1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Achievements
1. The start of the implementation of the Cold Chain Project triggered a process of systematic revision of the EPI Programme in Equatorial Guinea. The Minister of Health renewed his commitment to reinforce EPI, allocate more staff and strengthen existing routine vaccination processes.
2. A KAP survey was carried out on four key behaviours (breastfeeding, use of impregnated mosquito nets, ORS and hand-washing). The survey mapped out the development partners, NGOs, opinion-leaders, means of communication at community level, etc., and identified the most vulnerable population groups and their behaviours, with the aim of developing a national communication strategy.
3. Hygiene education modules were developed and introduced in the teacher training package for pre-school and primary schools.
4. Organization of a nine-month nationwide training course for 200 officers from the Administration of Justice on the new Juvenile Justice system.

Shortfalls
1. The withdrawal of the Global Fund (HIV/AIDS and Malaria) and delay in the implementation of essential projects funded by the Social Fund in the areas of education, health and protection disrupted progress toward priorities identified in early 2010.
2. Understaffing of the Country Office in the areas of Health and Education.
3. Limited coordination capability of the Government hindered UNICEF’s efforts on the ‘harmonizing of statistical data’ project, which it leads within the framework of the UNCT joint projects.
4. The delayed start of the DHS, until the end of 2010, despite many promises; there is a huge need for updated data in the social sector in general; the DHS would have filled that gap.

Partnerships
1. The most important collaborative partnership in 2010 was the cooperation between the MoH, UNICEF, WHO and the private sector (BG Group) to set up a new Cold Chain and logistics system.
2. UNICEF’s cooperation with sports organisations and religious leaders to influence behaviour change on key behaviours and reach hard-to-reach vulnerable groups; partnerships included: the Football Federation, Olympic committee, sport schools and churches on HIV/AIDS, girls’ education, tolerance, violence, etc.

2 COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Equatorial Guinea has one of the fastest growing economies in the world since the production of oil began in the 1990s. However, the country experienced an economic slowdown in 2009, posting a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 1.9%, compared with 11.3% in 2008. After a recession in 2010, the economy is expected to recover gradually and return to positive growth of 2.7% in 2011.

Equatorial Guinea’s geography poses a challenge: connecting the different parts of a country that comprise a mainland and five inhabited islands. Malabo, the national capital, is located on the island of Bioko. The Government therefore prioritised a large number of infrastructure projects designed to improve communications and accessibility across the country.
The fall in oil revenues has had a major adverse effect on the national budget; the budget surplus declined by 16%, to 6.9% of GDP, in 2009. Equatorial Guinea continues to face major governance challenges and sharp income inequalities. Less than 10% of the country’s workforce is employed by the oil industry, although this sector accounts for more than 95% of its income.

In general, the most disadvantaged children in Equatorial Guinea are those living in rural areas and the poor. Given the general lack of data on social indicators, it is difficult to distinguish disparities between different wealth quintiles. However, UNICEF observation and anecdotal evidence indicate that children living outside of the capital have very limited access to health and social services and constitute some of the most disadvantaged groups in the country. The successful implementation of the DHS currently underway will be a major step towards a better understanding of the disparities that affect children and women in Equatorial Guinea.

The Government approved a long-term development plan – the National Economic Development Plan: Horizon 2020 – in late 2007. The plan has the dual objectives of accelerating poverty reduction and creating the basis for Equatorial Guinea to become a modern emerging economy by 2020. The plan seeks to diversify the economy to create employment, reduce dependence on oil and enhance external competitiveness. The four main pillars are improvements in infrastructure, human capital, governance and social welfare. A Social Development Fund has been set up to support projects in education, health, water and sanitation, gender equality and community development. However, the funds committed by the Government to implement these projects had not been released as of late 2010.

The country will have to double its efforts to achieve several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Poor health indicators show that the situation of women and children remains vulnerable. Maternal and infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world. Forty per cent of children under five are malnourished; 37% of child deaths are caused by malaria and the mortality rate of children under five is 123 per 1,000 live births; acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases, malnutrition, parasitic diseases and typhoid fever endanger children’s health and lives.

Potable water is available in major towns but is not always reliable because of poor maintenance and ageing infrastructure; consequently, supply interruptions are frequent and prolonged in some neighbourhoods. A major project to upgrade the public water system is underway, while an accelerated programme of water wells in the countryside aims to increase the number of rural beneficiaries.

