1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year saw the increased availability of strategic information on child rights and the use of that information in policy making. The national Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE) provided new and comprehensive evidence, which informed the revision of Egypt’s National Youth Policy. The Child Poverty and Disparities study was released and its findings used in the Country Situation Analysis and the Third Decade Programme for Egyptian Children. A comprehensive national study on human trafficking was completed. These studies were also instrumental in shaping the new UNDAF, which takes as its central theme, “MDGs with equity”.

The Cairo Agenda for Action for enhanced aid effectiveness continued to gather pace. The first two of four deliverables: the Situation analysis and the identification of development priorities by the Government were completed. The third - the establishment of a mutual accountability mechanism began, with the selection of the UNICEF-supported Peri-natal care programme as one of the pilots in the health sector, and pre-university reforms, where UNICEF is a key partner, as the other pilot.

The peri-natal care programme of excellence (PCPE), piloted in four selected districts of three Upper Egypt governorates, has recorded remarkable reductions in the NMR, IMR, and U5MR in the intervention areas. Trend analysis of NMR over the period 2006-2009 shows reduction by 30% and 53% in Akhmim and Tema Districts of Sohag governorate respectively; a 10% reduction in Nag Hammadi district of Qena; and, 58% reduction in Quoseya district of Assiut.

A planned mapping of family and child welfare system was delayed due to the difficulty in bringing together the various partners and is now scheduled for 2011.

The UNICEF, WFP and ILO partnership in a US Department of Labor-funded joint programme “Combating Worst Forms of Child Labour through Education” was evaluated. It showed significant impact in preventing and withdrawing children from exploitative child labor. The same partnership has been successful in gaining funding for the second 3-year phase.

2. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

The country’s latest MDG report[1] indicates progress on each of the MDGs, although attaining MDG 1, eradicating hunger, and MDG 3, gender equality and the empowerment of women remains particularly challenging. Egypt had already achieved the target of reducing the population living in extreme poverty (US$1 per day) from 8.2% in 1990 to 3.4% (2008/2009) according to the MDG Report. Based on the national poverty line criteria (around US$1.10), the decline in poverty from 24.2% in 1990/1992 to 21.6% in 2008/2009, equates to less than 3 percentage points in nearly 20 years. If the threshold of US$2 per day is used, poverty climbs to slightly over 44%.

Disparities in poverty incidence are significant. The biggest disparity is between urban governorates and rural Upper Egypt, with rates of 6.88% and 43.67% respectively.[2]
The 2008 Egypt DHS survey found that 29% of Egypt’s children under age five are stunted, 7 percent are wasted, and 6 percent are underweight. \cite{3} The level of wasting more than doubled since 2005 while the level of stunting rose by nearly 25 per cent. \cite{4} Young children in Lower Egypt were twice as likely and children in Upper Egypt were around 25 percent more likely to be stunted as children in the Urban Governorates. Children in the richest three quintiles have approximately 25 percent lower odds of being stunted than children in the poorest quintile. A short birth interval (less than 24 months) was associated with a 45 percent increase in the odds a child is stunted compared to first-born children. \cite{5}

Egypt has already met the goal of reducing the U5MR by two-thirds, according to EDHS 2008, and is on track to achieving the target of IMR. Although neo-natal mortality has been falling nationally, it has increased from 17 per 1000 live births in 2005, to 21 per 1000 live births in 2008\cite{6} in the urban governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Ismailia and Port Said. Mortality rates (IMR and U5MR) among children in the poorest quintile are more than double the figure for children in the richest quintile.

Egypt has succeeded in achieving a significant reduction in the maternal mortality ratio and has already achieved this MDG. MoH estimates for MMR in 1992 were about 174 per 100,000 live births.

### 3. CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

#### 3.1 CP Analysis

**3.1.1 CP Overview:**

The country programme was focused on three main priorities during 2010. These were to continue to implement the findings of the MTR, undertake the preparation of the new CPD and UNDAF, and implement the revised programme structure as one of the pilot countries.

The Egypt Country Office (ECO) continued to move the programme in more upstream, policy and systems-oriented direction in line with the conclusions of the MTR held in 2009. Comprehensive systems-strengthening work was carried out in education, child protection and health. It included detailed costing analysis of the peri-natal care programme of excellence, which was a first for UNICEF in Egypt. Evidence-based policy development was also stepped up, with key pieces of research finalized (child poverty and disparities study) or commissioned (situation analysis of children and women).

UNICEF Egypt was fully engaged in the preparation of the UNDAF and helped orient its vision to focus more on equity, removing disparities and achieving the unfinished MDG agenda. The preparation of the new CPD dominated the second half of the year.

In 2010 Egypt was a pilot country for application of the Revised Programme Structure within UNICEF’s new One Enterprise Resource Planning system. ECO restructured its CPAP and CPD results framework to reflect the 2-tier results of the new system and
developed two-year work plans, which will run until the end of the current programme cycle. The experience has been very useful in helping the team to identify and develop multi-sectoral approaches to achieve key "sectoral" results.

3.1.2 Programme Strategy
3.1.2.1 Capacity Development:
Support to Government partners to develop their M&E functions was expanded to NCCM and MoFP (in addition to MoSS) and 151 officials were trained on RBM, strategic planning and monitoring. RBM was piloted in three MoSS Directorates, with children at the centre of planning and reporting. Standards for reporting established in MoSS will soon be applied in all 29 Governorates. UNICEF is supporting the establishment of the M&E, and Policy and Planning Units at the NCCM.

The School Improvement Program undertook an effective capacity building intervention to help teachers and administrators develop the commitment and expertise they need to successfully design and implement school based reform programs. The intervention focused on training and mentoring MoE staff, who could act as "Change Facilitators" in their communities and capitalize on their enthusiasm and positive attitude to turn others around. The combination of competence and confidence was taken into account as a critical component at all levels. It flowed from UNICEF to the Change Facilitators and from them to the School Reform Task Forces. Such a cadre of mentors that is regularly accessible is an indispensable resource for addressing daily challenges on the path to comprehensive reform. The structure developed by the program to monitor and support school reform was adopted by MoE and is currently self-sustained.

