Executive Summary

A National Education Reform Pact was signed in April with the participation by all state institutions and political parties, civil society, businesspeople, unions, parents’ associations, religious communities and students. The Pact represents another step forward in the effort to achieve quality education and reduce disparities.

The Dominican Republic’s Congress approved Law 169-14, which establishes a procedure to regularise and naturalise those affected by the 2013 Constitutional Court ruling that denied nationality to the children of foreign parents who were non-residents at the time of the birth, the majority of them of Haitian origin.

A monitoring of results for equity systems (MoREs) analysis conducted in 2013 in five hospitals of the most disadvantaged regions underpinned the MOH’s decision to expand the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI). This expansion involves adding four new components aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality through coordinated and cost-effective interventions in selected hospitals and the primary care units and communities in their catchment areas.

The National Road Map for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Adolescents was approved at the end of the year. The Road Map establishes priorities, actions, time periods and resources required for the Dominican Republic to respond to the recommendations of the UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children.

The country has new official data and statistics on children and women, which will allow the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies and plans based on updated and quality information. This year saw the publication of the ENHOGAR 2013, which for the first time gathered information on children with disabilities. The Demographic and Health Survey supplied new information on children and women and more will be provided in ENHOGAR-MICS 2014, to be published in 2015.

The Mid-Term Review of the Cooperation Programme was conducted as programmed. The partners recognised UNICEF’s contribution to the realisation of children’s rights in the country and revalidated the Country Programme’s general strategies. Adjustments were made to the outputs and indicators to improve the focus of interventions and ensure fulfilment of the expected results.

The incorporation of a sex education programme into the curriculum and teacher training plan continues to suffer delays. Despite the support provided by the National Technical Roundtable, made up of the government, civil society and international organisations, religious pressures are limiting the right of children to comprehensive sexual education.

Six new tourism companies signed the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism and alliances have been established with three of the country’s most important publicity agencies, which are collaborating pro bono with UNICEF.
radio and TV shows and the Quisqueya baseball stadium are broadcasting the “25 Voices for Children” campaign.

**Equity Case Study**

A good start in life is a determining factor in the development of cognitive, creative, communicational and emotional capacities and people’s health. Scientific evidence shows that over 80 per cent of the brain develops in the first three years of life, making comprehensive care in the early childhood years (0-5) essential for comprehensive child development, allowing children to have the present and future they deserve. Investing in early childhood favours equal opportunities for the rest of their lives and interrupts the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

In 2009 over a million Dominicans were under the age of five; 35 of every 1,000 babies born alive died before they reached their fifth birthday; and 7.2 per cent of under-fives suffered from chronic malnutrition. Half of this age group received physical or psychological punishment and one in every five was not registered in the Civil Registry. Only 42 per cent of children between 12 and 23 months of age had all needed vaccinations, while 4.5 per cent of two- to nine-year-old children had some form of disability. The vast majority of those children belonged to the country’s poorest households, most of which were headed by single women.

There was also inequity in relation to early childhood education services. Just 170,000 children attended an early education centre and 83 per cent of the centres belonged to the private sector.

Despite this panorama, the country did not have a national early childhood policy that ensured a good start in life for the poorest children. To modify the above-described situation of exclusion and social inequity, UNICEF supported the Government and mobilised civil society in favour of a public policy for comprehensive early childhood care that would guarantee a good start to life, particularly for the most excluded children. These efforts resulted in the approval in 2013 of the National Early Childhood Comprehensive Protection and Care Plan, Quisqueya Empieza Contigo, for whose implementation the Government plans to invest more than US$100 million.

This process started in 2008 with the establishment of the Early Childhood Consultative Roundtable, made up of 47 government institutions, civil society organisations, private sector groups and international organisations. This provided an arena for inter-institutional coordination and the generation of knowledge. The Roundtable received technical and financial support from UNICEF right from the start.

In 2010 and with UNICEF support, the Roundtable launched the “Awakening of the Five Senses” campaign to sensitise parents, caregivers and society in general about the importance of early childhood care.

In 2011, with technical assistance from UNICEF and UNESCO, the Roundtable conducted two studies on the situation of early childhood care in the country and the quality of the early childhood services provided in the most isolated and disadvantaged communities. These studies highlighted the scarcity of public services, limited supply of private services, and lack of supervision and compliance with minimum technical standards where services were being offered. These research studies helped guide the political dialogue and resulted in the approval of Early Childhood Policy Guidelines. The guidelines were accompanied by an evaluation of the economic cost of their implementation.
As a result of the coordinated efforts of UNICEF and the Roundtable, in 2011 the Dominican government included comprehensive early childhood care goals in the National Development Strategy Law 2030. The National Strategy guides public policy actions aimed at achieving the national development goals, overcoming poverty and increasing the population’s well-being.

In 2013 the President of the Republic launched the Early Childhood Comprehensive Protection and Care Plan, Quisqueya Empieza Contigo, aimed at ensuring a good start in life for children from the most vulnerable families in the framework of the “Quisqueya sin Miseria”, the National Strategy for the Reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The Plan’s objective is to provide quality early care services to all children under the age of five, guaranteeing their health, nutrition, early education and protection, as well as education for their families. These services are provided in coordination with the ministries of Health and Education, the Central Electoral Board, the five Care Centres for Children with Disabilities (CAIDs) and numerous civil society organisations.

To organise and manage the services corresponding to the Plan, the National Institute for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care (INAIPI) was created, prioritising the country’s 76 most excluded population areas. INAIPI administers the different early childhood service modalities, including 216 new child care centres as well as those previously administered by the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI), which currently provides comprehensive care to 8,000 children aged 0-5. The Institute will also administer 1,000 community centres with their respective family networks and five CAIDs.

UNICEF provided technical support for the design of the Family- and Community-based Care Programme and its four implementation guides. The guides orient the work of community workers who help families improve their child-raising and protection practices for children under-five through home visits and meetings with pregnant women and families in general.

To implement the Family- and Community-based Programme, agreements were signed with 16 civil society organisations that specialise in child care and are currently working with 320 families.

By the end of 2016, a total of 616,372 under-fives will have benefited from the different interventions of the Plan, which will have to cover all of the country’s poor families. The Government has planned an investment of US$102 million for the period 2013-2016, including its own resources and resources from cooperation.

UNICEF will continue its technical support for the Plan’s development, stressing the improvement of antenatal care and childbirth, increased breastfeeding, early detection of and care for children with disabilities, and strengthening the growth and development monitoring programme in primary health care centres. It will also support inter-institutional coordination and the service referral and counter-referral system established by Office of the First Lady, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the General Directorate of Special Programmes (DIGEPEP) for the creation of a network of services for the early detection, prevention and comprehensive care of children and adolescents with disabilities.

2015 has been declared the National Year of Early Childhood Care and Protection by the President of the Republic.
AEISS - Administrator of Safe Health Childcare Facilities
AFD - French Development Agency
AJI - Youth and Child Municipalities
AMP - Annual Management Plan
ARV - Antiretroviral treatments
ASONAHORES - National Association of Hotels and Restaurants
BFHI - Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
BCP - Business Continuity Plan
CAIDS – Care Centres for Children with Disabilities
CEJNNA - Commission for the Execution of Justice for Children and Adolescents
CENISMI - National Research Centre on Maternal and Child Health
CESFRONT - Specialised Land Border Security Corps
CESTUR - Specialised Tourist Security Corps
CMT - Country Management Team
CONANI - National Council for Children and Adolescents
CPD - Country Programme Documents
CSE - Commercial Sexual Exploitation
CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD - Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DCT - Direct Cash Transfers
DevInfo - Development Information
DIGEPEP - General Directorate of Special Programmes
DPS - Provincial Health Directorates
EBFH - Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative
ENHOGAR - National Household Survey
ERM - Emergency Risk Management
EWEA - Early Warning Early Action
FEDOMU - Dominican Federation of Municipalities
GASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Group
GDP - Gross Domestic Product
GSSC - Global Shared Service Centre
HACT - Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
IACHR - Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IADB - Inter-American Development Bank
IDEC - Dominican Initiative for a Quality Education
IMEP - Integrated Monitoring & Evaluation Plan
INAFOCAM - National Teacher Training Institute
INAIP - National Institute for Comprehensive Early Childhood Care
INTEC - Santo Domingo Institute of Technology
ISFODOSU - “Salomé Ureña” Higher Teacher Training Institute
JCE - Electoral Board
MDG - Millennium Development Goals
MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MOE - Ministry of Education
MOH - Ministry of Public Health
MoRES - Monitoring Results for Equity System
MOSS - Minimum Operating security Standards
MTR – Mid-term Review
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation
Based on a research study conducted by the NGO Caminante in 2012, which revealed that 250-600 adolescents could be victims of sexual exploitation in the tourist area of Boca Chica, UNICEF supported Caminante and national partners – CONANI, the Ministry of Tourism, the Judiciary and National Association of Hotels and Restaurants (ASONAHORES) – in the execution in that Municipality of a capacity-building and awareness-raising plan to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

The plan included the sensitisation of 150 community leaders and 1,111 students on the consequences of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) on the lives of children, how they can protect themselves and how to denounce it. A workshop was organised for 20 local journalists on practical tools for managing information about CSE. The hotels in Boca Chica were invited to sign the Code of Conduct and awareness-raising work was done with the traders’ organisations, which agreed to participate in the local prevention network. The Ministry of Tourism, ASONAHORES and 80 managers of hotels and travel companies participated in an exchange of good practices on the protection of children from sexual exploitation.