New national statistics show that primary level gross enrolment rates improved from 89% in 2001/02 to 99% in 2007/08. Similarly, primary level net enrolment rates increased from 51% in 2001/02 to 76% in 2007/08. Pre-school education was consolidated into the education system, and the number of children attending preschools increased steadily.

3 CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

3.1.1 Programme Strategy

3.1.1.1 Capacity Development

Reinforcement of the EPI Programme

Immunisation coverage steadily decreased from 2002 to 2008, from 80% to 42%, due to weak institutional and human resource capacities. UNICEF, together with the WHO and the Ministry of Health, elaborated a plan with the aim of increasing coverage to the 2002
level. The plan included reinforcement of several key EPI capacities, such as: planning, monitoring and evaluation at central level; improving the cold chain system; introduction of Mother and Child Health Weeks; staffing and training, etc.

In 2010 and as part of this plan, UNICEF and the Minister of Health, with support from the private sector, embarked on a large-scale project to radically improve the country’s cold chain system. Cold chambers were purchased and will be installed in the five main provinces. A new logistics system will be developed to guarantee timely distribution, management, and recording of the vaccines by the country’s 42 existing Health Centres. The Minister of Health committed to designate the necessary staff required by this new Cold chain system, and the project also includes systematic training of designated staff.

**Juvenile Justice**
UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice developed, organised and implemented a nine-month nationwide training course for 200 officers from the Administration of Justice on the new Juvenile Justice system, which was just introduced this year.

**Teacher training**
In 2010 UNICEF supported the training of more than 1,500 pre-school teachers during the school holidays. Since 2008, when the Government included pre-school education as part of the education system, UNICEF has been committed to providing systematic teacher training (training modules were developed) to enhance the quality of education for young children.

**3.1.1.2 Effective Advocacy**

**Social Protection in Equatorial Guinea**
A regional study on social protection mechanisms in Western and Central Africa concluded that in Equatorial Guinea there is an almost complete absence of social protection mechanisms. Setting up such mechanisms could serve to reduce the inequalities existing in the country and protect the most vulnerable sectors of the population, amongst them women and children.

Based on this study, UNICEF’s Country Office elaborated a plan to advocate for the introduction of social protection mechanisms in the country. Different sectors were mobilised, such as the Ministries of Finance, Health, Education and Social Affairs, the Presidency, the private sector and Parliament. A road map was also elaborated, with a feasibility study of the pertinence, benefit and efficacy of such mechanisms. The Vice-Prime Minister was named champion of social protection in Equatorial Guinea. He was encouraged to visit other similar practices in Latin America to learn about processes such as South-South cooperation, with a view to introducing some of these mechanisms in Equatorial Guinea.

Vulnerable groups were identified as potential beneficiaries of the future social protection programmes; i.e. children, especially girls, living in rural areas, urban children and women living in marginalised areas, disabled children, the elderly and people living in extreme poverty. For all these vulnerable groups, some programmes have been elaborated to identify what type of services are the most needed.

**Day of the African Child**
The celebration of the Day of the African Child offered an opportunity to advocate for child-friendly budgets and transparency. A nationwide mobilisation of more than 7,000 children and many institutions supported this idea and requested that the Government take action in this regard.

**3.1.1.3 Strategic Partnerships**
UNICEF plays an important role in convening and mobilising development partnerships in Equatorial Guinea. Due to its prosperous economy, the country funds almost all major development projects from its own resources; donor presence is limited. Most
development projects are implemented through bi-lateral technical assistance. UNICEF has been able to attain close collaboration with the most important bilateral cooperation present in this country, such as Cuba, Brazil, Spain, France and the USA, to coordinate the leveraging of capacities and resources in a coherent manner. In addition, UNICEF has established a mechanism of consultation with all oil companies with investments in the social sector. The Government requests from the oil companies that a small part of their revenue goes to fund social projects. The majority of the companies have invested in the education and health sectors. It is worth mentioning that projects on malaria (US$45 million), primary education (US$20 million) and maternal and child mortality (US$10 million) are implemented via international contractors. UNICEF holds regular meetings with them to coordinate actions and, by explicit request of the Government, has a seat on the Technical Committees established to monitor and evaluate progress.

UNICEF has established cooperation with sports organisations and religious leaders to influence behavioural change on key strategic behaviours and to reach hard-to-reach vulnerable groups. Partnerships with the Football Federation, Olympic committee, sport schools and churches have been formed, and UNICEF works with them on themes like HIV/AIDS, girls’ education, tolerance, violence, etc.