The institutionalized course on Public Policy and Child Rights within the Civil Society and Human Rights Diploma had more than 30 graduates with a 4/5 level of satisfaction on the course and its delivery. Notably, 75% of students performed the same or better than in the entire Diploma, which is an indication of the quality of teaching. The full one-year Diploma on Public Policy and Child Rights will start in February 2011. Applications to date are encouraging and have led both Cairo and Assiut University to set up a selection committee. The Diploma on Research and Evaluation was approved by the universities of Assiut and Helwan, with an average of 35 applicants from NGOs, researchers and Government. Draft diploma curricula were developed are undergoing peer review.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy:
An unprecedented and widely disseminated report on Child Poverty and Disparities, and the subsequent child poverty trend analysis have evolved into a permanent research and advocacy project in partnership with the Egypt National Child Rights Observatory. They have contributed to an increasing recognition that poverty is a multidimensional issue. The studies have been cited in the Cairo Agenda for Action’s Situation Analysis, the UNDAF, the Egypt Human Development Report, the UNICEF supported Situation Analysis and other publications by UN agencies, e.g. WFP. The multidimensional perception of poverty along with the information generated will also serve as an important evidence base for the 3rd Decade for the Development of the Egyptian Child as well as the National Plan of Action for Children in Egypt, currently under preparation. ECO’s work and advocacy around multidimensional poverty led to a partnership with the Information and Decision Support Centre to include an e-workspace on child poverty in the portal of the Network on Think Tanks in Developing Countries. Moreover, the national survey on income and expenditure adapted its questionnaire to allow for poverty analysis at the unit of the child and in a multidimensional fashion.
3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships:
Partnerships remain central to UNICEF’s work in Egypt, and during 2010, the office has strengthened its partnerships, particularly with universities, private sector and UN agencies. ECO has deepened its partnerships in the university sector as joint work becomes more established. University diplomas in Public Policy and Child Rights, Research and Evaluation and Communication for development are in various stages of development with Cairo, Helwan, Assuit, Alexandria and Al Ahram Canadian University, while the American University of Cairo is a partner in the piloting of conditional cash transfers. The Diploma on Public Policy and Child Rights has developed into a broad partnership, consisting of a consortium of four European universities, two Egyptian and two Jordanian universities.

UNICEF Egypt has expanded its capacity to partner with the private sector over the past year and this has begun to pay off. An extensive mapping exercise is underway in collaboration with PFP to identify potential corporate partners to align with for the next cycle. Existing partnerships have become more solid. Mobinil, a leading mobile phone service operator, has partnered with UNICEF to finance the WASH activities in Sohag Governorate. The partner has been leveraged beyond the Agreement to take part in the Global Hand washing Day by sending awareness SMSes to Mobinil Subscribers. The UNICEF Starwood partnership has commenced two initiatives viz., “Check Out for Children” whereby US$1 is collected from the hotel chain’s guests, and “Road to Awareness” whereby employees raise funds among themselves. This partnership is both spreading awareness on child rights issues as well as leveraging funds for the education programme.

Strong partnerships with UN agencies have emerged from joint programmes on key issues. Partnership with UNFPA on abandonment of FGM is achieving important results, while the joint programme with WFP and ILO on elimination of worst forms of child labour will be extended for a further three years.

3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management:
In 2010, the Country Office established an office-wide Knowledge Management (KM) group, consisting of focal points of all programme sections, Communication, and ICT, coordinated by the SPME knowledge management focal point. The KM group holds regular meetings to improve internal knowledge management including improving folder and archiving, and file taxonomy, and to contribute to generation and analysis of research, such as equity analysis of DHS data for the CPD preparation. Participation in Communities of Practice and Yammer is yet to gain momentum in the Office.

As part of documenting initiatives and programmes, the office has made progress in documenting good practices in the current programme cycle including the revolving fund on water connection, schools improvement programme, child protection mechanism and polio eradication; lessons learned (civic education programme) and innovations (Diploma on Public Policy and Child Rights). It is planned to compile all relevant experiences by the end of 2011, to be used for programming and as basis for policy advocacy.

Based on the 2008 EDHS and in collaboration with UNFPA, various knowledge products were produced (booklets, brochures, calendar, EDHSInfo, bookmarks) for policy makers, health providers and social workers, with analysis and messages described in an easy to understand manner.

UNICEF Egypt is a partner in the knowledge portal run by the Egypt National Child Rights Observatory (since 2009) and the e-workspace on multidimensional child poverty of the Network of Think Tanks for Developing Countries (NTTDC) (since 2010). Both initiatives also contribute to south-south knowledge exchange.
3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development:
C4D program worked in 2010 on several interventions, to streamline the achievements on behavior, community and system levels under the avian influenza program into the existing programs of the different government agencies. An integrated approach for community outreach networks of five government agencies and ten NGOs was initiated under the leadership of three governors in areas of disparities. The initiative aims to engage communities and government and non-government sectors to work on issues that can be better addressed through community outreach. Meanwhile, working on the larger social determinants affecting the rights of women and children in Egypt, the National Council for Women (NCW) and UNICEF and UNIFEM institutionalized the media watch project under NCW structure, which will support addressing some issues raised by CEDAW committee. A comprehensive women and girls’ rights campaign is planned for 2011.

3.1.3 Normative Principles
3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation:
A strong human rights approach was used to develop both the new country programme and the UNDAF. This began with the analysis that brought out disparities and vulnerabilities, continued through the capacity analysis to the development of results that aimed to strengthen the capacities of both duty bearers and claim holders. The situation analysis prepared by a team of Egyptian experts, which provided the main analytical base for the Government’s prioritization and for the UNDAF, emphasized reducing disparities, including those that related to child poverty, as key priorities. A situation analysis of women and children, conducted as a complementary and in depth exercise in partnership with the Ministry of Family and Population and UNIFEM, focused on the needs of the most disadvantaged children and families. As a result, the UNDAF is centred on achieving the MDGs with equity, while the CPD focuses on social change and systems reform for inclusion of the most marginalized children.

Human rights’ reporting was also in focus in 2010. The CEDAW Concluding Observations (issued April 2010) provided important inputs to the UNDAF and CPD. UNICEF also prepared its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the pre-sessional meeting on Egypt’s State Party report on the CRC and Optional Protocols, scheduled for February 2011, and supported civil society organisations to prepare their shadow report.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming:
In addition to playing the normative role and providing technical assistance, especially in terms of gender-based violence, girls education, women’s empowerment for healthy life styles and civic engagement, ECO consistently includes the gender perspective in any data collection and analysis, most recently in the Survey on Young People in Egypt, the study on Child Poverty and related trend analysis, knowledge products on findings from the EDHS, and the Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Egypt. The latter was undertaken in partnership with UNIFEM as well as with government partners in the Ministry of State for Family and Population.

The gender assessment of the country programme and staff capabilities conducted in 2009 found that in general ECO staff has the knowledge but would benefit from increased professional and practical skills to apply that knowledge. This was the focus of the office wide training held in February 2010, which resulted in ensuring that the 2010-2011 work plan has more gender sensitive expected results as well as indicators. In addition, the mid-year review makes conscious efforts to ensure progress reporting is done with a gender perspective, including data disaggregated by sex where available and appropriate.
3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability:
This has been a relatively neglected issue in ECO. However, as Egypt is a country highly vulnerable to climate change, rapid urbanization and water scarcity, it began to look at the impact of climate change on children. The situation analysis contains a section on this, which provides an overview of the main issues and a basis for further research. Environmental sustainability was taken as one of the five strategic priorities of the new UNDAF, and UNICEF has positioned itself within this to focus on measuring the impact of climate change on children and families, promoting environmental awareness through education programmes and life skills work with young people, and influencing adaptation programmes.

3.2 Programme Components:
Title:
Young child survival and development
Purpose:
As per the MTR, the revised programme results include: a) 60% of infants < 6 months in 6 governorates are exclusively breastfed; b) Reduced micro-nutrient deficiencies focusing on virtual elimination of Iodine deficiency disorders, and vitamin A deficiency; c) 95% of Children < 5 are protected from vaccine preventable diseases nationwide; d) An evaluated Peri-natal care model is available for national up scaling, e) 30% families who have Children < 5 in target areas are applying at least 4 “key child health, nutrition and WASH care practices”, f) Revolving Fund mechanism for household water & sanitation connection is operational in selected targeted districts in Upper Egypt.