To improve the response from the local child protection system, eight training workshops were held for members of the Local Protection Board and the Municipal Children’s Directorate, while support was also provided to produce a guide for the effective management Municipal Children’s Directorate (composition, roles, tasks, accountability, etc.)

The initial results show that coordination spaces have been established between the Municipal Children’s Directorate, the Ministry of Tourism, the Judiciary and the Attorney General’s Office (PGR). The Specialised Tourist Security Corps (CESTUR) has created a CSE prevention and prosecution module for instructors and trained the 14 officers assigned to Boca Chica. The Attorney General’s Office (PGR) established a local investigation roundtable on the commercial exploitation of children.
sexual exploitation of children to improve the investigation, analysis and prosecution of these crimes.

These efforts are helping the community of Boca Chica learn about the problem, get involved in its prevention and have mechanisms for reporting and prosecuting the crime. In 2015 the strategy will be expanded with the training and labour insertion programme provided by Melia Hotels International.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

The launch of the State of the World’s Children 2013 raised awareness at the highest political level of the situation of children with disabilities in the country and made society aware of the recent national law, adapted to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy, a Governmental Committee consisting of the First Lady’s Office (Care Centres for Disabilities), the ministries of Health and Education, and the Ministry of the Presidency (Early Childhood Care Programme) was created to conduct an in-depth analysis of the situation of children with disabilities and improve the coordination and capacity of the institutional response.

In 2014, UNICEF and PAHO/WHO supported the National Statistics Office in the publication of ENHOGAR 2013, which for the first time gathered information about children with disabilities, and in the mapping of care services for people with disabilities, which identifies the characteristics of what is on offer in the country’s five most populated provinces.

The generation of evidence and knowledge provided the basis for a political dialogue aimed at developing a public agenda to promote and realise the rights of children with disabilities. The Office of the First Lady – the lead institution in this area – requested support from UNICEF and PAHO/WHO to design a network of detection and comprehensive care services for this population. The flowchart of processes is currently being defined and will guide the service referral and counter-referral system. Collaboration is also being provided to extend the resources and capacities of the Office of the First Lady’s Care Centres for Disabilities beyond the centres, reaching community counsellors in the Early Childhood Care Programme who support and guide the poorest families in caring for their children.

UNICEF is supporting the production of the ‘State of Children with Disabilities’ and the establishment in 2015 of a National Consultative Roundtable that will bring together Government, civil society and UN system organisations to propose political guidelines and quality programmes to ensure the inclusion of these children and the fulfilment of their rights. The UN Country Team (UNCT) has developed a UNPRDP-funded project to sustain these initiatives.

**Partnerships**

Starting this year, UNICEF is implementing a Corporate Alliance Strategy thorough three lines of work: a) with businesses for fundraising opportunities; b) with advertising agencies as advisors on digital marketing, communication and product procurement, and pro bono work on the cooperation programme’s communication campaigns; c) with communication media for positioning and placing UNICEF content in the regular TV, written press and radio programming and obtaining free publicity spaces.

UNICEF has continued working with the travel and tourist industry on implementation of the Code of Conduct to protect children from sexual exploitation and on the ‘Guest with a Heart’
initiative. The alliance with Melia International helps fund the UNICEF cooperation programme and its corporate responsibility policy has made an impression on its employees, who carry out social surveillance activities in their communities and report to the authorities’ situations that merit attention. The company has also provided a training and labour insertion programme to offer life opportunities to children who were victims of sexual exploitation. Melia and the National Association of Restaurants and Hotels brought together the directors of 15 major hotels in Punta Cana to invite them to sign the Code of Conduct and the Guest with a Heart initiative. Three new hotelier associations and three wholesale tour operators have signed the Code of Conduct.

This year, UNICEF established alliances with three major advertising agencies (Partners Ogilvy & Mather, Young & Rubicam Damaris, and Capital DBG) that are collaborating pro-bono on: 1) an interactive digital platform on violence prevention for children and adolescents, in which they can exchange information and experiences to improve their safety and well-being; 2) a communication campaign for the prevention of sexual exploitation; and 3) communication materials for the Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

In the context of relations with the media for the positioning and placement of content, UNICEF’s presence grew at the national level following the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CRC. Ten radio and TV shows and the Quisqueya baseball stadium are broadcasting the “25 Voices for Children” campaign, and a collaboration agreement is being negotiated with the country’s main multimedia group.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

The rights of children have been on the front pages of the mainstream media and at the centre of the political agenda. The prevention of violence, maternal and infant mortality, child development and quality education, the rights of children with disabilities, adolescent pregnancy and the prevention of statelessness occupied media attention through articles, reports and pronouncements, participation in radio and television debates and interviews and in social networks.

In the context of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CRC, UNICEF invited artists, communicators, intellectuals and athletes to participate in a communication campaign to advocate for the wellbeing, development and protection of children, calling on the entire society to engage in ensuring the realisation of children’s rights enshrined in the Convention.

Four workshops were organised for 134 journalists in Santo Domingo, Boca Chica, Puerto Plata and the North region aimed at sensitising the media on the situation of maternal and infant health, child sexual exploitation and birth registration, and at increasing the coverage of these topics and improving the way they are addressed. The workshop on maternal and infant health encouraged the journalists to investigate the topics covered in greater depth. Days later, one of the participants reported the death of 11 children during one weekend in Santo Domingo’s main children’s hospital. National media picked up this story, which shocked the country and generated a robust debate on the situation in public hospitals and the health system in general.

During 2014 UNICEF participated in inter-agency communication initiatives that have influenced political decisions on children’s and women’s rights. These include decisions adopted to reduce the preventable deaths of children and women, the President’s veto of the criminalisation of therapeutic abortion, and the law to prevent the risk of statelessness generated by the Constitutional Court’s ruling of 2013 that denied nationality to children of foreign parents who were non-residents at the time of birth.
South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

UNICEF Dominican Republic contributed to building the child protection capacities of the organisations and institutions on the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This was done through training, re-organising functions, and developing road maps in seven local protection networks in the provinces of Dajabón, Montecristi, Elías Piña, Jimaní, Pedernales and San Juan de la Maguana. It also involved the organisation of a coordination meeting involving 25 community leaders and protection system authorities in Belladere (Haiti) and Elías Piña (Dominican Republic).

Support was provided for the creation of a team of 21 instructors from the Specialised Land Border Security Corps (CESFRONT), experts in child protection. In addition to training all new Corps members on prevention of child trafficking and other situations that could jeopardise the integrity of children on the border, CESFRONT will also directly replicate this training for 20 members of the Brigade for the Protection of Minors of the Haitian National Police, serving in Belladere and Ouanaminthe, in the first half of 2015. This will be an opportunity for both authorities to reinforce coordination to protect children. UNICEF Haiti participated in the design and implementation of these cross-border initiatives. Coordination between the two offices improved in 2014, bringing new opportunities for implementing joint interventions favouring the protection of children in border towns.

UNICEF facilitated a technical exchange between the Attorney General’s Office and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute for the production and follow-up of social insertion plans for incarcerated adolescents, following the Colombian model. Similarly, the process for the creation and institutional development of the Local Protection Boards, led by CONANI, benefited from the lessons learned from institutional reforms implemented in Bolivia, through the participation of a consultant from the UNICEF Office in that country.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

The MoRES bottleneck analysis conducted in 2013 by the MOH, National Research Centre on Maternal and Child Health (CENISMI) and UNICEF in five hospitals in the most disadvantaged regions showed that the main factors influencing maternal and neonatal deaths are structural problems affecting the health system, such as the lack of operational planning in hospitals; absenteeism and inefficient allocation of human resources and supplies; lack of supervision for fulfilment of the norms; and poor hygiene conditions, including contaminated water in maternity wards. Other findings revealed similar problems at the primary health care level, which seriously affect the prevention of illnesses and hinder community participation.

