Executive Summary

The political context in the Dominican Republic continues to be favourable for the children’s agenda. In addition to signing A Promise Renewed and A Promise Renewed for the Americas, the President of the Republic launched the Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality, the Pact for Education Reform, and the Early Childhood Programme “Quisqueya Empieza Contigo.” UNICEF supports them and is recognized as a strategic partner.

The Situation Analysis on Children and Adolescents in the Dominican Republic 2012 (SITAN) was publicly presented in August at the National Palace. Twelve years after the release of the previous report, the SITAN 2012 became a reference document for all national organizations that work in favour of children in the Country.

UNICEF continued to apply an equity focus in 2013, and partnerships were expanded to reduce inequities affecting children. Bottlenecks for the reduction of infant-maternal mortality were identified by the Ministry of Health in five hospitals of the poorest territories of the country, using the Monitoring Results for Equity Systems (MoRES) methodology, and actions plans were drafted.

National mobilization for education reform continued in 2013. In July, the Dominican Initiative for Quality Education (IDEC), which UNICEF supports, presented its first monitoring report on the Ministry of Education’s progress and the expenditure of the budget (4 per cent of GDP).

Tourism became one of the country’s largest industries, new alliances were established with the tourism sector for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children (CSE). In 2013, five tourism operators and two hotel associations signed the Code of Conduct, and two tour operators joined the alliance signing onto UNICEF’s programme Huésped de Corazón. Melia Hotels International organized a concert in Punta Cana to benefit UNICEF in the Dominican Republic with the Spanish singer David Bisbal, “Friend of UNICEF.” The Ministry of Tourism (MITUR) and the National Association of Hotels and Restaurants (ASONAHORES) committed to strengthen efforts to prevent CSE.

In September, the Constitutional Court ruled that the children of undocumented migrants, who have been in the Dominican Republic and registered as Dominicans as far back as 1929, cannot have Dominican nationality because their parents are considered to have been “in transit.” The ruling affects primarily persons of Haitian origin. It triggered a political and social polarization in the country, and reactions from international organizations. UNICEF HQ released a statement expressing its concern about the impact on thousands of children that could become stateless, and offered assistance to the Government to find a solution respectful of human rights.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

The Dominican Republic registered significant socio-political advances in 2013. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 4.1 per cent according to the Central Bank, affecting the creation of formal employment and the public investments to reduce poverty.

In May, the President of the Republic launched the Early Childhood Protection and Integrated Care Plan, Quisqueya Empieza Contigo, declaring high national interest for the protection and care of young children from birth to 5 years old. The Plan aims to guarantee, by 2016, the right to health, nutrition, hygiene and early stimulation to 90 per cent of children under the age of 5, through the expansion of day care centres and community care networks, parents’ education, and the creation of centres for children with disabilities. UNICEF signed an agreement with the Government to support the implementation of the Plan.

For the first time, the Ministry of Education (MOE) Budget reached 4 per cent of GDP. Still, improvement in the quality of education, as well as its management efficacy and efficiency, remain a challenge. A number of public schools extended school hours, support for pre-school education was prioritized, and more than 300,000 people over the age of 14 are benefiting from the National Literacy Plan. These actions address the
social debt to access to quality education. On the other hand, the school construction schedule was delayed and the Teaching Career reforms are still pending. The President of the Republic convened a National Pact for Education Reform, involving the Government, civil society and the private sector.

The Ministry of Public Health (MOH) launched the National Plan for the Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality, introduced vaccines for pneumococcus and rotavirus, and signed the Panama declaration, *A Promise Renewed for the Americas: Reducing inequities in reproductive, maternal and infant health*. These initiatives will contribute to reducing maternal and infant mortality and inequities in reproductive health. However, investment in health remains below the Latin American average, and the country is behind in implementing the reforms ordered by the General Health Law and the Social Security System Law.

Adolescent pregnancy once again proved to be a grave social problem in 2013. Epidemiological Surveillance reports that 19 per cent of maternal mortality corresponds to adolescents between 15 and 19 years old, and in one week, in the *Hospital Nuestra Señora de la Altagracia*, seven newborn deaths were recorded as a result of premature delivery by adolescent mothers. In addition to the negative impact on the human rights of girls, a study by the Institute of Technology of Santo Domingo (INTEC) showed that 5 per cent of the total expenditures in public health in 2013 were invested in care for pregnant adolescents, exceeding by 33 times the budget for the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Plan over a six year period. In spite of this, sexually and reproductive health education has not yet been introduced in the Education Curriculum.

The National Congress reformed the Law 136/03 (Code for the Protection of the Children’s Rights) increasing the maximum time in detention for adolescents in conflict with the law from 5 years to 8. As the Senate noted in its report on this legal initiative, the advocacy and technical assistance provided by UNICEF, the Justice Commission on Child and Adolescent (CEJNNA), and the National Network of NGOs for Children, was influential in moderating the final reform, which was initially approved by the House of Representatives with a maximum duration of 15 years. The House of Representatives approved a reform of the Penal Code that improves the protection of children and women by penalizing feminicide and all forms of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of children and child pornography, in addition to the decriminalization of the therapeutic abortion. The reform was pending Senate approval at the year end. The new Organic Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was also approved by the two Houses, establishing a new legal and political framework in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In September, the Constitutional Tribunal issued a ruling denying nationality retroactively back to 1929, to persons born in the country and holders of a Dominican birth certificate, descendants of foreign parents whose residence was irregular at the time of their birth. The ruling, which primarily affects persons of Haitian origin, triggered a significant political and social polarization in the country, as well as reaction from international organizations. UNICEF HQ released a statement expressing its concern regarding the impact on thousands of children who could become stateless, and offered to collaborate with the Government to find a solution respectful of human rights. The Government approved the Regularization Plan of Irregular Immigrants, and is working on a Naturalization Bill to respond to the affected persons. In December, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) undertook an *in loco* visit to the Dominican Republic, and at the end of the visit, requested that the Government take general, simple and fair measures to guarantee the right to nationality to persons negatively affected by the ruling.

The prevalence of cholera continued to decline, although when found it was more lethal. As of November 2013, 1,846 cases and 41 deaths were reported (2.2 per cent lethality), while in 2012, 7,243 cases and 56 deaths were reported. Dengue has greatly affected children, especially those under 19 years of age, who represented 80 per cent of the total 15,914 cases and 113 deaths. This reflects deterioration in the patient self-care and in the quality of hospital care. The tropical storm Chantal and the tropical depression Gabrielle affected some provinces in the country; however, preventive evacuations avoided major impact on children.
UNICEF Annual Report 2013 – Dominican Republic

Country Programme Analytical Overview

UNICEF continued to advance in applying an equity focus in the Country Programme, and partnerships were expanded to address the causes of social exclusion and to reduce inequities affecting children. In collaboration with various NGOs, 15,000 excluded children from 37 batayes benefitted from a UN Trust Fund for Human Security project. The new agreement with the Judicial Power will contribute to combating impunity for crimes committed against children and strengthen the protection system. The increasing commitment of the country’s tourism sector will improve efforts to prevent CSE of children.

The MOH participated in the follow-up meeting in Panama A Promise Renewed for the Americas, and signed the Declaration renewing its pledge to accelerate the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 4 and 5. Using the MoRES framework, the MOH developed two plans to remove the bottlenecks of the maternal-child services in two hospitals that serve the most excluded mothers and children in the country. UNICEF provided support to the MOE in developing the first monitoring report about the progress made toward the 2016 Goals and the transparent expenditure of their budget. UNICEF also coordinated inclusive programming among the First Lady’s Office, the Ministry of the Presidency and the MOE for children with disabilities.

In four prioritized provinces (Independencia, San Juan, Elías Piña and Santiago), UNICEF met with the Municipal Corporations to share the Country Programme and to identify common priorities. As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy, the municipal government of Juan de Herrera, El Llano and Báñica, in the provinces of Elías Piña and San Juan de la Maguana, committed to offering pre-primary education, assuming the required costs for the infrastructure and personnel.

The Office made progress in achieving results of the Country Programme 2012-2016 and recovered the implementation delay that occurred during the first year of the Biannual Workplan 2012-2013. In 2013, US$3,374,048 of programme funds were implemented in a satisfactory manner and a 101 per cent rate was achieved against the planned amount for the Biannual Workplan 2012-2013 (as of 17 December 2013). Working with biannual plans proved to be productive, as it facilitated timely implementation of activities during the first days and months of the year.

The general context of the children’s agenda continues to be favourable. The Government launched various initiatives to meet the commitments of the President of the Republic, such as the Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality, the Pact for Education, and the Early Childhood Program, Quisqueya Empieza Contigo. UNICEF supported each of those initiatives and is recognized as a strategic partner.

Preparations for the Mid-Term Review in 2014 were begun. The Mid-Term Review aims to review the feasibility of the expected outcomes of the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) and make the necessary adjustments to achieve results by 2016. The Vice-Minister for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD) agreed to jointly organize this exercise with UNICEF.

Effective Advocacy

Mostly met benchmarks

As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy to ensure the achievement of the Commitment to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed, in March the MOH presented a National Plan for the Reduction of Infant and Maternal Mortality, aiming to reduce the maternal mortality rate to 50 per 100,000 live births and the infant mortality rate to 15 per 1,000 live births by 2016. The Plan was developed with technical assistance from UNICEF, PAHO/WHO and UNFPA. Civil society organizations, churches, universities and the private sector also participated, and committed to promoting health education for women and families, supporting the achievement of the goals and being accountable for their joint commitment. It is still too soon to observe the direct impact of the Plan on the reduction of the mortality rates, but progress has been made in the normative component for the
standardization of care in services, as well as in addressing bottlenecks to improve the quality of two child-
maternal services. In September, the Vice Minister of Collective Health, appointed in 2012 as the focal point
for A Promise Renewed, participated in the follow-up meeting in Panama A Promised Renewed for the
Americas, organized by PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, USAID, and other international allies, and signed the
Declaration, renewing the commitment of the MOH to accelerate the Country’s achievement of MDG 4 and 5.