Resources Used:

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Result Achieved:
The pilot Peri-natal Care Programme of Excellence (PCPE) is believed to have contributed to an average 38% reduction in the NMR in the targeted fourteen communities in Upper Egypt. A similar trend is also seen in U5MR and IMR. A pilot Peri-natal mortality surveillance system was tested in one governorate, for potential integration into the existing national Surveillance System of the MoH. Multi-agency study on routine immunization performance assessment was conducted to support EPI system strengthening. The Landscape Analysis study has started to assess the country’s readiness to accelerate action against malnutrition. A total of 5,600 households have improved access to water supply through Revolving Fund mechanism in three Upper Egypt governorates, and by working with the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW).

Community based nutritional activities resulted in significant improvements in the 1st hour breast feeding indicator (67% to 96%) and exclusive breastfeeding indicator (21% to 45 %). The capacity building of the health workforce in nutrition counseling skills contributed to the decline of prevalence of underweight among children aged 6-24
months (22.8% to 5.58%). The National Micro-Nutrient Committee is being revitalized and its terms of reference are under preparation. The IDD Scientific Secretariat (managed by NNI) has identified key USI/IDD technical, legal and policy issues to be addressed by the Committee. In all, 200 schools in the seven high-risk Upper Egypt governorates were reached through IDD social mobilization campaigns conducted in cooperation with the MoE and MoH. An IDD national social mobilization campaign strategy was developed and will be fully implemented in 2011 jointly with GAIN. A five-year national plan of action has been developed to revitalize the BFHI, enhance national capacity to monitor the national code of breast feeding substitutes, and to increase public awareness of the importance of breast feeding.

A study of Food Consumption Patterns among Children Under Five was completed in selected villages of Upper Egypt Governorates and the findings will be incorporated in designing a social marketing and mobilization campaign in the target areas. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to convene national and international stakeholders to prepare the Landscape analysis, with the technical assistance of the the Medical Research Council of South Africa, and assess capacities and readiness to scale up coordinated nutrition interventions.

The PCPE has benefited a total population of 200,000 and more than 60,000 women in the childbearing ages and children under five directly. Key family practices in neonatal and child health and nutrition have improved as indicated by increased antenatal visits (59% to 96%); taking iron tablets compliance (from 65% to 96%); diarrhea managed by ORS (from 56% to 82%); birth attended by trained personnel (from 55% to 77%); and the percentage of women receiving Tetanus Toxoid immunization improved from 79% to 96%. A pilot Perinatal Mortality Surveillance System has been established and currently is being tested in ten sentinel sites in Assiut Governorate. To date, 400 deaths have been reported to the system and are being analysed.

A total of 17 psycho-social workers graduated from the Psycho-social Training Institute (PSTI) and provided psycho-social support to around 1,400 Iraqi refugee children, families and communities in 13 centres, and facilitated 41 referrals (65% female / 35% male) to mental health services. Through the capacity building initiatives of 30 health workers, 3,000 mothers were educated on health promotion, disease-prevention and child nutrition. Around 3,000 refugee children, age 0 to 5, were comprehensively screened and 1,320 women benefited from the eight well-baby/child clinics.

High staff turnover continues to be a major constraint for quality service delivery performance in both PHC and nutrition interventions.

**Future Workplan:**

The findings of a Nutrition Landscape Analysis study will be utilised for strengthening the health system and for accelerating action against malnutrition. A *National Nutrition Surveillance System* will be developed in partnership with WHO and other partners. Implementation of the IDD social marketing strategy will be accelerated in collaboration with IDD national partners (including school health campaigns) with technical support from the C4D. The Perinatal Programme of Excellence pilot will be evaluated and costed in 2011, and mainstreamed into the MCH services during the next country programme. The Perinatal Mortality Surveillance system will be assessed for integration into the existing MMSS.
Title: Quality education

Purpose:
The programme aims to increase the access of boys and girls age 4-14 years to quality education through achieving the following results: (a) improved children’s developmental readiness to start primary school on time, especially marginalized children, (b) reduced gender and other disparities in relation to increased access, participation and completion of quality basic education, and (c) improved educational quality with emphasis on child friendly schools principles. The Quality Education programme contributes to the achievement of UNDAF Outcomes 1 and 3: UNICEF education program is aligned with and contributes to the national strategic plan for pre-university education reform (2007/8 – 2011/12), specifically in the areas of: Early Childhood Development, Community Based Education for Girls and Out of School children, Basic Education Reform, School Based Reform, and Education for Children with Special Needs. The programme has five Intermediate results and the main partners are - Ministry of Education (MOE), National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

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Donors: Thematic Fund

Result Achieved:
The overall progress of the programme in 2010 against the AWP was satisfactory. Expanding access to quality ECD services, ensuring transition to primary education, and mainstreaming parenting education progressed well. In all, 300 kindergarten classrooms are operational (100% of the target) reaching total 14,976 children (50% girls). In 2010, 4,091 children graduated and were enrolled in primary education. MoE, with technical support from UNICEF, started the process of standardizing the Child Development Tool kit for monitoring school readiness. The NGOs in collaboration with MoSS continued to disseminate parenting education messages nationwide reaching 2,670 families in 10 governorates.

Further evolution of the community schools model and scaling up is steadily progressing, supported by government, civil society and development partners. In all, 98 new community schools were established in 3 governorates reaching 2,500 children (almost 50% girls) and 3 preparatory schools (grades 7-9) were established in Sohag as a pilot; 5,200 children in 2 governorates received daily snacks and take home rations through the WFP school feeding program. The first annual national consultative meeting on “Education for Vulnerable Children” was conducted jointly with MoE, MoSS, and CARE. The conclusions of the meeting were in line with the recommendations of the Community Schools evaluation. The need for identifying and mapping educational inequities and identifying innovative and efficient ways of delivering service, reducing the financial barriers for the poor and empowering communities to play a more proactive role were highlighted during the meeting.

UNICEF, WFP, and UNESCO continue to support the national Girls Education Initiative to provide quality education to 30,491 children (80% girls) in nine governorates. A survey
on population characteristics was conducted in 151 villages in 7 governorates and population messages were mainstreamed through the Girl Friendly Schools led by NCCM.

A final evaluation of the joint project "Combating Worst Forms of Child Labour through Education" funded by USDOL was conducted. In all, 5,745 boys and 5,940 girls were withdrawn or prevented from exploitative child labor and enrolled in formal or non-formal education programs in Sohag, Assiut, and Beni Suef governorates. The project evaluation identified the CS and GEI, take home rations and waiving school fees as effective means to withdraw children, particularly girls, from agricultural labor. It also highlighted active learning as a very effective tool for improving retention rates. The results of the evaluation were in line with the results of the rapid assessments conducted by MoE, CARE and NCEEE showing the positive impact of active learning on the student achievements and attitudes towards education. It also revealed the importance of creating an enabling environment at the school level with effective leadership, accountability, regular on-the-job coaching, and adequate resources, to ensure that knowledge and skills acquired by teachers during training events are transferred to the work place.

