The most significant achievement of the UNICEF Country Programme in Guyana and Suriname was the implementation of the 5th round of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 5) in Guyana. During the year, the fieldwork, data entry and data processing were completed and the preliminary findings became available. The steps towards greater national ownership of the MICS survey were very pronounced in this round with Government of Guyana (GoG), the Inter-American Development Bank and other UN agencies systematically providing technical, financial and in-kind support. The final MICS report is expected in early 2015 and will provide solid disaggregated data to reflect the situation of children and women, in particular for the most disadvantaged groups living in interior areas, to support equity analysis and preparation of the final MDG report in Guyana.

Both countries made progress with DevInfo, a powerful database system that is used to compile and disseminate data on human development. The Government of Guyana made significant progress towards the institutionalisation of GuyD_Info. Eleven participants, selected from organisations which are strategically positioned to further the utilisation of the software, completed a Training of Trainers course and taught-back before being certified. Over 80 persons from 10 organisations, benefited from the teach-back sessions conducted by these trainers. An online community was established to foster systematic interaction among new and continuing Users. The General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname updated the database of SurInfo and developed the Suriname CensusInfo database in 2014. The two online version databases were launched on Caribbean Statistics Day (October 15).

A child protection mapping was conducted in both Guyana and Suriname using the UNICEF global comprehensive toolkit. As a result, a strategy and vision 2025 on child protection in Guyana was drafted. The drafting of the alternative care strategy (a first for Guyana) has since been prioritised, with significant emphasis on prevention and deinstitutionalisation of children under three years of age, and the Juvenile Justice Bill was redrafted. In Suriname, the Final Report on Child Protection Mapping and Assessment, including an Action Plan and recommendations for improving the Child Protection system were completed and await approval by the Council of Ministers.

In Guyana, competencies in ECD strategies and practices were strengthened across the country. Some 30 indigenous Community Health Workers from remote hinterland regions received training in ECD strategies in homes and health facilities. The Government’s investment and the active participation of Regional Health and Administrative Authorities, Amerindian Chiefs and other community leaders; parents and siblings are guarantees of its sustainability. All ECD training included a module on Disaster Preparedness and Response in ECD settings, which has led to a few facilities threatened by flooding making slight modifications to their infrastructure.

In Suriname, the Infant and Young Child Feeding Plus (IYCF+) Communication Strategy was
developed and implemented with evidence generated from a formative research effort, to improve child care practices, and more specifically to raise the extremely low exclusive breastfeeding rate (2.8 per cent). The Safe Motherhood and New-born Health (SMNH) Action Plan is currently being implemented.

Building on the technical support provided to CARICOM in 2013, during this year a monitoring system for children and other frameworks in the Caribbean region were established and operationalised, and are being continually populated by Member States. Training for system administrators and framework managers were conducted. This monitoring system has strong ownership by CARICOM, and its expandable design and operationalisation, provides for the inclusion of Youth, Crime and Security and other frameworks.

Overall, there were significant shortfalls in reforms for child protection. These included: 1. corporal punishment and its use still remains legal, and 2. a ruling in favour (in the appeal stage) of a challenge to the Sexual Offences Act, 2010 (SOA). The prorogation of Parliament will serve to effect the delay in legislation concerning children – inclusive of the Juvenile Justice Bill - and any amendments as may be deemed necessary for the Sexual Offences Act, 2010. In Suriname, there was little progress in the education sector, with no revisions of the outdated education strategy since 2008.

During the reporting year, UNICEF expanded its partnership with academic institutions and civil society organisations, in Guyana as well as with CARICOM, in relation to monitoring and reporting on the realisation of child rights. Partnership with UN and other development partners were instrumental in ensuring systematic joint actions to achieving national priorities for the children of Guyana and Suriname.

Humanitarian Assistance

Not applicable for Guyana and Suriname.

Equity Case Study

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Practices (WASH) in interior Suriname

Of a total population of 541,638 in Suriname, around 62,000 persons are living in rural interior areas. Although an average of over 90 per cent of the total population has access to improved water sources and sanitation latrines, large disparities remain, especially for people living in rural interior areas. Only 71 per cent of this population group can access safe drinking water and 42 per cent have access to improved sanitation (MICS, 2010). Open defecation is still the main practice of nearly half of all households in the interior. To compound this problem, mercury water pollution from gold-mining processes creates a serious health and environmental threat.