Based on the experience of the Antonio Musa Hospital, where UNICEF supported the elimination of neonatal mortality due to sepsis in 2008 through cost-effective interventions, it was decided to expand the BFHI, adopted by the MOH in 1993, to include new components aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. These new components are quality antenatal control, clean childbirth, the prevention of infection in neonatal care, and timely birth registration. In total, each baby-friendly hospital will now have to comply with 15 criteria to be certified. During 2014, the evaluation guides and manuals were developed based on the official standards and regulations.

In addition to the new criteria, the truly novel part of the expanded BFHI is that it provides holistic care for pregnant women and new-borns by reaching them not only in the hospitals, but also in communities and primary health care units in the hospitals’ catchment areas. In this
respect, it engages some 100 primary health care units and over 100 marginalised communities to reduce mortality in the 10 selected hospitals. It achieves this by improving care for pregnant women and new-borns and through information and education provided to the women on how to improve their hygiene, pregnancy care, postpartum care and breastfeeding, as well as on birth registration procedures.

It is expected that every year the expanded BFHI will save 400 infant lives, give 50,000 babies a good start in life, and ensure the timely right to identity of 14,000 new-borns.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

The Office supports the universalisation of civil registration of children through a cross-sectoral initiative that engages all programme components.

The bottleneck analysis in birth registration conducted by UNICEF and the Electoral Board (JCE) in 2013 identified the reasons why only 41 per cent of children were being registered at birth in public hospitals, despite the presence of registration offices. These included lack of information on the existence of the service, passivity of the registry office staff, lack of communication between registry office staff and hospital staff and lack of documentation among mothers, particularly adolescents.

UNICEF supported the JCE in the development of a communication campaign on radio and TV on the importance of birth registration and the requirements for registering in hospitals and the “prenatal file” for pregnant adolescents and women without an identity document, before giving birth.

Participation and political endorsement from the Ministry of Health was essential in overcoming the bottlenecks identified. UNICEF fostered dialogue between the JCE and the MOH to incorporate birth registration of new-borns in maternity hospitals as one of the new certification criteria of the Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, which was being revised at the time and is being implemented at the primary and hospital health care levels. The alliance with the MOH allowed the primary health care units to become a key partner, as they inform mothers about the importance of registration and help process the application for identity cards so that mothers who do not have them can obtain them by the time they give birth.

The Early Childhood Care Directorate assessed the proven capacity of community networks to promote changes of conduct in the country’s most excluded areas, and also joined the alliance to disseminate the communication campaign, using its own resources, and to support the poorest families in registering their children.

In the first three months birth registration rates in the selected hospitals had increased from 41 per cent to 57.4 per cent. In 2015, the MOH-JCE-DIGEPEP-UNICEF alliance will help ensure that at least 80 per cent of children born in public hospitals are registered.

Service Delivery

N/A

Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

In 2014, UNICEF participated in the Universal Periodic Review report and presented alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons
with Disabilities.

The UNCT’s political advocacy, mobilisation of social organisations and international pressure contributed to the approval of Law 169-14, which establishes procedures for regularising and naturalising those affected by the Constitutional Court’s ruling 168-13, which denied nationality (retroactively, back to 1929) to the children of foreign parents who were non-residents at the moment of birth, most of whom were of Haitian origin.

UNICEF actively participates in the Inter-agency Statelessness Group, which provided the Government with legal analysis and recommendations that would result in the draft law; and since the approval of Law it has supported the implementation and monitoring of advances. It recommended to the Government measures for overcoming obstacles related to the insufficient administrative response capacity, the Haitian consulate’s delay in documenting its nationals, and the distrust and lack of knowledge among the population that would potentially benefit. It also requested an extension of the original time period, to allow the greatest possible number of people to be protected by the Law. Congress extended the period until February 1, 2015. Meanwhile, the UNCT is continuing to provide support through financial assistance to NGOs for payments related to the issuing of official documents, mobile units to access more isolated places, and communication and mobilisation actions with community and human rights organisations. The aim is to generate trust in the procedure and reach the greatest possible number of people, particularly those who are most excluded and discriminated against. It is estimated that 55,000 people could benefit, one-third of them children under the age of 18.

Through a UNICEF initiative, the OHCHR conducted a mission to the country to advise the UNCT and civil society organisations on strengthening the human rights approach in the reduction of maternal and infant mortality. This resulted in the formulation of an inter-agency initiative that, in addition to improving quality, promotes social surveillance, the creation of denunciation mechanisms that are accessible to the women involved and accountability.

**Gender Mainstreaming and Equality**

UNICEF is one of the agencies working on the 2nd Pillar of the UNDAF 2012-16, Empowerment and the Rights of Women, regularly providing input on the rights of the girl child.

With this group, UNICEF supported the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, organising a series of films to advocate in relation to the different forms of violence against women and girls. On the International Day of the Girl Child, UNICEF, UNFPA and Plan International organised a dialogue between a group of teenage girls representing different segments and interests at the National Congress. They presented issues that affect their rights and freedoms and requested action to legislators to ensure their full development. The Communications officer participated in these initiatives as the gender focal point.

In the framework of the inter-agency initiative “Improving Human Security in the Bateyes”, UNICEF supported the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in 37 bateyes located in four provinces. In 2014, a baseline study revealed that 50 per cent of adolescents (12- to 18-year-olds) from those communities have been pregnant, which is more than double the national average (20.6 per cent). Some 253 peer educators were trained and will provide face-to-face training to at least 12 adolescents each, benefiting a total of 3,000 adolescents thorough a range of educational activities. The total budget is US$75,000 for a three-year period. Leadership falls to the Health area.
UNFPA and UNICEF are supporting the MOE with a baseline for a study on violence against secondary school adolescent girls. The aim of this research study is to identify the causes, characteristics, manifestations, practices and beliefs corresponding to gender violence, and analysing the prevention initiatives and their effects in the educational sphere. The baseline will be concluded in the first half of 2015 and will allow the application of the Standards on Harmonious Coexistence in Public and Private Schools using a gender approach. The Education and Protection areas are leading this work; UNICEF is contributing US$5,000.

Environmental Sustainability

UNICEF supported the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP) in strengthening national capacities for mitigation and preparation of response to disasters caused by climate change, to which the island Hispaniola is particularly vulnerable. In particular, support was provided for updating Law 147-02 of the National System of Mitigation, Preparedness, and Response to Disaster, which creates the Integral System of Risk; tools for rapid assessment of needs and information flow from the local to central level, led by the Centre of Emergency Operations; and the National Emergency Plan and country document on risk management. UNICEF supports the EHP in the incorporation of minimum standards for the protection of children and in planning and training of its members.

The Ministry of Education was also supported in the publication of the National Plan of Emergency and Disasters.

Effective Leadership

The CMT supervised compliance with the priorities and results established in the annual management Plan (AMP) and the bi-annual plan, and has overseen the correct application of standards, policies and procedures. In the last 12 months, among other decisions, the CMT approved the AMP, the institutional and programmes budget, updating of the Risk Control Self-Assessment (RCSA), the Mid-Term Review, and the election of a HACT focal point, in accordance with new UNICEF policies on this issue. Management indicators were frequently monitored using InSight, specifically the Management Dashboard and Management Reports.

Emergency Risk Management (ERM) was implemented and “business continuity” is part of the work plans. UNICEF Dominican Republic has identified risks, applying ERM in all spheres of its work. The RCSA was updated in April 2014 in VISION, identifying only one high-risk area (natural disasters and emergencies). The BCP was updated and a test exercise was conducted in December 2014. The early warning/early action system was also updated.

The most successful practices to reduce risks in programmes and operations include the correct separation of functions and 100 per cent compliance with the table of authorities. The Office participated in the Certification of Roles (Certification Manager) pilot project, aimed at verifying the table of authorities, mapping of roles and identification of conflicts and mitigation measures. Another successful practice was constant monitoring of the programmes’ financial implementation, allowing UNICEF to avoid having any liquidations pending for more than nine months.

Particular attention was paid to the analysis of current and future measures for the reduction of risks associated with the HACT.

The Programme and Budget Review (PBR) 2014 endorsed the new office structure proposal for
2016, approved by the CMT in accordance with the functions assigned to the Global Shared Service Centre.

**Financial Resources Management**

The CMT monitored the increase in local contributions from the tourism sector for the UNICEF protection programme, particularly those from the Melia Hotels International, which totalled US$141,744, through the Guest with a Heart initiative. It also monitored compliance with the financial controls, the table of authorities and the liquidation of DCTs. At the close of the year no DCTs of over six months were registered.