The school improvement program has realized 122% of its target (60 schools) with 35 schools accredited, and 38 schools qualifying for accreditation. The schools were inspected against national quality standards for institutional capacity (leadership, governance, community participation) and educational effectiveness (learning outcomes, school environment, teaching and learning techniques). A total of 334 children suffering from learning difficulties, mental and physical disabilities are benefiting from the pilot for inclusion of children with special needs in 20 primary schools in two governorates. A committee on special needs education, led by MoE, has been formed to enhance networking, knowledge sharing and to provide technical guidance on M&E standards.

Building on last year’s experience of pandemic influenza, when schools closed for several weeks, the education section has been working closely with the Ministry of Education and Save the Children to develop emergency preparedness plans in six of the highest risk governorates.

**Key partnerships and interagency collaboration:** UNICEF is collaborating with other UN agencies in 2 joint projects: (a) Combating Worst Forms of Child labour through Education with WFP and ILO and (b) UNGEI – Girls Friendly Schools: UNICEF with WFP, and UNESCO.

**Future Workplan:**
During 2011, UNICEF will continue policy dialogue and technical assistance, with specific emphasis on equity and quality assurance, through platforms such as the DPG, Education Reform Committees, and the annual consultative meeting on Education for Vulnerable Children. UNICEF will support MOE in developing an IECD program and strengthening the quality assurance and professional development systems.

**Title: HIV/AIDS and adolescent development**

**Purpose:**
The overall goal of the programme is to contribute directly to the achievement of MDG 6, and indirectly to the achievement of all MDGs. More specifically, the programme contributes to UNDAF outcomes 1, 3 and 5 and aims to achieve the following Programme Component Results (PCRs): (1) capacities of individuals, most-at-risk young people, government and non-government entities enhanced to prevent HIV infection and ensure protection and care for people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS; and (2) adolescents possess the necessary knowledge and skills for healthy and productive lifestyles and active citizenship within a supportive policy environment. These PCRs are
planned to be reached through six intermediate results: (1) young people and most-at-risk populations equipped with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves from HIV infection, (2) people living with HIV (PLHIV) provided with comprehensive medical, social and psychological care services, including prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), (3) HIV awareness enhanced among select populations through media activities, (4) increased adolescent and youth participation in community and public life, (5) at least 80% of targeted young people possess knowledge and life skills to lead healthy and productive lifestyles, and (6) knowledge generated on young people for policy advocacy. These results are being achieved in partnership with the National AIDS Programme (NAP) of MoH, the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), the National Council for Youth (NCY), the Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC), NGOs, UN agencies and private sector

**Resources Used:**

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**Result Achieved:**

HIV prevention efforts have concentrated on reaching young people, particularly most-at-risk children living in street situations and in public care institutions. Comparisons between the 2005 and 2008 DHS demonstrated a decrease in HIV knowledge among youth, signifying the need to enhance HIV prevention among this population. Among at-risk children, 1,014 children aged 6-15 (417 girls and 597 boys) were equipped with the skills and knowledge to protect themselves from HIV, while 87 peer mentors (43 females and 44 males) have enhanced capacity to support their peers. Among care staff, 239 are equipped with the knowledge to support HIV prevention among at-risk children. In collaboration with the NCCM and local youth associations, 179 young trainers were equipped to deliver HIV prevention among their peers.

Expansion of care and support for people living with HIV (PLHIV) was achieved through scaling-up of home-based care (HBC) programme to a second governorate and capacity building for Egypt’s first PLHIV-led NGO. Access to comprehensive care increased for 62 PLHIV (52 males and 10 females) through 384 HBC visits and knowledge enhancement among 10 community health workers, 48 caregivers and 5 PLHIV. PLHIV support groups were empowered, including 70 members and 8 group mentors. Treatment gaps have been largely eliminated through procurement of antiretrovirals under the Global Fund.

As a result of the joint programme of UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA, 1,449 female sex workers and 952 of their clients were equipped with HIV knowledge and provided with condoms. Access to medical, psychological and legal support was provided through 283 visits to the outreach centre. Scaling-up of the outreach programme is being achieved through mentoring of additional NGOs and capacity building for 31 staff.

UNICEF supported a coordinated response to HIV/AIDS nationwide as an active participant on the Country Coordinating Mechanism, the UN Joint Team on HIV/AIDS and the Expanded Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and through the Joint UN Programme of Support on HIV/AIDS. As part of this partnership, over 1,500 young people were reached through the World AIDS Campaign. Young people were also targeted with HIV prevention through the media via the “Useful Talk” website, viewed by about 4,000 young people each month.

The final report of the national Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE) was disseminated to key stakeholders, providing much needed evidence for policies and
programming for youth. The survey was conducted by IDSC and the Population Council with support from UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and others. SYPE was used as the basis for the 2010 Egypt Human Development Report and the revision of Egypt’s National Youth Policy. For knowledge generation, a web-portal including the results of the mapping of all employment services available for youth designed by IDSC with UNICEF support was launched, and it is now managed and updated by the National Council for Youth.

Further, 8,222 adolescents and youth were equipped with enhanced life, employability and entrepreneurial skills, through a peer education programme at 42 NGOs and youth centres. A pioneer career counselling service was also provided to 5,245 young people and a special career guidance manual was designed to allow for scaling up of this service.

On promoting young people’s participation, 1,380 young people have acquired the knowledge and skills to become active citizens through the national civic education programme, implemented by theNCY. A new group of 27 trainers were equipped to deliver the programme. About 90% of participants in the civic education workshops reported that the workshops have changed their perceptions.

Thirty-nine youth groups were also supported to implement youth-led initiatives in their respective communities, in partnership with Youth NGOs. In addition, the webpage “Useful Talk” was maintained as a vehicle for adolescent participation in the media, with over 45,000 visits this year. The content of the webpage is developed by young volunteers and is nationally disseminated through the popular Pocket Mickey Magazine.

**Future Workplan:**

Future efforts to support HIV prevention, care and support will concentrate on providing young people and most-at-risk populations with access to health information to prevent the spread of HIV. Advocacy efforts will be prioritized to assist in the enhancement of care and support, particularly in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, as well as in the enhancement of data on target populations for use in advocacy and evidence-based programming. For adolescents, advocacy efforts are planned based on the findings of several data collection exercises as well as the development of policy briefs. Partnerships will also be strengthened with the media and universities to promote adolescent’s issues. Additionally, the focus will be on capacity building of youth NGOs and documentation of initiatives promoting young people's participation. The activities concerning life skills and career counselling for young people will continue, with new partnerships, addressing also HIV/AIDS and career guidance.

**Title: Child protection**

**Purpose:**

The goal of child protection (CP) programme is to work on strengthening the capacity of the CP system to serve and monitor children at risk, including FGM and children in street situations. CP contributes to the UNDAF Millennium Declaration and indirectly to all Millennium Development Goals and UNDAF outcomes 1 - 4.

