programme and for the new Annual Work Plan.
- Evaluation completed on the UNICEF-Cuba project in support of Maternity Homes in the five eastern provinces. Results shared with the National Mother-Child Division of the Ministry of Public Health.

Quality Control: In addition to training session in the programme area on UNICEF’s Evaluation Policy in previous years, two sessions were held on the following themes:
“General Considerations and Working Guide to ensure the quality of evaluations, research, studies and surveys” and “Monitoring Plan for the Recommendations of evaluations, report process and format.”

A matrix was designed to manage documentation and processes relating to evaluation and study management.

A draft ‘Handbook of basic procedures to ensure the quality of evaluations’ was prepared, mainly for the CMT and the programming and C4D areas.

Training sessions in M&E are to be expanded to include counterparts responsible for projects, including the theme of evaluation quality.

Management response: Two management responses to recommendations were prepared, one corresponding to the Evaluation of the UNICEF-Cuba project in support of Maternity Homes, and the other to the National Survey on accident-related mortality, morbidity and disability in children and youth under 20.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication

The Office’s ICT infrastructure was substantially reinforced in 2010 as follows:

Installation of a high-speed (1 Mbps/512 kbps) VSAT satellite linkup, thereby eliminating all existing limitations to access services requiring a minimum bandwidth and guaranteeing minimum connection requirements demanded by the new projects (hosted Exchange-Outlook, Vision-SAP). Internet connection through the local service provider is now a secondary backup connection.

In addition, the telephone switchboard was replaced by a more modern, better-performing system, which has contributed to increase local network speed. Blackberry service was provided to the Representative and the Programme Specialist. Specialised equipment was procured for the communications section.

These upgrades enable the staff to make effective use of information technologies in the discharge of their work and access all the online training options that were not possible before due to the Office’s poor connection.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship

4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations:

A working relationship was initiated this year with the Office of the City Historian to implement a new programme for adolescents with EU funds: “Comprehensive and participatory social development of adolescents in Old Havana, Cuba.”

The overall objective is to contribute to promoting rights and inserting adolescents and young people socially and economically into Old Havana, with the prospect of providing services to other territories of the capital and serving as a reference for other areas of the country. The specific objective is to support the personal development, social inclusion and professional insertion of adolescents in Old Havana; particularly, the most vulnerable among them. This must be achieved through a wide range of educational and cultural activities, rehabilitating and equipping a referral centre for adolescents that offers social services, and fostering debates and exchanges to disseminate best practices at the national, regional (Caribbean and Latin America) or international level.

The project specifically targets the 12-18 age group, corresponding to secondary education in Cuba (intermediate and intermediate-higher education). It includes activities focused on family and community integration, to promote interaction and inter-generational linkages to the mutual benefit of all vulnerable groups in the community.

The institutions collaborating or involved in the aforementioned processes include the Project Division and the Cultural Programming Division of the Office of the City Historian;
4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets:
The Office’s financial management in 2010 was good. The Office remains on the list of Offices referred to as “low risk.” Therefore, bank balances must only be sent to the Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) on a quarterly basis.

The Inventory continues to be updated, as well as the PSB processes in preparation of IPSAS implementation. The Operations Officer, the Finance Assistant and the Supplies Assistant have all completed the mandatory courses for IPSAS implementation in 2012.

Due to the country’s existing restrictions on hard currency withdrawal, most foreign suppliers based in Cuba do not accept payments in checks or transfers to local bank accounts. This has led to payments being made through other regional offices or directly through NY. Although all payments have worked without any major problems, the process entails a larger number of actions and controls than normally is the case.

4.2.3 Supply
During 2010, 622 PGMs were prepared, double the number issued in 2009. These PGMs accounted for 88% of the total budget implemented. In 2010, the Regular Cooperation Programme added funds received for emergency actions in Camagüey and Las Tunas provinces, as well as those from the Joint Programme to Fight Anaemia. The undersupply of local providers was more evident in 2010. Financial monitoring visits to the five eastern provinces continue to take place according to the plan made early in the year. This strategy, in conjunction with an aide from the Spanish Committee on the ground in the eastern region, has made it possible to complete each file with the relevant Government invoices and receipts.

The Office continues to improve existing mechanisms and linkages with government institutions in charge of the import, distribution and delivery to the end-user. Although control and monitoring has been on-going, there are still problems due to the failure of counterparts to locate intermediate warehouses to inspect the supplies purchased outside the country before forwarding them to the end-user.

The Supply Plan for this year was 100% completed during the first quarter.

Major difficulties faced during 2010
- Lack of clarity in the specifications of the supplies to be purchased
- Insufficient logistics to manage the purchase, receipt and distribution of supplies at the local and national levels
- Lack of a warehouse to disaggregate the supplies arriving in the country for different projects. This difficulty will be resolved at the end of the year because the UN System has been authorised to rent a warehouse. The first steps have been taken, but in order to use it efficiently existing mechanisms and procedures at the national level must be harmonised.
- The large number of activities/projects hinders the management of procurement and monitoring
- Local market undersupply has led to an increase in purchases outside the country.
- The need for transfers and payments through other UNICEF Offices because suppliers do not accept payments in the country.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity
The Office continues to ensure a pleasant, comfortable work environment for staff, from the point of view of space, furniture and the conditions of rooms. The Plan of Action for
HIV/AIDS prevention in the workplace was updated, with monitoring done in the context of the CMT. A bulletin board with updated information on this issue is available, and minimum standards are constantly monitored. Inter-agency workshops on this issue have been held with the new staff.