In 2010 UNICEF Suriname received funds from the UNICEF National Committee for the Netherlands to improve WASH in Suriname’s interior. Based on a baseline study of Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviours, the programme addressed both community demand for water, sanitation and hygiene and the supply components of water and sanitation facilities in rural interior communities, where most of the beneficiaries are indigenous, Maroon groups who are in the most disadvantaged situation in the country. The interventions were operationalised in three phases.

Phase 1: Improve WASH knowledge and community participation through partnership and capacity building. UNICEF entered into partnership with NGOs and developed customised
training methodologies adapted to the context of the Suriname interior. UNICEF also established a partnership with the US Peace Corps to support the local WASH facilitators on community mobilisation and hygiene education. Community participatory WASH Action Plans were developed in 16 interior communities (15 Maroon villages and one indigenous village).

Phase 2: Construction and renovation of water and sanitation facilities to improve service delivery. Due to the high cost of constructing water installations in the interior, in 2012 UNICEF advocated with the Ministry of Natural Resources to mobilise government resources (estimated at about US$700,000) to cover construction costs. Another partnership was entered into with the Ministry of Regional Development, which constructed sanitation additional facilities with the UNICEF funds. By early 2014 water systems had been built or upgraded in 15 communities and 144 latrines were built, benefitting 9,500 people.

Phase 3: Advocacy, policy development, review and documentation. Initially there was neither a national strategy on water nor on sanitation in Suriname. The National Water Master Plan was developed in 2010 and finalised with the support of the Inter-American Bank in 2013. UNICEF provided technical guidance to the policy development process. A qualitative review and documentation of the project that summarise the project results, good practices and lessons learned were produced in 2014. The documentation (both in English and Dutch) will be used as an advocacy tool to continue to mobilise resources for WASH from the Government, other development partners and private sectors. Recently a WASH activity commenced in Apetina, one of the most remote villages in south Suriname, which will make clean water accessible in schools. This will be funded jointly by UNICEF, the Small Grant Programme (SGP, a UNEP programme) and the Rotary Club (private sector). It is expected that the activity will improve access to water for about 200 school children, as well as other villagers.

Although no quantitative measurement is available, qualitative analysis revealed that the investment in clean water, improved sanitation and behaviour changes had a positive impact on children’s health. Local women reported they were empowered to participate in the WASH planning at community level and the improvement of the facilities relieved them from the heavy workload of fetching water for household and family use. The project has stimulated awareness of, and demand for, improved sanitation in other households in the target villages using their own resources.

The intervention has contributed to the raising awareness of WASH needs at policy level and creating an enabling environment for future investment in rural water, sanitation and hygiene. As a direct result, the Ministry of Regional Development has taken the initiative to start working on sanitation in the rural interior.

Some good practices identified in the documentation include: The participatory methodology of the WASH intervention resulted in high levels of participation, community ownership and active contributions from communities to achieve WASH objectives. The most critical partnerships formed by the WASH programme were between the villages and the duty-bearers for water and sanitation (the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Rural Development), forming a platform for future work in WASH.

The lesson learned was that the cost of building infrastructure in the remote rural interior of Suriname is very costly due to the transportation of both technicians and construction materials by boats and planes. The intervention has created a demand by other rights-holders for proper WASH facilities, which the duty bearers are now obliged to fulfil. People living in the interior are expecting the same standards of water and sanitation facilities as those in cities. The price paid
to achieve the equity is considered high. Another concern has been the maintenance of the constructed facilities and sustainable use of these facilities, which requires putting in place the mechanism at local communities.

The rural water and sanitation has received increased attention of the Government, NGOs and the general public. Private sectors that developed mining industry in interior Suriname are recognising their social responsibility to support community development in their business locations. UNICEF will continue work with the Government and civil society to promote and mobilise resources for water and sanitation in schools and at the community level in the interior.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

- AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- CARICOM - Caribbean Community
- CBO – Community based organisation
- CEO - Chief Education Officer
- CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CSO - Civil society Organisation
- ECCE - Early Childhood Care and Education
- FGD - Focus group discussion
- GoG - Government of Guyana
- GRPA - Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association
- GuyD_Info – Guyana’s adaptation of DevInfo
- HFLE - Health and Family Life Education
- HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- IP(s) – Implementing partners
- MHSSS - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
- MICS - Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
- MoAA - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- MoE - Ministry of Education
- MoH - Ministry of Health
- MoNR – Ministry of Natural Resources
- MoRD – Ministry of Regional Development
- NGO - Non-governmental organisation
- STD - Sexually transmitted disease
- STI - Sexually transmitted infection
- ToR - Terms of Reference
- UN - United Nations
- UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund
- UNICEF - United Nations Children’s Fund
- USAID - United States Agency for International Development
- UWI - University of the West Indies
- WHO - World Health Organisation

