UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT for Dominican Republic

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This was the fourth year of the 2007-2011 Programme of Cooperation; 2009 MTR recommendations have been implemented.

The devastating Haiti earthquake in 2010 touched the world and impacted the Dominican Republic and the UNICEF office, which became the centre of operations for Haiti during the initial months. Critical information systems were restored and the coordination of logistics and supplies by air, sea, and land were supported. Permissions, security and travel to Haiti were managed and humanitarian assistance was coordinated.

Results:
- The principal achievement was the support given to UNICEF-Haiti while the regular programme continued to be implemented.
- Design and validation of a protocol for identifying the causes of neonatal morbidity and reducing mortality in babies under 28 days old in hospitals.
- Design and implementation of a protocol for integrated care for Haitian children displaced to Dominican territory by the earthquake.
- Calculation and dissemination of the rate of fulfilment of children’s rights by the Child and Adolescent Rights Observatory.
- Mobilisation of 107,200 people in support of the ‘A Voice for Children’, campaign calling upon the government to create a platform for denunciation, protection and follow-up of violence against children.

The reorientation of efforts to support Haiti had repercussions on the execution of the Work Plan agreed upon by government counterparts. Additionally, during the last quarter the cholera epidemic in Haiti required an allocation of resources by the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF to prevent its expansion and contain any outbreaks in the country.

Alliances:
- To improve the quality of water and basic sanitation services: Ministries of Health, Education and Environment, INAPA, Aqueduct Corporations, PAHO, Red Cross, Oxfam, AECID, USAID and World Vision.
- More than 20 youth organisations promoted the participation of some 40,000 young people in the campaign against violence and subsequently in cholera control and prevention.

2 COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Although 2010 economic growth was above 7%, social inequality persists. According to the Attali report: “some 10% of the richest individuals have an income 23 times greater than 40% of the least privileged individuals”. More than 35% of the population is impacted by poverty, of which 11.9% endure a state of indigence. Over half (55%) of the child population lives in poverty, particularly in the border provinces and marginal urban areas.

The unemployment rate remains at 14%, corresponding to 26% of women and 32% of young people.

During the last few years social spending on health has not exceeded 1.6% of GDP. Almost all (99%) births take place in health facilities, and 98% are assisted by health personnel; nonetheless the maternal mortality rate is 159 per 100,000 live births. The
national infant mortality rate is 32 per 1,000 live births, while in border provinces it ranges between 45 and 60 per 1,000 live births.

The percentage of GDP allocated to education in 2010 was 2.3. In the last quarter of the year, broad sectors of society and the Coalition for a Worthy Education, made up of more than 200 organisations, mobilised to campaign for this investment to reach the 4% called for in the General Law on Education. While pre-school coverage reaches 38% at national level, in border provinces it is around 25%.

In the context of citizen security, Dominican society was witness to a media campaign and a legislative bill to toughen the penalties and reduce the age of liability of adolescents in conflict with the law. However, in comparison with the 21,000 adult prisoners in the country, statistics of the Office of Adolescents in Conflict with the Law reflect that in 2010 there were 526 juvenile detainees, of which 281 were in preventive detention. Children and adolescents are more victims of violence than perpetrators.

According to the Prosecutor's office, in 10 of the most important cities in the country, during the first six months of 2010, 1,683 complaints of violence against children were deemed admissible, with 60% being sexual in nature.

Despite the significant under-registration levels of Haitian migrants and information gaps due to the discrimination suffered by this group, partial studies indicate that the levels of exclusion are very high. It is estimated that Haitian families fare worst in the area of housing conditions – 20% have a dirt floor compared to 6% of the general population, homes without a bathroom at 31% compared to 8% among the general population and a high level of overcrowding is reported. This has a direct effect on Haitian migrant children. Geographically these conditions of poverty are associated with the bateyes at sugar mills and with border provinces, but they are also reported in the marginal belts surrounding large cities and in tourist areas. While chronic malnutrition affects 7.2% of the child population in the country, it reaches 10.5% of children along the border and up to 14% of Haitian migrants. The new constitutional restriction on birth registration poses a challenge for the fulfilment of the rights of children of Haitian descent.

Despite the considerable challenges faced by the Dominican Republic for achieving the MDGs and raising the population’s quality of life, some major areas of progress should be acknowledged. In 2010, the Solidaridad conditional transfer programme benefitted 850,000 households in the areas of food, education and electricity subsidies. The national health insurance programme has steadily increased its coverage, growing from 22% in 2004 to 42% in 2010.

### 3 CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

#### 3.1 CP Analysis

##### 3.1.1 CP Overview

During the first few months of 2010, UNICEF DR was involved in the emergency response to the earthquake in Haiti. Legislative and local elections took most of the attention of the main UNICEF counterpart ministries. Both processes limited the time available for implementing the activities in the Annual Work Plan.

Integrated Child Development continues to pose a challenge. The Consultative Panel promoted by UNICEF has contributed to improving coordination, identifying gaps and making progress in defining the draft for an Early Childhood Policy.

In the area of HIV-AIDS, education on HIV has been introduced into the education curriculum, but more progress needs to be made on strategies to prevent vertical transmission and on protection for orphans.

In the area of Protection, the Haiti earthquake provided an opportunity for strengthening CONANI’s role in children’s rights vigilance for street children and unaccompanied Haitian children and for generating alliances with other UN agencies and social organisations. UNICEF Haiti and Dominican Republic Protection teams have been meeting to exchange information and plan together.