UNICEF organized a forum to analyse the situation of children with disabilities in the Dominican Republic,
taking into consideration the recommendations of the State of the World’s Children 2013 report. Participants
included children with disabilities, Members of Congress, high-level Government officials, civil society and the
media. The event helped to shed light on the approximate number of children with disabilities in the country,
and the types of impairments they have. It also helped to disseminate information on the recent Law on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to learn about the capacities and coverage of public services, the
difficulties that families confront, and the children’s aspirations. National media coverage of the discussions
focused on the voices of children with disabilities, as a first commitment to counteract stereotypes and social
prejudice. As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy, a Governmental committee composed of the Integrated Care
Centres for Disabilities of the First Lady’s Office, the Centres of Attention for Diversity of the MOE, and the
Quisqueya Empezla Contigo Programme of the Ministry of the Presidency, was created to map child care
resources and referral agencies for the inclusion of children with disabilities. A cooperation agreement among
the three institutions and UNICEF was drafted to design and provide institutional and community services for
the detection of disabilities, as well as for family and community-based care during early childhood.

**Capacity Development**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

The majority of activities of the Country Programme 2012-2016 represent capacity building of partners. Two
significant efforts are highlighted below.

UNICEF signed an agreement with the MOE, the National Institute of Education and Training of Teachers
(INAFOCAM) and the Higher Institute for Teacher Training Salomé Ureña (ISFODOSU) to establish for the first
time a specialized course in *Multi-Grade Teaching-Learning Methodologies*, aimed at improving the capacities
of teachers of multi-grade classrooms for teaching reading, writing, and mathematics. Forty-three per cent of
primary schools in the country have multi-grade classrooms, primarily in the rural areas, where the worst
learning indicators and the highest rates of drop-outs are reported. The MOE integrated the specialised course
in the National Teacher Training Programme, in the rural education policy and in its operational plan for 2014.
This initiative introduces innovations to facilitate the student learning by using new teaching modules and
methodologies, appropriate resources, and criteria for evaluating student achievements. In 2013, 160
teachers in the provinces of Elías Piña, Santo Domingo Este, Bahoruco and Independencia were trained. (See
the section below on Education.)

UNICEF collaborated with the Attorney General’s Office to generate information on adolescents deprived of
their liberty in order to facilitate decision-making for their social reintegration. Technical assistance was
provided to the Justice Commission for Children and Adolescents, comprised of State institutions, to develop
a methodology for monitoring and supervising the living conditions, services and programmes of the
detention centres in the country. The methodology suggests that at the conclusion of each visit, the
Commission should produce a report of findings and recommendations in line with the United Nations Rules
for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty, which will be presented to the Attorney General of
the Republic. The first phase of the information system of the Directorate of the Adolescents in Conflict with
the Law was concluded, providing the Directorate with personal, social and judicial data of detained
adolescents, which will help to provide services according to their needs. These two interventions aim to
dignify the conditions of imprisonment and to institutionalize education programmes to reintegrate young
offenders in society, as well as to ensure that no adolescent is detained for a longer time than set by
sentence.


Communication for Development

Mostly met benchmarks

In 2013, UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, UN Women, UNAIDS and UNFPA, once again positioned the prevention of adolescent pregnancy on the national agenda. UNICEF led the advocacy group of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the implementation of the interagency communication plan, promoting sexual and reproductive rights of adolescents, and the introduction of sexual education in public and private schools. The Situation Analysis on Children and Adolescents in the Dominican Republic (SITAN) echoed the public debate on adolescent pregnancy, and became an important advocacy tool. In September, the President of the Republic created an inter-institutional commission, led by the Minister of Women, to implement the National Plan for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy.

UNICEF and Plan International supported the Regional Offices of the MOH and MOE, as well as the community organizations, to develop a communication strategy to prevent adolescent pregnancy in the framework of the National Plan in four cities of the border provinces with Haiti with the highest rates in the country. A total of 1,754 adolescents, 47 teachers, 136 parents and 28 health workers from 17 schools participated in the training workshops on responsible sexuality, with a focus on life skills. The sessions were led by specialists from the Adolescents Units of the municipal hospitals and psychologists from the participating schools. Of the total number of adolescents trained, 200 who demonstrated leadership, communication skills, good interpersonal relations and commitment, were selected to serve as peer educators in their communities. To help publicize the initiative, 25 local journalists participated in a workshop on investigation and reporting skills on adolescent health and participation.

Service Delivery

Fully met benchmarks

The Dominican Republic is an Upper Middle Income Country, so UNICEF is not working on service delivery.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

The Ministry of Tourism (MITUR), the National Association of Hotels and Restaurants (ASONAHORES), ECPAT (NGO/Child Rights Network) and UNICEF organized an International meeting of good practices in the prevention of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, to promote corporate social responsibility in the tourism industry and the signing of the Code of Conduct. Good practices from five Latin American countries and Thailand were presented, and Dr. Najat Maalla M’jid, UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, delivered the keynote address. The meeting, in which 120 representatives from hotels, travel agencies and tourism operators in the Dominican Republic participated, contributed in sensitizing about the damage that CSE causes on the lives of children, and measures to avoid it. An agreement was signed by MITUR, ASONAHORES and UNICEF to promote a national policy for the prevention of CSE, and the Tourism Police (POLITUR) committed to training all its members. The tour operators Blue Travel and Hotelbeds, members of the tour operator TUI Travel, joined the alliance, signing onto the UNICEF’s programme Huésped de Corazón. Five tourism operators and two hotel associations also signed the Code of Conduct. The participation of the Melia Hotels in the meeting reflected its continuous support to UNICEF’s Child Protection programme in the country. The Director of Corporate Social Responsibility visited the country in October to learn about UNICEF’s work, and in November, Melia International renewed its agreement with the UNICEF Spanish National Committee, pledging its support over the next three years in favour of children in the Dominican Republic. In December, the Hotel Melia Paradisus Palma Real of Punta Cana organized a concert to benefit UNICEF in the Dominican Republic with the Spanish singer David Bisbal, “Friend of UNICEF.”
Knowledge Management

Mostly met benchmarks

Under the leadership of the MEPyD, the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONANI) and UNICEF, the *Situation Analysis on Children and Adolescents in the Dominican Republic 2012 (SITAN 2012)* was completed. Representatives from Government, Congress, the Judicial Power, the Dominican Municipal Federation (FEDOMU), the Coalition of NGOs for Children’s Rights, and adolescent focus groups, participated in preparing the document, which highlights the situation of children and adolescents in the Dominican Republic. The document starts from a causal analysis of the official information and statistics available between 2002 and 2012, identifying the most disadvantaged and excluded groups. The document was launched in August in a public ceremony at the National Palace in the presence of Government authorities, UN agencies, the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations, and academics. Twelve years after the release of the previous report, the SITAN 2012 report became a reference document for all national organizations that work in favour of children in the country.

To understand the causes of the high rate of underreporting of birth registration in children under 5 years of age (20.8 per cent), in spite of the existence, for almost a decade, of the Civil Registry offices in hospitals, UNICEF supported the Electoral Board in gathering information from 26 maternity hospitals in 22 provinces. This representative sample confirmed that only 41 per cent of newborns leave the hospital having been registered. The most notable reasons for no registration were: lack of information about the service in the hospitals; lack of motivation of the registries staff; almost non-existent communication between the registries staff and those of the maternity wards; limited understanding about the value of being registered a result a weak culture of registration; and lack of documentation of the mothers. (See IR2, Protection).

UNICEF supported the Maternal-Child General Directorate of the MOH in the bottleneck analysis for the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in five hospitals in the most excluded territories of the country, using the MoRES methodology. The main findings included: low quality of services; lack of adequate personnel; lack of supervision for the fulfilment of the norms; negligence on behalf of the hospital personnel in case management; decision-making not based on evidence; and scarcity of equipment and basic supplies; among others. This new information facilitated the drafting of action plans to improve the quality of services for those most marginalized children and women in two of the five public hospitals. (See PCR Health and IR1 Knowledge Management).

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

The United Nations System drafted a Joint Report for the Dominican Republic for the Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, which will take place in 2014. The process for the preparation of the report, which involved all UN agencies, was led by UNHCR, UNDP and UNICEF. The document provides information on the extent to which the recommendations of the First Report in 2009 have been fulfilled, the evolution of human rights in the country from that date, and the technical assistance provided by the UN agencies to that end.

In 2013, UNHCR, UNDP and UNICEF began implementing the UN Human Security Trust Fund Project in 37 *bateyes* of the San Pedro de Macorís and Barahona provinces. The project aims to address the needs of the most marginalized and excluded persons, facilitating their access to identification documents, education, maternal-child health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as provide income generating opportunities and develop skills for the management of risks and disaster. It is a three year project that will directly benefit some 33,000 persons, and indirectly about 60,000. Of this number, 15,000 are children and 1,500 are elderly. The three UN Agencies collaborate with community organizations in order to reach directly the vulnerable populations.
During 2013, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF formed an ad hoc UNCT group to advocate for the nationality of the Dominicans of Haitian origin. In September, the Constitutional Court ruled that the children of undocumented migrants, who have been in the Dominican Republic and registered as Dominicans as far back as 1929, cannot have Dominican nationality because their parents are considered to have been “in transit.” Before the constitutional pronouncement, the four UN agencies presented to the National Congress, Central Electoral Board, Ministry of the Presidency, and the President of the Republic, solutions to the problems that were caused by the Resolution of the Electoral Board of 2007, which denied identity documents to persons of Haitian origin holders of a Dominican birth certificate. Following the September ruling, the four UN agencies presented to the Minister of the Presidency a document with recommendations to implement the Constitutional ruling with respect to national laws, international treaties, and the human rights of those affected.

