

Executive Summary

Achievements

§ Decentralized cooperation in the five eastern provinces is consolidated. This strategy aims at reducing equity gaps, particularly for children and adolescents living in those provinces with low development index if compared with the national media. Also, children living in this area are more frequently exposed to natural phenomena and emergencies like hurricanes, draught, and occasional earthquakes.

§ MICS4 implemented, and a participatory multisectorial review of results took place, with health specialists in charge of the promotion of policies and interventions linked to MICS modules. The results have contributed to complement data sources of the Ministry of Health statistics system, thus contributing to support the children and adolescents situation analysis. MICS communication strategy was a new initiative, and was made in partnership with mass media and research specialists from different ministries.

§ Implementation of a project aimed at narrowing equity gaps related to adolescents and young people living in vulnerable areas in the capital. The *Adolescents' social integration and participation project* is implemented in three years, in partnership with the City's Historian Office, financed by the European Union.

§ UNICEF Cuba participated, for the first time, as an observer in the Committee on the Rights of the Child Fifty-seventh session of 30 May – 17 June 2011. This opened the floor for strengthened collaboration in the follow-up on the review and implementation of the recommendations.

Shortfalls

§ The operational nature of UNICEF's Cooperation Programme continues to be affected by the country's market undersupply and the instability of inputs. The supply component plays a major role in each of the projects making up the programme. Major shortfall had to do with supplies storage and distribution, main causes being the existing national mechanisms established to support the distribution chain. UNICEF presented potential solutions regarding the distribution of supplies, which are under consideration by the Government. This adds up to the consequences of the blockade. In this regard, the office contributed to the Secretary-General's report on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", highlighting challenges for children and families and for the results planned in the UNICEF Programme of Cooperation.

§ Challenges remain in data availability to measure progress and to monitor and evaluate results in some areas of the programme components, and alliance with knowledge centers will be key for data availability.

Collaborative partnerships

§ Alliances with knowledge centers were strengthened, particularly with the Center of Psychological and Sociological Research. There was exchange of information, and communicational materials were produced and disseminated.

§ The MDGs Achievement Fund of the Spanish Government is supporting the implementation of the UN Joint Programme against anemia, for 2010-2013, with an amount of USD 8.5 million US\$.

§ At national level, the Ministry of Culture has been one of the most significant partners in the promotion and dissemination of rights, with equity approach, as well as supporting initiatives to advocate for regional and global issues like the Global Campaign against Violence.

Country Situation

Cuba has already fulfilled MDGs 2 and 3^[1] – with a net enrollment rate in primary education of 99.7% of boys and girls aged 6-11, high levels of gender parity at all teaching levels and sustained advances in women's empowerment. Potentially likely for 2015 are MDGs 7 and 8, while MDGs 1, 4, 5 and 6 are likely to be fulfilled.

This trend in MDG compliance is aided by the implementation of government policies and strategies. However, serious financial constraints hinder the integrated response to development needs. Particularly sensitive are some performance indicators of the food security chain linked with MDG 1 and of maternal health linked with MDG 5.

In populations living in areas of high socio-economic vulnerability, the nutrition, health and well-being indicators tend to be unfavorable. The Country Programme (CP) has focused on those groups to support national plans aimed at bridging achievement gaps and improving its indicators for pregnant women, boys, girls and adolescents, keeping in line with UNDAF cooperation areas.

Iron deficiency anemia continues posing as a highly frequent health problem in pregnant women, boys and girls aged 6-35 months. A study coordinated by the Early Childhood Integrated development Programme indicated, on a preliminary basis, 33% prevalence in a sample taken in 8 provinces of the country. Another study on the status of vitamin A in boys and girls aged 6-59 months in the western region points to a moderate sub-clinical deficiency in 17% of the sample, with Havana registering a severe 26% sub-clinical deficiency.

Iodization validation studies, coordinated by the Integrated development Programme for boys and girls aged 6-11, yielded a 12.3% preliminary prevalence of goiter in these age groups – considered a moderate endemic more frequently present in mountainous areas, in females and in puberty.

The trend in the maternal mortality indicator, standing at 43.1 per 100,000 live births [\[2\]](#) in 2010, is not following the expected trend towards the achievement of MDG5. Some of the overlapping factors include aging of pregnant women, relative increase in adolescent pregnancy and prevalence of nutritional deficiencies.

In the case of STIs, one (1) case of congenital syphilis was reported, for a rate of 0.01 per 100,000 inhabitants. The active, on-the-ground search for HIV cases yielded 107,127 tests. Some 1,320 new cases were diagnosed, for a rate of 11.72 per 100,000 inhabitants. The mortality rate decreased to 1.23. In the case of mother-to-child transmission (MCT), 31 pregnant women were diagnosed through prenatal checkups, for a rate of 24.2%. The number of HIV-positive pregnant women that were looked after was 128 – 97 of whom were aware of their disease. 123 children are still being monitored [\[3\]](#).

Since Cuba is economically dependent on its international relations, the impact of the global crisis has further compounded the existing hurdles to access financing sources, raw materials and foodstuffs. Material constraints and financial losses have been accentuated – in the order of US\$ 10.9 billion [\[4\]](#). This has disrupted the sustainability of programmes, strategies and social policies to improve the living standards and well-being of boys, girls and women, including the most vulnerable.

As the US economic, commercial and financial embargo was further tightened, losses in 2010-2011 were in the order of US\$ 104 billion [\[5\]](#). This continues to restrain the social services for the protection and development of children, adolescents and women, particularly the most vulnerable.

Such situation intertwines with what the government has referred to as internal socio-economic problems [\[4\]](#) – low efficiency, de-capitalization of the productive base and infrastructure. At the macro-social level, the country is dealing with processes such as population aging and stagnation due to low fertility/birth rates and the increase in life expectancy, migration and climate risks.

The Guidelines of the Socio-Economic Policy of the Party and the Revolution, adopted in April 2011, focused on updating the Cuban economic model, taking into consideration some market features and non-State management methods. Related measures were adopted to ensure protection for the most vulnerable segments.

Parliament has increased its legislative work to lay the legal and institutional foundation for these changes. The Standing Implementation and Development Commission was established to monitor the enforcement of the economic adjustment measures that could bring about some contradictions in the short, mid and long

terms. There could be progress towards higher equity levels, or pre-existing inequity gaps could be replicated or expanded, while new ones could arise.

The measures already adopted and those envisaged for implementation seek to preserve, as much as possible, the social advances that have taken place. However, studies and research conducted in the country over the last few years^[4] have identified vulnerabilities in various social groups and regions, as well as conflicts in the socio-economic and psycho-social dynamics, which further impact the equity gaps. Cuba submitted its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), recognizing that the harmonization of age for the different legal actions within its legislative body is an unresolved issue. The law sets forth the age of legal responsibility at 18 years, but this limit does not apply to the exercise of every legal action. The Committee, on its part, recommended that the country increase its efforts to harmonize its legislation with the principles of the Convention. It encouraged the adoption of national policies, mechanisms and plans of coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities relating to the exercise, dissemination and promotion of the rights of children. It advised that gaps be bridged in the areas of protection, educational inclusion and health services. It also made recommendations to monitor the impact of the new socio-economic measures on the living standards of families in order to detect and avoid the increase in disparities.

There are no favorable changes foreseen for 2012 to the current economic conditions^[7]. However, it has been forecast that the right to life, survival and development will remain as priorities attached by the Cuban State to the protection of children and adolescents.

Who are the deprived children in your country context?

There are no available statistics on children or adolescents broken down into specific indicators of disadvantage, deprivation or social inequity. The CP applies the equity approach to each of its components, the criteria being the priorities that the Government has targeted in five provinces of the country's eastern region – where there are communities with low levels of human development, geographic/socio-economic vulnerabilities and special educational needs, basically benefiting^[6]:

- § Children under 5 with nutritional shortages, particularly iron deficiency anemia.
- § Children and adolescents with physical-motor, sensor or intellectual disabilities.
- § Children and adolescents living in rural/mountainous communities affected by natural disasters and climate risks.
- § Children and adolescents with behavioral disorders or taking part in incidents defined as crimes within the national legislation.
- § Children from low-income families or with inadequate housing conditions and scarce equipment. Children from dysfunctional, low-schooling families or with chronic health conditions or anti-social habits and behavior.
- § Adolescents who have dropped out of or are not connected with school.
- § Children and adolescents who have been victims of some form of violence.

Interventions in this area contribute to improving conditions that facilitate access to basic quality services, to development and participation opportunities and to sustainable policies and programmes, as guarantee of the full exercise of the rights of these boys, girls, adolescents, families and communities.