Social Policy continues to generate information for influencing budgets to adopt a child rights focus. The harmonisation of UNDAF with the National Development Strategy has
enabled the identification of the most disadvantaged groups in a vulnerable situation due to poverty and to improve the UN’s influence on policy. The Index of Rights Fulfilment of the Observatory of Children and Adolescent Rights helped us to centre our interventions in the south west of the country and the border regions, where the greatest levels of inequality exist.

Following the recommendations of the MTR, links were strengthened with the Education Ministry in the area of risk management. We are working with the WFP and UNDP to improve the School Breakfast, and the Cholera Contingency Plan has enabled us to train teachers and students on the prevention and management of cholera and prompted an evaluation of basic water and sanitation conditions in schools.

### 3.1.2 Programme Strategy

#### 3.1.2.1 Capacity Development

UNICEF has supported the National Council for the Reform of the State, providing assistance with the methodology and management of research tools on Child Friendly Cities developed by the Innocenti Research Centre. Technical staff from the Council were sent to Italy to gain expertise and, as a result, capacity now exists at a national level to use this methodology in the Dominican Republic.

Professionals from the National Children’s Council (CONANI) were provided with technical skills for developing the National Information System on Children. The capacity of the National Statistics Office has also been strengthened for measuring and processing indicators on children and women, through household surveys and population censuses.

Two permanent training courses on Children’s Rights and International Standards on Trafficking and Smuggling were established, one for Armed Forces Officials assigned to the border area and the main ports in the country and another for judges and prosecutors at National Schools for the Judiciary and Prosecutors.

#### 3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy

Generation of evidence through research, improvement of national statistical information and technical support to the Citizen Observatories is allowing us to influence public policies on maternal and neonatal health, early childhood and protection.

In the framework of the National Development Strategy 2010-2030, we developed a dual advocacy role: organising a national consultation process with adolescents and young people that provided feedback to the Government proposal, and feeding information on children’s rights into the UNCT as technical contributions.

After the citizen security media campaign, a legislative bill aimed at toughening penalties and reducing the age of legal responsibility for adolescents in conflict with criminal law was presented. UNICEF organised communication activities, academic events and direct advocacy aimed at the executive and legislative branches to prevent the modifications and to bolster guarantees of due process for all adolescents in conflict with the law.

Jointly with the IOM and UNHCR we advocated for the modification of the National Plan against the smuggling and trafficking of persons, with the inclusion of special safeguards for children’s rights. We also promoted the creation of a children’s sub-commission within the national commission against smuggling and traffic.

The country’s first UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador was selected; a distinction that went to the prestigious communicator Jatna Tavarez, who has assumed this responsibility with a high sense of commitment, actively participating in the campaign against violence. Mrs. Tavarez is a national figure who enjoys esteem and recognition for her work in favour of justice, the rights of the child and mobilisation for the most disadvantaged.
3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships

A corporate partnership programme was launched, aimed not just at raising funds but also at promoting corporate social responsibility towards children. In 2010 an agreement was signed with the National Hotel and Restaurant Association to promote integrated children’s protection in the country’s tourist areas.

To include children in the development agenda, the Office is working closely with the Ministry of Economy, CONANI, CONARE, UNFPA and World Vision. As a result of this strategy an alliance has been set up with children’s and youth networks, which allowed for the mobilisation of some 50,000 children, adolescents and young people to make recommendations for the National Development Strategy, and subsequently to participate in campaigns against violence and cholera.

UNICEF is involved in the Participative Anti-Corruption Initiative (IPAC), which is co-managed by the Presidency and Economy Ministries, two business associations, 14 cooperation agencies and a range of civil society organisations, for promoting transparency and integrity in public administration. Almost all IPAC’s recommendations were addressed by the Government through a formal resolution by the Council of Ministers. UNICEF provided technical assistance in the areas of education, health, and water, hygiene and sanitation.

Participation in pro-children’s alliances, involving a range of governmental and non-governmental institutions: The Commission for the Improvement of the Juvenile Justice, the Commission against Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and the alliance with CONANI, the Armed Forces, the Migration Department, UNHCR and the IOM for preventing the smuggling and traffic of Haitian children are all worth highlighting.

To implement the cholera contingency plan, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene group (GASH) was activated, made up of the Ministries of Health, Education and Environment, INAPA, aqueduct corporations, PAHO, Red Cross, Oxfam, AECID, USAID and World Vision.

3.1.2.4 C4D - Communication for Development

Two C4D strategies were developed during 2010, involving key populations, opinion formers and well-known artists. Important contributions by media groups were made through the provision of no-cost spaces for disseminating messages. The first of these, titled ‘Waking up the Five Senses’, was focused on families with children under the age of five, with the aim of promoting children’s survival and development. It was carried out on two levels: social mobilisation in the communities and diffusion of messages through the communications media. Professionals and facilitators from 15 institutions were involved in the social mobilisation process, training 300 leaders who reached more than 5,000 families in the country’s three largest provinces.