Work was successfully undertaken to improve efficiency indicators, such as the reduction in the number of low-amount transactions and the execution of all payments through bank transfers. A corporate account was opened with Citibank in September, which has provided benefits in terms of processing bank transfers. The use of cheques has been reduced to a minimum (1 per cent) and they are now issued by the bank, not the office, and are ordered online.

A total of 100 per cent of the accounts payable were processed in the operations area, making the work more efficient, with few operations returned, achieving reductions in the time and human resources involved. Bank reconciliation was done on time throughout the year.

There was 100 per cent execution of the institutional budget, both for post and non-post categories. The implementation rate of Programme resources was 85.10 per cent, with an absolute value of US$2,451,242. The percentage of implementation was 83.71 per cent for Regular Resources (RR) and 86.06 per cent for Other Resources (OR). 100 per cent of grants were used before their date of expiry. Progress continues to be made in implementation of the HACT. This year saw 16 spot-checks and 44 programmatic visits. All evaluations of counterparts were uploaded to VISION.

**Fund-raising and Donor Relations**

UNICEF mobilised 100 per cent of OR planned in the CPD for 2014. It received thematic ORs for US$300,000. The lack of allocation of thematic funds in health jeopardises the achievements made in the framework of the ‘A Promise Renewed’ Initiative to reduce the preventable deaths of women and children.

There was continued promotion of corporate social responsibility alliances and the Guest with a Heart fundraising initiative. Close contact was maintained with the partners that signed agreements in recent years and a visit was organised for the donor Melia Hotels International to learn about the commercial sexual exploitation prevention work in Boca Chica.

Based on analysis of the fundraising potential of the Dominican market, conducted in 2013, a Corporate Alliances Strategy for the Dominican Republic was produced and an international consultant was hired to implement the recommendations with the aim of covering financial needs for the years 2015-2016 and involving more business organisations in helping to ensure the fulfilment of children’s rights.

Three of the country’s most important advertising agencies donated their creativity for country programme communication initiatives, with an estimated cost savings of US$179,000.

“Star Notes” were prepared on key interventions in the Health programme (Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative) and Protection programme (birth registration) to present UNICEF’s
work to possible donors in a friendly way. The Representative presented these Notes during her visit to the Spanish Committee in May. The Note on the Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative was shared with the US Fund, without results.

An internal workshop was held on fundraising and CSR, with technical support from the Regional Office and the Spanish Committee. The officers learned about the opportunities, roles and responsibilities corresponding to each of them in relation to fundraising.

The five reports to donors were presented on time.

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**Evaluation**

As programmed, the 2014 Mid-Term Review of the cooperation programme was carried out in three stages: (i) a desk review to align the CPAP, the Observations of the Human Rights Committees, the SP 2014-17 and the current government’s policies, plans and programmes following the signing of the CPAP; (ii) technical workshops with the Government, civil society and adolescents to analyse advances and challenges; (iii) validation meetings with political authorities. The SitAn was updated and a perception survey was conducted on UNICEF’s work in the country. As a conclusion, the partners revalidated the Country Programme’s general strategies and four outcomes. Adjustments were made to the outputs and indicators to improve the focus of interventions and ensure fulfilment of the expected results for 2016. The recommendations were taken into account for the UNDAF MTR.

Fulfilment of the IMEP was monitored in the MTR and the review of the annual work-plan. Of the 27 activities programmed, 11 were completed and 10 are in process and will be published in 2015, while five were reprogrammed for 2015 and one was suspended. The study on multidimensional child poverty and the updating of the Child and Adolescent Rights Compliance Index were postponed to take advantage of the ENHOGAR 2014 data base that will be available in 2015; the evaluation of the Impact of Public Investment for the Reduction of Poverty was reprogrammed by the UNDP; the MOH suspended the mid-term monitoring of the Strategy for the Elimination of Congenital Syphilis and HIV until next year; and the implementation of the CONANIINFO database will conclude with the end of the CONANI institutional reform process. The Strategy for the Linkage of the Child/Youth Participation Initiatives was suspended by the Vice-Presidency of the Republic.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

UNICEF Dominican Republic shares common premises with five United Nations agencies. As a result of an inter-agency effort, the Operations Management Team conducted a cost analysis of maintenance service costs for the United Nations House, in which other modalities different from that provided by the company SOAMDI turned out to be less expensive. The UNCT agreed not to renew the contract with SOAMDI after it expired in November 2014 and to directly hire, through the UNDP, a group of employees from the company that provided service in United Nations House. This modality will bring savings of US$19,000 for UNICEF in 2015. UNICEF has signed agreements with the WFP, ILO and UNESCO through which these agencies use office space in the UNICEF area and contribute to the House’s common expenditure, which resulted in savings of US$12,000 for UNICEF in 2014.

In 2014, savings of US$1,000 were also produced in the payment of internet services by replacing one of the providers and renegotiating costs with the other, from the months of April and May respectively. These savings will increase in 2015 by maintaining the new prices for the
whole year. A series of inter-agency LTAs remain active and in use for the sale of air tickets, organisation of events and acquisition of paper and office materials, guaranteeing better prices.

**Supply Management**

The procurement of goods and services with programme funds represented 12 per cent of implementation in 2014. Of a total of US$346,369, 84 per cent was funded with programme resources and 16 per cent with funds from operations. Seventy-two per cent of the total corresponds to goods and services and 28 per cent to supplies, mainly printing. Services procured in the name of other offices totalled US$56,693, corresponding to an international workshop on the interpretation of MICS results.

There are local providers for almost all the different kinds of supplies and credit is available, which favours purchases being made rapidly. The deliveries are made directly to counterparts in the places indicated, with the direct supervision of the respective UNICEF programmatic area. UNICEF Dominican Republic does not have a warehouse. Programme supplies are monitored by programme personnel during field visits.

Although the Basic Cooperation Agreement with the Government stipulates that UNICEF is exempt from the payment of taxes, like other agencies UNICEF does not have a legal document supporting this, and appears as an active contributor on the General Tax Office’s web site. This means that tax exoneration has to be requested for each purchase and the reimbursement process is slow. The issue has been raised with authorities by agency heads and the Resident Coordinator, but has still not been resolved.

The supplies area is attended to by a programme assistant, although supervision of the procurement processes is the responsibility of the Operations Officer. All requirements demanded by SAP/Vision are implemented for the procurement of both goods and services.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

The CO and the United Nations House comply with minimum operating security standards (MOSS); the most recent update of this document was approved in September 2014. The UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) coordinated an inspection of UN House by the Santo Domingo City Fire Department and all recommendations were implemented. Additional security funds were received in 2014 (US$6,000) and used as planned. The inter-agency security plan is kept updated and activated when required. The United Nations system installed five new repeaters, which are now functioning. Safety kits/backpacks were acquired for each member of staff. The drivers participated in the Road Safety Programme training given by the WFP. The UN House evacuation routes were updated, as was the software for controlling access to the building. In 2013 the Dominican Republic was classified as level 2, “low risk”. In 2014 the risk assessment was updated and is pending approval. It has been possible to implement the cooperation programme interventions without any problems during this period. Training sessions coordinated by the UNDSS were given for guards, reception personnel and the police officers that guard UN House.

**Human Resources**

After the recommendations of the PBR 2013 had been implemented, instructions were received to produce a new proposal for the PBR in 2014 in line with the new scenario presented by the Global Shared Service Centre entering into operation in 2016. The new proposal, which was formulated in a participatory way, was approved by the PBR 2014. As a result, starting from
April 2016, UNICEF will have an NO-A level Operations Officer and will maintain the posts of Finance Assistant (GS-5) and Administration and Human Resources Assistant (GS-4). Other important changes approved included the removal of one driver post in December 2014, and the removal of the post of ICT Assistant (GS-7) and the outsourcing of its functions as of January 1, 2016.

The performance evaluation cycle was completed on time. A total of 100 per cent of the 2013 PASs were signed before the end of February 2014 and 2014 objectives were defined in the same period. Most of the activities described in the training plan were carried out and some new ones were incorporated, such as the initiation of work with the private sector and corporate alliances and the management of social networks. The CO actively participates in the UN Cares initiative and HIV/AIDS standards are complied with in the workplace. UNICEF staff actively participated in the 2014 Global Staff Survey. The working climate remained harmonious, following the tendency of 2013; once a month the Representative meets with all staff to address matters of broad interest.

### Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The migration from Office software services to the cloud took place within the expected period. Users were instructed about the correct use of the tools available in Office 365. Users have adopted these technologies in their personal mobile phones and tablets and have shown a great interest in being connected to the organisation’s informatics services to be able to respond quickly to requests from their work unit.