Data/Evidence

The review of national data on the MDGs^[11], the Plan of Action of *A World Fit for Children*^[9] and the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)^[10] reveal that in terms of protection of children and adolescents, Cuba provides nationwide opportunities and guarantees for survival and development. Although there is a high level of availability and quality of official statistics, these refer to the demographic,

economic, social and environmental situation, among other development issues of the nation and its territories. Sources or official data on specific indicators for deprivations or social inequalities in children and adolescents are not available for public use, and available data and indicators do not provide subnational disaggregation in terms of equity

In order to overcome these shortfalls, the CP uses tools and results from qualitative research. Micro-social causalities are examined to sustain cooperation in geographic areas prioritized by the government – in environments with utmost shortages or vulnerabilities and in populations of disadvantaged boys, girls and adolescents. The sector-wide analysis of social indicators has been essential in this method of knowledge management on vulnerabilities, disparities and deprivations.

The project entitled *Support for the National Follow-up Actions on Indicators and Data Relating to Children and Adolescents in Cuba*, currently undertaken by the National Office for Statistics and Information, made available to the Programme, a DevInfo-centered database with indicators selected from MDG targets and others to support the analysis of its compliance.

The CP is supporting 5 surveys, studies and evaluations. Its findings will be instrumental in updating data for indicators identified in the national and territorial priorities set by the government and the counterparts. The final report of the MICS round will be released in early 2012, with data disaggregated by region of the country, on indicators that have no current records or statistics.

In examining the effects of socio-economic changes on some population segments, debates are fostered on domestic violence and inequalities, among other issues that have so far proven sensitive. Measurement indicators are expected to be put in place in order to have reliable data and evidence on these issues.

The challenge of the CP is to develop new indicators and collect data from the subnational context relating to vulnerable populations and specific variables associated with the vulnerability. Study methodologies must be implemented on territorial inequalities or disparities, disproportions among social, family and community groups, as well as on gaps that may arise subjectively. It will be necessary to identify additional areas and sources of data to cover as many indicators for children and adolescents as possible, based on equity criteria and its determinants.

Monitoring Mechanism

Based on the quantitative and qualitative results of various research papers and studies, official statistics and other available data and evidence sources, the Country Office (CO) coordinated the *Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Cuba* [\[6\]](#), which looks at various types of inequalities and some of its determinants, while distinguishing features connected with vulnerability in children, adolescents, women and families. This document lays the groundwork to manage and triangulate the follow-up indicators for CP intermediate results and components.

The baselines and targets and the CPAP results framework are basically identified through the analysis of national statistics and ongoing records. Population or contextual indicators and data are used in connection with disadvantageous situations that may curtail the individual or family-based enjoyment of the development opportunities that are equitably offered to the whole population. In some cases, diagnostic studies are conducted to determine baseline data.

At the level of national and decentralized cooperation activities, following up on and monitoring CP results requires the use of data and evidence collected by each of the projects in its specific situation analyses of the geographic area, the local context and children/adolescents – justifying implementation in terms of deprivations or disparities. A solidified results-based follow-up and monitoring mechanism has been put in place, focused on joint reports and reviews by the CO and the counterparts, and including both programmatic and financial aspects. Follow-up and monitoring visits are planned annually to all the areas linked to the CP results chain.

A panel has been recently established for the in-depth analysis of MICS indicators, composed of officials,

specialists and researchers from Ministries, knowledge centers and NGOs. Such panel has undertaken a triangulation of the lowest ratings from the survey and a causality analysis, resulting in: identification of bottlenecks in implementing public policies for childhood protection and development; rights-based approach in mainstreaming the analysis of institutional practices in charge of exercising such rights; foundation established for the dissemination of MICS4 results through a Communication for Development strategy. The analysis is basically centered on disparities, describing problems that affect the most disadvantaged. Such data and evidence are available to the decision-making teams on nationwide immunization, nutrition, STD/HIV/AIDS, family planning and maternal-infant health programmes, acting as CP counterparts.

The main challenges include strengthening and solidifying results-based management as a habit and style for follow-up and monitoring of all CP actions.

Support to National Planning

Along with the counterparts, national institutions and knowledge centers, the CO will continue to follow up on the analysis of results from the introduction of measures based on the enforcement of the Guidelines of the Socio-Economic Policy and its effect on the exercise of the rights of children and women, particularly the most disadvantaged.

The main CO counterpart in data management is the National Statistics and Information Office (ONEI)[\[11\]](#), in charge of methodological oversight and State policy enforcement. Following an agreement of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers[\[12\]](#) in 2011, the country's statistical work was integrated into the Government Information System in order to meet relevant information requirements with both quality and reliability. The joint project with UNICEF for database update, entitled *Una mirada en cifras a la infancia y la adolescencia en Cuba (A Glimpse at Cuban Children and Adolescents in Figures)*, will continue to be monitored. The indicators selected for this purpose will serve to systematize, facilitate and disseminate access to relevant data.

In order to ensure project sustainability with ONEI, the Provincial Statistics and Information Offices will strengthen their capacity to guarantee broad-based availability of disaggregated data at the subnational level. This project will also schedule a training system for the counterparts in indicator development and data monitoring.

Work is underway to assess the cooperation potential between the CO and ONEI on preparatory issues and the release and dissemination of data from the 2012 Population and Housing Census.

Another important CO partner for data collection and CP results-based follow-up and monitoring is the Division for Medical Records and Statistics of the Ministry of Public Health[\[13\]](#). Cuba's MICS Coordinating Group is attached to this body. Overall, arrangements have been made in 2011 for the establishment of a panel to undertake an in-depth analysis on MICS4 indicators, composed of specialists from excellence centers linked with the CP. This panel intends to add new indicators to the next survey round.

Project coordinators and managers within the national institutions and in the territories for decentralized cooperation will continue to strengthen their results-based monitoring capacities.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

The sensitization and socialization process between the national counterparts and the local UNICEF staff has taken place with a new focus on equity. Conditions have been created to adopt a simplified CP structure in line with the guidelines and cross-sectoral strategies of the Mid-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP).

Activity arrangement actions have been implemented to articulate national and local priorities in each programme component in an organic, progressive manner with the organizational objectives and

cooperation areas of the five (5) MTSP priority fields. The arrangement criteria used include UNICEF's mandate to work with the most disadvantaged and the principle that, in Cuba, no one will be neglected with the enforcement of new socio-economic measures.

Arrangements have been made with the counterparts to ensure that CP strategic actions integrate approaches, frameworks and work tools conducive to sustaining national and local capacities in fostering equity and improving results for children and adolescents. Emphasis has been placed on results to benefit the integrated development of infants, boys and girls aged 6-11 and adolescents in vulnerable situations on various grounds. Each of the programme components is underpinned by the guarantee of rights for boys, girls and adolescents, with an equity- and gender-based approach.

Each CP component follows up on the CPAP results framework. Analysis and advocacy in favor of results for the most disadvantaged boys and girls has been strengthened, as well as excellence in financial and programme implementation.

The follow-up to the Mid-Term Review general recommendations is underway, focused on strengthening results-based management, reinforcing advocacy to influence socio-economic policies in favor of children and promoting behavioral changes to the protection and guarantee of rights through the Communication for Development strategy.

The joint work for the preparation of a 2012-2013 Bi-Annual Work Plan has been set in motion. The work schedule for the next 2014-2018 CPD-UNDAF is already available and slated for implementation, based on a simplified programme structure. Both processes are taking place simultaneously.

Cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary efforts and results have been coordinated in each CP component, led by the CO.

VISION-based training has been developed with the whole staff through the Training of Officers, DROPS and its CO replication.

Effective Advocacy

Partially met benchmarks

New stakeholders have been added to the CO institutional map. Advocacy and partnership actions have been strengthened with the Ministry of Interior and Parliament for the systematization and dissemination of the country's best practices in the operation of institutions and systems for protection and violence prevention, among other sensitive issues. With the Ministry of Education, actions have also been undertaken regarding homes for boys, girls and adolescents with no parental protection.

The CO has supported the submission of Cuba's report to the CRC and the follow-up to the recommendations in favor of national efforts to adjust the legality and coordination/monitoring mechanisms for compliance with the principles of the Convention.

Advocacy has been supported through culture, sports and mass media. These forums have been maximized through increased convening capacity, legitimacy and use by broad sectors of the population in order to enhance the profile and promotion of the rights and participation of boys, girls and adolescents.

The dissemination project on the rights of children and adolescents in Cuba has been established as a vital foundation for advocacy. Its network of Resource Centers, scattered throughout the national territory, relies on multi-sector teams promoting children's rights through training several sectors of the population, through the mass media and through the implementation of activities for children's and adolescents' involvement.

Prime-time spaces on national media have been made available to the CO. Rights have been promoted through analytical interviews, reports, publications and documents. Evidence-based advocacy has been strengthened.