The second strategy was called ‘A Voice for Children’, with the objective of mobilising Dominican society and raising awareness of the scale of violence against children and demanding that the government build an effective system for reporting, follow-up and protection for children. Data on cases of sexual, physical, verbal, and workplace violence were distributed. A large number of audio-visual resources were disseminated at the national level and social networks (Twitter and Facebook) were used to mobilise society to commit itself to the elimination of violence. Three thousand adolescents and young people took part as volunteer promoters, collecting signatures in shopping centres, schools, universities, and on the streets. Opinion leaders received personalised information and became multiplication agents. Artists from a range of genres donated their talents at a free concert marking the end of the campaign. The book in which the 107,200 signatures were collected over three weeks will be presented to the President of
the Dominican Republic, as a demonstration of public interest in the existence of an efficient reporting, follow-up and protection system for children.

3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation
In keeping with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), UNICEF continued to promote children’s rights in all programme components and inter-sectoral activities, as well as disseminating and implementing the Recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Programming for 2010, conducted in a participatory manner, provided a base for defining the groups that are right-holders and duty-bearers, in order to focus our interventions, strengthen capacities for informed demand and meet the international and regional commitments made by the Dominican State.

During 2010 the Resident Coordinator’s Office organised an international workshop on the Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming, with the participation of UNICEF personnel and government and civil society counterparts. The improvement in capacities was reflected in the Common Country Analysis and in the new UNDAF, harmonised with the National Development Strategy.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming
UNICEF is part of the thematic Inter-agency group on Gender, which develops activities aimed at promoting the gender equity focus in the United Nations System programming.

UNICEF continued working on gender equity as a cross-cutting theme in planning and implementation of all programmatic components and as a strategy for preventing exclusion, violence and exploitation and other violations of rights associated with inequity: maternal mortality, adolescent pregnancies, HIV- AIDS, sexual exploitation, high number of women-headed households, etc.

3.2 Programme Components:
Title: Child survival and development

Purpose
The programme supports government and civil society efforts to formulate and implement public policies for integrated child survival and development and foster their application within institutions, communities and families, focusing on under-served and excluded groups and the 0 to 5 age group. It seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health to provide and monitor immunisation and other key child health services, as well as to reduce neonatal and maternal mortality, primarily through support to key interventions within the health sector's "Zero Tolerance" initiative. It also contributes to improving children’s nutritional status and reducing the prevalence of anaemia, IDD and other micronutrient deficiencies through advocacy, policy and programme development and provides support for key interventions in food fortification and supplementation, improved feeding practices and promotion of breastfeeding. It provides support for the design and application of policies and approaches for improving family and community practices for the care and development of children under the age of five, focusing on the 0 to 5 age group.

Main results planned (CPD 2007-2011)
- Child survival and development public policies and legal and institutional reforms with a child rights approach are designed and implemented at central and local level, benefiting all children under 5 years old
- A system for certifying hospitals as models in integrated child and maternal health care is designed and implemented
Communities and families in at least 15 municipalities are trained in integrated child survival and development best practices and are empowered to participate and demand quality social services.

Social and institutional awareness and commitment is increased through advocacy, information, communication and social mobilisation processes, to ensure the rights of children to Integrated Early Child Development.

The Core Commitments for Children in the areas of young child health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene are fully implemented in emergency situations.

Resources Used
The total approved budget for 2010 according to CPAP was US$671,000 ($171,000 from RR and US$500,000 from OR).

Resources actually available for 2010, including emergency funds:

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The implementation rate was 58%.

Response to spill-over effects of Haiti Earthquake in Dominican Republic:

SM/2009/9906 US$1,445,840 (Global Humanitarian Response Thematic Fund)
SM/2010/0266 US$564,010.00 (USA (State) BPRM US Bureau of Population, Refugees)

Result Achieved
This programme component is in line with the 2007-2011 UNDAF priority of 'Quality social services for all' and its respective outcome: "National capacity, at central and local level, is strengthened to ensure access to, quality and management of social services, fostering sustainability, protection and promotion of human rights". Programme strategies are oriented to reduce under-five and maternal mortality rates, thus contributing to the achievement of the WFFC objectives and MDGs 4 and 5, but also contribute directly to goals related to hunger and poverty reduction, gender equity, HIV & AIDS and other diseases:

- The epidemiological surveillance systems for early warning of influenza and peri-neonatal morbidity are being strengthened. Validation of epidemiological surveillance protocol for the notification of neonatal morbidity events, and the influenza early warning system are being expanded to sentinel points.
- Generation of evidence of water quality and sanitation in 11 public hospitals to contribute to the reduction of sepsis. The results revealed the presence of bacteria in all the centres that were researched and in several cases, the absence of residual chlorine in the water. A plan of action has been developed in collaboration with PAHO.
- Certification of second Baby Friendly Hospital benefitting 2,000 breastfeeding mothers and their children

Critical factors or constraints
The earthquake in Haiti and the cholera emergency have influenced planning and implementation in 2010. The Ministry of Health has had to reorient its work to the sanitary situation derived from these two phenomena, affecting its response capacity, funding, and the sustainability of maternal child programmes.
Monitoring and evaluation

The evaluation of the social communication and mobilisation strategy 'Iodised Salt... or Nothing' has shown positive changes in the consumption of iodised salt in the country, influencing knowledge, attitudes and practices among the population. The main results of the draft National Survey on Micronutrients in childbearing women and children showed that the country has a moderate problem of anaemia in non-pregnant women and in children 6 to 59 months of age. The survey concludes that iodine deficiency is no longer a public health problem. Only 2% of non-pregnant women between the ages of 15 and 49 have iodine levels under 50 μg/dl.