**Gender Equality**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

UNICEF is one of the agencies working on the second pillar of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-16 *Empowerment and the Rights of Women*. UNICEF regularly provides input with regards to the rights of the girl child; how to eliminate barriers that impede access to quality basic social services; protection against all forms of violence; and the prevention of sexual exploitation. In 2013, UNICEF and UNFPA provided technical assistance to the National Congress on the reform of the Penal Code and on the Law on violence against women and girls before it was discussed in the Senate. UNICEF supported the implementation of the Campaign, *UNITE to Put an End to Violence against Women*, and the commemoration of Violence against Women Day, by organizing of a Film Festival to raise awareness about violence against women and girls. PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, UN Women, UNAIDS and UNICEF presented a joint proposal to the United Nations Trust Fund to eliminate violence against women and girls, which was not approved. Along with the National Commission on Breastfeeding, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Labour in the creation of breastfeeding friendly rooms in the workplace. Technical assistance was provided for the *Evaluation Criteria and Instruments for Verification of the Breastfeeding Friendly Rooms in the Workplace*, which will be disseminated to unions and employers' associations in 2014. To support implementation in the private sector, 76 technicians were trained on the Criteria. The Ministry of Labour was working on the construction of the first friendly room.

UNICEF leads the UNCT advocacy group for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. In 2013, at the Regional Meeting on Protection and Promotion of Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Caribbean, UNICEF presented the interagency work carried out by the UN in the Dominican Republic. UNICEF led the drafting of two UN press releases defending the sexual and reproductive rights of children, and the introduction of sexual education in public and private schools. The CO supported the MOE updating the Sexual Education Programme (PEAS). They were not finalized due to numerous religious and ideological difficulties. During the first trimester of 2014, it is expected that the operational guides will be completed; including those for peer educators and families, so that in the academic year 2014-15 children will be able to receive sexual education in all schools.

**Environmental Sustainability**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

The Dominican Republic is geographically vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms. Climate change has taken its toll, and routes and seasons for hurricanes and tropical storms have changed, making the emergencies less predictable. Children remain especially vulnerable to such risks. There are still seismic threats because Hispaniola island sits on the Caribbean tectonic plate and is affected by various fault systems with high rates of displacement. Nonetheless, it should be noted that in recent years the National System has significantly improved its preparedness and response capacities.
UNICEF provides technical support to the MOE in capacity development with respect to mitigation, preparedness and response for emergencies in schools, as well as to guarantee the right to education during emergency situations. In 2013, the MOE finalized the design of the National Plan for Emergencies and Disasters with the response protocols at different levels of the education system (central, regional, and district) and the schools. The plan is being printed for its distribution in early 2014 in order to proceed with capacity building for the implementation.

UNICEF collaborated with the MOE in the creation of a course on Integrated Risk Management for teachers and technicians, which includes psychosocial recuperation. The course is offered by the ISFODOSU, and it has been incorporated into the National Teacher Training Programme of the MOE, which guarantees its sustainability.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The UNICEF Offices in the Dominican Republic and Equatorial Guinea supported cooperation between the National Statistics Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic and the National Statistics Institute (INE) of Equatorial Guinea. In August, a delegation from Equatorial Guinea travelled to the Dominican Republic to improve their knowledge about management, production and dissemination of data necessary for undertaking the 2014 National Census on Population and Housing. The ONE committed to support the institutional development of the INE, helping primarily in the assembly, collection and processing of the census. At the request of the ONE, the INE participated, as a special guest, in the meeting of the Statistics Conference of the Americas, in Chile in November, where new contacts were established with other institutes in the region.

In partnership with the Dominican Republic's National Schools for Judges and Prosecutors and the Chilean Universidad Diego Portales, UNICEF organized, in Santo Domingo, the XVI Course on Judicial Protection on the Rights of Children. The course aims to strengthen specialized training of judges, prosecutors, and lawyers in the direct application of international human rights treaties in the judicial processes involving children and adolescents. Participants included 72 judges, prosecutors and lawyers from 14 Latin American countries.
Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results

Dominican Republic - 1260

**PC 1 - High-quality inclusive social services for health and education**

**On-track**

**PCR 1260/A0/04/801** 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.

**Progress:** In order to meet the commitments made within the framework of A Promise Renewed, in 2013, the Minister of Health presented a National Plan for the Maternal and Infant Mortality Reduction, which aims by 2016 to reduce the maternal mortality rate to 50 per 100,000 live births and the infant mortality rate to 15 per 1,000 live births. In September, the Vice-Minister of Collective Health participated in the follow-up meeting A Promise Renewed for the Americas, in Panama, organized by USAID, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and other international allies, and signed the Declaration to renew the country's commitment to accelerate achievement of MDG 4 and 5. (See section on Effective Advocacy).

UNICEF supported the MOH in a bottleneck analysis for the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in five hospitals across the country, utilizing the MoRES methodology. Tools were developed for gathering information, and the analysis was finalized in two (Hospitals of Santiago and San Juan de la Maguana) that offer services to the most vulnerable populations. The most noteworthy findings included: low quality of services; lack of adequate personnel; lack of supervision for the fulfilment of the norms; negligence on behalf of the hospital personnel in case management; decision-making not based on evidence; and scarcity of equipment and basic supplies. Given that 8 per cent of maternal deaths and 13 per cent of infant deaths occur in these two hospitals, implementation of the recommended action plans will contribute to significantly reducing maternal and infant mortality in the country. The MOH values the information gathered using MoRES, and in 2014, two Provincial Health Directorates will be trained in the information collection and bottleneck analysis. (See Knowledge Management.)

UNICEF, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO, supported the MOH in preparing for an evaluation of the community-based health care model and the Primary Healthcare Unit (UNAP) that should take place in 2014, to help understand their contributions to the reduction of inequities associated with child survival.

**On-track**

**IR 1260/A0/04/801/001** By 2016, the continuing care for mothers, newborns and children, including the steps of the "Child Friendly Hospital Initiative," are implemented by the network of public health services and communities of 10 prioritized provinces.

**Progress:** Two additional hospitals (Hospital Ramón Santana and Hospital Antonio Musa) were certified as Child Friendly Hospitals by the MOH, the National Commission for Breastfeeding, PAHO/WHO and UNICEF. Five hospitals have been certified since 2012, representing 30 per cent of the proposed 2016 goal in the Country Programme. In 2014, with UNICEF's support, the MOH will expand the Child Friendly Hospital Initiative. UNICEF supported the MOH in the training of health personnel from six hospitals and 14 UNAPs from six border provinces in this regard.

UNICEF supported the General Directorate of Epidemiology of the MOH in developing the **Standards for the Prevention and Control of Infections in Health Facilities.** Those standards incorporates lesson learned from the guidelines on Safe Delivery and their application should accelerate a reduction in deaths due to sepsis among mothers and newborns. Health care personnel from the National Laboratory and from seven hospitals in the provinces of Barahona, San Juan de la Maguana, Azua, Bahoruco, Independencia, Elías Piña and Pedernales were trained on the microbiology infections associated with care, prevention and effective measures for infection control, surveillance and supervision, and the drafting of hospital workflows.

UNICEF supported the MOH in drafting two implementing regulations of the General Health Law 42-01 that should contribute significantly to a reduction in maternal and infant mortality. The first, the **Technical Regulation for the Comprehensive Care of Children Under-Five,** instructs the directors of Child Friendly Hospitals to prohibit the distribution, promotion and advertising of breast milk substitutes, and obliges health personnel to inform mothers on birth registration. The second, the **Technical Regulation for Care during Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperium,** integrates services for the elimination of the vertical transmission of HIV and syphilis, support for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and the accompaniment of pregnant women during delivery.

**On-track**

**IR 1260/A0/04/801/002** By 2016, at least 80 per cent of the hospitals and health centres in the 10 prioritized provinces will have counselling, diagnosis and treatment services for HIV and STIs for pregnant women, children and adolescents.

**Progress:** With support from UNICEF and PAHO/WHO, the **National Operational Plan and the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the Elimination of the Vertical Transmission of HIV** was finalized. The use of rapid tests for detecting HIV and syphilis was expanded to all provincial hospitals, improving the timely identification of HIV positive mothers for their care. The supply of rapid tests and antiretroviral treatments (ARV) at the municipal hospitals and UNAP continues to be a challenge.

The introduction of the WHO/UNAIDS **Strategy 2.0** to ensure universal access to ARV identified necessary changes in the existing treatment protocols in the country, in the national norms for prevention and care of HIV/AIDS, and in the estimates for the cost of care. These changes, for which UNICEF provided technical support, strengthened the position of the MOH and the National Council for HIV/AIDS (CONAVIHSIDA) in their negotiation with the National Council for Social Security for the inclusion of persons living with HIV in...
the National Health Plan, as well as for the allocation of additional public funds to include persons without coverage. The negotiation process is expected to be finalized in 2014, as the funding from the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria comes to an end.

In 2013, the vertical transmission rate for HIV was estimated at 4.5 per cent, a point and a half less than that reported in 2011 (6 per cent), yet still far above the goal of less than 2 per cent by 2015. With UNICEF’s technical and financial assistance, the national NGO, the Network of Persons living with HIV (REDOVIH), continued its search for young children of HIV positive mothers. Twelve counsellors from eight hospitals were trained in diagnosing HIV in children of HIV positive mothers six weeks after birth; 177 children of HIV positive mothers were tested, and eight newborns were diagnosed with HIV. Those newborns will now be able to receive timely treatment.