Another strategic partnership was established with the national provider of mobile telephony to support Mother and Child Health Weeks and to call parents with reminders to vaccinate their children.

3.1.1.4 Knowledge Management
The lack of reliable and updated data is one of the major constraints that the country faces when monitoring and evaluating progress made in improving the situation of children and women. For this reason UNICEF, within the UNCT, has taken the lead in a joint programme on ‘harmonisation of statistical data,’ together with the Ministry of Planning. A concept note and a project proposal were developed to revamp the production and analysis of data in the country. The Government is committed to fund this proposal once it is approved by Parliament.

At the same time, UNICEF is actively supporting, together with other UN agencies, the realization of a Demographic and Health Survey. Implementation started in 2010 and the first results are expected by the end of 2011.

In addition, the Ministry of Health carried out, with UNICEF support, a KAP survey on four key behaviours that affect children’s survival: breastfeeding, ORS, use of impregnated mosquito nets and hand-washing. This survey also collected disaggregated information on children and their families, which will assist in identifying those most vulnerable.

Finally, UNICEF participated in the production of important documents that can improve the knowledge on the situation of children and women in Equatorial Guinea: the MDG report 2010, the CEDAW report, the CRC report, the Universal Periodic Report (UPR) for the Council of Human Rights and the UNGASS report.

3.1.1.5 C4D Communication for Development
UNICEF advocated with Government representatives in February 2010 to strengthen C4D in support of the Child Survival Programme. During two major consultations between UN Agencies and the Government, held in May and June 2010, UNICEF supported the idea that the project ‘Advocacy / IEC’ led by UNFPA and the Ministry of Information should validate the C4D strategy.

The Country Office and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare conducted in September and October 2010 a KAP survey on four essential family practices. The KAP survey also included a mapping of the availability and operability of community development organisations, communication agents and potential channels, as well as development
partners.

The KAP pilot survey was based on a sample of families (parents and children) living in urban and rural areas. The mapping of community organisations and potential development partners was carried out in six of seven provincial capitals of Equatorial Guinea. In the selection of the different target groups, the following criteria were taken into account: Insular/Continental; urban / rural; distance, population size, educational level, access to infrastructure and basic services (schools, health centre, hospital, clean water and sanitation); sources of information, presence of activities or projects supported by UNICEF (such as immunisation, preschool, water and sanitation).

The final report is expected by the end of December 2010, and will include qualitative and quantitative statistical data such as: 1) a database on the basic behaviours; 2) recommendations for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a programme on the four behaviours; 3) recommendations for the development and implementation of a C4D strategy based on the four behaviours.

Seminars organised on C4D by the Regional Office in May and October 2010, the development of training modules and the establishment of a Panel of facilitators in November, also constituted valuable support for UNICEF in Equatorial Guinea. For 2011, we plan a training program for counterparts/partner on C4D and the establishment of new partnerships to strengthen these activities, or employment of C4D at the community level, based on the KAP survey results.

3.1.2 Normative Principles
3.1.2.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Juvenile Justice
Since 2008, UNICEF has advocated to introduce a system of juvenile justice. A situation analysis of children in conflict with the law made with the participation of all involved (teachers, prosecutors, social workers, etc.) shed some light on the vulnerable situation of children in conflict with the law. The study showed an absence of adequate legal and normative mechanisms to deal with this phenomenon and made recommendations for the establishment of rehabilitation and educational centres for young offenders. UNICEF emphasised the need to include protective measures for children involved in judiciary processes as victims.

The plan developed for the introduction of a juvenile justice system in Equatorial Guinea includes three main components:
1. Development of a law on minors that include a civil aspect of protection and a penal aspect with elements of rehabilitation and education.
2. Establishment of adequate structures, such as specialised courts for families and minors and centres offering rehabilitation and education.
3. Training of officials involved in these issues, such as lawyers, prosecutors, judges, social workers, etc.

By the end of 2010 considerable progress had taken place; in particular, the law was drafted and will be discussed in Parliament next March. The specialised Courts for Family and Minors were created and the development, organisation and implementation of a nine-month nationwide training course for 200 officers from the Administration of Justice with content related to the new Juvenile Justice system is on-going.

3.1.2.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming
The Country Office has undertaken some actions to address gender inequalities, such as forums and discussion on the importance of gender equality to achieve economic autonomy, better self-esteem to achieve respect in society and effective contribution of
women to the development process, as well as on reducing gender violence as a barrier to development and the promotion of their rights.