There has been broad-based dissemination on the press, radio and television of the 20th anniversary of the Convention as a nationwide law, with active participation by the Goodwill Ambassadors and other artists:

- Rights-based concepts in celebration of the International Year for People of African Descent and the International Year of Youth publicly displayed.
- Mass media engaged in Danny Glover's participation in Havana in the event on Afro-descendants, hosted by the *Juan Marinello* Cuban Institute for Cultural Research, and in the Gathering of African and Caribbean Filmmakers, hosted by the Traveling Caribbean Film Festival.
- Concert for children and adolescents of the Artistic Teaching System held, conducted by Goodwill Ambassadors Raúl Paz, X Alfonso and Hernán López Nussa.
- Cultural Gala on the International Children's Day held with Cuba's National Ballet and 400 boys and girls.

Regional campaign against trafficking in people launched at an X Alfonso concert, held in a usual gathering spot for adolescents in Havana.

Dance director Liza Alfonso appointed Goodwill Ambassador in recognition of her ongoing work in leading children's dance workshops and due to her prestige as a public figure with extensive advocacy potential.

The publication *Los audiovisuales en la infancia y la adolescencia: caminos para una participación diferente* (*Audiovisuals in Children and Adolescents: Pathways for a Different Engagement*) released on the sidelines of The Audiovisual Universe of Latin American Children, an event attached to the International Festival on New Latin American Cinema.

Participation of two teenagers at the Fourth Regional Youth Conference on Human Rights, Mexico.

Changes in Public Policy

The changes to the national economy that have been announced are targeting efficiency. This includes subsidies for disadvantaged people and families instead of subsidized products. So far, these changes have not affected the implementation of State-led social programmes prioritizing the focus on and development of children and adolescents. The CO will continue to follow up on the situation of children and adolescents and on the impact that these economic adjustments could have.

Leveraging Resources

The resources obtained for the year have been set aside to ensure support for the integrated development programmes in the life cycle of children and adolescents.

Support was provided for the procurement of 130,000 doses of MMR vaccine to immunize 100,000 boys and girls aged 1 and to keep the vaccination coverage at 100%.

Support was provided for the physical rehabilitation of roofs and carpentry work in the sports facilities of 12 communities in 4 municipalities of Granma province. This process is part of the project entitled *Por el derecho al deporte y a la recreación sana* (*For the Right to Sports and to Healthy Recreation*), intended to prevent risky behaviors in boys, girls and adolescents.

Actions were supported for the socio-educational diagnosis, training and operation of the workshops attached to the project entitled *Integrated and Participatory Social Development of Adolescents in Old Havana*. In this connection, a Referral Center is being built for them in the area.

Capacity Development

Partially met benchmarks

Integration of CP components heightened through training processes and interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral scientific-technical exchanges. Knowledge areas relating to children's survival, protection and development strengthened.

High-priority thematic training sessions undertaken for achievement and sustainability of CPAP results, at the level of each programme component:

- Component: Early Childhood Integrated development (0-5 years):
4,872 people, including public health specialists, professionals, technicians and staff, were trained, updated and qualified through 6 workshops (3 regional and 3 national) and 2 international congresses held in Cuba. The content of the training sessions deals with childcare, health, nourishment and nutrition, extremely critical maternal morbidity surveillance and pediatric infectology, including respiratory and HIV- and diarrhea-related infections, as well as prospects for vaccination.

- Component: Integrated development of Boys and Girls (6-11 years):
434 people, including officials, executives, teaching staff, community agents, statistics staff, doctors and paramedics and 14 families, were trained and qualified through 9 workshops (3 territorial, 1 regional and 2 national). The content revolved around the quality of rural education, teaching and learning of swimming, Physical Education programmes and community-centered physical activities, as well as accident-related information processing.

1,306 schoolchildren and 123 professors, family and community members were trained in risk management and reduction in emergencies through 2 experience-sharing workshops. Training was structured around the inclusion of those thematic contents into the school curriculum. The literature used included 2 educational handbooks on environmental health, one written for boys and girls and another with methodological guidelines for teaching staff.

- Component: Integrated development of Adolescents aged 12-18 years, trained in different forums:
262 professionals trained to care for boys, girls and adolescents with special educational needs.
145 teaching staff trained in environmental education and emergency preparedness.
Specialists from 9 Municipal HIV/AIDS Prevention Centers.
91 professionals from various sectors trained in accident prevention in adolescence.
9,468 teaching staff trained in rights-based issues.
125 culture, 143 mass media and 80 professionals from institutions attached to the Historian's Office trained in rights-based issues and childhood/adolescence engagement.

- Component: Cross Sectoral:
50 project managers and coordinators were trained in Results-Based Management to improve the formulation and monitoring of the project results framework.
Training sessions held in the Office. Issues of interest to the CP debated by experts on socio-economic issues: socio-economic policy outlook; families and values; racial relations in Cuban history and society. The CO team took part in thematic workshops held by the UN System in Cuba and by national partners.

Communication For Development

Partially met benchmarks

Communication for Development largely inserted into the CP and each of its components. C4D strategy is underway through sports, culture and audiovisual aids. Technical staff initially trained, as

well as national counterparts and UN agencies in Cuba, among which UNICEF plays the role of promoting an inter-agency strategy.

Boys and girls aged 9-11 trained in the use of video equipment and interview techniques for the application of "peer interviews" intended to become acquainted with interests, expectations, needs and ideas for the future. This took place on the sidelines of the national championship connected with the project entitled *Soccer for All*, which hosted 15 mixed teams composed of 7 boys and 3 girls from all provinces in Cuba.

25 adolescents trained in broadcasting techniques are undertaking community-based HIV/AIDS prevention actions, skilled in mass media management. This is the result of an inter-agency project implemented with UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Funds (PAF), in which UNICEF is the lead agency and financial manager. 15 adolescents trained in pre- and post-production of a short feature on the sidelines of the International Non-Budget Film Festival, held in Regla. The same adolescents starred and co-wrote the audiovisual material intended to depict dreams, conflicts and social adaptation and participation processes.

15 adolescents' workshops in operation in Old Havana. Training sessions held in issues connected with participation and development of skills for life.

Communication for Development and Children's Rights workshop held in the context of *Voices for the Future*. This project is intended for boys, girls and adolescents as communicators.

Expanded participation of young people in cultural activities aimed at strengthening C4D-related concepts. Links established with the Center for Social Research (CIS), an expert institution in mass media monitoring and evaluation. Partnership established for the evaluation of C4D strategy actions.

Experiences systematized in relation to C4D strategy through the book *Audiovisuals in Children and Adolescents: Pathways for a Different Engagement*, which addresses various models of C4D engagement and results in Cuba.

3 sessions held with the in-depth analysis panel on MICS4 indicators to produce the content of messages and support C4D. Partnership established among mass media, specialists and policy management institutions connected with MICS4 indicator performance and Knowledge Management Centers. Work plan and activity schedule designed for dissemination of MICS4 results.

Service Delivery

Partially met benchmarks

Services delivery is not provided through the country program. However, national priorities are addressed by the implementation and sustainability of processes and services aimed at improving the welfare of children, adolescents and families in need. This includes capacity building in infrastructure and human resources.

Strategic Partnerships

Partially met benchmarks

Partnerships with knowledge centers continue to strengthen. Its results are used to update situation analyses, to design programmes, to strengthen the capacity of the national institutions involved in the CP and to train office professionals.

The partnership with the EU Office and the Historian's Office (Havana) is also strengthened in order to advance the project on a network of services and a referral center for adolescents in Old Havana. The partnership with the Ministry of Interior, Parliament and the institutional system of culture and mass media is being reinforced due to the results obtained in the protection, participation and profiling of boys, girls and adolescents.

The achievements in health and education remain, largely included into the cooperation programme. Based on the consultation process about the submission of Cuba's Report to the CRC, exchanges started with UNHCR – a non-resident UNS agency interested in working jointly with UNICEF on childhood protection issues.

The full potential of the National Radio Division made available to the project on the dissemination of MICS4 results and the promotion of C4D strategy messages:

- 6 national stations: *Radio Rebelde, Radio Progreso, Radio CMBF, Radio Enciclopedia, Radio Taíno* and *Radio Reloj*.
- 18 provincial stations.
- 71 municipal stations.
- 1 international station: *Radio Habana Cuba*.

Mobilizing Partners

The Country Programme mobilizes partners through joint actions with the lead partner for cooperation in the country. Uses the agreed coordination mechanisms in the PC and in line with national priorities.

Knowledge Management

Partially met benchmarks

The debate and the dissemination of information and knowledge about children and adolescents intensified, benefiting the counterparts and each area of the CO team.

Cross-sectoral aspects and synergies strengthened among bodies, institutions and organizations participating in the CP (Ministry of Interior, Historian's Office, Ministry of Culture, Institute of Water Resources, among others), which recognize the value of technical support, professional networking and the information shared by UNICEF to enhance the quality of its work.