Key partnerships and interagency collaboration

Partnerships include the ministries of Health and Education, the National Commission for Breastfeeding, the National Council for Social Security, CONANI, the Catholic Church, three regional universities, and NGOs (Plan International, World Vision, Oxfam, Red Cross, Fe y Alegria, the Paediatric Association, UJEDO, EDUCA, among others). There has been significant interagency collaboration with PAHO/WHO, UNFPA and USAID. The group for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene was strengthened to address the cholera emergency.

Humanitarian response to the effects of the Haiti earthquake

A Nutrition cluster was activated and UNICEF participated in the health cluster, as well as the HIV cluster created to ensure that the issue was mainstreamed across the different clusters. We supported the acquisition and installation of 25 chemical latrines, food and medicines to attend displaced Haitian children and equipment and supplies for treating patients evacuated from Haiti.

Haiti Flash Appeal funds achieved the following results:

- 83,615 children under the age of eight vaccinated as a result of the mobilisation of 9,056 vaccinators and supervisors.
- The Mother-Child Pastoral Service has expanded to 70 new communities in the border area, benefiting 723 pregnant women and 657 children under the age of 5
- The ‘Protocol for the Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition’ was validated
- Over 80,000 children and some 1,200 pregnant women benefited from the provision of supplies provided by UNICEF for primary healthcare centres
- 2,500 families benefited from the distribution of hygiene kits
- Validation of the National Mother-Child and Adolescent Guides for first level health care.

Contingency plan against cholera: The Ministry of Health is being supported to implement the Operational Contingency Plan and the mobilisation and social communication plans, and the water, sanitation and hygiene plans. Around 350,000 units of Oral Rehydration Salts and Zinc were acquired, along with chlorine comparison kits, bacteria presence reagents, HTH chlorine, bio-security bags and equipment for improving water conditions in four hospitals, and educational materials were produced.

Future Workplan

Assistance for the formulation of a National Policy for Early Childhood:

- Improve water and sanitation facilities in hospitals
- Support effective monitoring for fulfilling regulation banning the sale of rock salt
- Expand the “Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative” in 24 hospitals
- Launch a communications and social mobilisation strategy on breastfeeding
- Support the Mother-Child Pastoral Service in border communities
- Assist in the application of the neonatal morbidity epidemiological surveillance protocol
- In response to the effects of the Haiti earthquake in the Dominican Republic and cholera, we will support the Ministry of Health, the National Breastfeeding Council and allies at community levels, through:
Communication and social mobilisation strategy for health and hygiene promotion
Implementation of the “Mother-Child and Adolescent Health Guides” in primary health care centres
Improving neonatal services in 10 hospitals
Promoting the elimination of vertical HIV transmission and congenital syphilis
Nutrition epidemiological surveillance system; technical coordination of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Group and management of information for responding to cholera.

**Title: Children, adolescents and HIV/AIDS**

**Purpose**
This programme focuses on reinforcing the national response to HIV and AIDS, with emphasis on preventing mother-to-child transmission and infection among adolescents, as well as on supporting initiatives towards universal treatment and care for infected and affected children. It supports establishing alliances and provides technical and financial assistance for developing and implementing public policies and programmes and advocating for increasing public investment in HIV and STDs prevention and care. The national operational and organisational strategies for strategic alliances based on population groups, developed as part of the national HIV and AIDS response, represent a key framework for the planning and provision of UNICEF support, particularly the alliance for children and adolescents which constitutes a national response to the Global Campaign on Children and HIV & AIDS.

**Main results planned (CPAP 2007-2011)**
- Support is provided to reverse the spread of HIV&AIDS among children up to 18 years old by supporting their universal access to HIV&AIDS comprehensive care.
- The National Strategic Plan is updated and implemented so that: (i) adolescents and youth increase their risk awareness and have information about the way HIV & AIDS is transmitted; (ii) pregnant women are tested and receive counselling in health centres where PMTCT programmes are being implemented; (iii) children infected and/or affected by HIV & AIDS have access to support and care services; (iv) alliances are strengthened for expansion of the national response and national coordinating mechanisms are created involving authorities, civil society organisations, people living with HIV & AIDS and international agencies.

**Resources Used**
The total approved budget for 2010 was US$447,628.72 (US$88,000 from RR and US$359,628 from OR).
Resources available for 2010: US$299,732.38

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The implementation rate was 89%.

**Results Achieved**
This programme component is in line with the 2007-2011 UNDAF priority of ‘Quality social services for all’ and its respective programme outcome: “Political commitment and national capacity are strengthened to ensure that HIV & AIDS infected and/or affected people have their rights to prevention and care fulfilled”. By supporting government and
civil society efforts to reverse the spread of HIV & AIDS among children up to 18 years, contributing to their universal access to comprehensive care, the programme responds to MDG 6 and to the achievement of the WFFC objectives. During 2010 achievements included:

- Design and start of the implementation of a National Plan for the Elimination of Mother-Child HIV and AIDS transmission
- A technical inter-sectorial panel on 'Education in Skills for Life’ was consolidated within the education system, with technical support from UNICEF
- A peer education and youth leadership-training programme with local influence was developed. This programme includes the participation of parents and guardians as well as children and adolescents who are not attending school.
- The country’s paediatric care units were strengthened, and their staff members trained in a rights-based and lifecycle focus.