**Capacity Development**

In Guyana competencies in ECD strategies and practices were strengthened across country. Some 30 indigenous Community Health Workers from the remote hinterland regions received training in ECD strategies in homes and health facilities. The Government’s investment and active participation by Regional Health and Administrative Authorities, Amerindian Chiefs and other community leaders; parents and siblings are guarantees to its sustainability. All ECD trainings include a module on Disaster Preparedness and Response in ECD settings, which has
led to a few facilities threatened by flooding making slight modifications to their infrastructure.

Institutional strengthening, both at the University of Guyana and the lead Child Protection Agency, to increase the capacity of its officers resulted in a number of actions. For the University, this included the agreement and approval of a new Degree and Diploma Social Work Programme for the 2015-2016 period, acceptance by the Academic Board of the introduction of a specialised Post-Graduate Course in Criminology and the introduction in 2015-2016 of the Degree in Sociology with a minor in Social Policy. For the Agency, the Protocols (Sexual Offences Act) for medical practitioners, police and prosecutors were elaborated through the National Task for Prevention of Sexual Offences. These protocols will build capacity to prevent, treat and respond to sexual offences and promote positive social norms – outside of the lead Agency.

Training was provided to the Bureau of Public Health (BoG) of the MoH in Suriname on infant and young child feeding (IYCF). Based on formative research, a communication strategy was developed and translated into an action plan through a series of workshops. BoG staff and main child health development partners participated in the process. The IYCF+ strategy addressed the extremely low exclusive breastfeeding rate (2.8 per cent) in Suriname and other child care practices.

**Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy**

The IYCF+ Communication Strategy in Suriname was developed based on Formative Research which provided solid data and information on the issues of current knowledge, attitude and practices, and addresses different audiences/stakeholders (family members, communities, health worker and policy makers).

The use of the Child-Friendly School (CFS) monitoring tool in Guyana guided education officers, teachers and school communities to track school progress against nationally agreed CFS components. The tool is now being integrated into the national monitoring system. The data generated allow schools to monitor their own progress, Regional Education Officers to do comparative analyses and the Central Ministry to carry out a national assessment. Head teachers and Regional Education Officers have utilised results to develop their operational plans to improve results for boys and girls.

As a result of a series of dialogues, and given the need to ensure a solid and strategic focus on the child protection system, an interagency task force completed the child protection mapping (using UNICEF’s global toolkit) and two areas of policy, among other outputs, were prioritised. These resulted in a revised Juvenile Justice Bill 2014 and a draft alternative care policy (2014) – a first for Guyana; both efforts stress compliance with international standards. In Suriname, following the approval of the Institutional Care law and the baseline study on institutional care, operationalisation of the law began, with registration of all care institutes by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

UNICEF continued to advocate for child’s right in both countries. During the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the UN Child Rights Convention, UNICEF Suriname jointly, with the University of Anton De Tom of Suriname organised a Seminar on Child’s rights and Child Protection. Twenty-five one-minute videos on child’s rights were developed in partnership with a local NGO (the Back Lot), with children’s participation. In both Guyana and Suriname, the European Union-UNICEF Child’s Rights Toolkits were launched, together with the European Union Embassy (Guyana) and the Dutch Embassy (Suriname).
The MDG Acceleration Framework developed prior to 2014 by UN agencies and the Government, and focused on maternal health, was signed this year. UNICEF Guyana advocated with three donors investing in health in Guyana (Argentina, Cuba and Mexico) to align their contributions with this framework, as investing in maternal health will also positively impact on neonatal mortality.

In 2013, UNICEF provided technical leadership to the country’s first combined NGO submission on Trafficking in Persons. Support was continued in 2014, and approval of the grant was obtained by the NGOs.

In 2014 the Guyana Bar Association and the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers entered into an MOU with UNICEF. This MOU provides the opportunity to strengthen the legal system (as part of the child protection system), and will ensure ‘champions for children’ though the inclusion of a child rights agenda at the Bar, principally in the areas of research and advocacy.