A more systematic initiative was the promotion of Sport for Development and Peace, in partnership with major stakeholders like the Department of Youth and Sports, the National Football Federation and other sport organisations to promote girls participation in sports.

A campaign of communication with the players of the national women’s soccer team served as a platform to disseminate messages that: emphasise the education of girls and women (UNGEI Initiative); ensure the future, individually and for the entire nation; protect young people against abuse of alcohol and drugs and protect girls from early pregnancies through involvement in sports.

On the anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and with the special participation of the Children Rights National Committee, the national female soccer team participated in the spectacle that united sports and culture and included the participation of five public and private schools, from rural and urban areas, representing all types of schools in Equatorial Guinea.

3.2 Programme Components

Title: Child Survival and Development

Purpose
The main goals of the child survival subcomponent are to contribute to the reduction of child mortality in Equatorial Guinea, to ensure the right of every child to the best possible health and to accelerate achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6.

The component seeks to ensure that children under the age of five are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as against malaria, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition, and water-borne diseases. It also works to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission and emphasise primary prevention strategies to reduce HIV infections among adolescents and women of childbearing age.

The component is directly linked to the National Plan of Economic and Social Development of Equatorial Guinea, particularly to improvements in health and the reduction of maternal and child mortality.

The main results planned for 2010 were:
1. Cold chain system strengthened (for the EPI programme) through provision of equipment, training and improved vaccine logistics
2. Reaching Every District (RED) strategy implemented in all districts
3. National immunisation survey conducted
4. Child survival strategic programme developed
5. MoH staff trained in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT protocol).

Resources Used
Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: US$293,700
Total available for 2010 from all sources (USD): RR 190,000; OR: 1,120,259; Total: 1,310,259

Special allocations
US$868, 860 (Cold chain project)
Donors
BG Equatorial Guinea Limited
Canadian International Immunization Initiative (CIII)
Spanish Committee for UNICEF
United Nations Foundation Inc

Results Achieved
Among the initiatives developed this year, the most important achievements were:
1. The signing of an agreement with the private sector to strengthen the cold chain system for the EPI programme.
2. A project to strengthen the cold chain system was developed with the commitment and participation of the MoH in every stage of the process.
a) The necessary equipment for this project was been procured (through UNICEF’s Supply Division).
3. Improved methodology for vaccine forecasting (to be used in 2011).
4. An evaluation to determine if Equatorial Guinea is ready to validate maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination, conducted in October 2010.
5. Participation in the validation of the UNGASS report.
6. Training of MoH staff (15 persons) in PMTCT protocol.

Constraints
1. Weak institutional and human resource capacity
2. Insufficient data analysis to document key performance indicators
3. High turnover of personnel
4. Lack of monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Lessons learned
1. Critical areas for capacity development need to be identified, along with reinforcement of advocacy with the Government to staff adequately those key departments/programmes and ensure better services for children
2. The major challenge for the EPI programme in Equatorial Guinea is to reduce existing inequities while ensuring continuation of the outreach services for the hard-to-reach populations. In this context, more surveys and evaluation studies are needed to compensate for the lack of data.
3. The Health Indicators System needs to be reinforced. WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF should work together to enhance the capacity of this system to produce consistent and coherent data.

Key partnerships
UNICEF works with several partners to improve maternal and child health, including: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Interior and Local Corporations, Ministry of Social Affairs and Promotion of Women, local media, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Carlos III Foundation, FERS (Spanish cooperation), the Network of Journalists against HIV/AIDS, the Cuban Cooperation, private sector companies and UN agencies, specially, the World Health Organization.
It is important to mention that even if all stakeholders work towards the same goals, the MoH needs to improve its leadership, management and coordination mechanisms, to avoid duplication of efforts by different partners and identify potential synergies.

Future Workplan
1. Carry out an immunisation coverage cluster survey in six districts.
2. Strengthen the cold chain system:
a) To train central Ministry of Health and Social Welfare staff in cold chain and vaccine management
b) Install cold rooms in five provinces
3. Contribute to the implementation of the ‘Reach Every District’ strategy
4. Develop and maintain immunisation registers for infants and pregnant women for both fixed and outreach immunisation sites
5. Elaborate guidelines for community health workers on how to report vaccine-preventable diseases
6. Develop educational materials to enhance learning and guide medical staff about the most important actions to take when treating HIV-positive individuals
7. Develop an integrated, strategic child survival programme.