**Most critical constraints or lessons learned**

- Political will towards HIV/AIDS control should be expressed in the safe and sustained funding of prevention and care services. The National Development Strategy (END) does not include the response to HIV/AIDS
- Coverage for screening for pregnant women for HIV and Congenital Syphilis and treatment for the prevention of Mother-Child Transmission stands at 47%, in contrast to 98% for prenatal care.

**Key Partnerships and interagency collaboration**

General Directorate for Sexually Transmitted Infections and AIDS (DIGECITSS), the Ministry of Health, the Presidential AIDS Council (COPRESIDA), the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Women, PAHO, CDC, UNAIDS, CEPROSH, Hope International, Inc.; REDOVIH+, ASOLSIDA, the Paloma Group Foundation and the Clara Group.

**Monitoring, studies and evaluation**

- REDOVIH+, in partnership with UNICEF, developed a baseline for obtaining up-to-date information on screening and counselling coverage, in order to validate the results of the interventions
- A study for classifying care services for the child population infected with and/or affected by AIDS is under way; results will be available in 2011.

**Future Workplan**

- Support initiatives aimed at generating evidence on the status of children and adolescents infected with and/or affected by HIV and AIDS.
- Strengthen national capacities for the prevention of mother-child transmission
- Technical support to the inter-sectoral technical panel on 'Education and Skills for Life’.
- Technical support to the paediatric care units for the inclusion of counselling and technical assistance for children and adolescents with HIV and AIDS.

**Title: Protecting children against violence, abuse and exploitation**

**Purpose**

The programme objective is to combat all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of children, seeking to ensure that children, parents and society in general have the necessary information and tools for prevention and protection. It also helps to ensure that systems are in place and functioning effectively so that vulnerable, abused and exploited children and those in conflict with the law have access to legal protection, as well as appropriate support and rehabilitation services.
Main results planned

- Integrated public policies, legal and institutional reform are designed and implemented so that children and adolescents have their rights to protection against violence, abuse and exploitation guaranteed through increased access to prevention, rehabilitation and judicial control services
- Social awareness and commitment to ensure children’s and adolescents’ protection against abuse, violence and exploitation is increased through evidence-based advocacy, information, communication and social mobilisation processes
- The National Plan of Action (NPA) for the Eradication of violence, abuse and sexual commercial exploitation of children and adolescents is implemented
- Surveillance, prosecution and sanction mechanisms strengthened against perpetrators of child violence, abuse and exploitation
- Mechanisms to guarantee the rights of children in conflict with the law are designed and implemented.

Resources Used

The total approved budget for 2009 according to CPAP was US$1,024,444.43 (US$128,824.96 from RR and US$895,619.47 from OR).

This programme component has had US$ 769,347.46 available for 2010, as indicated below:

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The implementation rate for 2010 was 66%.

Emergency Protection Programme

This programme component had US$1,166,700 available for 2010, as indicated below:

| SM-2010-0266 | US$930,000.00 USA (State) BPRM (allocated) |
|             | 225,722.38 (requisitioned) = 25%          |
| SM-2009-9906 | US$236,700.00 (allocated)                 |
|             | 89,207.72 (requisitioned) = 38%          |

The implementation rate for 2010 was 43%.

Results Achieved

This programme component is in line with the 2007- 2011 UNDAF priority of 'Strengthening democratic governance'. It responds to WFFC objectives regarding the promotion of alliances, participation, resources mobilisation, protection and monitoring children’s rights. It also contributes to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration’s decision to increase Member States capacity to respect human rights and to ratify and apply the CRC. Among key achievements in 2010 were:

- Single Care Protocol for children who are victims of violence to facilitate the ordering of inter-institutional responses
- Specialised Judicial Statistical Information System for Children and Adolescents; construction of a matrix of indicators and advancement in the design of tools for compiling it.
- Provision of equipment and furniture for the installation of eight Gessell one-way mirrors in specialised jurisdictions for the protection of violence victims and eyewitnesses
- In the framework of the advocacy and mobilisation strategy against violence, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Children’s Rapporteur of Inter-American Human Rights Commission, visited the DR. It is worth highlighting the meeting he held with the National Congress Justice Commission and his Keynote Lecture on
“Recommendations of the Global Report on Violence Against Children and Adolescents, the case of the DR”.

- Implementation of a training and social mobilisation strategy for adolescents in Las Terrenas to raise awareness about the pernicious effects of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the tourism sector

**Constraints and lessons learned**

- CONANI’s political leadership in the area of children’s policies needs to be recognised, by providing an adequate budget allocation to enable it to fulfil its legal mandate.
- Coordination meetings between UNICEF Haiti and Dominican Republic officials are contributing to the effectiveness of work and in favour of the protection of children and adolescents in the country.
- A sub-cluster on child protection was created (now part of CONANI’s Technical Advisory Committee) and served as an important space for exchange and consensus-building between governmental organisations and NGOs.

**Monitoring, studies and evaluations**

The ‘Incidence of Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation’ study was conducted in nine provinces, presenting reliable information on sexual, physical, and emotional abuse against children. The study also assessed the efficiency of the institutional response and handling of reported cases and victim protection. The results will contribute to better coordinate the inter-institutional responses.