UNICEF Dominican Republic has initiated the creation of a website to gather the voices of young people and facilitate the dissemination of their opinions on peaceful co-existence and inter-peer violence prevention initiatives. This site will be based on the WordPress 4.0+ contents management system, which is an open-source tool.

Social networks are part of UNICEF’s communication strategy, which receives all necessary support from the ICT area. Participation on Facebook and Twitter is very active and consistent. Users interact on a daily basis, with the contents published on these platforms. UNICEF Dominican Republic has a YouTube channel to publish communication campaign videos.

### Programme Components from RAM

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** Effective and efficient programme management and operations support to programme delivery

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014 UNICEF Dominican Republic improved its financial execution levels compared to 2013. UNICEF alliances were strengthened and expanded in terms of the issues and number of partners. The Risk Control Self-Assessment was updated in April 2014, retaining the areas of epidemics and natural disasters as high risk. The workplace climate continued to improve in 2014 as a result of actions based on the findings and recommendations of the 2011 workplace climate survey.
OUTPUT 1 Effective and efficient governance and systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Country Management Team meets every two months to make decisions on the most important issues and monitor completion of the priorities of the Annual Management Plan and the Biannual Work Plan. The CMT also meets as often as necessary to respond to managerial requests from HQ and the RO. The remaining committees function according to their respective calendars (see Effective Leadership).

OUTPUT 2 Effective and efficient management and stewardship of financial resources

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Implementation of the Harmonised Approach for Cash Transfer continued, with positive results. As part of the 2014 assurance plan, 16 spot-checks were performed and 44 programmatic visits made. A new bank account was opened at Citibank. Almost all payments are made through bank transfers. The number of low-value transactions has been considerably reduced. Cash flows, replenishments and bank reconciliations were made on time, along with all payments at the office.

OUTPUT 3 Effective and efficient management of Human Capacity

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF Dominican Republic submitted a new proposal to the PBR 2014 to adjust the Office structure to the functions and roles of the GSSC in 2016. As a result, the PBR agreed to create an NO-A Operations Officer position, and to keep the GS-5 and GS-4 assistant posts for Finance and Human Resources, undoing some changes approved in 2013. Another two posts will be abolished: GS-2 Driver on 31.12.2014 (SM will retire); and GS-7 ICT Assistant on 1.12.2015, whose functions will be outsourced in 2016.

Completion of the PAS 2013 and PAS objectives 2014 was 100 per cent at the end of February 2014. All travel and leave requests were processed in VISION in a timely manner. Blanket TAs are employed for frequent travellers to the field to reduce transactions.

Following the trend in 2013, the work climate remained harmonious, and once a month the Representative meets with all staff to address matters of broad interest.

OUTCOME 2 By 2016 UNICEF will have contributed to reduce the average and the gaps in maternal and infant mortality and the vertical transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis, to improve access to inclusive and quality health services, strengthening the early detection of disabilities, and to increase the coverage of health and nutrition programmes for children 0 to 5 years of age.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In 2014 UNICEF expanded the reach of its cooperation to reduce the preventable deaths of women and new-borns and promoted the involvement of new actors. Support has continued to be provided to the Government for the fulfilment of the National Plan for the Reduction of
Maternal and Infant Mortality, formulated in the context of the “A Promise Renewed” global movement. Implementation of the Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative has started. The UNCT also developed a joint advocacy plan to increase participation by rights-holders to claim their rights and improve health system accountability.

For the first time the country has a Maternal Health Profile, which will facilitate decision-making for implementing the National Plan for the Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality. UNICEF and PAHO/WHO supported the MOH General Epidemiology Directorate in producing this tool, which presents—disaggregated by province—the maternal mortality situation and its causes, as well as the number of health professionals by categories and specialities. The profile will help in producing operating plans for regional services and Provincial Health Directorates (DPS), and in monitoring advances, allowing more focused strategies to be designed according to the particular situation in each province.

The bottleneck analysis carried out in 2013 in five hospitals in the most disadvantaged regions – where 30 per cent of maternal deaths and 34 per cent of infant deaths are concentrated – brought to light a number of quality care glitches, as well as more complex problems in the primary health care system. In coordination with PAHO, UNICEF provided technical assistance to the MOH to develop hospital-based action plans to improve the quality of services and created a hospital-community coordination intervention, the Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

The Monitoring of Results for Equity methodology has been taken on as an official monitoring tool for the DPS to improve the quality of care in the maternal-infant service network and for the implementation of the Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. The data collection instrument was perfected and simplified and 25 professionals were trained to apply it. In 2015, the training of personnel from eight DPSs will conclude, a database will be designed and a first report will be produced on the implementation of the methodology.

All of this work was complemented with the incorporation into the UNCT joint advocacy plan (led by OHCHR, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF) on the application of the human rights approach to reduce preventable maternal morbidity and mortality and technical guidance to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity among children under five years of age. In this context, UNICEF began to support the NGO National Health Institute, which coordinates the Maternal Mortality Observatory, to establish surveillance committees in the country’s three main maternity hospitals. With the goal of helping to reduce preventable maternal deaths, in 2015 UNICEF will support the training of 65 civil society organisations involved in the committees so that they can oversee and report incorrect treatment, bad practices and negligence with the women and inform them of their rights.

The country has new information on the nutritional and health status of women and children living in the most excluded and disadvantaged communities. The baseline study for the inter-agency project ‘Improving Human Security in the Bateyes of the Dominican Republic’, conducted in 2014, shows that only 26 per cent of children under the age of one have complete vaccinations, less than 20 per cent consume proteins and 20 per cent of pregnant women have had hypertension during pregnancy.

Progress has continued to be made on the prevention of HIV transmission and treatment of HIV-positive mothers and children. UNICEF supported the expansion of the National Strategy for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission in two regional health services, so that by the end of 2014 a total of 10 provincial and municipal hospitals and 95 UNAPs are implementing
the protocol established by the strategy. The capacities of health personnel were strengthened, enabling them to identify HIV infection among children with suspicious symptomatology and to care for HIV-positive children.

UNICEF and other UN system agencies supported the production of the National Strategic Plan for the Response to STIs and HIV/AIDS 2014-2018 (PEN 2014-2018), as well as the concept note to request Global Fund financing for the National Strategic Plan.

The Chikungunya epidemic that started in the country in early 2014 affected at least the 537,628 people diagnosed with this disease. There were also 573 cases of cholera. In none of these cases did the MOH need support from international cooperation for the response.

**OUTPUT 1**

By 2016, the continuing care for mothers, new-borns and children, including the steps of the "Child Friendly Hospital Initiative," are implemented by the network of public health services and communities of 10 prioritised provinces.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

UNICEF supported the MOH in the formulation of the Expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative and the production of the technical guides and evaluation manual. In order to be declared “Baby-Friendly”, hospitals now have to comply with four new components to help save the lives of women and children (quality antenatal care, clean childbirth, care for new-borns to reduce sepsis, and birth registration), in addition to successful breastfeeding. The EBFHI provides holistic care for pregnant women and new-borns, reaching them not only in the selected hospitals but also in communities and at primary health care units in the hospitals’ catchment areas.

The Initiative was based on evidence from the Antonio Musa Hospital, which in 2008 eliminated neonatal sepsis through cost-effective interventions, such as hand-washing, clean childbirth and access to chlorinated water. Another key input was the findings of bottleneck analysis in five hospitals in the country’s most disadvantaged provinces, which revealed that 80 per cent of neonatal and maternal deaths could have been avoided had the health personnel acted with due care, complied with standards and protocols and if the primary health care level had responded appropriately. The EBFHI is being implemented in three hospitals: Alejandro Cabral, La Altagracia and Los Mina.

UNICEF supported the MOH in the “Evaluation of the primary health care level interventions that contribute to infant survival” conducted by the Santo Domingo Institute of Technology. The evaluation will be published in 2015 and its conclusions and recommendations will be used by the MOH as a baseline for implementation of the new primary health care model, associated with the EBFHI.

The health and nutrition of pregnant women and children under-five in the country’s poorest communities have continued to be improved in the framework of the inter-agency project ‘Improving Human Security in the Bateyes’. Primary health care units were equipped, and drinking water and sanitation systems were built or repaired in five health centres, five community centres and eight schools in 17 bateyes. It is estimated that these actions benefitted 6,500 children and 850 pregnant women.