**Resources Used:**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Amount US$</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Available Funding for 2010</td>
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<td>RR</td>
<td>400,856.00</td>
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<td>995,302.00</td>
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</table>
**Result Achieved:**

The overall progress is satisfactory, with most targets on track. Child Protection Committees (CPCs) in Alexandria, Cairo, Assiut, Sohag, Minya and Qena have identified and served more than 10,000 children at risk. The capacity building component exceeded the target of 25 district CPCs, with 36 CPCs strengthened during the reporting period. Reintegration of children in street situations proceeded slowly, indicating the need to work on strengthening the child protection system and capacity of NGOs to better respond at preventive and protective levels. Outreach services to girls in street situations exceeded the target. Tools were designed to strengthen CPCs. Nine public declarations on FGM/C organized in 2010 exceeded the targeted 4 public declarations.

Close to 7,000 children at risk in Alexandria were identified and their cases managed and referred by four CPCs; 21 district CPCs in Assiut, Sohag, Minya, Qena and Cairo have acquired the capacity to identify and refer cases of children at risk to service providers; and 13 District Child Protection Committees in Upper Egypt identified and referred over 2,800 cases of children at risk for services.

The planned mapping of child and family welfare system was delayed but is now scheduled to begin in early 2011. Technical support was provided to the Egyptian National Child Rights Observatory (ENCRO) at NCCM to establish a set of national child protection indicators. Procedural guidelines for CPCs were finalized in cooperation with MOFP, as well as a government service directory. Both will be printed shortly.

Technical support continued to be provided to MOFP/NCCM on identifying the needed institutional capacity for CPCs and providing them with required guidance.

The Egypt Child Protection Network (ECPN) supported by UNICEF and Terre des Hommes has been effective in enhancing information sharing and coordination between international organisations on Child Protection issues. The Government of Egypt submitted its periodic reports on the status of implementation of the CRC and its two Optional Protocols to be considered at the 57th session of the CRC Committee. UNICEF and Plan Egypt supported civil society organisations in the preparation of their report to the CRC and UNICEF submitted its own report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Work is ongoing with MOSS on the introduction of National Minimum Standards for Child Care Institutions in Egypt and with MOFP/NCCM on the development of a National Plan of Action on street children.

Through a network of five NGOs, street children have benefited from health, education and psycho-social support with over 2,300 contacts reported by the NGOs. However, only about 8% of the 1,054 children served through the reception centres were reintegrated, due to limited capacity. Seven training programmes were provided for NGO staff but more efforts are needed to enable them to provide quality services. The Young Street Mothers Centre (YSMC) provided services to 75 street mothers and to the sexually abused, enabling 35 of them to be reintegrated with their families. The mobile unit has provided services for 850 girls; 180% higher than planned.

Over 12,000 community-led social mobilization activities were conducted in 190 communities in Upper Egypt to ensure public support to the abandonment of FGM/C and other forms of violence. Close to 9,600 families publicly denounced FGM/C; 2,500 of these families committed to abandon the practice at nine public declarations.
A training manual for medical practitioners was developed in coordination with MOH, MoFP/NCCM, UNFPA, and CHL to explain doctors’ role in the abandonment of FGM/C. The manual has been mainstreamed into the curriculum of the MOH’s training programme for the pre-service training of doctors.

**Challenges**
The delay in issuing the detailed roles of the CPCs has slowed the process of establishing effective Committees in every governorate and district. Clauses of the 2008 amended child law on the protection of the most vulnerable groups such as children in street situations are not well implemented, leaving children vulnerable and exposed to risks. Implementation of the law against FGM/C remained challenging, and efforts will have to be strengthened to convince health practitioners not to perform such acts.

**Future Work plan:**
The priority for 2011 will be to complete the mapping of the Child Protection system, which will provide the basis for future systems reforms. Addressing the challenge of children in street situation more efficiently and effectively will require a strengthening of partnership among MOSS, MOE, MOH and MOFP. A total of 16 CPCs in Cairo and Giza will receive training and ongoing support while NCCM will be supported to develop the national action plan on street children. A new Joint Programme on Human trafficking will be prepared. NGOs will be provided with skills on case management and child protection policy enforcement. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the YSMC as well as the network interventions is planned. MoSS will continue to be supported to adopt National minimum standards for childcare institutions all across the country.

**Title: Social policy, advocacy and partnerships for children**

**Purpose:**
This cross-cutting programme is responsible for technical assistance to national partners in the area of social policy development and the use of strategic information, behavioural and social change, expanding partnerships with the private sector, and advocacy communication on child rights and other development priorities in Egypt. The goal of all programme interventions is to strengthen societal attitudes, government action and policy that further promote a culture of respect and action for children, women and their families.

**Resources Used:**

<table>
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**Result Achieved:**
Progress on the 5-year results and the current PCRs is on track with the exception of institutionalization of DevInfo whose practices and common mistakes are shared amongst 19 information centres of national partners. Based on the 2008 EDHS and in collaboration with UNFPA, various knowledge products were produced.
The Child Poverty and Disparities report and the subsequent Trend Analysis evolved into a permanent research and advocacy project in partnership with ENCRO. The study will serve as an important evidence base for national plans and strategies on the Development of the Egyptian Child. ENCRO is finalizing its Egyptianised child poverty indicators as well as a framework on Egypt child rights indicators. In addition, it will hold a regional conference on child participation in January 2011. UNICEF, with IDSC, will facilitate an e-workspace on child poverty as part of the Network on Think Tanks in Developing Countries portal.

ECO is emphasizing its advocacy initiatives with regard to Child Rights. ECO supported sister UN agencies in a number of advocacy campaigns flagging Egypt’s position on the MDGs such as the stand against poverty, the World Day Against Child Labour, the Education for all, and the National campaign for raising awareness on HIV/AIDS.

In 2010, C4D has streamlined the achievements on behaviour, community activation and monitoring systems under the avian influenza control initiative. An integrated approach for community outreach networks of five Ministries and 10 NGOs has been initiated under the leadership of three governors in selected disparity areas. The initiative aims to engage all stakeholders in the intervention areas to work on priorities that can be addressed by community outreach. Capacity assessments, preparation of training manuals, training, and integrated joint community outreach plans have been finalized. Meanwhile, working on the larger social determinants affecting the rights of women and children in Egypt, the National Council for Women institutionalized the media watch unit within its structure to address some issues raised by the CEDAW committee. A larger women and girls’ rights campaign is planned for 2011. As part of C4D support to national emergency preparedness, the national communication strategy for risk reduction and emergency preparedness, developed jointly by Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) and UNICEF, was endorsed by the Egyptian Prime Minister. It was officially launched and its recommendations are being followed. The support to other UNICEF programmes on nutrition and combating violence resulted in the development of two C4D strategies that are being implemented.

Many partnerships based on corporate’s core business have been established. Writers of Nahdet Misr Publishing Group, the sole Licensee to Walt Disney Products, are using their know-how in artwork to make content on child issues attractive for readers. Also, adolescents participate through publishing their stories in the magazine. Mobinil, a leading mobile phone service operator, provides support to water and sanitation in Upper Egypt. It took part in the 2010 Global Hand washing Day by sending awareness SMSes to Mobinil Subscribers. Both Nahdet Misr and Mobinil will be main outlets for dissemination of Facts for Life Messages. Other partnerships have been based on Volunteerism; Aramex has availed volunteers and students to upgrade capacities of NGOs to improve quality of services to vulnerable children. GBI (Global Biking Initiative) a partnership mobilizing Vodafone employees, to the cause of Early Childhood Development, provides Upper Egypt Kindergarten classrooms with needed facilities to obtain their license and secure continued operation.