**Key strategic partnerships**

CONANI, the Ministries of Labour, Health, Education and Tourism, Supreme Court of Justice, Attorney General’s Office, National Judiciary School, National Prosecutor School, Commission for Justice System Reform, National Electoral Board, Inter-institutional Commission against child abuse and Sexual Commercial Exploitation, NGOs Coalition for Children, the National Hotel and Restaurant Association, the Commission for Execution of Justice for Children and Adolescents are all important partners.

*Humanitarian programme in response to the effects of the earthquake in Haiti on the Dominican Republic.*

- Sub-cluster on child protection became an important space for reflection and coordination, enabling support for protection and migration system authorities to prevent smuggling and trafficking.
- Under the ‘Protocol for Protection of Vulnerable Haitian Children and Adolescents in the Dominican Republic, 380 Haitian children were reunited with their families.
- 360 professionals were trained to improve protection for children displaced by the earthquake, including monitoring and follow-up of cases. NGOs from both countries were trained on family reunification.
- A permanent training programme on the smuggling and trafficking of children was established for judges and prosecutors in coordination with the National Schools for the Judiciary and Prosecutors, the Migration Department and IOM.
- Training was provided for Child Protection Officials of the Migration Department. A delegation from Haiti responsible for child protection participated.
- 92 Dominican Armed Forces officials assigned to the border area received training on the protection of children and adolescents against smuggling and trafficking.

**Future Workplan**

- National Policy against violence in compliance with recommendations of the Secretary General’s study
- Focus on birth registration and advocacy for timely registration
- Statistical information system on the protection of children in juvenile justice
- Implementation of the recommendations from the evaluation of Law 136-03.
• Installation of Gessell one-way mirrors
• Adaptation of the “Return to Happiness” methodology for Haiti and production of support materials
• Evaluation of the Protocol for the care of Haitian children and adolescents displaced to the Dominican Republic after the earthquake
• Design a Protocol for the attention and care of street children
• Generate evidence about the state of the child and adolescent population “on the move” in coordination with UNICEF Haiti.

**Title:** Public policies and alliances for children

**Purpose:**
This programme is designed to strengthen national and local capacities for the formulation and implementation of public policies and undertaking legal and institutional reform to protect children’s rights at both national and local levels. Using gender-sensitive and child-focused data and evidence-based analysis, information, communication, and social mobilisation strategies are developed to advocate for and support better planning, management and increasing public social investments, particularly for tackling poverty and reaching the child-related MDGs on health, education, HIV-AIDS, and gender equity. Reducing social inequities and disparities is a key strategy and result area. Children’s participation is a cross-cutting strategy. The programme supports processes of citizen participation for monitoring and demanding higher social investments with transparency and accountability in public management. It contributes to on-going decentralisation processes, to reinforce the roles and competencies of local authorities to protect children’s rights and achieve the MDGs.

**Main results planned**
Alliances and institutional capacities of GOs, NGOs and civil society increased and strengthened at the national and local levels for the formulation and application of social, economic and legislative policies aiming to fulfil children’s rights and achieve the MDGs.

• Progressive increase and better efficiency of social investment oriented to reducing social exclusion within the child rights framework
• Budgetary analysis, studies and research carried out as a basis for dialogue, social participation in decision-making regarding allocation of resources, and policies in favour of children
• A legal framework for decentralisation developed that allows for effective planning and budgeting at the local level
• Municipal capacities are strengthened to ensure the fulfilment of children’s rights at the local level
• Children and adolescents participation strengthened for the formulation and application of policies and programs in their favour
• Information systems are strengthened at the national and locals level as a basis for monitoring the status of children’s rights.

**Resources Used**
The total budget approved for 2010 according to CPAP is US$424,443.80 ($130,526.35 of RR and US$293,917.45 of OR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PBA</th>
<th>AMOUNT (US$)</th>
<th>SOURCE</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>GC/2006/0177</td>
<td>130,526.35</td>
<td>Regular Resources</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>SC/2006/9904</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
<td>Thematic Funds</td>
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</tbody>
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The 2010 implementation rate was 77.5%.
**Results Achieved**

This programme component is in line with the 2007-2011 UNDAF priorities of “Strengthening democratic governance” and “Quality social services for all” and their respective direct outcomes: (i) the UN system will have contributed to democratic governance: State reform and modernization, decentralization and citizenship strengthening to achieve transparency and Zero tolerance to corruption, respect to human rights, stronger social participation and gender equity and (ii) national capacity, at central and local levels, is strengthened to ensure access to quality and management of social services, fostering sustainability, protection, and promotion of human rights.

- Participation of 594 adolescents and young people in the consultation on the National Development Strategy presented by the Government; young people were empowered and contributed high-quality ideas and suggestions
- Supported the creation of the Observatory for the Fulfilment of Children and Adolescents’ Rights, a citizen space for monitoring child rights and advocating for their guarantee
- Participation of 12 Youth and Children’s Municipalities in the national mobilisation campaign ‘A Voice for Children’, achieving 40% of the total signatures
- A community-based study was conducted in the Dominican city of Dajabón, declared in 2001 a "Child Friendly City", to assess the institutional capacity of the local government. The diagnosis was made in coordination with UNICEF Haiti in the city of Ouanaminthe, on the other side of the border. Recommendations will be issued in 2011 to strengthen local government capacities and apply the lessons learned to other cities on both sides of the border
- Strengthened the budgetary analysis capacity of the Comptroller's office in the Municipal Council of the National District and the Congress, to monitor social spending for children

**Generation of evidence on children issues:**

- Conducted the ENHOGAR survey with the MICS modules
- Methodological design, calculation and diffusion of the Children’s Rights Fulfilment Index
- Design and validation of the children’s module within ONE’s National Development Indicators System (SINID)
- Design and validation of the questionnaire for the IX National Population and Housing Census
- Designed a Statistical Information System in the Judiciary System
- Designed an Information System on Children in CONANI
- Technical assistance to analyse the health component of the Participatory Anti-Corruption Initiative

**Key Alliances**

Main partnerships were with: Observatory of Children and Adolescents’ Rights, Ministry of the Presidency, National Congress, National Statistics Office (ONE), Council for the Reform of the State, Comptroller’s Office, Municipal Council of the National District, MEPYD, UNFPA, World Bank, CONANI, World Vision, Plan International and the Ministry of Youth.