UNICEF supported the MOH in training paediatricians from eight hospitals in prioritized provinces to improve timely HIV diagnosis in children who demonstrate suspicious symptoms or with recurrent infectious diseases.

### On-track

**IR 1260/A0/04/801/003** By 2016, in 6 prioritized 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).

**Progress:**

UNICEF supported the National Commission for Breastfeeding and the Ministry of Labour in the promotion of breastfeeding rooms in the workplace. Technical assistance was provided for the drafting of the **Evaluation Criteria and Verification Instruments of the Breastfeeding Friendly Rooms in the Workplace**, which will be shared with unions and employer’s associations in 2014, for their implementation in the private sector. Seventy six technicians of the Ministry of Labour were trained to support implementation. (See Gender Equity.)

UNICEF collaborated with the MOH in building the capacity of 177 environmental health coordinators and food quality control supervisors at all 39 Provincial Health Directorates to monitor adherence to the international code of the marketing of breastmilk substitutes.

Ninety of the most excluded communities in the country are benefiting from the community-based health programme of the NGO **Pastoral Materno Infantil**, which aims to improve monitoring of pregnant women and the health of children from birth to five years of age. Through a joint programme of the UN Human Security Trust Fund, UNICEF supported three local NGOs to improve the capacities of families in maternal and child health care, by supporting pregnant women and growth monitoring of young children, the prevention of HIV transmission and adolescent pregnancy, and improving water and sanitation in 37 **bateyes** in San Pedro de Macoris and Barahona. (See Human Rights Based Approach.)

The **Health and Nutrition Guide** was completed for nurses at Social Security childcare centres, which should improve the quality of services and provide guidance for parents on the signs and symptoms of malnutrition and common childhood illnesses.

The training of adolescent peer educators on the prevention of adolescent’s pregnancy and HIV transmission continued in four cities of the border provinces of Elías Piña and San Juan de la Maguana, which report highest rates of adolescent pregnancy. New medical staff was assigned to the Adolescent Health Units of the hospitals in Elías Piña and San Juan de la Maguana for clinical follow-up. In partnership with Plan International, support was provided to the Education and Health Regional Offices and community organizations to train 1,754 adolescents, 47 teachers, 136 parents and 28 health staff. Two adolescent networks mobilized out-of-school adolescents to share information on responsible sexual health. A flipchart was produced on sexuality education for adolescents.

### On-track

**IR 1260/A0/04/801/004** 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.

**Progress:** Along with PAHO/WHO, UNICEF contributed to finalizing the **Biannual Plan for the Elimination of Cholera**, undertook the donor mapping and advocated for funding. UNICEF participated with authorities from Health and Water in the donor meeting organized by PAHO in Washington, DC, for the Elimination of Cholera on the Hispaniola island. The message sent by the Dominican Government requesting support from the international community was well received, but to date, funding has not been made available. As of November 2013, 1,847 cases of cholera were reported, including 41 deaths, which represents 2.2 per cent lethality rate; much greater than reported in 2012, when there were 7,243 cases and 56 deaths (0.77 per cent).

In 2013, UNICEF supported three initiatives from the **Binational Plan**. The Surveillance System for Water Quality (SISVICA) was improved by revising the monitoring codes and the monitoring of more than 1,300 sample points. Seventeen NGOs and 32 Provincial Health Directorates were trained in the application of the MOH Community Social Mobilization Strategy. Emergency protocols were developed for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector, reinforcing communication channels, activation mechanisms and tools for sectoral coordination at national and local levels. UNICEF supported the team of national facilitators in training 195 members of the local Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Group (GASH), composed of members from DPS, INAPA, CORAAS, the Red Cross, World Vision and OXFAM, in all 37 provinces and area directorates of the country.

UNICEF supported the MOH to improve water quality in 29 border area hospitals to reduce maternal mortality and neonatal mortality due to sepsis, through the installation of 30 sinks in delivery rooms and neonatology rooms.
On-track

**PCR 1260/A0/04/802** 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.

**Progress:** National mobilization for education reform continued in 2013. In July, the Dominican Initiative for Quality Education (IDEC), promoted by UNICEF and other partners, presented its first monitoring report on the MOE’s progress in the fulfilment of the 2016 goals. More than half of the goals had a satisfactory implementation level. The most significant delay was in the construction of new classrooms (80 per cent), which will adversely impact the plans to increase access to primary and middle school education for the next academic year. Teachers’ salaries, training, and orientation for new teachers continued to pose serious challenges to improving the quality of education.

In August, the President of the Republic launched the National Pact for Education Reform, which aims to reach agreement among the country’s political, economic and social sectors to improve the quality, access, and efficacy of the national education system. Under the leadership of the Economic and Social Council, the Pact has organized some seven working groups, which have discussed, among other things, the policies prioritized by the IDEC. UNICEF supported the participation of primary and secondary school students in the consultations. This process will be finalized in the first trimester of 2014, and will consolidate the commitments of the education sector.

The President of the Republic declared the protection and care of children from birth to 5 years of age of high national interest, and launched the *National Plan for the Protection and Comprehensive Care of Early Childhood “Quisqueya Empieza Contigo”*. UNICEF, UNESCO and the Organization of Iberoamerican States (OEI) signed a cooperation agreement to support the Government in implementing the Plan.

With technical assistance from UNICEF, Plan International and the OEI, the National Education Council promulgated the *Standard for Harmonious Coexistence in Public and Private Schools*. These norms establish rules for behaviour in school, positive discipline, and mechanisms for mediation and conflict resolution, in an effort to reduce violence and school drop-out rates.

On-track

**IR 1260/A0/04/802/001** 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 prioritized educational regions and their districts to support its implementation in schools.

**Progress:** For the second consecutive year, UNICEF supported the MOE in the formulation of a quality model to improve decentralized management at the regional and district levels and in schools. In 2013, the *Operations Manual for Public Schools* was drafted. It is a practical tool for school directors that standardizes administrative and teaching processes. The *Manual* includes guidelines for quality management, a classification of the schools, personnel structures and functions, procedures and labour standards, job descriptions, mechanisms for the participation of social organizations, and protocols for emergencies. In 2014, Operations Manuals will be designed and implemented for MOE’s decentralized offices at the regional and district levels.

In 2013, MOE obtained accurate information on the number of students in the most excluded areas of the country. To overcome bottlenecks identified in 2012 in the School Information Management System, an *Instruction Manual on Data Gathering* was drafted, and 600 school directors were trained from the prioritized provinces of Independencia, Bahoruco, Elías Piña, Boca Chica and Santo Domingo Norte. The impact of the training was immediate. In the Region of Bahoruco, the enrolment rate appears to have been underreported – once the Directors learned to use the system, the enrolment rate rose from 40 per cent to 90 per cent, without any change in the actual number of students attending the schools. The MOE now has access to factual information from these territories on the number of school children, which will help them with future planning for the need for teachers, distribution of materials and school supplies, school feeding programmes, and more accurate budget allocations.

The INAFOCAM, with UNICEF’s technical assistance, validated the *Teachers’ Continuing Education Framework*, and thereby contributed towards the Dominican Initiative for Quality Education (IDEC) goals.

On-track

**IR 1260/A0/04/802/002** By 2016, in four prioritized 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 capabilities, and the reduction of the risk factors which impede their integration and retention.

**Progress:** UNICEF supported the National Council on Education in the drafting and enactment of the *Standards for Harmonious Coexistence in Public and Private Schools*. The MOE trained 3,240 counsellors and psychologists (46 per cent of the total) in the application of the norms. In 2014, UNICEF will continue to support the expansion of this initiative in schools, in partnerships with Plan International and the OEI.

While Circular 18 of the MOE allows all children to attend school, the lack of a birth certificate continues to impede them from obtaining the completion certificates of their studies. Through UNICEF’s collaboration with the MOE, in 2013 an additional 2,037 children without a birth certificate were identified, and are in the process for late birth registration. UNICEF collaborated with the MOE and the Electoral Board on a programme to support families in documenting their children, and trained 5,000 school directors to help families in completing their registration requests.

The INAFOCAM, the ISFODOSU, and UNICEF signed an agreement to establish a specialised course on teaching strategies for reading, writing and mathematics for teachers in multi-grade classrooms in rural areas, which will improve children’s academic performance and school retention. In 2013, 160 teachers participated in the course. The MOE has integrated the specialised course in the National
Teacher Training Programme, in the rural education policy, and in the operational plan for 2014.

UNICEF facilitated the inter-institutional coordination among the First Lady’s Office, General Directorate of Special Programmes of the Ministry of Presidency (DIGEPEP), and MOE for the early detection, comprehensive care, and social inclusion of children with disabilities. In 2014, it is expected that a network of services and referral agencies will be organized at the national level, functioning with their respective protocols. UNICEF supported the MOE in building capacity in seven Centres for the Attention to the Diversity in the country by training more than 200 technicians.

The educational materials of the Sexual Education Programme (PEAS) were revised to include a focus on rights, gender and life skills. Religious and ideological difficulties significantly delayed the validation of the Programme. During the first trimester of 2014, the operational guides, including those for peer educators and families, should be completed for implementation in the 2014-2015 academic year in all schools.

The UN Trust Fund for Human Security Project, which covers 16 bateyes in the south and eastern parts of the country, reached 850 children and adolescents in situations of extreme vulnerability, illiteracy, or at high risk of dropping-out from schools, to improve their educational opportunities. This initiative is implemented in partnership with the NGO ASCALA and World Vision, and in coordination with the MOE. (See Human Rights Based Approach.)