In-depth analysis panel established for MICS4 indicators. This panel is composed of specialists from various fields of social research and communication. Three sessions held for the situation analysis of children and women, based on the qualitative interpretation of MICS4 tables and statistical data. Indicators and data selected in order to provide content to C4D outputs. The knowledge by panel members and social communicators improved in terms of applicability methods and potential for dissemination, communication and use of MICS indicators and data for decision-making purposes.

15 Cuban specialists and experts connected with CP results took part in 14 international scientific events/workshops and experience-sharing sessions of a global or regional scope, held in 12 countries. Analysis issues revolve around 4 areas: nutrition, early childhood focus and development, risk management in disaster situations and data monitoring for children/adolescents.

CP results presented in 3 international events held in Cuba: 2011 International Congress on Pedagogy; International Psycho-Health Congress; 2011 International Congress on Psychology and Human Development (*Hóminis 2011*).

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Partially met benchmarks

Work is underway with the counterparts to identify the largest gaps in order to focus efforts on those areas to the benefit of children and adolescents, particularly in planning process for the next CP.

Actions implemented to strengthen the exercise and promotion of rights, the participation and development of safe spaces and protective environments through educational, cultural services and the Network of Referral Centers for the Rights of Children and Adolescents – thereby improving the quality of life of boys, girls and adolescents in geographic areas of high socio-economic and environmental vulnerability (coastal and mountainous areas affected by hurricanes and recent tremors) in Santiago de Cuba and Granma provinces.

Some of the actions mentioned above include the refurbishment of 3 educational facilities and 1 community cultural center in 3 municipalities: Santiago de Cuba (2 Day-Care Centers providing care and educational services to 206 boys and 176 girls), Guamá (1 mixed school, with an enrollment of 105 girls and 194 boys, 84% of whom have special educational needs: 247 with mental retardation and 4 with psychic development retardation), Media Luna (1 Culture Center providing services to 15,188 children and adolescents for the exercise and promotion of rights and the participation & development of protective environments). These facilities are located in low-development or socially complex areas that have also been affected by weather events, tremors and hurricanes.

Best conditions observed and groundwork laid for follow-up to CRC recommendations. Actions are required to translate recommendations into programme-related lines.

Gender

Partially met benchmarks

Programme-related activities fostered to facilitate increasingly equitable relations in the participation of boys, girls, adolescents, men and parents, resulting from the formation and awareness of responsibility in the education and care of their children. Progress made in the information statistics on direct and indirect beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex, age and geographic area.

Knowledge improved on the gender-based approach in the programme area by training programme-related staff. Gender issues comprised in relation to food security, climate change, violence and HIV/AIDS, among others. These training sessions, organized on an inter-agency basis, were instrumental in strengthening experience sharing among UN agencies and identifying the needs for involvement by the technical stakeholders of cooperation projects, who largely influence gender mainstreaming.

Following up on the situation analysis on women and gender equity, held last year by national experts and led by the *ad-hoc* gender group, a number of statistics and indicators were identified and a complementary gender analysis was undertaken to improve UN System decision-making capacity on support actions and initiatives, such as the timely response to the impact that the changes to the Cuban economic model could have on the situation of women and gender equity.

Although the findings of this analysis are still under review, there is a preliminary need for families and households to become the center of UNS intervention, along with the national government and non-governmental institutions, academia and research centers, to build and strengthen capacities and to increase the profile of gender and equity issues for women's empowerment.

Within the context of the Secretary General's UNITE Campaign to End Violence Against Women, UNICEF Cuba provided support to give a higher visibility of the Campaign during the International Festival on New Latin American Cinema, with the exhibit of the spots of the campaign and its promotion in both the newspaper and catalogue of the festival itself.

Environmental Sustainability

Partially met benchmarks

Extensive work done in relation to the protection of the environment and risk reduction/emergency preparedness as a crosscutting issue of the CP. Current work involves La Coloma municipality in Pinar del Río province and Guisa municipality in Granma province, identified as vulnerable areas of the country.

Boys, girls, adolescents and families undertake environmental recovery actions in coordination with State institutions linked to education, health, the environment, Civil Defense and local governments.

301 teaching staff and 3,040 boys, girls and adolescents trained in knowledge about the main risks affecting their locality. Interest in research and strategies incentivized to sustain the protection of the environment at the community level.

Content on sanitation and nutrition inserted into different subjects of the school curricula. Handbooks for the promotion of culture about environmental health employed in primary and secondary education as literature support.

Nationwide poetry, storytelling and drawing contests announced in areas of water conservation and saving. Extensive participation of boys and girls aged 5-18 years. Vocational study centers established across the country's school system engaged in extra-curricular work on this issue.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Cuba's experiences and achievements in early childhood care and education socialized. 4 Cuban experts have participated in national forums held in various countries of the region. These national forums endorse the government commitment to foster policies and programmes in favor of this age group.

The participatory methodology of *La Colmenita* (a dance, theater and performance ensemble) disseminated and replicated in 5 countries of the region. Such groups currently exist in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia and Argentina.

A South-South Cooperation method identified through the implementation by the Cuban government of the community-based physical activity programme *Por la vida (For Life)* in Panama, Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Discussions are underway to commence such programmes in the Republic of Guatemala and in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

The main objective of this programme is to contribute to improving the population's social focus and quality of life. It emphasizes the most vulnerable population segments: boys, girls, adolescents (without excluding those with special educational needs), women and senior citizens. It is intended to encourage and promote the participation of families and communities. With a minimum of resources, the social impact achieved is high. This programme would complement others already in place, as well as actions undertaken in various countries, in conformity with their characteristics and idiosyncrasy.

The programme enables advisory services and capacity building in relation to physical education as part of the curriculum and community-based physical education.

Country Programme Component: Integrated early childhood development

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
100% of boys and girls aged 0-5 and pregnant women, with emphasis on those from priority areas due to low human development, rely on quality care in health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation.	2	FA1OT1, FA1OT4, FA1OT8

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	5305.00	5305.00	5305.00	100.00
OR-R	998185.00	998185.00	754682.00	75.61
RR	247830.00	247830.00	240048.00	96.86
Total	\$1,251,320.00	\$1,251,320.00	\$1,000,035.00	

Results Achieved

- 59,009 boys and 57,650 girls aged 0-11 across the country in urban and rural areas provided with better quality healthcare through childcare practice. Three provinces (Ciego de Ávila, Pinar del Rio and Matanzas) with progress in the quality of this practice. 4,574 health professionals connected with this activity have acquired better scientific training.
- Approximately 100,000 boys and girls aged 1 are vaccinated with the 130,000 MMR doses acquired, with 100% immunization coverage. 60 health professionals connected with vaccination actions have been provided with greater technical knowledge, enabling them to offer better quality immunization services.
- Follow-up methodology for extremely critical maternal morbidity was implemented in Havana, Camagüey and Santiago de Cuba provinces. Follow-up criteria harmonized to evaluate the quality of maternal care in order to contribute to reducing maternal mortality.
- Integrated care of 1,696 pregnant women with prenatal risk improved (1,044 in rural areas). They have been provided with healthcare in Maternity Homes located in Holguín and Niquero municipalities (the latter being a hard-to-access location in Granma province). The health education programme improved for pregnant women, families and staff working in these health facilities (10,000 participants).
- Skills developed and capacities built in 25 adolescents aged 15-19 as health promoters for STDs/HIV/AIDS through the mass media.
- Food Guides implemented for Cuban boys and girls up to 2 years of age in Havana, Mayabeque, Matanzas, Villa Clara and Sancti Spíritus. The baseline survey applied to health and education staff completed. This survey focused on the knowledge of food required for the implementation of the Food Guides.
- Surveillance and quality assurance system for enriched fruit-based purées solidified. This food is for consumption by 429,035 boys and girls aged 6-35 months. The referral laboratories from the production plants have retained the competent laboratory status.
- Preliminary study conducted on the prevalence of anemia in boys and girls aged 6-35 months (62% of the total sample for study). The anemia prevalence encountered (33%) continues to pose a health problem for this age group.

- Anthropometric tables for the nutritional evaluation of pregnant women implemented in the country.
- 18,794 teaching staff from across the country (from the provincial to the local levels) and 1,500 community-based educational agents have acquired better knowledge for family training in educational issues, such as their children's education (444,583 boys and girls in urban areas and 264,763 in rural areas, aged 0-6 years). This 99% coverage includes boys and girls with special educational needs. The follow-up to the *Educate your Child* Programme strengthened in penitentiaries for women and men. 98.5% of boys and girls who completed pre-school education have reached the development stage for their age.
- Teaching-educational conditions strengthened in ensuring the implementation of the *Educate your Child* Programme through non-institutional methods, with the participation of 334 boys and 299 girls aged 0-6 years from *Jesús Menéndez* municipality, Las Tunas province.
- Quality of educational care improved for 720 boys and 709 girls attending 10 day-care institutions in 5 municipalities of Holguín province.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

- Shortages of supplies on the national market led to imports – which, along with complex operational processes at the national level, has caused difficulties in storage and delays in the transportation and distribution of supplies to its final destination. All this compromises the achievement of expected results.
- Non-availability of specific, measurable and quality indicators in order to clearly identify progress towards expected results. The report on indicators must be standardized, particularly for those actions implemented on a decentralized basis at the local level.
- Lack of specific, visible actions focused on gender equity from early childhood. Weak social communication strategies for the promotion of responsible motherhood/fatherhood.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

Committee from the UN System.