The MoRES approach has been officially taken on by Provincial Health Directorates to improve the quality of care in the maternal-infant service network and to implement the Expanded Baby-
Friendly Hospital Initiative. EBFHI certification will be incorporated into the MOH’s quality assurance system in 2015.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2016, at least 80 per cent of the hospitals and health centres in the 10 prioritised provinces will have counselling, diagnosis and treatment services for HIV and STIs for pregnant women, children and adolescents.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

During 2014 some 10 municipal hospitals and 95 primary care units from the regions of Bahoruco and El Valle were incorporated into the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV network. As a result, all pregnant women who attend those services have HIV and syphilis detection tests and if the diagnosis is positive then they, their partners and their children receive treatment. Twelve workshops were held to train the health personnel corresponding to those services.

Support is being given to the Programme for the Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) to evaluate the quality of the data reported by the hospitals. Preliminary information shows that 60 per cent of the hospitals do not notify the National Health System about the information collected in a timely way, which hinders follow-up of the care provided to HIV-positive women and children.

A Maternal Health 'Flipchart' was produced that includes HIV and syphilis and addresses all of the priority issues related to care during pregnancy and for new-borns. This educational material is used in the promotion of maternal and neonatal health in the UNAPs and communities.

This year, 54 new general physicians and paediatricians from three hospitals and 14 UNAPs in Barahona and San Juan de la Maguana were trained to identify HIV infection in children with suspicious symptomatology or with recurring infectious diseases that were not diagnosed in a timely way.

UNICEF supported monitoring of the first phase of implementation of the Guide for Paediatric Care for HIV-Positive Children. The findings show that the guide needs: to contain more operational tools; to include early stimulation and evaluations of children over the age of 14; to only recommend tests standardised in the country; and to provide clearer information about how to carry out a therapeutic plan. The General Directorate for the Control of Sexually-Transmitted Infections and AIDS (DIGECITSS) is incorporating these recommendations into the Guide before continuing with implementation in these services.

The study “Adolescents and HIV in the Dominican Republic: A multi-stage analysis of vulnerability, risks and resilience” is being conducted with support from LACRO. This study is the first of its kind in the country. Its findings will inform the design and implementation of interventions for HIV prevention among adolescents and for the mitigation of the physical, emotional and social impact of this illness on those living with HIV.

In the framework of the inter-agency project “Improving Human Security in the Bateyes of the Dominican Republic”, 252 adolescents were trained as peer-trainers on affective-sexual education, and they in turn trained more than 2,000 others.
**OUTPUT 3** By 2016, in 6 prioritised provinces 50 per cent of children from 0 to 5 years of age and pregnant women, and 30 per cent of adolescents have access to health and nutrition programmes, and effective interventions to reduce teenage pregnancy, at home, community and Primary Health Care Facilities (UNAP).

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Mid-Term Review concluded that it was not appropriate to maintain this as an independent and separate Output, as almost all of its components form part of the EBFHI. The actions were therefore transferred to Output 1.1 and are reported in the corresponding section. The activities relevant to guidance for adolescents on HIV prevention and pregnancy are reported in Output 1.2 on HIV.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016, in provinces and territories at high risk for disasters and health emergencies, mechanisms for coordination and participation of civil society for emergency preparedness and response will have been established.

According to the MTR report, the programmed work was completed and the targets achieved, so this output will be incorporated with a cross-cutting approach throughout the component.

**OUTCOME 3** By 2016 UNICEF will have contributed in building the capacity of the education system and social security system to implement integrated, inclusive, and quality programmes for early childhood development (0 to 5 years), pre-primary, primary, and secondary education, integrating out-of-school children and adolescents, and ensuring their retention.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014 the country signed the National Education Reform Pact, promoted by the President. Over 9,000 people – including representatives from Government institutions, the Economic and Social Council, all political parties, civil society organisations, business organisations, parents’ associations, churches and religious communities, students and international organisations – agreed on a document containing a series of commitments for achieving universal access to inclusive, quality education. UNICEF participated in the consultation roundtables and supported the participation of primary and secondary school pupils in the discussions, which were reflected in the Report on the National Consultation of Children and Adolescents. The children’s opinions were presented during the Education Pact signing ceremony. During his visit to the country in July, the UN Secretary-General congratulated the President on his commitment to education.

Since 2012 the Dominican Initiative for a Quality Education (IDEC), promoted by the MOE, EU, AECID, USAID, OEI, AFD, World Bank, IADB and UNICEF, has served as instrument for monitoring compliance with the education goals for 2016 and the allocation of 4 per cent of GDP for pre-university education. IDEC was recognised as one of the follow-up and monitoring mechanisms of the National Education Reform Pact. In September 2014, IDEC presented a Report on the Follow-up and Monitoring of the Ministry of Education’s Programmatic and Budgetary Execution for the first half of 2014, stressing that 69 per cent of the actions had been executed in accordance with what was programmed or had already been finalised.

During 2014 the Ministry of the Presidency initiated the implementation of the National Early Childhood Protection and Care Plan “Quisqueya Empieza Contigo”, for all children aged five and under. UNICEF supported the establishment of the family- and community-based care
programme and the guidelines for its implementation. The Programme’s target is for 500,000 children under the age of five to enjoy the right to early development by 2016.

The Ministry of Education initiated implementation of the Standards for Harmonious Coexistence in Public and Private Schools to reduce violence and establish a culture of peace and respect for the rights of children and adolescents. The standards are part of the National Road Map 2014-2017 for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children and Adolescents, signed this year by the national Government, civil society organisations, the judiciary and the National Council of Private Enterprise.

In 2014 the MOE published the Affective Sexual Education Programme (PEAS) Guidelines, supported by UNICEF. Another year has passed, and the MOE has not finalised guidelines for teachers, students and families or incorporated the sex education content into the school curriculum.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016 the Ministry of Education has agreed upon, validated, and is in the process of implementing a management model for quality education in at least three prioritised educational regions and their districts to support its implementation in schools.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF continued to support the MOE to define a Quality Management Model to improve decentralised management at the regional and district levels. UNICEF is supporting the design of operational manuals at each level, to be validated and implemented during 2015. These manuals will guide the directors and technicians of the decentralised administration in strategic planning, the establishment of procedures, and the creation and monitoring of performance indicators for their functions. A pilot project is being developed in Bahoruco, Santo Domingo Este and La Vega.

It is planned that in the first half of 2015 the above-mentioned regional education offices and their districts will have the capacities to effectively and transparently execute the educational programmes and will be certified in ISO 9000. In alliance with the European Union, the operational manuals will be extended to other regional offices, starting in the second half of 2015.

Delays occurred in the design and implementation of the operational manuals for regional education offices and districts, due to sudden changes in the MOE’s hiring procedures in 2014.

OUTPUT 2 By 2016, in four prioritised educational regions, the completion of basic and secondary education is improved with a gender focus, through the implementation of inclusive quality education programmes for students, including children with different capacities, and the reduction of the risk factors which impede their integration and retention.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

With support from UNICEF, the MOE formulated seven protocols for the implementation of the Standards for Harmonious Coexistence in Public and Private Schools, aimed at directors, teachers, counsellors and students. The protocols provide instruction on prevention, mediation, care and denunciation in relation to the violation of students’ rights. The programmatic contents were also designed for five training workshops on the implementation of these standards for families, counsellors, teachers, students and district technicians. In 2015, the protocols and content of the workshops will be validated with the participation of 20 schools from San Juan de...
la Maguana educational region and of national, regional and district technicians, before being applied in all of the country’s schools.

UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Sports in the design of a course on children’s rights, which was incorporated ongoing training of sports monitors and MOE physical education teachers. This course provides information on how to prevent violence against and abuse of children in schools and communities.

In the framework of the agreement signed in 2013, the National Teacher Training Institute, the Salomé Ureña Teacher Training Institute, the MOE’s General Directorate for Basic Education and UNICEF monitored the performance in mathematics, reading and writing of teachers taking the specialised course in Multi-Grade Teaching-Learning Methodologies. The findings included limited use of didactic materials available in the classroom for the teaching processes. To correct this, new methodologies for teaching mathematics and practical activities to improve literacy skills were included and the number of hours covered by the programme was increased from 96 to 144. UNICEF is supporting the training through the revised course of 71 teachers from schools in isolated rural areas of San Juan and Elías Piña.

A total of 1,800 illiterate children and adolescents from 16 bateyes in the south and eastern regions of the country who are at high risk of dropping out of school have improved their educational and school permanence opportunities in the framework of the Trust Fund for Human Security. In coordination with the MOE, this initiative is being carried out in alliance with the NGO ASCALA in San Pedro de Macoris and with World Vision in Bahoruco and Barahona.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2016, in six prioritised provinces, early childhood development programmes are established for children 0 to 5 years of age at home, communities, day care centres, and schools.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014, with support from UNICEF, the Presidency’s General Directorate of Special Programmes finalised the design of the Comprehensive Family- and Community-Based Care Programme and its four implementation guides. The guides contain information on health, nutrition, early childhood development, education on positive discipline, recreation, hygiene and first aid. They guide the work of community workers to help families with the early development of children aged five and under. With support from UNICEF, the DIGEPEP team visited Cuba, receiving training and advice on the family- and community-based “Educa a tu Hijo” Programme.