**On-track**

**IR 1260/A0/04/802/003 By 2016, in six prioritized provinces, early childhood development programmes are established for children 0 to 5 years of age at home, communities, day care centres, and schools.**

**Progress:** UNICEF provided technical assistance to the DIGEPEP in the design of the programme for comprehensive care for early childhood in families and communities. The President’s programme “Quisqueya Empieza Contigo” proposes to develop by 2016 quality services for the comprehensive care of 500,000 children of 0-5 years of age, through childcare centres and community centres. UNICEF supported national experts in the preparation of the guides for family and community care, following the Cuban model Educa a Tu Hijo (Educate Your Child).

During the initial stage of the “Quisqueya Empieza Contigo,” the evaluation of the economic impact on the Policy Guidelines for Early Childhood facilitated in the estimation of the unit costs of equipment and the monthly operations cost for childcare centres, and the determination of the required budget for 2014. During the economic evaluation of the Guidelines, calculating the costs of the health and protection related services proved difficult given the lack of knowledge on the contents of those services.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Administrator of the Social Security Childcare Centers (AEISS) in the revision and updating of the framework for childcare centres for the children of working mothers. The revision was undertaken in line with the MOE’s curricular reform. A focus on competencies was incorporated, and early childhood education was divided into two cycles: children from birth to 3 years and from 3 to 6 years of age. Following the updating of the standards, the AEISS trained 1,000 educators, facilitators and technicians from 43 childcare centres, benefiting 9,000 children.

**On-track**

**IR 1260/A0/04/802/004 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.**

**Progress:** In partnerships with INAFOCAM, ISFODOSU and the Risk Management Programme of the MOE, UNICEF supported the development of a specialised course on Integrated Risk Management, with the participation of 160 teachers and district technicians from vulnerable areas of Santo Domingo, Elías Piña, San Pedro de Macorís, and San Francisco de Macorís. The course includes concepts of risk management, the normative framework in the country, tools for risk reduction, preparation of school plans, and psychosocial support for children. The course institutionalizes the teacher training in risk management and guarantees its sustainability.

The National Plan for Emergencies and Disasters was finalized, which establishes protocols for action for the regional and district directorates and schools. With their own resources, the MOE is building the capacity of technical teams in 18 regions and 104 educational districts, prioritizing the most vulnerable regions in the country. For the preparation of the Plan, the content of the methodology guide for emergency preparedness and response, as well as the workbook for the preparation of school-based risk management drafted by UNICEF in 2012 were taken into account.

To obtain better information on the water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in schools, UNICEF supported the MOE in the preparation of a monitoring form that, once validated in four districts, will form part of the School Information Management System and guide the MOE to improve school-based water and sanitation infrastructure.

**PC 2 - Protection of children and adolescents, and institutional reform**

**On-track**

**PCR 1260/A0/04/803 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.**

**Progress:** UNICEF continued to build the capacity of national and local Protection Systems. The delays experienced in programme implementation...
in 2012 that resulted from the changes in authorities, have been overcome. Alliances have been established with new institutions and organizations. Financial implementation has tripled as compared with 2012. The development of the Local Protection Administrative System continues to be a challenge at the national level. It is hoped that the reorganization of the functions in CONANI will improve its institutional role and presence at the local level.

New capacity building activities were undertaken with the institutions responsible for the protection of the rights of children, specifically, the Attorney General of the Republic, the Judiciary School, the Public Ministry, Electoral Board, MITUR, and ASONAHORES.

UNICEF, together with other agencies of the UN system and human rights and justice organizations, provided technical assistance to the Government and the National Congress in the legal reform process of the Child Protection Code, Family Code, and Penal Code.

Some of the planned activities to improve coordination between institutions on both sides of the border with Haiti for the protection of Children on the Move had to be postponed due to the tension created between the governments of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, resulting from the 168-13 ruling of the Constitutional Tribunal. (See Country Situation.)

On-track

IR 1260/A0/04/803/001 By 2016 the Dominican Republic has an established national policy for the prevention of violence against children in accordance with international human rights treaties and the recommendations of the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children.

Progress:
The Roadmap on Violence against Children was finalized, in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence. The process was led by CONANI, with support from UNICEF and the National Coalition of NGOs for Children's Rights. It will be implemented in 2014.

UNICEF provided technical support in the preparation of the draft of the Family Code. The Drafting Commission accepted the recommendations and postponed its presentation to the National Congress, originally planned for March, to adjust its provisions to international principles and standards. It is expected that the revised draft will be presented in 2014. Throughout 2013, prevention and prosecution of CSE was prioritized through the following activities:

a) MITUR, ASONAHORES, ECPAT and UNICEF organized an International Meeting of Good Practices in the Prevention of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, with the objective of strengthening corporate social responsibility in the tourism industry and promoting the signing of the Code of Conduct. Experiences from Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Thailand were presented, and 120 representatives from the public sector, NGOs, managers and hotel owners, travel agencies and tour operators from the Dominican Republic participated.

b) MITUR and ASONAHORES signed a Cooperation Agreement to jointly prevent CSE in the tourism sector. UNICEF provided technical assistance to both parties to design and implement a public policy for prevention and to ensure the active participation of the hotel industry in its implementation.

c) Technical support was provided to the National Congress to include the offenses that make up CSE in the Penal Code. (The law was approved by the House of Representatives and was pending approval in the Senate at year's end).

d) Five tourism operators and two associations signed the Code of Conduct. The largest tourist operator in the country (TUI) joined the “Huesped de Corazón” programme, UNICEF’s initiative for the prevention of CSE and resource mobilization.

d) UNICEF and POLITUR organized a training course for 328 Tourism Police for prevention and prosecution of CSE, and for the general protection of children. UNICEF is working to have this training integrated into the curriculum of the POLITUR Training School in 2014.

e) In partnership with MAIS, the local representative of ECPAT, 1,084 workers and hotel directors were trained on the Code of Conduct. Sensitization activities were carried out to prevent CSE in vulnerable communities in Puerto Plata, Sosua, Cabarete, Samaná and Boca Chica. In those communities, UNICEF collaborated with local organizations in the sensitization of 1,569 community leaders and 1,058 adolescents (50 per cent female) on child rights, the national protection system, and the complaint mechanisms.

On-track

IR 1260/A0/04/803/002 By 2016 in 6 prioritized territories the Registrar’s Office delivers birth certificates to non-documented children and pregnant adolescents.

Progress:
As a result of a study undertaken by the Electoral Board and UNICEF, bottlenecks to birth registration in the maternity hospitals were identified. The study indicated that only 41 per cent of newborns are registered when they leave the maternity hospitals, in spite of the existence of the Civil Registry Offices in hospitals for almost a decade. This is the result of a lack of information about the service in the hospitals; lack of motivation of the registries staff; almost non-existent communication between the registries staff and those of the maternity wards; limited understanding about the value of being registered a result a weak culture of registration; and lack of documentation of the mothers.

In the light of those results, the President of the Electoral Board and the Minister of Public Health agreed to: launch a communication campaign on radio and TV on the importance of birth registration and the requirements for registering in hospitals; instruct health personnel about their duty to inform mothers to register their newborns; and expand the application of prenatal files for pregnant adolescents to all women without an identity document, before giving birth.
To reduce the number of children without birth certificates in prioritized territories, UNICEF supported the MOE and the Electoral Board in revising the records of student enrolment in 87 schools of Santo Domingo Este. With UNICEF’s technical support, in 2012 the MOE included this data in the student enrolment records, and in 2013, an additional 2,037 children without birth certificates were identified. Support is being provided for their late registration, which will be finalised in 2014. The Electoral Board also organized 12 late registration initiatives and provided birth certificates to 463 out-of-school children in that district.

**IR 1260/A0/04/803/003** By 2016 mechanisms exist for the prevention, control and care of children victims of trafficking and smuggling in border regions and prioritized territories.

**Progress:**
In collaboration with the National School of the Judiciary of the Dominican Republic and the Chilean Universidad Diego Portales, UNICEF organized in Santo Domingo the XVI Course on the Judicial Protection of the Rights of Children, to strengthen specialized training for judges, prosecutors and lawyers in applying international human rights standards in judicial processes involving children. One of the course modules was dedicated to the protection of migrant children, given the increasing importance of this issue in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, in particular with respect to unaccompanied children. Seventy two professionals from 14 countries in the region participated in the course. (See South-South and Triangular Cooperation.)

Sixty-five military personnel from the Specialized Forces for Border Security (CESFRONT) were trained on the Critical Path for the Prevention of Trafficking of Children and the Protection of Victims. The CESFRONT controls the transit of persons on the Haitian border, and their continuous education forms part of a cooperation agreement among the Armed Forces, UNHCR and UNICEF, signed in 2012. A Study on Children on the Move between Haiti and the Dominican Republic was concluded that identified the profiles of children who cross the border and analyse the capacities and deficits of the services and institutions responsible for their care. The binational meeting planned by CONANI, the Haitian Social Welfare Institute (IBESR), CESFRONT, UNHCR, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and UNICEF, to coordinate the procedures for the protection of migrant children was postponed due to the political tension between two countries caused by the Constitutional Tribunal decision in September on the nationality of Dominicans of Haitian descendants. It is expected to be reprogrammed for 2014, once the relationship between the two countries is normalized. (See Country Situation.)

**IR 1260/A0/04/803/004** By 2016 the juvenile justice system implements re-education programmes for adolescents in conflict with the law for the completion of their criminal sentencing.