2011 is the second year of implementation of MDG-F JP *Fight against Anemia in Vulnerable Groups in Cuba*. UNICEF highlights its actions in 3 of 4 of its outcomes, relating to improving access to foodstuffs rich in micronutrients, adequately using these foodstuffs and relying on the surveillance/monitoring systems, particularly improving quality assurance for enriched products.

Some of the results achieved include the improvement of conditions at 16 Maternity Homes of Pinar del Río, Las Tunas and Holguín provinces, attended by 628 pregnant women facing nourishment risk. Three of the six Human Milk Banks are in operation, attached to the Maternity Homes of Pinar del Río, Las Tunas and Guantánamo provinces. These facilities contribute to preventing anemia in the most vulnerable newborns and infants.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

- 2 monitoring visits made to projects implemented locally in provinces of the country's eastern region. This was instrumental in following up on the implementation of various activities, strengthening the local coordination mechanisms and collecting evidence on the results of the activities that were undertaken.
- Baseline survey applied to health and education staff for the implementation of the Food Guides for Cuban boys and girls up to 2 years of age. Findings indicate that knowledge is still insufficient, with 52% of incorrect answers on the duration of continued breastfeeding. 59% of the health staff surveyed provided wrong answers about food and nourishment for infants under 1 year of age. There is an obvious need to expand the knowledge of the health and education staff on issues pertaining to healthy food and nutrition in

this stage of life with a family-based approach.

- Preliminary findings from the anemia prevalence study on 486 boys and 438 girls, aged 6-35 months, from 8 provinces of the country revealed 33% prevalence and an 11% reduction as opposed to the 2007 evaluation period. Largest anemia percentages are found in children aged 6-11 months and 12-23 months. Anemia is likeliest in rural and mountainous areas.
- Preliminary findings from the study on the status of vitamin A in 278 boys and 282 girls aged 6-59 months, from the country's western region, indicate a 17% moderate sub-clinical deficiency. Within this region, Havana province accounts for 26% of critical sub-clinical deficiency – hence the importance of having as many stratified data as possible at the regional, provincial and municipal levels.
- Findings from MICS4 in most modules and indicators reinforce the situation analysis of this CP component. Although there is favorable progress in the exclusive breastfeeding (up to the sixth month) indicator, the desired levels have not been achieved. Unfavorable indicators have been identified, such as the minimum food frequency among infants and the percentage of children completely immunized (desired levels have not been achieved). Other indicators relating to disease surveillance have disclosed areas requiring greater focus, such as oral rehydration therapy.

Future Work Plan

- **Maternal Health: Prenatal Care:** to continue strengthening the health institutions that provide healthcare to pregnant women with prenatal risk; maternity homes.
 - Maternal Morbidity-Mortality.
- **Children's Health:** to standardize the quality evaluation guide for the childcare practice.
 - HIV mother-to-child transmission.
 - Immunization: to provide support in order to maintain the achievements made and/or introduce new vaccines to vulnerable groups, such as the pneumococcal vaccine.
- **Nutrition:** iron deficiency anemia remains a public health issue in children, particularly in those aged 6-36 months.
 - Exclusive and supplementary breastfeeding.
 - To strengthen children's nourishment practices, timely introduction of foodstuffs.
 - Integrated approaches/interventions to improve nutrition.
 - Food and nutritional education.
 - In relation to vitamin A and iodine, to take into account the findings from the studies currently undertaken.
- **Water and sanitation:** hygienic sanitary education/acquiring healthy hygienic habits, focused on causing behavioral changes in mothers, parents, boys, girls and the community at large (to promote hand washing with soap).
- **Early childhood educational care:** institutional and non-institutional methods, taking into account the effectiveness of educational practice and the achievements all these years and which development areas require most attention in order to maximize each boy's and girl's development. Family training and participation. Parental participation. Promotion of men's role in caring for children.
- To facilitate greater integration into the different focus areas: health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation.
- From the operational standpoint: to evaluate and review the national mechanisms currently in place in relation to the sale, storage, transportation and distribution of supplies, due to lack of effectiveness.
- The technical specifications on the various activities must clearly refer to the technical data, characteristics, designs and other specifications of the supplies to be requested.

Country Programme Component: Integrated development of girls and boys 6-11 years old

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Boys and girls aged 6-11 in priority areas are being provided with higher quality education and healthcare at the school level.	2	FA2OT7, FA2OT9

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	13652.00	13652.00	13652.00	100.00
OR-R	243959.00	243959.00	242968.00	99.59
RR	180483.00	180483.00	178318.00	98.80
Total	\$438,094.00	\$438,094.00	\$434,938.00	

Results Achieved

§ Training levels increased in 36,977 teaching staff and executives of the country's rural and mountainous sector, who provide educational services to 174,063 students in 4,894 schools. Teaching-related variants applied to the work with multiple-grade classrooms in subjects such as *Reading, The World in which We Live and Farming Practices*.

§ 2,155 boys and 1,506 girls in 20 school centers in the priority municipalities of Bayamo, Buey Arriba, Santiago de Cuba, Manuel Tames, Céspedes, Nuevitas, Guáimaro, Camagüey and Vertientes rely on better educational and living conditions.

§ 818 boys and 372 girls with disabilities, attending 9 special education centers in Tunas, Gibara, Frank País, Sagüa de Tánamo, Guamá and Palma Soriano municipalities, rely on better educational care at the school and family levels.

§ Cross-sectoral actions for the prevention of non-intentional injuries have contributed to a steady decrease in mortality on this account. 192 specialists from 10 municipalities in the country are better prepared to ensure the quality of accident-related information and their performance in health areas. Compulsory introduction into the school curricula of teaching-learning content on Road Safety approved. Still under implementation is the swimming learning programme in 10 municipalities: San Luis, Cotorro, Habana del Este, Plaza, Santa Clara, Camagüey, Guisa, Manzanillo, Media Luna and Niquero.

§ 17,261 boys and 30,381 girls are enjoying the right to participation and to healthy recreation in Students' Camps of Puerto Padre and Niceto Pérez municipalities, located in Las Tunas and Guantánamo provinces, respectively (Cangrejitos Barracones community - a socially complex area in Santiago de Cuba province), and in 12 communities of Bayamo, Manzanillo, Jiguaní and Campechuela municipalities in Granma province. The focus has been on sports and cultural events.

§ 3,365 girls and 1,555 boys took part in contests on environmental education and accident reduction through 168 vocational study centers on environmental education. Nationwide *Soccer for All* Tournament held as a way to instill values, with the participation of 120 boys and 60 girls from all provinces in the country.

§ Iodine deficiency disorder (IDD) surveillance system strengthened. Quality control mechanisms validated for the production of iodized salt. Effectiveness of the social communication campaign increased. Evaluation on the effectiveness of programme-related actions initiated through iodization and goiter prevalence

validation in schoolchildren, with samples taken across the country's provinces. Mountainous areas identified as the location with most goiter, accounting for 12.3% of the population, mostly females.

§ 1,440 boys and girls and 156 teaching staff exposed to geographic vulnerabilities in La Coloma, Pinar del Río and Guisa municipalities rely on better preparedness knowledge for emergency risk reduction. Risk reduction issues implemented as part of the school curricula of primary education, based on the Handbook on Environmental Health.

§ Educational care for 14,667 girls and 12,841 boys improved in Las Tunas and Camagüey provinces upon completion of refurbishment actions in 124 school facilities damaged by the 2008 hurricanes.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Delays in the transportation of means/aids to their beneficiaries and the lack of response to the counterparts' operational strategies curtailed the achievement of some planned results.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

Inter-agency cooperation for the implementation of *Strengthening Local Capacities for Risk Reduction in Six Municipalities of Granma Province* – a project funded by the European Commission (DIPECHO) and implemented jointly by UNDP, UN Habitat and UNICEF, was instrumental in strengthening local stakeholders' capacity in those communities for risk prevention. Such cooperation was defined as an example of best practices during the final evaluation of the project.

Strategic partners include MINED, MINSAP, INDER, INRH and UN Habitat, UNDP, the UNICEF Spanish and Norwegian Committees from the UN System.