ECO expanded its partnerships with universities inside and outside Egypt to collaborate in institutionalizing professional diplomas. Media and private sector enhanced their support to child rights-based initiatives. Finally, RBM is achieving more readiness for implementation from several national partners such as MoLD and MoE.

**Future Workplan:**
SPME future work plan is focused on three pillars of social protection, M&E and knowledge management. This includes up-streaming work on social protection, real time monitoring and social budgeting, supporting the preparations of secondary analysis for
EDHS as well as HIECS, establishing a mentoring programme on RBM in MoSS and NCCM, and supporting the interventions taken by the newly emerging network on research and evaluation.

The 2011 C4D strategic interventions are planned at three levels that correspond to C4D contribution to the equity agenda. The first is through the initiation of a national dialogue for social change, second is building systems and strengthening capacities that facilitate change to occur and finally addressing the problematic issues in the most vulnerable areas to influence behaviour outcomes in the longer term and contribute to the desired impact.

In 2011, an extensive mapping exercise will be completed in collaboration with PFP to identify potential corporate partners for the next country programme cycle.

**Cross-sectoral costs**

**Purpose:**
The cross-sectoral costs programme component funds specific programme and operations staff costs and some operational costs, thus supporting all programme results.

**Resources Used:**

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<td>Amount Utilized in 2010</td>
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<td>465,880.00</td>
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**Result Achieved:**
The programme supports all results of the country programme, particularly those relating to communication for development and partnerships.

**Future Workplan:**
The programme component will continue to support the results of the country programme as a whole.

### 4. OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

#### 4.1 Governance & Systems

##### 4.1.1 Governance Structure:
The outcomes of the MTR and MTMR were the main sources for the CPMP revision in January 2010 and consequently for the development of office objectives and priorities for 2010. These objectives and priorities were stated in the Annual Management Plan and in the PERs of staff, and they included priorities for emergency preparedness. The revised CCC were presented to and discussed by staff in two Programme Meetings.

Egypt was one of the countries selected to pilot the new programme structure. The country programme results were converted into PCRs and IRs and two-year rolling work plans were developed. The process proceeded smoothly and staff understood and adopted the changes very well. A mid-year review of programme results was completed by the programme team.
Office statutory committees were revised in consultation with the Staff Association, and minor adjustments made during the year to reflect staffing changes. Risk Control Self-Assessment exercise was conducted in July 2010 with the participation of most staff, and a draft risk library, risk profile and office action plan developed. DAT/ToA was revised in February to reflect the new programme structure and was kept up to date throughout the year.

The CMT reviewed an agreed set of Management Indicators, Programme and Operations, which were closely monitored. It played a significant role in the development of the pilot programming changes, PBR submissions, Office Improvement Plan (based on the global staff survey), revision of travel and LTAs work processes, Annual Management Plan, monitoring of Greener Office environment, revision of DAT/ToA, and other initiatives. The CMT also monitored the status of implementation of previous audit recommendations, and the reports on the global audit findings.

The preparation of UNICEF’s inputs into the new UNDAF as well as the new CPD was based on consultations with, and the participation of, a large number of staff, and the support of the Regional Office.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management:
A structured approach exists in the office for identifying risks and opportunities, mainly through the monitoring of a carefully selected set of indicators at the monthly CMT and PG meetings, continuous revisions of work processes and identification of areas for improvement, the development of the Office Improvement Plan, based on the outcome of the Global Staff Survey, with clear indicators for implementation, carrying out the RCSA exercise and the development of risk profile and office action plan.

Risk assessment has been one of the main considerations in reviewing the work processes, analysing and identifying areas of risk, and proposing risk mitigation steps, procedures/actions to ensure risks are properly managed, and efficiency/effectiveness gains are achieved.

The office maintains the level of preparedness identified in the Business Continuity Plan; the Crisis MT is a standing office committee, and its members are issued with laptops, official mobile phones (satellite phones with the Sr. Management), and USB modems to ensure remote connectivity to office resources.

The Early Warning and Emergency System is regularly updated and maintained. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) scenarios were updated during the year, and support was provided by the regional office in orienting staff on the new system, as well as on disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. The EPRP is scheduled for further update in January 2011.

4.1.3 Evaluation:
Since 2008, ECO is endeavouring to strengthen the evaluation function in line with the evaluation policy and guided by UNEG standards to produce timely and strategically focused evaluations. A structured mechanism for quality assurance is in place and evaluation plays an important part in programming, resource allocation, and is reviewed in CMT and PMG meetings. TORs for evaluations were shared with RO. IMEP is updated on quarterly basis and shared with RO. Egypt’s evaluation tracking system was adapted to the HQ online system. Two major evaluations took place in 2010: "Avian Influenza" and Community Schools" and one assessment on "Revolving Funds to Improve Hygiene and Sanitation Practices". Evaluations were conducted in collaboration with national partners namely MoH, MoE and MoH. Completed evaluations were uploaded on the online management response system.
ECO continued supporting an emerging evaluation network whose main goal is to use evaluation to enhance development effectiveness. Membership in the network reached more than 151 organizations and individuals from international organizations, Government, Universities, research centres and free lancers. Led by ECO and under the umbrella of the evaluation network, several successful outcomes were achieved including training workshops, production of an evaluation toolkit, setting up of a diploma on research and evaluation, translation of English resource materials into Arabic and their dissemination to national partners. ECO is promoting national ownership of the evaluation function with national partners namely: NCCM, MoFP, and MoSS. UNICEF also mobilized the formation of a UN M&E taskforce that will be supportive in conducting joint evaluations.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication:
The ICT office capacity was established with the recruitment of the ICT Officer in January 2010, and the ICT Assistant in March 2010. On-the-job training was provided by the Regional Office to the newly recruited staff.

Internet connectivity continued to be provided by an IPSEC connection between ECO and NYHQ and the office benefited from the high quality service in addition to the cost savings as compared to the charges made by SITA. BGAN and idirect equipment are installed and ready to be activated through an LTA in case of emergency - idirect from a local service provider and BGAN through the ECO agreement with the global service provider. Equipment has been tested several times during the year and proper maintenance ensured. The Regional Office recommendation to procure an Emergency Telecommunications Response kit was implemented, and suggested equipment procured.

To ensure compliance with the emergency preparedness and the Business Continuity plans, the office continued to procure laptops instead of desktops for all new computer purchases. All staff have been given access and training on the use of webmail, BEW & SSL/VPN. In addition, staff on the critical staff list have been issued with USB modems, to ensure remote connectivity, and have also been given access to Citrix. Back up data tapes are stored in WFP located in different premises for additional safety.

To be prepared for the new upcoming corporate applications, ICT staff took the MS Exchange training in Amman. The ICT Officer also attended an extensive training in Germany on advanced emergency telecoms. Two rounds of MS Office 2007 and Lotus Notes training sessions were delivered in 2010 to interested staff by the ICT officer.