**Progress:**
The National Congress reformed the Law 136/03 (Code for the Protection of the Children’s Rights), increasing the maximum time in detention for adolescents in conflict with the law from 5 to 8 years. The Senate noted in its report on this legal initiative that the advocacy and technical assistance provided by UNICEF, the Justice Commission on Child and Adolescent, and the National Network of NGOs for Children, was influential in moderating the final reform, initially approved by the House of Representatives with a maximum detention of 15 years.

Technical assistance was provided to the Justice Commission for Children and Adolescents to develop a methodology for monitoring and supervising the living conditions, services, and programmes of the country’s detention centres. At the conclusion of each detention centre visit, the Commission should produce a report of findings and recommendations in line with the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty, which will be presented to the Attorney General of the Republic, to improve the social reintegration programmes for adolescents in conflict with the law.

**IR 1260/A0/04/803/005** By 2016, policies to care for abandoned children meet international standards on the rights of children.

**Progress:**
Implementation of this IR has been delayed due to the restructuring taking place in the CONANI, which has suspended the accreditation process for programmes offered by NGOs, as well as the expansion of the local protection systems. The restructuring process of the CONANI should be concluded in the first trimester of 2014, and it is expected that the planned activities for this IR will commence at that time.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the CONANI in the design of the Programme for Foster Families for children in the process of adoption. The Programme aims to avoid institutionalization of the children, and to promote their care within a family environment. It is expected that in 2014, implementation will commence with the accreditation of the first 15 foster families.

After the Mid-Term Review in 2014, in order to improve efficacy and efficiency of the Programme, all activities of this IR will be incorporated into IR1 as part of the office’s technical assistance to the CONANI for the improvement of the Administrative System for the protection of the rights of the child.

**PC 3 - Knowledge generation and policy support for social inclusion and equity**

**Constrained**
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.

**Progress:**

Under the leadership of the MEPyD, CONANI and UNICEF, the Situation Analysis on Children and Adolescents in the Dominican Republic (SITAN) 2012 was finalized. Representatives from Government and Congress, the Judicial Power, the FEDOMU, and the Coalition of NGOs for Children’s Rights also participated in its drafting. The document highlights the situation of children in the country based on a causal analysis of the information available between 2002 and 2012, identifying the most disadvantaged and excluded groups. The document was officially launched in August in a public ceremony at the National Palace in the presence of Government authorities, UN agencies, the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations, academics, and other key actors. Twelve years after the release of the previous report, the SITAN 2012 report has become a reference document for all national organizations that work in favour of children in the country. New data from sectoral registries on children has been incorporated, as well as other information extracted from the 2010 census and the 2012 National Survey on Immigrants. The publication of the SITAN report also strengthened the oversight functions of the Observatory on the Rights of Children and Adolescents (ODNA).

UNICEF provided assistance to the ONE and the MEPyD in the adaptation of its digital portals for the dissemination of three tools for public access to information on social and economic development: Your Municipality in Numbers; the National System on Development Indicators; and the Dominican System on Social Indicators. Various government partners continued to develop their databases on the Development Information (DevInfo) platform, among them the Ministry of Labour, the National Council on Population and Family, and the ODNA. UNICEF and PAHO/WHO also provided technical advice to the ONE in the design of the tools for the National Household Survey (ENOGAR) 2013 on disabilities.

The FEDOMU continued to advocate for local governments to take on the Child and Youth Municipalities (AIJ) initiatives, with a special emphasis on the southern region of the country.

Progress was made in line with IR1, and delays were observed with IR2 and IR3. During the revision of the Biannual Workplan 2012-2013, agreement was reached with government partners to reorganize the activities of the IR2 and 3 to better respond to the priorities of the new government. Activities related to Child Friendly Cities were suspended, as was the evaluation on the Conditional Cash Transfers Programme. The child-youth participation activities will be integrated into the other Programme components as a cross-cutting issue. As a result of this change, this component to focus on the provision of technical assistance for knowledge generation to contribute to evidence-based decision-making of health, education and child protection programmes. (See IR2 and IR3 of this section.)

**On-track**

**IR 1260/A0/04/804/001** By 2016 the Ministries of Planning and of social sectors, as well as local governments and civil society organizations, manage and utilize quality information, with a gender and equity focus, for public policy decision making and the allocation of resources.

**Progress:** This component served to generate and manage knowledge for evidence-based decision making in health, education and child protection programmes.

UNICEF supported the MOH, applying the MoRES methodology in the bottleneck analysis in maternal and child health services in five hospitals in prioritized territories. A report was produced on the findings of two hospitals, identifying and grouping the problems in categories on two levels: hospital services and management outside of the hospitals. The analysis demonstrated the need to improve the capacity of staff, quality of services, and coordination among the regional and provincial levels of the MOH in order to solve the problems causing maternal and neonatal mortality. Action plans were prepared to address the bottlenecks in both hospitals, for implementation in 2014. The report and action plans in the remaining three hospitals will be developed in 2014. (See PCR Health.)

The first phase was finalized for the creation of the Information System for the Comprehensive Care of Adolescents in Conflict with the Law, with the design and piloting of an application to gather personal, social and judicial data of each adolescent deprived of liberty. (See IR4 Protection.)

The Costing of an Early Childhood Policy, initiated in 2012, was concluded and provided an estimate of the budget required to implement policies for the children under the age of 5. The document served as a reference point to estimate the unit costs of the equipment and monthly operations of the childcare centres, and to determine the necessary budget for 2013 and 2014. (See IR3 Education.)

UNICEF and the MEPyD worked on an analysis on social investment in children. It is expected that the results will serve as an input to advocate for an increase in social investment in children during the Government’s budget discussions for 2015.

UNICEF supported ONE in the production of Provincial Profiles of the southwest of the country, which will be published in the first trimester of 2014. Those profiles use statistical information to provide a picture of the social, demographic, economic, and institutional situations of children in the provinces that can help local authorities make evidence-based decisions in the future.

**Constrained**

**IR 1260/A0/04/804/002** By 2016 coordination between national and local authorities in the prioritized territories has facilitated the inclusion of excluded groups of children in health, education and child protection services, with a gender focus.

**Progress:** UNICEF provided technical assistance for the preparation of the coordination protocol between the central and local governments with respect to planning and public investment, in accordance with the Law 498-06, which establishes the Provincial and
Municipal Development Councils (Consejos Provinciales y Municipales de Desarrollo).

As a result of UNICEF’s advocacy, the municipal government of Juan de Herrera, El Llano and Bánica, in the provinces of Elías Piña and San Juan de la Maguana, committed to offering pre-primary education, and assumed the costs for the required infrastructure and personnel.

The beneficiaries of the Programme Progressing with Solidarity (Progresando con Solidaridad), who live with HIV, will be able to access services from the Basic Health Plan through the National Health Insurance programme. The decision took into consideration the Evaluation of the Permanent Health Commission on the feasibility of integrating ARV treatment into Social Security, which was supported by UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, and UNAIDS in 2012. Provision of ARV treatment with Basic Health Plan was still pending at the year end.

During the revision of the Biannual Workplan 2012-2013, it was agreed with the cooperation partners to adjust this IR as of 2014, and eliminate activities related to the certification of Child Friendly Cities (product 2.1) and the evaluation of the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (product 2.2). The decision was made because it was considered more efficient to reach the objectives by providing support to the central Government’s effort to promote result-based management at the level of local governments.

Constrained

**IR 1260/A0/04/804/003** By 2016 in the prioritized territories adolescents rely on mechanisms for demanding their rights and for participating in relevant decision making processes.

**Progress:** In the process of transferring leadership for the AJI initiative to FEDOMU, UNICEF offered technical assistance to ensure sustainability. For the first time, the financing of the activities of the AJI was partially assumed by the local governments, while FEDOMU continued to fully fund three AJIs. In 2013, a new AJI was established in the Municipality of Peralta (Azua). Thanks to a technical proposal supported by UNICEF, FEDOMU received funding from the Canadian Cooperation for the creation of the Local Protection Boards and for supporting AJIs.

Through participation in the participatory budget initiatives in various municipalities, the AJIs have implemented local development projects. Most noteworthy are: the installation of alternative electric energy sources in the public schools to provide lighting (Municipality of Discubierta); the implementation of local plans for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy in Azua and Bani; and the design of a monitoring tool for timely birth registration in hospitals in the southern region, which will be launched in the first trimester of 2014. The AJIs from the southern region, AJI Networks, and the Youth Protagonist Movement, promoted by World Vision, participated in the sessions of the National Pact for Education, where they submitted proposals for improving the quality of education. See Education section.

UNICEF worked on a draft Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Sports and the National Institute for Physical Education (INEFI) to promote the right of children and adolescents in sports, through various activities that include prevention of violence and discrimination, and the creation of child-friendly mechanisms to denounce violence and abuse.

As of 2014, adolescent participation activities (product 3.1) will be integrated in the health, education and child protection programmes. It happened de facto throughout 2013, increasing the efficacy of the programmes.

**PC 4 - Cross-Sectoral**

**On-track**

**PCR 1260/A0/04/805** By 2016, UNICEF will have managed in an efficient and transparent manner its human and financial resources in support of its programme implementation, as well as of planning, monitoring and evaluation activities.

**Progress:**

Progress was made in line with planning.

**On-track**

**IR 1260/A0/04/805/001** Human resources and resources required for programme implementation are effectively and efficiently managed.

**Progress:**

In the first quarter of 2013, 83 per cent of the 2012 end of year Performance Assessment System were signed, 88 per cent of the signatures were attained for the definition of objectives for 2013 for national staff, and 100 per cent were signed for international staff.