In 2014 UNICEF and the First Lady’s Office signed an agreement to promote inter-institutional coordination among the ministry of Education and Health and DIGEPEP for the creation of a network of services for the early detection, prevention and comprehensive care of children and adolescents with disabilities. In the framework of this agreement, a flowchart is being drawn up for the processes that will guide the service referral and counter-referral system, and the roles of the two ministries, Comprehensive Care for Disability Centres and the Early Childhood Care Programme are being defined.

**OUTPUT 4** By 2016 at least 50 per cent of the educational communities in the most disaster prone areas have the capacities to address risk reduction and respond to emergencies and disasters, in collaboration with local institutions.
Analytical Statement of Progress:

The Ministry of Education’s National Emergencies and Disaster Plan was published in 2014. This plan establishes a preparedness and response protocol, follows the guidelines of the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies and complies with the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies.

There is also an Education Sector National Preparedness and Response Plan, and selected schools produced risk management plans, and formed risk management committees. Risk management competencies were also integrated into the curriculum, which is in its final review phase.

According to the MTR report, this output will be incorporated with a cross-cutting approach throughout the component.

**OUTCOME 4** By 2016, UNICEF will have contributed to building the institutional capacity of local and national Child Protection Systems, through administrative and judicial channels, to ensure the protection of children and adolescents from violence, abuse, exploitation and trafficking, and to guarantee their right to an identity, to live in a family, and to due-process in cases of conflict with the law.

The National Road Map 2014-2017 for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children and Adolescents was approved in 2014. Different ministries, CONANI, organisations of the National Coalition of NGOs for the Rights of Children, and children and adolescents all participated in its elaboration. UNICEF promoted the process and supported the writing of the final draft. This document contains the state’s obligations for preventing violence and protecting children in accordance with international human rights treaties and the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children.

CONANI created 21 new Local Protection and Rights Restitution Boards (JLPs), training their 193 members. CONANI and UNICEF are currently collaborating on the establishment of new JLPs in border areas.

Collaboration continued with national organisations during 2014 for the prevention and prosecution of child sexual exploitation. Six companies signed the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism and 1,185 collaborators and managers from hotels were trained to implement it. Additionally, 42 restaurant owners from Boca Chica and hotel managers from Punta Cana participated in awareness-raising meetings. A total of 287 community leaders, 84 school counsellors and directors and 5,808 adolescents were informed about how to prevent and report CSE in the communities of Boca Chica, Sosúa, Cabarete, Puerto Plata and Samaná. Twenty journalists from Boca Chica received practical training for managing information on issues related to child sexual exploitation. UNICEF signed a MoU with CESTUR to develop its capacities to prevent and prosecute this crime. A prevention and prosecution module was incorporated into the CESTUR Training School curriculum and 17 officers were trained as child protection instructors. These trainers in turn trained 72 agents serving in different tourist destinations.

Collaboration is currently taking place with the Ministry of Tourism on a communication campaign that informs tourists of the measures the country has adopted to fight the sexual
exploitation of children. The campaign will be launched in 2015.

The Specialised Trafficking Prosecutor’s Office is conducting a six-month judicial investigation into CSE in Boca Chica, Puerto Plata, Samaná, Higüey, Dajabón and San Juan de la Maguana.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2016 in 6 prioritised territories the Registrar’s Office delivers birth certificates to undocumented children and pregnant adolescents.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Monitoring of Results for Equity analysis of the civil birth registry conducted by UNICEF and the Electoral Board (JCE) in 2013 identified the reasons that only 41 per cent of children were being registered in public hospitals at birth, despite the presence of registry offices. Information deficits were identified in relation to the existence of the service, the passivity of registry office personnel, lack of communication between registry office staff and the personnel of the hospitals where they are installed, and the lack of documentation among mothers, particular adolescent mothers.

UNICEF is supporting the JCE and the Ministry of Health to implement a pilot project to improve birth registration in civil registry offices located in hospitals: La Altagracia in Santo Domingo; Alejandro Cabral in San Juan de la Maguana; Rosa Duarte in Elías Piña; and José María Cabral y Báez in Santiago.

Monitoring of Results for Equity is the tool used to measure the advances. The project’s target is to achieve a timely registration rate of 80 per cent in a year. In the first three months, the average percentage of children registered at birth increased from 40.3 per cent to 57.4 per cent. This means that 1,511 more children obtained their birth certificate between September and November.

The strategy is part of the Health Ministry’s Expanded BFHI, and has been incorporated into the Presidency’ Early Childhood Protection and Care Programme, known as “Quisqueya empieza contigo”. It will be implemented in another 10 public hospitals during 2015.

UNICEF continued supporting birth registration of children through support for JCE operations at schools located in the municipality of Santo Domingo East. A total of 63 operations were implemented to reach out to beneficiaries. The backgrounds of over 6,000 children were completed and 3,020 children and adolescents were registered who did not previously have a birth certificate and would not have been able to enter eighth grade without that document.

**OUTPUT 3** By 2016 mechanisms exist for the prevention, control and care of children victims of trafficking and smuggling in border regions and prioritised territories.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

A specialised course on the rights of children and the prevention of trafficking was incorporated in the curriculum of the Specialised Border Security Corps. In the framework of the cooperation agreement among UNHCR, the Armed Forces and UNICEF, 21 CESFRONT officers were certificated as specialised instructors, incorporating the issue into the regular training for this military institution’s school. Those officers gave initial training to 30 new CESFRONT members and will continue in 2015 training all members of the army destined for
border security. UNICEF supported the development of a child protection training guide and a booklet of military duties in relation to children, which will be distributed to all CESFRONT members. In 2015, the specialised instructors will hold a training workshop for the Haiti’s Minor Protection Brigade.

To improve the protection of children in the most disadvantaged communities on the border, seven local protection networks and a local protection board were reactivated in Elías Piña and San Juan de la Maguana. These community networks work together with the local protection boards to improve the protection of children living in those communities and Haitian children that migrate to the Dominican Republic from violence, abuse and trafficking. In the context of this initiative, a binational meeting was held with the participation of 25 local government members, community leaders and community protection network volunteers from both sides of the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This meeting promoted binational coordination mechanisms to improve the protection of children. It is planned to repeat such meetings in 2015, in coordination with UNICEF Haiti.

**OUTPUT 5** By 2016, policies to care for abandoned children meet international standards on the rights of children.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The MTR decided to incorporate this Output into Output 3.1, in order to include the support to the CONANI Foster Family Programme as part of the implementation of the National Road Map 2014-2017 for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Children and Adolescents. No significant progress was made on the issue before the MTR. However, it is expected that UNICEF technical assistance in this area will restart in 2015 with the implementation of the Road Map.

**OUTCOME 5** By 2016 UNICEF will have contributed to knowledge generation and management on the situation of children, with an emphasis on the most excluded groups, advocating for improvements in the coordination of national and local public policies, with a special attention to health, education and child protection. UNICEF will strengthen the capacities for social surveillance and participation to improve social investments to overcome existing inequities.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

In 2014, UNICEF supported the Dominican state in producing new data and official statistics on children and women that will facilitate the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies and plans in favour of children and families based on updated, quality information.

The National Statistics Office published the National Household Survey (ENHOGAR 2013), which for the first time gathered information on children with disabilities. ENHOGAR/MICS 2014, which will be launched in 2015, gathers new information in the areas of health, nutrition, HIV, education and access to water and sanitation, among others. UNICEF also collaborated in the Demographic and Health Survey, which provides diverse socio-demographic data on children and women.

In alliance with the National Disability Council (CONADIS) and other Government institutions, care services for people with disabilities were mapped in the country’s five most populated provinces (Santo Domingo and the National District, Santiago, San Pedro de Macorís, San Juan...
The institutions with a mandate in relation to the rights of people with disabilities agreed to hold a roundtable in 2015 to address the strategies and programmes aimed at guaranteeing the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities. In addition to the mapping of services, the work of this roundtable will also be informed by an analysis of the situation of the child population with disabilities that is currently being produced by the National Statistics Office based on data from the population census and ENHOGAR 2013. This situation analysis will be concluded in the first half of 2015.

Statistical profiles were published for 10 provinces (Asua, Barahona, Bahoruco, Elías Piña, Independencia, Pedernales, Peravia, San Cristóbal, San José de Ocoa and San Juan) and Santo Domingo, where UNICEF cooperation is focused. These profiles include information on demography, living conditions, the environment, employment and social security, the economy, agriculture, political participation, education, health, police and judicial matters, poverty, and transport and communication.