Title: **Policy development, advocacy and partnerships**

**Purpose**

**Social Policies and the Situation of Children**
The purpose of this sub-component is to ensure that all children’s rights are taken into account in national and sectorial policies, with emphasis on the most vulnerable.

Main results:
i) Development of National Plan for Children
i) Implementation of the roadmap for the establishment of a Social Protection System in Equatorial Guinea
iii) Within the framework of the project on harmonisation of national statistics, Government officials were trained on national statistics to illustrate the situation of children and women
iv) Strengthen the functioning of the National Committee on the Rights of the Child

**Protection of Children and Prevention of HIV among Children and Youth**
This sub-component has as its purpose to reinforce the protective environment of children, particularly: children in conflict with the law, children at risk of exploitation and violence, and orphans and vulnerable children from HIV/AIDS, birth registration and young people exposed to HIV/AIDS.

**Education and Gender Equality Programme**
Ensures children’s right to education and their development to their fullest potential based on equality of opportunities for girls and boys.
The main planned result for this component was to guarantee for all children access to quality basic education in a healthy learning environment and to support them to acquire basic skills and competences in order to realise the vision of the Government for Education for All.
The component is divided into three parts, covering: ECD and preschool education; CFS and primary school education, and educational planning and programming (improvement of supervision, evaluation and learning achievement).

**Resources Used**
Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: US$579,000
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR: US$167,000; OR: US$412,000
Total: US$579,000

**Result Achieved**
**Social Policies:** The lack of reliable data has been a major obstacles to advancing the development of a national plan for children. The DHS planned for 2010 experienced some delays and will be finalised in 2011. UNICEF was involved in the design and preparation of the DHS, which is led by UNFPA. The identification of vulnerable groups of
children and their situation is included in this survey. Nevertheless, some complementary studies were carried out to update the situation analysis of children and women and underpin reflection on how to develop social policies and strategies to improve their living conditions, especially the most disadvantaged.

In this context, UNICEF has strongly advocated for the implementation of the Roadmap for Social Protection. Four technical working groups were established (education, health, protection and communication) to identify the needs of the most vulnerable and propose mechanisms to improve their situation. Feasibility studies are needed to demonstrate viability and start implementation.

In the meantime, some pilot initiatives were already implemented, such as the introduction in four national schools of a system of free meals for all students. These schools also offer free school transport to facilitate school access for children. These two initiatives were suggested by the Education Working Group as a social protection mechanism that should be implemented nationwide.

The harmonisation of national statistics did not advance as expected in 2010 due to a delay in Government approval of the budget required to scale-up this initiative. In the meantime, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Planning through training and exchanges of experience with neighbouring countries.

Further, UNICEF promoted and participated in the realisation of different forums to advance respect for women’s rights, including participation in a seminar for women religious leaders.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF and UNDP are working together to assist the government to establish a system of juvenile justice which is an urgent priority for the country. The main results in 2010 were:

- Supported study on the situation analysis on children in conflict with the law and publication of the study
- Training of 290 justice personnel. A nine-month course was developed with matters concerning the protection of minors in court proceedings, whether victims or perpetrators and rehabilitation and education modules for young offenders.
- Advocacy activities for the adoption of the Law of Minors, which should be debated in the National Parliament in the March 2011 session.
- Training 100 law enforcement officers on trafficking and exploitation, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy
- With the collaboration of the private sector, UNICEF engaged in project development for the establishment of a shelter for women and children victims of domestic violence and child trafficking in Malabo.

**Education:** Important achievements in 2010 were:

1. A national in-service teacher training on basics of preschool education and early childhood development – emphasising awareness and methodologies on school health and hygiene education – was organised in two phases for all ECD/preschool teachers of the country, reaching a total of 1,650 teachers.
2. Development of ECD guide to stimulate early learning environment and play
3. Construction and/or rehabilitation of water points and latrines in six schools in remote rural communities
4. On the primary level, school directors and inspectors of the Insular Region were sensitised and trained on strategies.

**Future Workplan**

As the Education Officer position depends on the availability of OR funds, careful reflection during the MTR exercise will be required to evaluate the feasibility of UNICEF support in this area.
Title:  Cross-sectoral costs

**Purpose**
Provide technical and operational capacity to the Office and reinforce the Programme of Cooperation with skills and knowledge to ensure its success.