Talks are underway with the Real Madrid Foundation, along with the UNICEF Spanish Committee, to examine future cooperation actions in the field of community-based sports.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

Evaluation on the effectiveness of actions from the IDD programme initiated through iodization and goiter prevalence validation and screening of congenital hypothyroidism. Preliminary findings include:

- The salt iodization programme is steadily implemented at average levels of 28-30 p.p.m. in four saltworks.
- 83.3% of samples registered values above 15 p.p.m. 86.5% of household-based samples registered adequate iodine levels.
- Goiter prevalence accounted for 12.3%, considered moderate endemic – with a 54.9% variation in relation to the baseline.
- The largest goiter prevalence was found in mountainous areas, mostly in females (pubertal goiter). 2 monitoring visits were made to projects implemented in the eastern provinces in order to monitor progress towards planned results.

2 visits were made to Pinar del Río province to participate in the exchange workshops with boys and girls being trained in risk reduction.

Future Work Plan

To follow up on the objectives contained in the cooperation cycle:

- ú Focus on rural education with an equity-based approach, identifying the most vulnerable groups:
 - Training of teaching staff and executives from the rural sector.
 - Improvement in the educational and living conditions and education of boys and girls from the rural sector, with focus on special educational needs.
- ú Improvement of health conditions in boys and girls at the school level based on:
 - Non-intentional injury prevention.

- Promotion of healthy recreation and formation of healthy lifestyles (nutritional education and hygiene at the school level).
- Strengthening of local capacities for emergencies.
 - Environmental education.
 - School-based emergency preparedness.

Country Programme Component: Integrated adolescent development

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Integrated development of adolescents strengthened with the promotion of rights, protection and participation and the increase in the quality of educational, health and cultural services in priority areas.	2	FA3OT6, FA3OT7

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	350487.00	350487.00	331346.00	94.54
RR	179781.00	179781.00	163450.00	90.92
Total	\$530,268.00	\$530,268.00	\$494,796.00	

Results Achieved

- Training of 663 adolescents with special educational needs increased for their future insertion into the work and social arenas. Improved 5 schools from municipalities in the eastern region.
- Environmental education and emergency preparedness strengthened in 3 schools of Pinar del Río province (affected by hurricanes), with a total of 1,600 students (457 from rural areas) and 145 teachers.
- Training of 21,217 adolescents in health issues increased, with emphasis on reproductive health and STD/HIV/AIDS prevention, through educational and socio-cultural actions.
- 261 adolescents and youths trained as promoters and 59 as advisors through the Municipal HIV/AIDS Prevention Centers in 9 municipalities.
- 80 adolescents and 91 professionals from different sectors trained as promoters for accident prevention.
- 30 professionals trained in adolescence-related and communication issues and 50 in issues pertaining to child abuse. Various workshops held with 560 adolescents and youths with issues of interest to them.
- Training of professionals increased and protective environments strengthened through sports, culture and vocational orientation in 12 Integrated Training Schools for specialized educational focus on adolescents who have committed incidents defined as crimes in the national legislation.
- Promotion of a rights-based culture strengthened through training, communication and research, with the leadership of cross-sectoral teams in 17 Reference Centers. 477,165 boys, girls and adolescents and

9,468 teaching staff targeted with this intervention. Number of participants in vocational study centers on this issue increased by 103 (263 in total).

- Rights and participation promoted through culture: 32,459 – strengthening local institutions' capacities and 50% increase in activities in mountainous areas; 49,596 – specialized services of the National Library and the 15 provincial libraries; 479 – 3 artistic appreciation and creation workshops at the National Museum of Fine Arts; 1,125 – 106 children's *repentismo* workshops. Findings from research on cultural consumption by adolescents released in 2 training sessions for community professionals (85 participants).
- Values of African contribution to Cuban culture reinforced with support for a music-dance workshop for children and adolescents (70 participants), hosted by the National Folklore Ensemble; an international seminar on this issue (70 national participants and 7 guests from three countries) and the I Meeting of African and Caribbean Filmmakers (55 representatives from 35 countries, in addition to national creative artists and mass media staff), attended by Danny Glover, Goodwill Ambassador, and other personalities.
- Partnership strengthened for national TV programming of spaces for children and adolescents. 143 professionals were trained in this issue. Other actions included the dissemination of relevant issues to this age group as part of regular TV programming with a rights-based approach.
- Conditions improved for physical activity by adolescents in gyms of 16 school facilities of the country.
- Socio-cultural programme for children and adolescents strengthened in Old Havana. Participation included 10,024 users (3,306 female) from the museum-classroom system and 375 from 14 creative and vocational orientation workshops. Training of professionals supported and progress made in the Referral Center project for local adolescents.
- Partnership strengthened with knowledge centers for information sharing.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Some of the country's own regulations and management mechanisms do not facilitate the procurement and distribution processes of the material resources required for the adequate implementation of cooperation-supported actions.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

In partnership with the Historian's Office, progress has been made with the project entitled *Integrated and Participatory Social Development of Adolescents*, funded by the EU. Upon completion of its first year, the results include socio-cultural diagnosis conducted, professional networks strengthened and 14 adolescents' workshops functional.

Work has been done with UNESCO and MINCULT to reinforce the values of African contribution to Cuban culture among boys, girls and adolescents.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

2 monitoring visits made to the eastern provinces and 1 to Pinar del Río province, in the west, to follow up on the activities implemented in those areas.

The findings from the national survey on cultural consumption by adolescents in Cuba, released last year with UNICEF support, have been extensively disseminated and used in training sessions for sector professionals and other related areas.

Future Work Plan

To follow up on priority issues from the current CP, supporting increased quality in educational, health and cultural services, among others.

To further strengthen the protection area in terms of violence prevention and the focus on disadvantaged or vulnerable groups of adolescents who may have committed incidents defined as crimes or who may have special educational needs, among other causes. To pursue advocacy for the collection, systematization and dissemination of best practices and useful information on these issues, with a rights- and equity-based approach.

To continue supporting increased participation and profiling of adolescents in issues of concern to them and at the citizen level.

Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral costs

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Program components supported by shares in logistics and supply assurance, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy, communication for development and gender equity.		1 FA5OT1, FA5OT2

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R				
RR	170394.00	170394.00	119861.00	70.34
Total	\$170,394.00	\$170,394.00	\$119,861.00	

Results Achieved

Supplies and logistics:

- Logistics ensured for intermediate inspection storage, disaggregation and subsequent distribution of supplies procured by the CP. This action was ensured by UNICEF through the joint leasing of a warehouse with WFP and UNDP.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- CP and CO M&E tools implemented in conformity with results-based management.
- 22.3% of 2011 CRING indicators updated.
- Data processing completed and final editing phase underway of MICS4 final report. 48% of survey indicators contained.
- In-depth analysis of results undertaken. Such results have been made available to health specialists in charge of promoting policies and practices linked to low-index indicators, as well as to researchers from various Ministries and knowledge centers. They are also available to communicators for dissemination through a C4D strategy.
- DevInfo-centered database completed and web portal designed for Internet hosting (*A Glance at Cuban Children and Adolescents in Figures*).
- 50 coordinators and project managers from the five eastern provinces trained in results-based monitoring issues.

- CO joint report and review system consolidated with the government and the counterparts for programme and financial monitoring of the Annual Work Plan (AWP).
- Donor report calendar fulfilled and implementation of thematic funds registered.
- Quality self-evaluation exercise undertaken in a 44% sample of 2011 AWP quarterly reports, with efficiency measurement criteria on results-based management.
- Systematic monitoring on compliance with supply and distribution plan undertaken in support of AWP completion.
- Monitoring indicators designed for the CO Risk Library.

Communications:

- Increased communicative actions of CP components, with a rights- and equity-based approach.
- Expanded knowledge by boys, girls and adolescents on their rights. Promotion of a rights-based culture, training and the production of communicative material and its dissemination strengthened.
- Promotion of the right of the child (health, safety and educated recreation strategies) through cultural activities, contests and sports events.
- Higher profile of CP results on the mass media:
 - Relationship with the mass media strengthened (TV, radio, press, digital media), as well as with the network of local and national journalists.
 - Press monitoring implemented (newspapers, radio, TV, Internet).
 - Relationship with Knowledge Management Centers strengthened.
 - Websites solidified as a tool for the dissemination and promotion of rights.
 - Increased participation of adolescents in CP activities.
 - Increased advocacy actions through the submission of specialized documents prepared by UNICEF (SOWC, Progress of Children, Annual Report).
 - Increased participation on opinion programmes, such as Round Tables, Weekly News Supplements, *Buenos Días* News Programme.
- Increased participation in scientific events throughout the year.
- Greater work coherence and systematization with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors.
- Links strengthened with the Social Research Center (CIS) of ICRT (Cuban Radio and Television Institute) as a support entity for M&E of C4D activities.
- Partnerships strengthened with the National Division of Community-Based Radio Stations of ICRT.
- C4D project underway for the dissemination of MICS4 results and three multi-sector workshops largely attended by communicators.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Supplies and logistics:

- The leased warehouse operated with no major setbacks. However, expected results were not achieved due to counterparts' delay in collecting the supplies. This proved inoperable due to the cramped conditions of the warehouse. In September, UNICEF decided not to renew the warehouse leasing contract as expenses were not justified against the results achieved.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- Shortage of data and evidence on inequalities and its determinants in children and adolescents.
- Insufficient SMART formulation of the results framework as basis for results-based follow-up and monitoring.
- Delayed distribution of supplies to final destination. This has been identified as the main cause of delays in achieving project results, primarily those from decentralized cooperation.