An analysis of social spending on children was conducted with the Ministry of the Economy and Planning. This presents information that is very important for civil society surveillance of social spending and budgetary allocations for children.

UNICEF finished transferring to the Dominican Federation of Municipalities the technical capacities to direct and expand the Youth and Child Municipalities Initiative, ensuring its sustainability over time. The activities of the AJIs are locally funded after being approved during local governments’ participatory budget sessions, demonstrating the ownership of the initiative by both FEDOMU and local governments.

UNICEF Dominican Republic also supported the NGO National Health Institute, coordinator of the Maternal Mortality Observatory, in the creation of surveillance committees in the country’s three main maternity hospitals, with the aim of informing users of their rights and participating in the hospital's maternal and infant mortality and morbidity committees.

OUTPUT 1 By 2016 the Ministries of Planning and of social sectors, as well as local governments and civil society organisations, manage and utilise quality information, with a gender and equity focus, for public policy decision making and the allocation of resources.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

The National Statistics Office (ONE) published the final results of ENHOGAR 2013, which provides information on children with disabilities. UNICEF technically assisted the methodological focus and design of the questionnaires. According to the survey, 3.6 per cent of children between 0 and 9 years of age have some form of disability, the greatest incidence corresponding to intellectual disability (43.3 per cent), followed by disabilities affecting speech or communication (38.4 per cent) and visual disabilities (27.9 per cent).

The Demographic and Health Survey (ENDESA) was also published and UNICEF participated in its technical committee. The results of ENDESA reveal limited advances in most of the social indicators related to child health. Neonatal mortality remains at a standstill at 21 per 100,000 live births and only 53 per cent of the child population between 18 and 29 months has completed all vaccinations.

The results of ENHOGAR-MICS 2014 will be presented in 2015, and will provide the main input for production of the country report on the MDGs and the post-2015 agenda.
UNICEF and UNFPA supported ONE in producing and disseminating the statistical profiles of the country’s 10 southern provinces and Santo Domingo, which include data on different areas related to children and other population groups. These profiles will help provincial and local institutions identify existing gaps in their territories related to children’s and women’s rights, in order to define and plan interventions aimed at resolving them.

With UNICEF support, ONE produced the statistical document “Girls in Numbers”, which brings together official data available on girls in relation to issues of health, education, protection, participation and poverty.

The mapping of care services for people with disabilities identified the characteristics of services available in the country’s five most populated provinces. The findings reveal a greater concentration of services in urban (97 per cent) compared to rural (3 per cent) areas. More than half (52.4 per cent) are run by civil society organisations, while 27 per cent are publicly run.

With technical support from UNICEF the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development conducted an analysis of public spending on children. As a direct result of this alliance, the Ministry has created a technical group to follow up on the analysis once the general budget is produced. The report will be published in the first quarter of 2015.

The Information System on Incarcerated Adolescents continues to be developed. This system will facilitate information on detained adolescents for follow-up on their reintegration process.

With UNICEF support, the Santo Domingo Autonomous University produced a description of the child immigrant population. The research study, which will be presented in the first half of 2015, will reveal the situation (socioeconomic, educational, health-access, etc.) of the children of immigrant workers, mainly Haitians, which will help in the planning of social interventions in favour of this group.

**OUTPUT 2** By 2016 in the prioritised territories adolescents rely on mechanisms for demanding their rights and for participating in relevant decision-making processes.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU) has taken on the Youth and Child Municipalities (AJIs) initiative, ensuring its sustainability over time. FEDOMU coordinated and held four AJI elections in the south of the country (corresponding to the municipalities of Jaquimeye, San Juan, Comendador and El Llano) that could not be held in 2013, and has assessed seven local governments on initiating the creation of their respective AJIs.

FEDOMU organised the 6th National AJI Meeting and the implementation of a diploma course on the rights of children, facilitated by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and aimed at AJI members. The AJIs carried out multiple activities in favour of the rights of children in their territories. The AJI of the municipality of Tamayo in the border area backed the birth registration of over 500 children and carried out various recreational activities; while the San José de Ocoa AJI is supporting implementation of the National Literacy Plan, continues to develop its adolescent pregnancy prevention plan and is implementing an education programme on drug addiction. The Bani municipality AJI was recognised as a good child participation practice in the context of the FEDOMU-organised Exhibition, given its influence on the participatory municipal budget sessions in its area.
UNICEF supported the NGO National Health Institute, coordinator of the Maternal Health Observatory, to set up surveillance committees in the country’s three main maternity hospitals. The surveillance actions aim to inform users about their rights and to ensure thorough investigation of the causes of maternal deaths through intra-hospital audits and monitoring fulfilment of the recommendations. This initiative is part of the Inter-agency Advocacy Plan for the Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality.

OUTCOME 6 Conferences and meetings

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Progress was made in line with the planning.

OUTPUT 1 Conferences and meetings

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Positions under this Output support cross-sectoral activities: One Programme Assistant/GS-6 that processes procurement at level 1 and acts as the HACT focal point, one Logistics Assistant/GS-3 and two drivers/GS-2. Only one post remains vacant within the office structure (Social Policy Specialist/NOB). Supplies and materials needed for the implementation of programmatic activities have been received on time.

UNICEF maintained a low level of outstanding DCTs over the course of the year, thanks to monthly reviews of the financial implementation of the programmes and supply management. No DCTs over six months at the end of the year. The implementation rate at the end of 2014 was 85.1 per cent.

As a result of the MTR, starting in 2015 this output will be integrated into other outputs of the programme of cooperation to avoid duplication and improve the efficiency of the system’s management.

OUTPUT 2 The Communication Strategy of the Country Programme has contributed to making visible the most excluded, and to promoting behaviour change and attitudes in favour of children’s rights.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CRC, a communication and mobilisation campaign was launched with the aim of reminding the public about, and advocating for compliance with, children’s rights. With the participation of 25 artists and opinion leaders, five videos were produced that are being disseminated in cinemas, on three TV channels, social networks and in the Santo Domingo baseball stadium. This campaign is helping to sensitise people on the rights of children and to position the UNICEF brand.

Three of the country’s most important advertising agencies (Partners Ogilvy & Mather, Young & Rubicam Damaris and Capital DBG) donated their creativity for country programme communication initiatives. Thanks to that cooperation, in 2015 UNICEF Dominican Republic will launch a campaign for the prevention of sexual exploitation and a digital interactive digital violence prevention platform aimed at children and adolescents. A documentary will also be
produced on the expanded Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

To improve journalistic coverage of children, and particularly the deprivation suffered by the poorest, most disadvantaged children, four workshops were held with 134 journalists in several of the country’s provinces, addressing the situation regarding maternal and infant health, the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and civil birth registration.

In alliance with World Vision and Plan International, UNICEF organised the 10th Journalistic Competition on Children and Adolescents. This year included special mention of the advances and challenges related to application of the CRC on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. A total of 40 proposals were received in the categories of television, radio, digital journalism, written press and photography.

In the framework of the Inter-agency Human Security Project in the bateyes and in coordination with the National Programme for Comprehensive Adolescent Health Care (PRONAISA), a flipchart was produced on comprehensive sex education, with participation by adolescents. A total of 252 peer multipliers were trained on the flipchart contents and they in turn transmitted their knowledge to over 2,000 adolescents. The materials are being used by PRONAISA in its networks of peer multipliers across the country.

With support from LACRO, starting in November a digital strategy was produced to expand our audience and promote greater engagement. Our number of followers on the social networks has increased (Twitter: from 4,338 to 6,000 followers/ Facebook: from 1,987 to 2,677 “likes”/ Instagram: from 0 to 412).

OUTPUT 4 By 2016, policies to care for abandoned children meet international standards on the rights of children.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

During 2014 UNICEF continued building the institutional capacities of the Child and Adolescent Judicial System. Three Children’s Court judges participated in the 17th International Course on Jurisdictional Protection of Child Rights, with the objective of strengthening their knowledge on juvenile justice and family law. A technical exchange was also facilitated between the Attorney General’s Office and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute to improve the definition and follow-up of individual plans for incarcerated adolescents and to expand the alternative measures to incarceration programme that will be implemented in 2015.

UNICEF continued technically assisting the Commission for the Execution of Justice for Children and Adolescents (CEJNNA) in producing a new work plan and executing actions agreed in 2013. However, this commission has only met intermittently, with little institutional leadership and without effective results. It was therefore not possible to conclude the work plan or the monitoring of adolescents’ conditions of incarceration, which started in 2013.
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