As pilot office, ProMS 9.0 has been successfully installed in Feb 2010 followed by ProMS 9.1 in Oct 2010. MS SharePoint was installed to be used as ECO document management system but NHHQ advised to wait for the global implementation of SharePoint. ICT Governance committee continued its activities and met twice in 2010.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship
4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations:
All the donor reports were submitted on time and to acceptable quality standards. The donor reports were prepared by using the quality assurance checklist and review procedure. A donor report feedback form is provided with each report in a continuous attempt to raise the quality of reports. The quality of donor reports was tested by the MENA Donor Reporting Quality Assessment. The randomly selected report was rated as good and the best practice report received a rating of exemplary.

The office received over US$3 million in new funding for 2010, bringing the total of OR received to US$26 million, which is more than 80% of the OR ceiling. Expenditure
against PBAs is closely monitored by the Programme Group and by Sections, and all PBAs expiring within the reporting period were fully utilised.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets:
The status of implementation of previous audit recommendations, and the OIA report on global audit recommendations are consistently reviewed to ensure continuous implementation and compliance. Budget management, cash forecasts, and status of donor reports submissions are part of the indicators reviewed by both the monthly Programme Group meeting and CMT.

DFAM continued to regard the ECO as a low-risk country and the frequency of monthly bank reconciliations submissions has been maintained at quarterly. The office did not have any reconciling item outstanding in the bank reconciliation for more than 3 months. The office also did not have any transactions in External Expenditures or un-posted for more than 2 days throughout the year. The office continued to consistently use the bank optimization web-page for reporting on month-end balances, replenishment requests and cash forecasts, which information has been closely monitored at the monthly PG and CMT meetings. This effort has led to improved accuracy of the cash forecasts and the month-end bank balances which remained within the benchmark throughout the year.

The DAT/TOA was revised at the start of the year, to take into account the transition from managing by programmes to managing by Programme Component Results, and maintained throughout to account for minor staffing changes. The DAT/ToA has been regularly reconciled during the year.

The outstanding DCT balance over 9 months was maintained at a very low minimum, below 5% of the total DCTs outstanding. Funds utilization was 95% for regular resources and 81% for other resources. The overall throughput for 2010 was US$ 7,141,145, with US$3,116,105 from regular resources and US$4,025,040 from other resources, set aside and emergency funds.

The revision of two major work processes – the Supply Management (including the use of LTAs) process and the Travel work process - has been completed and implemented at the start of the year. The CRC Terms of Reference have been revised to establish a CRC sub-committee for PCA review, which is chaired by the Deputy Representative.

4.2.3 Supply:
The total supply component of the country programme in 2010 reached US$ 403,045.49, which is 5.6% of the overall requisitions. Offshore procurement represented 61% of the total supply component (in terms of value), and local procurement represented 39% of the total supply component. Direct Ordering amounted to US$ 32,910 in 2010. Procurement (Global funds) of ARVs for Ministry of Health, totaled US$153,039.75.

As part of the revised Work Process on Supply Management, and in line with Supply policy, the office stopped the practice of issuing POs if the amount involved was less than US$1,000; a manual PO is issued instead. Consequently, the number of POs issued during the year dropped from 132 in 2009 to 58 in 2010.

The office finalized and submitted the Supply Plan by mid April 2010. In terms of implementation levels 78.9 % of the planned requisitions were authorized and procurement action taken; 100% of the supply requisitions were issued after the supply plan was authorized and procurement action taken.
The office continued to handle procurement services of potassium iodate and Vitamin A Capsules for the Ministry of Health. Procurement services in 2010 reached US$2,083,333 that included US$1,909,722 USD for Potassium iodate only, an increase of 265% from 2009.

The office managed 50 bidding processes in 2010, including 10 RFPs (mainly for contracts), 10 invitations to bid and 30 requests for quotations. In all, 27 CRC meetings were held to discuss 52 contract submissions.

In cooperation with respective programme sections, Supply Unit managed to establish six LTAs to facilitate the process and to enhance time and cost efficiency. The LTAs cover the most common and frequently ordered items in six main areas namely, printing, designing, stationery, editing, translation and photography.

**4.3 Human Resource Capacity:**

A results based template for the development of key assignments of the PER for national staff at all levels was developed (E-PAS was used for international staff). Notably, 100% of 2009 PERs and 2010 key performance objectives (2.1 of the PERs and e-PAS) were completed by end March 2010. First and second performance related discussions were conducted for all staff in May and September 2010, respectively.

Attempts were made to improve gender parity by increasing the ratio of male staff in the local staff category (NO and GS), and female staff in the international staff category. (Female staff %: IP 12.5%, NO 80%, GS (3-7): 85%).

The HRD committee met three times in 2010 and systematically reviewed staff member requests, taking into account Office, Regional and Global learning priorities. The HRD also recommended the wider use of self-learning opportunities available on the Intranet, as well as an expanded use of approved five staff learning days.

The office organised group trainings on CBI, ERM/RCSA, Gender, and people skills (phase two). These helped to enrich their skills for interpersonal communication, managing expectations, and conflict resolution. It was also an opportunity for staff members to recommit themselves as part of the office’s “We commit to be the change we want to see” initiative.

To provide learning opportunities, the office supported two staff members on staff exchanges to Oman. The office also identified two GS staff on SPA to replace two NO staff while on maternity leave.

Efforts were made to promote staff wellbeing within the office. The office is committed to the UN Cares initiative and implements the 10 minimum standards on HIV in the workplace. The office also maintains a stock of Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits with the HR unit for emergency use. The office is also supporting the Peer Support Volunteers (PSV) system.

The flexitime is being implemented. Seasonal flu vaccines were provided to interested staff members and their recognized dependants. As part of the UN’s AI contingency plan, a stock of Tamiflu is being maintained for all staff and recognized dependants.

**4.4 Other Issues**

**4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement:**

Efficiency gains and cost savings were achieved through revision of Supply Management and travel work processes, also through the monitoring of the Greener
office environment, which monitored the use of electricity, water and print consumables in the office.

The Common Services Working Group initiated a survey on hospital facilities in Egypt. Areas for improvement have been identified in the management of the common services contracts - indicators will have to be developed for monitoring.

**4.4.2 Changes in AMP:**

The 2011 Annual Management Plan will be the final AMP of the programme cycle. Although no major changes are foreseen, the office will prioritise those results, which have not yet been achieved and to continue to align the programme more strongly with the renewed organisational focus on equity. The AMP will also ensure that the office devotes sufficient staff time to contribute to the Government’s mutual accountability mechanism in health and education. With regard to Building security, contracts for the upgrade work required and the supervising engineer will be signed shortly and the work will start in January 2011, to be completed within six months. The CPMP for the next country programme will be prepared in the first quarter of 2011, in full consultation with the staff association.