An incident took place in July, in which an official Office vehicle was used to carry a non-UNICEF person who attempted to leave the country illegally. One of the people involved was the vehicle driver, who had been hired through Palco, the Government employment agency; the other person was a UNICEF staff. In the case of the driver, his services were dispensed with. In the case of the staff, an investigation was opened through UNICEF’s Internal Auditing Department in NY, but had not been completed at the time of this report.

The Learning and Training Plan was prepared and sent to TACRO in March. Of the eight activities planned, seven were carried out – with another eight un-planned activities added during the course of the year. The regional funds received were 100% executed. Staff opinion of the training received is very good.

The Work Environment Survey conducted this year revealed positive results, as was also the case last year. APAC’s suggestion is to make sure that the good social and working relationships between the management and staff of UNICEF Cuba remain so, in addition to systematising support actions for staff interests and increasing non-workplace interactions to further ties among staff members.

### 5 STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

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

1. National Survey on accident-related mortality, morbidity and disability
2. Evaluation of the Project on Maternity Homes

#### 5.2 List of Other Publications

1. Instructional Brochure on Childcare Practices
2. Breastfeeding. MOM AND DAD (triplych)
3. What is re-breastfeeding? (triplych)
4. Letter from a child who is about to be born (loose page)
5. Letter from a newborn to his/her parents (loose page)
6. Most common problems in breastfeeding (triplych)
7. Anthropometric Tables of Cuban Pregnant Women
8. Supplement to the Anthropometric Tables (loose page)
9. Juntos podemos (Together We Can - brochure)
10. People’s Council Control (brochure)
12. Sector-wide approach and its role in the comprehensive care of early childhood (0-6 years) in Cuba
13. Enriched Fruit Purées (book)
14. Upgrading methodological work in the rural sector (brochure No. 8)
15. Trazaguas (poster)
16. Vía a la Vida (Road to Life - poster)
17. Diploma on fulfilling breastfeeding
18. Mother-Baby Friendly Consultation Offices: The Ten Steps
19. Questions and Answers on Vaccination (poster)
20. Anthropometry Handbook for the evaluation of Cuban pregnant women
21. Attendance Records (leaflet)
22. Multimedia on Food Guides
23. Food Guides (poster)
6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED

**Title:** Promotion of the rights of children and adolescents through culture

**Contact Person:** Tania T. Licea Jiménez

**Abstract:**
Art and culture were used in 2010 for the promotion of children rights. In this regard, the willingness of the Ministry of Culture and other national institutions are being maximised. The participation of children and adolescents is strengthened through artistic appreciation and creative workshops and activities. Scientific research and training of professionals was supported. The protective environments were also strengthened through healthy, safe and educational recreation, in educational centres and community spaces. The work done with the Ministry of Interior in the Comprehensive Training Schools for adolescents who have committed crimes is of special interest.

Interventions were made at the national and local levels, covering a wide range of themes and artistic manifestations. Actions comprise knowledge of local history, recovery of traditional trades (recycled paper), sports-cultural activities, and handicrafts, among others. Close links with the mass media remains in place.
Innovation or Lessons Learned
Culture is fundamental for the exercise and promotion of rights and for the participation of children and adolescents with outstanding leadership and visibility. In Cuba, it is at the centre of social life and has become a fundamental vehicle for the introduction of new issues into cooperation, as well as for the awareness, advocacy and furtherance of the debate on issues affecting these age groups.

Potential Application
It is possible to implement this rights- and protection-based approach to work from the field of culture, both locally and nationally, and even regionally, if the following is taken into consideration:
- The need of all human beings to recognise themselves in their identities and to participate in the various fields of life based on them, both privately and socially
- The possibilities of culture (not only art) to provide room and establish synergies among various social stakeholders to facilitate education centred on values and contribute to psycho-emotional recovery in case of emergency.
These activities also provide opportunities to contribute to the visibility of boys, girls and adolescents expressing themselves with their own voices.

Issue/Background
In 2008, the Ministry of Culture became a formal counterpart of UNICEF. This joint effort has focused on the promotion of rights and the participation of children and adolescents (through artistic appreciation and creation activities, research and training). An unprecedented topic in our cooperation with the country has been added: reinforcing the values of the African contribution to Cuban culture, in line with the regional strategy on indigenous people and Afro-descendants. The purpose is to assist in dismantling underlying cultural biases in a context where the legal foundations and social conditions for equality have been created.

Strategy and Implementation
Strong advocacy work was carried out with the Ministry of Culture and its authorities, based on an existing network of relationships. This work was then extended to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment, the lead body for cooperation in the country, particularly in relation to reinforcing the values of African contribution to Cuban culture. To this end, thematic funds on protection were initially procured, with a specific deadline for execution. Based on the results obtained, it became a theme for the remainder of the cycle.

Progress and Results
The main result has been the promotion of rights strengthened through advocacy, artistic appreciation and creation, scientific research and training actions.
The quality of library services has increased, as well as the artistic appreciation and creation workshops for boys, girls and adolescents, at the national and provincial levels. A study was conducted on adolescents’ cultural consumption, based on a national survey about cultural practices in urban and rural areas. A DVD (*Rimando con mis derechos* – Rhyming with my Rights) was produced with adolescents who practice *repentismo* (a form of improvised oral poetry set to music), where they sing their own décimas inspired by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A training workshop sponsored by the UNICEF Office was held to assist in this endeavour. The DVD is now being reproduced. Training of professionals on these issues was expanded, and the protective environment for children and adolescents strengthened through culture and recreation in educational centres and communities.