**Future Workplan**

- Training in budget analysis skills, with a focus on children’s rights, to the National Congress, the Office of Comptroller and the Municipal Council of the National District
- Technical assistance to assess the local development and participation strategy (including a new certification system)
- Technical and financial assistance to 12 Youth Municipalities for the celebration of elections and expansion of the initiative to five additional municipalities
- Completion and publication of the ENHOGAR survey and conduct a Situation Analysis on Children
• Support four community-based studies in DR/Haiti border communities, in coordination with UNICEF Haiti, as well as six additional studies in key Dominican communities
• Support the Observatory of Children’s and Adolescents’ Rights to complete the calculation of the Fulfilment Index
• Establish alliances with research and knowledge centres to generate evidence for public policy incidence and to generate a national platform of experts.

4 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure

Due to the impact of the emergency response in Haiti on the workload of UNICEF Dominican Republic CO during the first four months of the year, many tasks were postponed, including the preparation of the AMP, which was completed in May. The areas most involved in the response were finance, administration, logistics and human resources. It should be noted that during 2010, and as a result of the emergency, the office had five representatives, three of which were interim. The position of Deputy Representative has been vacant since October.

During the first month after the earthquake, all staff destined to work in Haiti were initially incorporated into the UNICEF Dominican Republic office space. In February, UNICEF Haiti set up the Life Line Haiti Office in Santo Domingo, which had, and still has, the support of UNICEF Dominican Republic in the area of Operations.

The Dominican Republic AMP was prepared through a participative process and took into account not only the programme of cooperation but also the response plan to the Haiti emergency, which was called the ‘365-day’ plan. As part of the AMP process the composition of several committees was reviewed, the Central Review Body (CRB) was created and the CRC limit was raised, making the procurement process more efficient. The achievement of programme and other indicators were reviewed in six CMT meetings during 2010. The number of meetings was affected by the emergency and by the changes in Representatives. The Programme of Cooperation objectives for 2010 were achieved, regardless of the initial delay. The support to the Haiti emergency has also been classified as very positive.

The only pending recommendation from the 2009 audit was closed in April.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management

The review of standard procedures to minimise or prevent risks was continuously maintained. The new financial circular 19 was implemented and the CRC limit was raised. The procurement process was made more efficient, as was the processing of travel and cash transfers to counterparts and allies. At a meeting with all staff held in September, the library and risk profile were set up.

The office is MOSS compliant, as proved during an inspection conducted by UNDSS in July, and the EPRP has been updated. The inter-agency security plan is kept up to date and activated as required. The capacity to provide business continuity was demonstrated by the support provided to the recovery of UNICEF Haiti’s vital functions. Haiti’s financial database and electronic mail system were restored in the Dominican Republic. Following instructions from HQ and the Regional Office, support was provided in Finance after analysing the majority of the scenarios described for cases of total destruction.

The ‘365-day’ plan to respond to the effects of the Haiti earthquake in the Dominican Republic, is on-going until early 2011. A potential new emergency, the spread of cholera cases in the country, has put actions into practice at all geographical levels. The Office closed the year while immersed in this task.

The Dominican Republic border area has been the most affected by the impact of the earthquake and the cholera epidemic. Special security measures are followed on a daily
basis for missions to this area, and coordination is maintained with UNICEF Haiti to fulfil the MOSS in missions that require crossing the border.

4.1.3 Evaluation
During 2010 an Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was designed, in which the studies, research, diagnostic exercises and/or evaluations are covered, including the processes of monitoring office management. The plan was assembled with each Programme area in a participatory manner, and its fulfilment was monitored, ensuring a fulfilment level of around 85%.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication
A high percentage of ICT equipment is still in its useful lifecycle, allowing the migration toward new systems. The new version of ProMS 9.1 was installed in 2010.

ProMS and Lotus Notes Haiti databases were restored after the earthquake in the servers of Dominican Republic Country Office and the Citrix platform was actively used. Help was provided to establish the LLH office in Santo Domingo, enabling the installation of internet, landline and mobile telephone services. The best solutions for maintaining interconnectivity with the UNICEF global network were identified through interaction with NYHQ and the Haiti office. The telecommunications cluster led by WFP was supported, as well as the identification of a need to set up a temporary UNICEF office on the border.

The Office has several redundant emergency telecommunications systems, such as six Iridiums, 2 BGAN and a fleet of cell-phones that covers all the staff. All vehicles have VHF radios installed and 10 new portable radio units were acquired for distribution to critical staff.