**Resources Used**
Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: US$543,000
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR: US$543,000; OR: 0
Total: US$543,000

**Results Achieved**
This Programme component ensured the availability of technical capacity in the communication and protection areas, allowing support to the Government for: the development and implementation of a C4D strategy, enhanced social mobilisation on children issues and continued activities in information, education and communication. It also supported the child protection component’s capacity to support implementation of several programmes with the Government counterpart in this field.

Further, this component supported the realisation of the Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme, as well as evaluation and monitoring activities by UNICEF's Government counterpart within the framework of the UNDAF.

Finally, the component supported staff training and enhanced the CO’s administration capabilities by supporting the recruitment of supply and finance assistance.

4 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure
UNICEF undertook the following actions to ensure the presence of adequate governance structures and oversight:

- Development of the annual work plan (all programmes)
- Development of the annual management plan
- Development of the annual learning plan
- Weekly monitoring & planning meetings with staff
- Monthly CMT Meetings
- Follow-up of budget execution on a monthly basis
- Report/ratio of management tools (ProMS)
- Annual Report 2010
- Office retreat
- Annual evaluation of programmes with the counterpart

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management
The Office carried out several main actions:

- Elaboration of Business Continuity Plan
- Review of physical Office inventory
- Review of MOSS-compliance status, with subsequent recommendations

The southern Gulf of Guinea offices (Gabon, Equatorial Guinea & Sao Tome e Principe) benefited from training on Enterprise Risk Management/Risk & Control Self-Assessment that took place at UNICEF Harare on 4-5 November 2010. The process of assessing risk, developing an Office risk profile and control library and reviewing selected work processes will be launched separately by the three offices in 2011. This will be an opportunity for each office to ensure that its Country Programme is risk-informed,
particularly Gabon and Sao Tome in the framework of their new programme cycle (2012-2016) preparation. Business Continuity issues will also be addressed in an integrated manner in Annual Work plans and through a regular update of BC Plan.

Dome of the mechanisms identified in BC Plan are already in place (e.g.: crisis management structure, critical telecommunications systems, reinforcement of alternative IT equipment and compliance with organisational standards). The intended objective is to improve the capabilities of all units, sections and individuals to execute and evaluate their emergency management operational responsibilities, and to undertake regular evaluations to identify deficiencies in procedures and systems for subsequent correction. Enhancements to each office’s overall BC preparedness will be integrated into Office Management Plans. In 2011 the three offices will perform a simulation exercise to test the efficiency of BCP and staff readiness, most likely with support from an experienced Office.

**4.1.3 Evaluation**

A review of the Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus situation in Equatorial Guinea was carried out to answer the following questions:

1. Is EQG ready to claim MNTE (maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination) and request that WHO proceed with the validation survey?
2. If EQG is unable to claim MNTE, what should be the next concrete action steps for EQG to achieve and claim MNTE within the next 12 months?

The main conclusion was that MNT surveillance data cannot be considered reliable and Equatorial Guinea cannot claim MNTE on the sole basis of surveillance data. A set of recommendations was addressed to the Ministry of Health to eliminate MNT in Equatorial Guinea in the coming 12 months.

**4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication**

This year the Office upgraded the quality link of the EMC-VSAT for the following services: teleconference, video-conference, ProMS replication with HQ, Lotus Notes replication with server based in Libreville Office and Internet. The staff in the Malabo Office have noticed the improved performance of the links and local area network. The Office opened two 2FXS ports for VoIP on the switchboard for outgoing and incoming calls.

With regard to work-stations, all PCs are running the UNICEF standard image version 2,000 and service Pac 2, which includes the complete package of MS office 2007, Lotus Notes 8.5, DevInfo 6.0, Google Earth and other useful applications.

The ProMS database was upgraded to ProMS 9.1, and the reporting tool (Briefing Book was upgraded to 570). The ProMS replication, backup, rover refresh and cube actualisation are scheduled to update automatically, on a daily basis, with headquarters; another copy is kept in the Office in case of disaster.

Patch Downloader is running daily on the Patch central Server, updating work-stations and the network server against malicious viruses and worms.

The ICT assistant participated in the ICT Tech. Workshop in Mali.

Support between UNICEF and WHO was effective this year in terms of ICT supporting backup for each agency when the principal ICT person was away from the office.