**5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

**5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:**

1. Rapid Assessment Survey on "Active Learning"
2. Food Consumption Study
3. Assessment on Revolving Funds to Improve Hygiene and Sanitation Practices.
4. Post-Assessment and Evaluation of Avian Influenza Community Education Program in Rural Egypt: Summary Report
5. Survey of Young People in Egypt
6. Adolescents Development: Mapping of Employment Services and Opportunities.
7. Summative Evaluation of the "Community Schools Project"

**5.2 List of Other Publications**

2. Advocacy materials on Egypt DHS
4. "Testimonies of Children on Poverty"
5. Handle with Care (An Holistic Approach to Perinatal care)
6. Child Poverty and Disparities in Egypt
7. Survey of Young People in Egypt
8. Evaluation of Avian Influenza Community Education Interventions in Rural Egypt
10. Teachers Training manual for special needs inclusion in basic Education
11. UNICEF in Egypt
12. Information Kit on Children At Risk
13. Quality Assurance manual
14. United For Children Newsletter
15. Children at Risk Information kit
6. INNOVATIONS & LESSONS LEARNED:

Title: Community Schools

Contact Person: Inas Hegazi, Education Specialist. ihegazi@unicef.org

Abstract:
In 1992, UNICEF and Ministry of Education (MOE) started a girl friendly community based initiative "Community Schools (CS)" (grades 1-6) with specific emphasis on girls in six districts in Upper Egypt, thereby addressing two core factors contributing to disparity – geographic and gender. The community schools model is based on partnerships between the MoE, NGOs, local communities, private sector, CIDA, WFP and UNICEF with emphasis on quality and active learning child-friendly methods which lead to the holistic development of children. The project demonstrates appropriate field based interventions of quality learning. The pedagogical methods and organization were based on modern instructional research and practical experience, adapted to Egypt's needs for rural multi-grade schools to maximize the children’s opportunity for self and peer directed learning.

Innovation or Lessons Learned:
The creation and strengthening of partnerships is indispensable for modifying children’s living conditions. The CS model provides added value to both children and communities through leveraging student achievement strategies and functioning as a medium for critical support (e.g., social services and medical health) to children and families. To ensure quality education, partnerships have to reflect an optimal mix of institutional and governance arrangement in the government and civil society sectors for resilient management, a good teaching–training environment, good governance, transparent processes, monitoring and evaluation, and the integration of lessons learned into the system in a process of continuous improvement.

Potential Application:
The effectiveness, affordability, and social acceptability of the model have generated a great demand. The Ministry of Education issued decree 30 of 2000 to strengthen the partnership between government and civil society and define respective roles and responsibilities for community school establishment. Following the CS model, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), in partnership with MoE, managed to establish 1,152 Girl Friendly Schools. In addition, the National Education Strategic Plan of Egypt 2007-11, developed by the MOE, has fully integrated Community Based Education (CBE) as part of the national education reform program to reach the out-of-school children. This is a major achievement, which will ultimately lead to significant progress in scaling up community schools model to provide appropriate educational opportunities for the most disadvantaged children.

Issue/Background:
Despite the significant achievements of MoE to increase access to primary education (NER 89.7% - 2008/09), the realization of universal quality education remains a challenge. More than two million children (age 6 – 14 years) remain excluded from the basic education system due to gender, socio-economic, geographic and other disparities that continue to affect access to education. In addition, the school environment - with rigid conventional style teaching techniques in which corporal punishment is commonly applied - adversely affects completion.

Strategy and Implementation:
The objective of the project was to develop a community based education model that provides quality primary schooling to children, particularly girls, living in remote underserved areas. The project was implemented through partnerships between the
MOE, UNICEF, CIDA, WFP and the communities. The MOE provided facilitators’ salaries, textbooks and technical supervision while UNICEF, with support from CIDA, provided school furniture, education supplies and training and support to facilitators and communities to assure quality, and WFP provided daily snacks and take home rations. The communities provide classroom locations within villages and hamlets and formed Education Committees to manage the schools.

The interventions of quality learning were based on professional development for facilitators, close supervision and empowerment of local community members. Community mobilization was carried out through empowering local community members by providing annual training to the education committee members on a variety of topics including active learning, school management, participation and net working, problem solving, organization, decision making, planning, scientific thinking, and income generation.

**Progress and Results:**

A total of 227 Community Schools have been established currently serving 5,935 children (62% girls) in six districts in Assuit, Sohag and Qena governorates. Further, NGOs in collaboration with MoE have successfully established 100 community schools (grades 1-6) and 3 preparatory schools (grades 7-9) having 9 classrooms accommodating 220 children (61% girls) who are graduates of CS. Multi grade curricula and child centred pedagogy are mainstreamed nationwide. An evaluation study of the project showed that age and gender disparities in enrolment, poor attendance and attrition have been largely eradicated, and in a number of communities, most children eligible for education programmes have been reached. The objectives of school completion for CS students and increasing the popularity of education have been successfully attained. Completion rates are around 90 percent, and of those who complete their studies in the community schools, progression to preparatory school is nearly 100 percent. Early marriage and incidences of child labour have, to a large extent, diminished in communities served by CS schools. The study also revealed that CS students perform better in core subjects, critical thinking and life skills than their counterparts in mainstream and one classroom schools (MS and OCS), both in lower and upper-cycle grades.

**Next Steps:**

Transfer of CS to MoE marks the end of the pilot phase. However, for Community Based Education initiatives to grow and improve, more attention and funding must be devoted to advocacy, policy dialogue and building capacities to extend the system to those children who continue to remain beyond its reach. UNICEF intends to work on a new UNICEF – MoE agreement and action plan to support CBE in Egypt in light of the recent developments in education reform. UNICEF will continue supporting national partners (government and civil society) to enhance their capacity to plan and deliver quality education. Areas that require further technical assistance include planning, M&E/IS, professional development, resource mobilization, networking and partnerships, inclusion and women empowerment.

**7. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION:**

UNICEF facilitated four cases of South-South cooperation during 2010. Three involved countries learning from Egypt’s experiences, and one provided an opportunity for Egypt to learn from the experiences of South Africa.

At the request of the UNICEF office in China, ECO facilitated a study tour for a Chinese delegation, comprising 15 delegates - mainly Ministerial Deputy Division Director (DDD) and Provincial Deputy Director Generals (DDGs) - led by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The delegation visited Egypt for a 5-day study tour on social protection with the aim to learn about Egypt’s anti-poverty and social protection policies and practice, with a specific focus on child poverty alleviation, and to gain in-depth insight in the progress of current
social protection in the country. The programme included meetings with relevant authorities and a seminar on social protection organized by the American University in Cairo. The UNICEF China Country Office reported that two DDGs from provinces have expressed high interest to pilot child grants in their province and that the Ministry of Civil Affairs would like to pilot child component cash transfer from next year.

The Evaluation and Research Network in Egypt (EARNE), initiated by ECO, shared its experience on developing a national association and network on research and evaluation with an emerging research network in Jordan.

UNICEF, in partnership with WFP, organized the visit to Egypt of an official delegation from the Government of Kosovo. The delegation was interested to learn from Egypt’s experience in food fortification, and particularly wheat flour fortification, and other nutrition interventions.

Egypt is one of the 36 countries where 90% of the world’s stunted children live and reducing child malnutrition is a key priority of the Government. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to conduct a Landscape Analysis to assess the readiness and capacity to accelerate actions on nutrition. South Africa is another of the 36 countries of high child stunting, and has already completed the Landscape analysis. UNICEF facilitated an ongoing partnership between the Ministry of Health and National Nutrition Institute with the Medical Research Centre from South Africa, the organization that supported South African’s Ministry of Health in its Landscape Analysis.