The Office presented two different structures—one linked to the hub model and one to the non-hub model—to the Programme and Budget Review (PBR), held in March. The PBR accepted the proposed modifications and recommended that the Dominican Republic incorporate into the Panama hub model in January 2016. The staff participated in developing the two proposals and the Office communicated in a transparent and timely manner with all staff with regard to the posts being abolished at the end of 2013, and provided support to those affected by this change.
The workplace climate continued to improve in 2013 as a result of the actions taken based on the findings and recommendations of the 2011 workplace climate survey. As a result, one of the important areas of work for the Office was the preparation of the emergency response plan.

The workplace climate continued to improve in 2013 as a result of the actions taken based on the findings and recommendations of the 2011 workplace climate survey.

In 2013, the office overcame the delay experienced in financial implementation during 2012. Partnerships were strengthened, and the number and types of partnerships increased.

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The Risk Control Self-Assessment undertaken in 2012 identified the areas of epidemics and natural disasters as high risk, and they remain so. As a result, one of the important areas of work for the Office was the preparation of the emergency response plan.

The implementation of the Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer (HACT) continued with positive results. Two micro-assessments were undertaken in 2013, and spot-checks were carried out. Recommendations were shared with counterparts. Due to errors in the system,
some DCTs were reported as outstanding for more than 9 months. Those errors were corrected in coordination with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (TACRO) and New York HQ. Authorization was granted to open a new bank account with Citibank and to close the existing account with Banco Leon. The process was still pending the signature of a global agreement between UNICEF and Citibank at the year end. Measures were taken successfully to reduce the number of transactions under $500 and to shift from making payments with cheques to bank transfers. Cash flows, replenishments, bank reconciliations, and all Office payments were made on time.

**On-track**

**IR 1260/A0/04/800/003 Effective and efficient management of Human Capacity**

**Progress:**
The office’s human resource structure in 2013 corresponded to the Country Programme for 2012-2013. The 2014-2017 proposal for the PBR was prepared in a participatory manner within the framework of a reduction in the institutional budget. The regional PBR decided that the Office would join the regional hub in 2016. Among other changes, the abolishment of seven posts was approved (four at the end of 2013 and three in 2015) as was the creation of six posts (four at the beginning of 2014 and two in 2016).

In 2013, six recruitment processes for Fixed-term posts were started, five were conducted, and one is pending TACRO approval. The training plan was prepared on time, and the majority of the planned activities were completed. Travel was processed in a timely manner, following new procedures. All travel and leave requests were processed through VISION. Blanket TAs were employed for frequent travellers to the field to reduce transactions.
Effective Governance Structure

The Office has a governance structure to supervise the achievement of planned results and the priorities of the work plans, and to ensure the proper application of norms, policies and procedures.

The AMP was drafted in a participatory manner and approved by the CMT in March 2013, defining the programmatic and management priorities for the year. The composition and responsibilities of the management and coordination committees were updated. The focal points list for the MTSP, cross-cutting themes, emergencies, and interagency groups were updated. Given the decrease in the number of staff members, the CMT was reduced to four members, including a representative of the Staff Association, to guarantee a more efficient decision making process with respect to management issues. The AMP was presented to all staff and was also made accessible in the shared local area network. CMT minutes were shared with the staff.

During 2013, special attention was given to drafting the Integrated Budget proposal 2014-2017, presented to the Regional PBR in March. In line with the instructions provided by TACRO, two scenarios were presented, along with their respective budgets and human resource structure. One scenario supported the integration of the Office with the processing centre hub, and the other was based on the actual needs of the Country Programme. In both scenarios, the starting point was a US$100,000 institutional budget cut per year, in addition to the extra amount required to support the functioning of the regional processing centre hub.

Other important issues addressed by the CMT and other governance bodies included follow up to the CPAP 2012-2016 and the biannual workplans indicators, and identifying obstacles and proposing solutions to improve financial implementation. Measures were taken to improve UNICEF’s efficiency and efficacy, including a reduction in the number of low cost transactions in VISION and the phasing out of the use of cheques for bank transfers. The Office diligently worked to reduce the amount of outstanding DCT liquidations over six months and avoid DCTs reaching nine months.

The Office participated in all of the UNCT, SMT and OMT meetings, along with the different groups and task forces to increase the efficiency of the acquisition of interagency services and the presence of the UN in the country.

In September, at the request of the Regional Office, an international consultant visited the Office. The consultancy aimed to review the budget and expenditures of 2011 and 2012 in order to analyse the difficulties faced by country offices with small programmes in maintaining an adequate administrative structure that allows the sustainability of the programmes. The Representative, the CMT and the Staff Association had a frank dialogue with the consultant, offered inputs and collaborated in the revision of the final report.

Strategic Risk Management

The Office identified only one area of high risk (Natural Disasters and Emergencies) from a total of 21 in the Risk Control Self-Assessment (RCSA) evaluation.

The Table of Authorities in VISION was completed, guaranteeing the segregation of roles and avoiding conflicts of interest. The Business Continuity Plan is up to date and the call tree was tried in both normal situations and during hurricane threats. The Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) plan is up to date for each of its thematic areas.

The office was Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) compliant. The inter-agency security plan is up-to-date, and is activated when necessary. UNICEF provided financial support for the purchase of repeater stations acquired by UN agencies to ensure coverage of VHF radio in the majority of the country. UNICEF also participated in Interagency Security workshops and the Business Continuity Plan.

In 2013, the structural reinforcement of the UN House for earthquakes was concluded. The construction,
which began in 2012, was supported financially by the different agencies. UNICEF provided US$61,360 with Capital Assets Funds.

### Evaluation

Activities planned in the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) were monitored throughout 2013. Of the 25 planned activities, 16 were finalized, and 7 are underway. Two were not initiated: the updating of the information system (CONANIINFO) was postponed until 2014, once CONANI finalizes its on-going internal restructuring process; and the MOH opted not to carry out the National Sentinel Surveillance Survey for HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Pregnant Women, deciding instead to obtain the information through its routine surveillance of cases. That decision will allow the MOH to obtain a more realistic picture of HIV testing coverage and to provide necessary follow-up among pregnant women. The MOH has the capacity to manage routine surveillance of cases and does not require UNICEF’s support. The publication of the study characterizing services for the care of children living with HIV undertaken in 2012 was suspended until it meets the guidelines and standards of quality for UNICEF publications.

UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, and the MOH began preparing an evaluation of the community intervention model and care of the UNAP to understand their contribution of the reduction of inequities associated with child survival. Agreement was reached to evaluate the primary care level processes with regard to prevention, promotion, primary care and follow-up. At the year end, terms of reference were being finalized to open the bidding for an international consultancy.

### Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

ICT supported the achievement of the Country Programme 2012-2016, facilitating staff access to UNICEF’s systems and technology, and providing technical assistance to the needs of various counterparts for the implementation of UNICEF-supported programmes.

The Office has a variety of redundant measures for emergency telecommunications, including 6 Iridium, 2 BGAN and enough cellular phones for all staff. All vehicles have VHF radios and fixed antennas that support Iridium. Each of the security focal points and critical staff has a portable VHF radio.

All of the ICT equipment is currently in its useful lifecycle. The Office made the change to a new backup system called VEEAM, and a DHCO server was installed. Three new laptops and a Digital Sender for the processing of Operations documents were purchased. The new central telephone system, acquired in 2012, is functioning efficiently and its programming has been completed. The energy backup system for the servers was optimized with the acquisition of 16 new batteries.

The Office participated in ICT interagency meetings, providing support in the selection of the equipment for the UN House security system and in the purchase of the new central telephone system for the other agencies. The Office also provided support for the UNESCO office, which is located within UNICEF’s office area.

Access was guaranteed for all of the thematic WebEx sessions, as with other processes for voice, data or image exchange with other UNICEF offices. Support was provided for UNICEF workshops and those of counterparts.

### Fund-raising and Donor Relations

The Country Office mobilized 100 per cent of the Other Resources planned in the Country Programme Development (CPD) for 2013. Thematic funds were received for Education and HIV, and Set-aside Funds for South-South Cooperation.

The Office continued to promote the corporate social responsibility and fundraising programme *Huésped del Corazón*, and an agreement was signed with Hotelbeds Dominican and Blue Travel Partner Services, tour
operators and members of TUI Travel. In November, Melia Hotel International renewed its agreement with the UNICEF Spanish National Committee pledging their support for the next three years in favour of children in the Dominican Republic. In December, the Hotel Melia Paradisus Palma Real of Punta Cana organized a concert to benefit UNICEF Dominican Republic with the Spanish Singer, David Bisbal, and “Friend of UNICEF.”

Two donor visits were organized with the Spanish National Committee, the first with the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and employees of Orange Spain in support of the Quality Education Programme, and the second with the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility from the Meliá Hotel International in support of the programme for the prevention of CSE in the tourism sector. Some national partners also participated in the second visit, including Resorts and Hotel Palladium Bávaro, Blue Travel Partner Services and Hotelbeds Dominicana, and Bahía Principe Hotels Resorts.

In collaboration with the LACRO, Costa Rica and Panama Country Offices, an assessment and analysis of the potential of the Dominican market for a fundraising strategy was undertaken. In 2014, recommendations will be analysed with a consulting firm, and fundraising strategies in similar countries will be explored.

The Office prepared proposals in response to information received from two national committees on the possibility of mobilizing resources for the prevention of cholera and the Child Friendly Hospital Initiative. All four donor reports scheduled for 2013 were prepared and submitted in a timely manner.

### Management of Financial and Other Assets

The Office recuperated the delays in financial implementation experienced in the first year of the Country Programme 2012-2016. In 2013, a 101 per cent implementation rate was achieved against the planned budget for the Biannual Workplans 2012-2013. The percentage of implementation of Regular Resources (RR) was 92.5 per cent of the annual ceiling. Expiring grants were fully utilized before their expiry dates.