Communications:

- Shortage of indicators for C4D impact measurement on the population.
- Constraints of the national printing arts market hinders the appropriate implementation of the CP plan of publications.
- Insufficient quality data and information availability on issues pertaining to children, adolescents and women.

- Lack of systematization and dissemination of CP successful experiences at the regional and global levels.
- Limited partnerships with UNICEF, National Committees and other donors in favor of South-South Cooperation.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

Supplies and logistics:

- Although expected results with the warehouse were not obtained, it was recognized by the Operations Management Team (OMT) as best inter-agency practices.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- Partnerships consolidated with ONEI, the MICS coordinator country group and specialists from knowledge centers to strengthen follow-up and monitoring actions for indicators and data on children, adolescents and women in the country and for the impact of social changes on these population groups.
- Participation in the Local Human Development Inter-Agency Group.
- Participation in UNDAF monitoring and evaluation plan.

Communications:

- The CIS of ICRT has become an important partner in evaluating C4D actions. It is an institution with ample experience in mass media M&E.
- Radio engagement promoted as a UNICEF partner through its local station network.
- Inter-institutional working group established for dissemination of MICS4 results. It is expected that such group will become useful to address other issues and obtain communication products.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

Monitoring and evaluation:

- Schedules adjusted in the Terms of Reference (TORs) of evaluations and studies to be completed in 2012.
- The quality analysis of the results-based report system for projects connected with the AWP identified the following major limitations:
 - Centered on supplies and activities, not on results.
 - Scarce statistical evidence.
 - Insufficient planning and monitoring of the results framework: indicators, baselines, targets and means of verification.
- Project results-based report templates adapted.
- Monitoring of supply management and monthly review of AWP financial execution supported.
- Validation of indicators supported for the CO Risk Management Library.

Communications:

- Released information connected with UNICEF programmes, projects and activities monitored.
- M&E support institutions identified for impact of mass media products on the population (CIS – ICRT).
- Mass media commitments and partnerships validated with the dissemination of CP cooperation actions.

Future Work Plan

Supplies and logistics:

- To examine together with the Government the most adequate strategy for the country's conditions and regulations in order to ensure the timely arrival of supplies procured from the implementing counterparts.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- To improve results-based information and statistical management across CP structure.
- To improve the results framework of national and local projects.
- To strengthen results-based management through M&E actions.
- To implement a national capacity building plan for results-based M&E.

Communications:

- § To further strengthen mass media partnerships for the dissemination of CP results.
- § To increase the use of indicators and disaggregation criteria to identify gaps or disparities, with the support of CIS of ICRT.
- § To strengthen the work connected with UN and UNICEF campaigns; particularly, the *I Say NO to Violence against Women* campaign and the CRC 20th anniversary campaign as National Legislation.
- § To support the dissemination of MICS4 data with a C4D strategy.
- § To consolidate joint, coherent work with other UN agencies, funds and programmes.
- § To strengthen C4D in CP components.

Effective Governance Structure

The Annual Management Plan (AMP) and the Integrated M&E Plan completed and sent to the Regional Office on a timely basis. Compliance is going according to plan.

The Country Programme Management Plan (CPMP) in force for 2008-2012 clearly sets forth the specific results and the strategies planned by the Office, as well as the management and monitoring system in operation with satisfactory results.

Every Committee making up the Office management structure was updated early in the year, both in TORs and in member composition. Meetings are convened according to plan, with minutes drawn up for each of them.

The work of the Operations Management Team (OMT) strengthened in support of the various inter-agency groups in operation in the country. In April, each agency's coordinators participated in the regional workshop held in Panama for the preparation of the new UNDAF.

Staff structure has remained consistent with the CPMP. Job descriptions have been updated in conformity with the current responsibilities discharged by each staff member.

The focal points of each thematic area and the table of authorities updated early in the year. The different roles of each staff member examined for the launch of VISION in 2012.

Strategic Risk Management

Review of the Risk Library and Profile conducted in June with the participation of all Office staff. Compliance indicators for action plans reviewed for each of the risks identified. Review is underway, scheduled for completion by early January 2012 in order to send the report to HQ and to the Regional Office in February 2012.

This type of exercise makes it possible for the entire staff to discuss the organization's risk management culture at length, as well as its adaptation to the Office's specific conditions within the country context. This analysis enhances the approach to situations that may occur in the different management areas and the relevant responses.

The Office is ready from the point of view of staff and facilities to provide an effective response to emergencies, mainly hurricanes and tropical storms, as the most frequent weather events due to the country's geographic location. In this regard, a system was installed for the protection of glass doors and windows, abundant in the Office, which posed a high risk because of its position facing the sea in the event of a storm or hurricane.

The Office relies on internal and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to address an emergency crisis, based on the main EWEA actions. Due to the high immediate response capacity of the Civil Defense system, the Government and the UN System agreed to prioritize UN assistance to the risk prevention and disaster recovery phases, focusing locally and on the country's most vulnerable territories. Within hours of the crisis, the CO mission must use the information from official government sources to share it with donors for fund raising.

Office MOSS compliance evaluation undertaken by the Regional Security Advisor in October. Score was 94%.

Evaluation

In compliance with 2011 IMEP, actions and tools were implemented for Programme and CO management results-based monitoring.

4 evaluations are underway for completion in 2012. As part of the mid-year IMEP review, its TORs were examined and adjusted to expected results and work schedules, in conformity with the new conditions, the MTR recommendations and the improvement of quality standards.

Some preliminary results have been reported to date, particularly measuring nutritional status in the samples already studied, as indicated in other sections of the report. These results are being taken as reference to schedule activities in the 2012 work plan and the 2013 extension plan to the current CP.

The scheduled monitoring actions to the recommendations of 2 evaluations undertaken in 2010 were completed: the National Survey on Accident-Related Mortality, Morbidity and Disability and the Evaluation of Maternity Homes. Intranet tracking was also updated. Monitoring conclusions and recommendations has been instrumental in strengthening the management of baseline data and improving intervention actions in protecting vulnerable population groups in the areas of accidents and prenatal maternal health.

An analysis of the country's potential to engage in objective, impartial quality evaluations makes it possible to identify high technical capacities in the strategic partnerships with knowledge centers and research institutions. It would be necessary to harmonize coordination mechanisms for the appropriate planning of evaluations that may be necessary, timely and centered on the priorities of the equity-based approach of the CP for its next cooperation cycle.

By 2012, strengthening actions of results-based management must be systematized and consolidated as installed capacity in the national counterparts and its programming and monitoring mechanisms.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The use of the VSAT satellite link late last year has enabled access to online training options and the use of VoIP for international calls. This has been instrumental in saving on telephone communications, as all calls to other UNICEF Offices are made free of charge and at a very low cost outside UNICEF. Long-distance local calls cannot be made this way, as they are considered international calls and, in the case of Cuba, costs are very high.

It is fitting to point out that the aforementioned saving is relative, as the VSAT system has an annual Office budget cost of US\$ 58,548.00 against an operating expenses budget of US\$ 70,000.00 from the support budget. This causes the use of Regular Resources or Other Resources to comply with the annual payment.

The Office continues to face a high risk because it does not rely on an alternative link for its operation in the event of satellite link breakdown. The other existing link is through a local Internet service provider that does not have the appropriate bandwidth – and it would be prohibitive to increase it to the minimum requirement of 1 Mbps, as is also the case of BGAN as an alternative linkup.

C4D actions were supported through advisory services for the development of the Office's webpage, the use of PCs to distribute multimedia content and the download of information from the Internet.

Within the Inter-Agency IT Group, the Office shares experiences and participates with other agencies in searching for wireless interconnectivity solutions to ensure inter-agency communications in the event of emergencies. Given the recent installation of a VSAT link at the nearby FAO Office, it is a challenge to explore the possibility for both agencies to share satellite links, so that an agency's link could be used as the other's alternative option. Another challenge will be to additionally the possibility of using iDirect as an alternative link.

Through Citrix, essential Office staff are provided with remote access from their homes to office applications.

There is no LTA with local sales. All ICT equipment is purchased abroad. Local technicians are hired for equipment repair.

As there is no IT equipment recycling process, it is donated to the counterparts when redundant. New HP Proliant DL380 G7 server acquired, which made it possible to commence the Office server virtualization project and its subsequent migration to Windows 2008. Once this project is completed next year, the Disaster Recovery Plan must be updated and subsequently verified as an integral part of the Office's BCP.