Training courses were coordinated and held on emergency telecommunications systems in coordination with WFP and UNDSS. Other trainings and webex sessions were held on using the Microsoft Office suite and on image processing.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship
4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations
In 2010 UNICEF in the DR increased its engagement in the arena of corporate social responsibility, where partnerships with the private sector have been developed beyond the realm of traditional donor relationships, to include corporate organisations as stakeholders in the social development process towards the MDGs and partners of the Country Programme.

A corporate partnership programme was launched, both to raise funds and promote corporate social responsibility towards children. An agreement was signed with the National Hotel and Restaurant Association, aimed at promoting integrated child protection in the country’s tourist areas.

The office refined its relationship with the corporate sector by transforming this engagement with possible “donors” to become true partnerships, offering the possibility to companies to be strategic and advocacy allies - participating in programme development and advocacy actions thus mobilising resources in a more effective form for children. Thus partners have gradually come to understand that investing in children is the most effective way to contribute to sustainable and equitable development.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets
The office was not audited in 2010. The financial controls and flows are reflected in the table of authorities. Bank reconciliations were completed on time. In 2010 there was a very noticeable increase in the amount of inter-office payments received, especially from Haiti, and the increase of the ZBA ceiling had to be requested, especially in the first few months of the year.
After the earthquake, the Finance area provided vital support and continues to do so. Due to the Office and Banks’ inability to function in Haiti, it was necessary to implement a special cash account (COHA), allowing UNICEF to operate for a considerable period of time. A second petty cash was also implemented for Haiti. Both accounts were later transferred to the Haiti database. At present, most support is oriented to processing the payments to providers based in the Dominican Republic.

100% of PBA resources were used in their lifecycle. DCT balances over nine months represent less than 1% of the total. Some 88.9% of regular programme funds were spent. Many services are contracted jointly with other United Nations agencies, such as sharing common premises, thus reducing costs.

4.2.3 Supply

Largely as a result of the impact of the Haiti emergency, the programme supply plan was not prepared on time; however, requests were processed in a quality manner in support of programme implementation.

In the first months all Haiti emergency relief supplies were processed in the Dominican Republic; later, only those to local vendors in Santo Domingo were completed. Some 70.4% of the total 61 PGMs were issued before September 30th. The total amount of supplies was US$3,144,242, of which US$2,219,544 corresponds with Haiti PGMs issued in the Dominican Republic during the first weeks of the emergency, representing 70.6% of the total volume of supply.

Supply assistance for 2010 represents 24% of the total expenditures of Dominican Republic country programme. Supplies and equipment are immediately delivered to counterparts and allies, since the Office does not have a warehouse. Monitoring of supplies is carried out during field visits.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity

After the 2009 MTR a request for approval of the new post ‘Social and Economic Analysis Specialist’ (NO-3) was submitted to the PBR. The request was approved and the selection process is ongoing. The office has significantly increased the number of temporary appointments, due to the fact that national staff members working in LLH have Santo Domingo as their Duty Station. In this way, the year closed with seven national and one international staff member funded by UNICEF Haiti. The office has a JPO for the first time, officially transferred from Haiti to the Dominican Republic in June.

As a result of the impact of the Haiti emergency, the 2009 PERs were signed at the end of March. The 2011 PERs were planned on the same date. Improved results in the area of training were obtained compared to 2009, with a significant percentage of planned activities going ahead. A Staff Exchange was implemented through the mission to Argentina by the Administrative and Human Resources Assistant for three months. The Office takes an active part in the UN Cares initiative. Five inter-agency sessions were organised with a high level of participation from UNICEF, aimed at children of United Nations staff members between the ages of 7 and 24, covering issues such as self-protection, integrated health and HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS standards in the workplace are fulfilled at approximately 90%.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement

UNICEF Dominican Republic shares common premises with five other United Nations Agencies and significant savings are made for many operational costs. Work is being done at the inter-agency level to identify more potential areas of shared services.

A bidding process was issued for travel and event services. The contract will start in January 2011. Another is in process for banking services, which UNICEF could join, depending on the advantages it offers and whether the required approval is obtained from NYHQ.
As a result of the earthquake in Haiti, UNICEF in the Dominican Republic has conducted intensive south-south cooperation work throughout the whole year. During the immediate humanitarian response and care phase, it took on the coordination of the “mirror clusters” in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and the child protection sub-cluster. These coordination spaces had the function of supporting the humanitarian assistance work of the clusters in Haiti, and responding to the needs of the Haitian population displaced to Dominican territory. Since the clusters were de-activated in April, once the early recovery and rehabilitation phase had started, the CO continued to work in coordination with UNICEF-Haiti on the following programmes:

- **Child Protection**: establishing a protocol for care for displaced Haitian children and adolescents, family reunification, prevention and response to trade and trafficking, training for migration and border officials from both countries, advocacy for establishing bi-national agreements on protecting migrant children (children on the move) and strengthening the mixed bi-national commission, cross-border studies on the fulfilment of children’s rights since the earthquake.

- **Health**: vaccination campaigns on both sides of the border zone, strengthening health service provision networks and epidemiological monitoring systems in the Dominican border provinces.

During both the immediate response and rehabilitation phases, logistical and administrative support was provided to operations in Haiti, from the Life Line Haiti office. This administrative centre on Dominican soil took on all the UNICEF-Haiti office operational functions: finance, TIC, logistics, supplies. For these purposes technical, logistical, technological and human resource management support was provided from the CO’s area of operations.