The CMT monitored contributions and local donations from the private sector. Local donations from the tourist sector to support the Child Protection programme increased, and reached a total of $176,318 through the fund raising programme *Huésped de Corazón*. The CMT also monitored implementation of financial controls, the Table of Authorities, and the Direct Cash Transfer (DCT) liquidation process.

Some technical difficulties with VISION made it appear at mid-year that the office had outstanding DCTs that had in fact been liquidated. Those problems were resolved, and as of December the amount of outstanding DCTs between six and nine months was 4 per cent.

Of the *non-post* Institutional Budget, 100 per cent was implemented. Under the *post* category, the differences between actual steps of the new staff members and the standard used in the budget exercise for the 2012-2013 biennium resulted in savings. The balance was transferred to the LACRO Regional Contingency Fund.

The number of low cost transactions in VISION was reduced, and the use of cheques was replaced with bank transfers. Blanket travel authorizations were issued for recurrent travellers and ACH bank transfers were used for all vendors and partners with accounts in the different banks in the country. Payment by cheque, which previously represented approximately 65 per cent of payments, was reduced to 9 per cent by year’s end. Bank reconciliations were undertaken in time, following established processes.

In 2013, after a lengthy selection process and in collaboration with NYHQ-DFAM, agreement was reached to close the Office account with Banco León and open a new one with Citibank. At year end, the Office continues to work with Banco Leon while awaiting the signing of a global agreement between UNICEF and Citibank.

In VISION, 100 per cent of payments are processed through Operations. This saved time and made the work more efficient, with minimum reversals. Mechanisms to ensure the best prices for services and goods were applied.
Progress continued in the implementation of Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer (HACT). Two micro evaluations were conducted in 2013, for MOE and Pastoral Materno Infantil. Spot-checks and programme monitoring visits were undertaken. The Programme area implemented an internal evaluation system for counterparts, and 100 per cent of the counterparts will have their assessment available in VISION before any disbursement is made.

**Supply Management**

Procurement of goods and services with Programme funds represented 9.85 per cent of fund implementation in 2013. Of the total of $332,500 used for this purpose, 29 per cent was funded with Regular Resources, 53 per cent with Other Resources, and 14 per cent with emergency funds. Three laptops, a digital sender and other low cost equipment were procured and will be received in 2014, representing 4 per cent of the Institutional Budget.

For almost all supplies, local suppliers exist and offer open credit, allowing goods to be purchased quickly. Deliveries are made directly to counterparts in designated locations under the direct supervision of UNICEF’s respective programme area. The monitoring of programme supplies is undertaken during field visits by programme staff.

Of the total of goods and services procured, consultancies represented 30 per cent and institutional contracts 28 per cent.

The United Nations System does not have a document from the General Administration of Taxes indicating that the UN is exempt from taxes. The only document UNICEF has is the Basic Cooperation Agreement signed in 2004. Some providers have started to demand the exoneration prior to the delivery of the supplies. Since the exoneration process is often delayed, so too is the delivery, adversely impacting implementation of the projects. This issue is being addressed with the Government.

Supply Management in the Office is handled by a Programme Assistant. Supervision of procurements is the responsibility of the Operations Officer. All SAP/VISION requirements were properly implemented for the procurement of both goods and services in 2013.

**Human Resources**

The Office’s human resource structure in 2013 corresponded to the needs of the Country Programme for the 2012-2013 biennium. Starting 2014, the Office structure will be changed, as presented by the Office and approved by PBR, in the framework of a reduction of the Institutional Budget of more than US$100,000 annually.

Two proposals were presented to the PBR, as requested by LACRO: one with a scenario in which the Operations were integrated in the processing centre hub; another based on the needs of the Country Programme. The Office and Staff Association participated in the development of the proposals for the PBR and the analysis of the PBR decision.

The regional PBR decided that the Office would join the Regional hub in 2016. The abolishment of seven posts was approved (four at the end of 2013 and three in 2015), as was the creation of six posts (four at the start of 2014 and two in 2016). The change in the funding source of the C4D Officer post from the Institutional Budget to Other Resources was authorized, and changes were also made in the line of supervision for some posts. The Early Childhood Development Officer’s title was changed to Health Officer.

Between October and December, the recruitment process for six fixed-term posts was completed, five of which were the result of PBR decisions (Health Officer, Protection Officer, Programme Assistant, Senior Executive Assistant and a Driver), and the other was vacant (Programme Assistant). During 2013, the office covered staff needs with five Temporary Appointments.

Of the Performance Appraisal System (PAS) 2012, 78 per cent were signed before the end of February 2013.
The completion of PAS 2013 objectives was at 76 per cent at the end of February. (One hundred per cent was not reached for either due to terminations and maternity leave of staff.)

Most of the activities in the training plan were completed, in spite of the lack of funds from the Global Learning Fund. The Office actively participated in UN Cares, and HIV/AIDS standards in the workplace were implemented.

Monthly staff meetings were held to share information on issues and decisions relevant to UNICEF at the global and national level, and to listen to the opinions and share concerns of the entire team. The Representative met with all GS staff on a monthly basis. The Office assigned $3,000 of the Institutional Budget to the Staff Association in order to carry out the activities in its workplan. The Staff Association organized a family day and a lunch for all staff.

The office continues to act as Administrative Place of Assignment for Haiti.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

UNICEF Dominican Republic shares a common space with five other UN agencies, contributing to significant savings in operational costs. In 2013, the existing agreement with the Travel and Events Agency was renewed and incorporated new suppliers, and an agreement for Internet services was signed that will benefit UNICEF in 2014. Efforts were made internally and with interagency groups to reduce other costs, while ensuring quality services.

Under an agreement with UNESCO, UNICEF provided a small office space for which UNESCO paid a portion of the maintenance costs to UNDP, which were then discounted from the amount owed by UNICEF. In December, two similar draft agreements were signed with ILO and WFP.

In 2013, a 54 per cent savings was made in the Support Budget for planned trips. Many of the training activities, meetings and workshops were undertaken through webinars, which significantly contributed to the reduction in travel costs.

### Changes in AMP & CPMP

There were no changes made to the AMP or CPMP in 2013.

### Summary Notes and Acronyms

**Acronyms**

AEISS - Administrator of Childcare Facilities of Safe Health (*Administradora de Estancias Infantiles Salud Segura*)
AJI - Child and Youth Municipalities (*Ayuntamientos Juveniles e Infantiles*)
ARV - Antiretroviral treatments
ASONAHORES - National Association of Hotels and Restaurants (*Asociación Nacional de Hoteles y Restaurantes*)
CEJNNA - Comisión para la Ejecución de la Justicia de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes
CESFRONT - Specialized Forces for Border Security (*Cuerpo Especializado en Seguridad Fronteriza Terrestre*)
CONANI - National Council for Children and Adolescents (*Consejo Nacional para la Niñez y Adolescencia*)
CSE - Commercial Sexual Exploitation
DevInfo - Development Information
DIGEPEP - General Directorate of Special Programmes
ENHOGAR - National Household Survey (*Encuesta Nacional de Hogares*)
FEDOMU - Dominican Municipal Federation (*Federación Dominicana de Municipios*)
GASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Group (*Grupo de Agua, Saneamiento e Higiene*)
GDP - Gross Domestic Product
IACHR - Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
IDEC - Dominican Initiative for Quality Education (*Iniciativa Dominicana por una Educación de Calidad*)
INAFOCAM - National Institute of Education and Training of Teachers (*Instituto Nacional de Formación y Capacitación del Magisterio*)
INTEC - Institute of Technology Santo Domingo
ISFODOSU - Higher Institute for Teacher Training Salomé Ureña (*Instituto Superior de Formación Docente Salomé Ureña*)
MEPyD - Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development
MITUR - Ministry of Tourism
MOE - Ministry of Education
MOH - Ministry of Public Health
ODNA - Observatory on the Rights of Children and Adolescents
ONE - National Statistics Office (*Oficina Nacional de Estadística*)
PEAS - Sexual Education Program (*Programa de Educación Afectivo-Sexual*)
POLITUR - National Tourism Police (*Policía Turística*)
REDOVIH - Network of Persons living with HIV/AIDS (*Red de Personas Viviendo con VIH/SIDA*)
SITAN - Situation Analysis on Children and Adolescents in the Dominican Republic 2012
UNAP - Primary Healthcare Units (*Unidades de Atención Primaria*)

**Note:**
*Bateyes*: Rural communities that were formed in the sugar industry at the outset of the 19th century, occupying central areas in the middle of the lands surrounding the sugar mills. The ‘bateyes’ continue to have a significant Haitian population and represent one of the poorest and most isolated communities in the country.
# Other Publications

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<td>2</td>
<td>Protection of boys, girls and adolescents against sexual exploitation in the travel and tourism sector (Protección de niños, niñas y adolescentes contra la explotación sexual en el sector turismo y viajes). (12 pages pamphlet)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>In the Dominican Republic we protect boys, girls and adolescents against sexual exploitation by tourists and travellers (En República Dominicana protegemos a los niños, niñas y adolescentes contra la explotación sexual por viajeros y turistas). (Brochure)</td>
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<td>Guide of Child and Youth Municipalities 2nd Edition (Guía de Ayuntamientos Juveniles e Infantiles 2da edición)</td>
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<td>Norms for the Prevention and Control of Infections in Health Establishments (Normas para la Prevención y Control de Infecciones en los Establecimientos de Salud)</td>
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<td>Technical Regulation for the Comprehensive Care of Children under 5 years of age (Reglamento Técnico para la Atención Integral de Niños y Niñas Menores de 5 años)</td>
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<td>National Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality 2012-2016 (Plan Estratégico Nacional para la Reducción de la Mortalidad Materna e Infantil 2012-2016)</td>
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