Fund Raising and Donor Relations

11 briefs prepared on various issues with a national, provincial and municipal scope. These were sent to the *Private Fundraising and Partnership* section in Geneva and placed on UNICEF *Market Place*.

Support provided by the Norwegian Committee for the project entitled *For the Right to Sports and to Healthy Recreation*, with funding in the order of US\$ 97,695.89. This will benefit 22,790 males and 23,178 females of 12 communities in 4 municipalities of Granma province, providing recreational options intended to prevent risk behavior in boys, girls and adolescents.

Cooperation agreement among the International Cooperation Agency of the Balearic Islands, MINCEX, MINSAP and UNICEF/Balearic Committee managed and signed in support of the implementation of *Vaccines for Life*, a project with funding in the order of US\$ 133,133.77. MMR vaccines acquired and 60% immunization coverage in boys and girls under 2 years of age.

Through a proposal by the Inter-Agency Health and HIV/AIDS Group in Cuba, UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Funds (PAF A) were obtained in the order of US\$ 91,590.00 with a view to enhancing the identification, training and profiling of health and HIV/AIDS promoters by the young population through local experiences. UNICEF is the lead agency for the implementation and monitoring of results.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

All payments and management of financial assets for the year implemented without major inconveniences. Due to the country's existing restrictions for hard currency withdrawal, most foreign suppliers based in the country do not accept payment by check or transfer to their local bank accounts. This has led to payments through other Offices of the region or directly through NYHQ. Although all payments have been worked out without any serious constraints, the process requires a larger number of negotiations and controls until completion.

Office staff is being trained in the use of VISION and IPSAS for 2012. The Supply Assistant, the Financial Assistant and the Operations Officer participated in the Training of Trainers at the Regional Office in October.

During the training period at TACRO, the payment mechanism for the salaries of staff members through VISION in 2012 was examined. The cash on hand mechanism was recommended for use, taking into consideration the country's banking characteristics.

The inventory has been updated, with new adjustments included for VISION and IPSAS implementation.

Supply Management

82.7% of US\$ 2,175,989.00 implemented in the CP during 2011 is for supply management, with a total of 421 requisitions. 90% of supplies were managed through imports due to the lack of availability of local suppliers. This required additional efforts and costly logistics to ensure timely availability of supplies for the achievement of expected results in each CP component.

The tender and hiring process was conducted by the Office jointly with the Donation Implementation Company (EMED) during the first quarter of the year. The initial supplies under contract started to arrive in the country in May – and were received at the warehouse that UNICEF was leasing from *Almacenes Universales* in partnership with WFP and UNDP.

The logistics defined by EMED and the various Ministries involved specified that each of them had to collect the relevant supplies from this warehouse in a centralized manner for its subsequent distribution to the end users. The objective was to ensure the internal management payments among EMED, the Ministries involved and the end user. However, due to lack of transportation in some cases and to poor coordination and lack of infrastructure in others, the supplies acquired began to accumulate in the warehouse until it was completely filled in September.

Then, the Office decided to terminate the leasing contract of the warehouse, which stopped being, as was supposed, a transit location for tallying and selection to become a destination that undermined compliance with the objectives and results scheduled for each project. Finally, in October, all supplies were removed from the warehouse. The Office had to incur an additional cost of US\$ 4,000.00 paid to *Almacenes Universales*.

The challenge for supply management in 2012 is to find a grouped purchase mechanism for all WP activities, thereby reducing freight and handling costs. This must also entail a strategy for supplies to arrive in full, in good conditions and on a timely basis for the end users. As an alternative, the Office volunteers to engage in distribution to the end users. Approval for these proposals requires all the parties involved to be convened in order to harmonize these mechanisms with the existing rules in the country.

Human Resources

The Administrative Assistant post, vacant since December 2010, was filled by the person acting as M&E Officer. This new vacancy was filled in May and hired until December 2012 in conformity with PBR recommendations.

The Office filed a request with the PBR for the creation of 2 new positions (Receptionist and Logistics Assistance, both GS2 Level) and the upgrade of the Administrative Assistant position from GS4 to GS6. Two new posts were approved (Receptionist and Warehouse Assistant) and the Administrative Assistant was upgraded to GS5.

The recruiting processes for the Receptionist and Administrative Assistant positions were conducted in November. The relevant hiring will take place in SAP effectively in January 2012.

It was decided that the Warehouse Assistant position should not be filled, as the Office did not continue leasing the warehouse for programme supplies. This post was approved only until December 2012. In October, the officer in charge of activities as a Programme Specialist (P3 Level) was transferred to the Colombia Office. Right now, the Office is undergoing a recruitment process with support from the Regional Office.

The Representative position is still in rotation.

The Office continues to ensure a pleasant, comfortable work ambience for the staff, from the point of view of space, furniture and fitting out of rooms. The Action Plan for HIV/AIDS prevention in the workplace is

updated, with monitoring conducted as part of the CMT.

The Learning and Training Plan was prepared and sent to TACRO, with the budget requested being approved. It has been completely implemented. Staff assessment on the training received is very good. Learning plan for VISION prepared. It has been implemented since November and must be completed in December.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Through the OMT, the Green Office strategy has been fostered for all UN agencies. In 2011, baselines were established to save energy and supplies. In 2012, this strategy will be monitored on a regular basis.

Changes in AMP and CPMP

The Office must review the roles of each staff member involved in each of VISION-related processes. The recruitment processes for the Programme Coordinator and Representative positions must be completed.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

- [1] Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Third Report. Cuba, 2010.
- [2] Annual Health Statistics Report. Ministry of Public Health, 2010.
<http://files.sld.cu/dne/files/2011/04/anuario-2010-e-sin-graficos1.pdf>
- [3] Source: Digital HIV/AIDS Registry. Ministry of Public Health.
- [4] Guidelines of the Socio-Economic Policy of the Party and the Revolution. VI Congress of Cuba's Communist Party. Resolution adopted on 18 April 2011, page 7 of the informative document.
- [5] <http://america.cubaminrex.cu/InformeBloqueo2011/index.html>
- [6] Situation of children and adolescents in Cuba. Draft. UNICEF Cuba Office. November 2010.
- [7] Remarks by Raúl Castro Ruz, President of the Councils of State and Ministers, in his address to the VII Session of the VII Legislature of the National Assembly of People's Power, 1 August 2011.
<http://www.cubadebate.cu/raul-castro-ruz/2011/08/01/discurso-de-raul-en-la-asamblea-nacional/>
- [8] Cuba's Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Geneva.
<http://www.cubaminrex.cu/Actualidad/2011/Junio/texto.html>
- [9] <http://cringonline.org/>
- [10] http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cuba_statistics.html
- [11] National of Statistics and Information Office (ONEI). Website: <http://www.one.cu>
- [12] Decree-Law 281. Published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cuba. Website: <http://www.gacetaoficial.cu>
- [13] Ministry of Public Health. National Medical Records and Health Statistics Bureau. Website: <http://www.sld.cu/sitios/dne/>

Document Centre

Evaluation

	Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
1	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)	2011/001	Survey

Other Publications

	Title
1	Adolescentes promotores de salud; ITS/VIH/sida
2	CreatiManual de Consejería de Puericultura
3	Consulta de Puericultura. Bolsilibro
4	Tablas antropométricas. Manual
5	Guías alimentarias para niñas y niños cubanos hasta 2 años de edad
6	Manual de orientación a especialistas y familias con niños y niñas con insuficiencia del desarrollo entre de 3 a 6 años de edad
7	Un futuro sin barrera. Riego ambiental; para especialistas y familias con niños/as entre 0 y 6 años de edad
8	"Educa a tu Hijo": Su efectividad en la práctica educativa durante 18 años.
9	Manual Teórico metodológico para el trabajo de la Psicometría
10	Folleto Rural No.9
11	Manual para escolares. Disfrutemos aprendiendo
12	Manual didáctico para la prevención de lesiones no intencionales en hijo de madre adolescente
13	Manual de Educación Vial
14	Adolescentes por la protección y conservación del medio ambiente. Texto para adolescentes y metodología para educadores
15	Accidentes en la adolescencia. Tú puedes evitarlos!
16	Prevención de VIH/Sida en adolescentes y jóvenes
17	Adolescentes. Para aprender a vivir
18	Revista estudio 11. Adolescentes y jóvenes desde la diversidad de espacios y enfoques
19	Sociedad, educación y derechos de la infancia
20	Sistematización del programa social infantil y adolescente de la Oficina del Historiador de La Habana
21	Los audiovisuales en la infancia y la adolescencia: Caminos para una participación diferente
22	Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño

Lessons Learned

	Title	Document Type/Category
1	Educate your Child: Its Effectiveness on Educational Practice	Innovation

Programme Documents

	Title	Document Type
1	CPAP	CPAP
2	CPMP	CPMP
3	AWP	AWP/RWP
4	AWP	AWP/RWP
5	AWP	AWP/RWP
6	IMEP	IMEP