**4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship**

**4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations**
The oil sector has an important place in the national economic and political context of Equatorial Guinea. The social programmes funded by this sector are aligned to the Government’s priorities and support overall national development. In this context, UNICEF has established strategic partnerships with oil companies, without compromising its transparency and core values, and stressing the principle of delivering results for children. This resulted in the mobilisation of more than 50% of the OR ceiling foreseen in the CPD, resources mobilised supported key projects such as the Cold Chain system funded by BG Group, valued at US$1.2 million. Additionally, negotiations are on-going with Marathon Oil for a US$1 million proposed project on domestic violence and child trafficking, and a potential partnership with Noble Energy (US$2.5 million) on maternal and neonatal mortality and support for community health workers. The latter two partnerships will depend on the on-going global review of the framework for engaging with the extractive sector.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets
The utilisation of programme funds (through 7, Dec. 2010) was: Regular Resources: allocation US$900.000; requisitioned US$564, 941 (63 %); expenditure US$448, 228 (50 %).

For Other Resources: allocation US$1, 628,906.03; requisitioned US$624, 667.93 (38 %); expenditure US$292, 769.45 (18 %). The percentages will be increased after effecting all pending payments and transfers at the end of 2010.

Two major difficulties prevented the Office from reaching a higher degree of implementation: 1) The departure of two programmes officers: Education and Water and Sanitation; 2) the late receipt of OR funds from BG, which arrived at the end of the third quarter.

The Office achieved good results with regard to the justification of the funds transferred to the Government, in general a considerable reduction of the funds justified and particularly the amounts of more of nine months, which stood at 37% on December 7, 2010. This percentage will be reduced again when the new justification amount (US$79,414.00) received from partners is introduced in ProMS for approval; the amount outstanding for more than nine months will drop to US$16,139, or 25%, before year’s end. Since the beginning of 2010, the Malabo Office further reinforced its follow-up actions, as a consequence of which it will obtain the following percentages: less than three months, 59%; three-to-six months, 16%; and more than nine months, 25%.

4.2.3 Supply
Regarding the delivery of essential supplies, it must be noted that the Expanded Programme on Immunisation acquires the vaccines through UNICEF Supply Division (Copenhagen). It is important to point out that the Government of Equatorial Guinea pays for all vaccine purchases.

For the cold chain project, acquisition of all necessary equipment was through UNICEF’s Supply Division (Copenhagen). The private sector donor that funded the project and the MoH supported this decision.

Overall, the UNICEF Equatorial Guinea supply unit has built successful partnerships and working relationships with different counterparts and UN agencies, especially UNDP, in the supply chain. A supply assistant recently joined UNICEF’s Equatorial Guinea team.

Lessons learned:
1. Despite being a high-income country, Equatorial Guinea does not yet have the ability to manage the vaccine procurement process. Therefore, the UNICEF CO needs to assist
the Government in this activity of paramount importance until capacity building is achieved.

2. For the Country Programme, a better supply chain management in the short and long term is needed.

3. The CO's equipment maintenance plan needs to be reviewed periodically.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity

The Country Office has suffered some constraints in this area due to understaffing of the Operations Section. The limited number of skilled human resources in the country poses serious limitations for international organisations, especially UN agencies that face similar difficulties in the same sectors. Together with the Area and Regional Office, a significant effort was carried out in 2010 to staff this section with UNV volunteers, but results were negligible.

With support of the Area Office some oversight and control mechanisms were put in place to assure due diligence of management processes. In addition, some former UNICEF staff from other offices were appointed to support this section.

Given the Office’s small size, the absence of some key staff required the Deputy Representative to function as the first reporting officer for most PERs, resulting in some delays.

Staff are aware of counselling resources available at the global level.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement

An Area Office CPMP exercise will be carried out in 2011 covering the three countries (Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome e Principe). All areas of programme and operations will be analysed for efficiency and possible cost-savings, either individually or among the three countries.

4.4.2 Changes in AMP

With the support of the Area Office, the CO will have to focus on re-establishing the Office’s staff capacities in Operations, Health and Education. An active recruitment plan should be developed to fill the vacant positions.

5 STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations

1. Evaluación sobre la situación de la eliminación del TMNN
2. Informe UNGASS
3. Análisis de situación sobre la Justicia Juvenil
4. Encuesta CAP sobre 4 Prácticas Familiares Esenciales

5.2 List of Other Publications

1. Agenda Annual 2010 de UNICEF
2. Análisis de situación sobre la Justicia Juvenil
3. Calendario Annual 2010 de UNICEF