After the successful launch of GuyD_Info in 2013, two databases (SurInfo and CensusInfo) were launched in 2014 in Suriname, on Caribbean Statistics Day. The databases consist of approximately 1,600 indicators, with disaggregation by sex, geographic and economic-status, which enables officials of line ministries, other policymakers and development partners, to have easy access to data for decision making at the national and the subnational levels.

The partnership between UNICEF Suriname and the NGO Projekta towards operationalisation of the pilot adolescent project in the North-East of Suriname was expanded to other partners in the same community (Moengo).

In Guyana the partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank continued to be fruitful. In Guyana, the Bank became a partner on the MICS 5 survey and is contributing US$35,000 to the MICS 5 report-writing process.

Partnerships with NatComs remain important as bilateral donor funding is difficult to obtain in both countries. In particular the partnerships with the UK NatCom for Guyana and the Dutch NatCom for Suriname continue to be vital for the programmes.

UNICEF Guyana used various means of communication for advancing child’s rights. Investment cases were prepared and shared with various donors. For Youth Participation, a cross-section of youth from all 10 administrative regions (hinterland, urban and rural), youth living with disabilities, youth in contact with the law, youth living with HIV participated in workshops which guided the development of a draft Action Plan to address Child Participation. In addition, consultations were held with youth, which aided in the shaping of the draft youth policy.

Consultations and workshops were conducted with the local media that focused on the ethical reporting of children and women, and the continued advancement of children’s rights. The UN held sessions with high school students across the capital to discuss the MDGs and post-2015 agenda, to hear their thoughts and projections for a post-2015 world. These sessions were followed by a UN Youth Forum, led by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Many issues came up during the Forum, such as the lack of reproductive health services for young people, lack of job opportunities, limited recreational facilities and programmes and the lack of opportunities for youth participation. These issues will feed into future UN programming, as well
as further advocacy with the Government for better addressing young people’s needs.

In Suriname, youth are engaged in a participative way to express their concerns and this informed the design of the Youth Participation programme financed by the Dutch NatCom. Innovative communication activities were organised in November for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CRC. Twenty-five one-minute videos were produced by 50 children 10-14 years old, during a two-day workshop, with guidance by camera journalists, and focused on child’s rights. The videos were shown to parents and stakeholders on 20 November, and subsequently broadcast daily for 25 days after the 20th of November. A Child Rights Seminar on Violence against Children was organised jointly on 21 November by UNICEF and the Anton de Kom University, and around 150 persons participated. In both countries The EU-UNICEF Toolkit on Child Rights was launched.

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

During the reporting period, UNICEF Guyana/Suriname supported a joint activity in Suriname, together with the MoH of Guyana and MoH of Suriname, during Immunisation week. This joint effort strengthened the partnership of the two countries in immunisation and prevention of communicable diseases, particularly in the border areas.

The ECD Programme in Guyana has embarked on a collaboration with the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica, to develop a Master’s Degree Programme in Early Childhood Education (M.Ed. in ECD). The draft course outline and content were developed and are expected to be ready for the academic board by September 2015. This collaboration demonstrates the consistent and sustainable efforts to maintain a Caribbean focus in ECD, but also effectively ensures competencies that can sustain ECD quality programming to meet the obligations set out in the Regional Framework of Action for Children in the Caribbean.

UNICEF Guyana succeeded in obtaining the expertise of the Caribbean Sports and Development Agency, based in Trinidad, to develop a structured sports programme to be used in dormitory schools and communities, as well as to conduct training for persons who will be implementing the Sports for Development programme at schools and in select communities.

UNICEF supported the participation of counterparts in both Guyana and Suriname in the Caribbean Early Childhood Development Seminar in Jamaica, and the Training of the Care for Child’s Development (C4CD) module in Antigua during the year, benefitting the ECD programme in both countries.

The CARICOM Child Observatory Network initiative, led by University of West Indies and UNICEF’s Easter Caribbean Office, strengthens South-South cooperation between academia and research institutes with a focus on children. The CARICOM Monitoring System established in 2014 also serves to improve regional standardisation and sharing of best practices and lessons learned between CARICOM Member States on realisation of child rights.

Identification Promotion of Innovation

Opportunities were offered in a structured national health care delivery system that provides Maternal and Child Health services for children 0 - 3 years through Integrating Early Childhood Development in the standardised training for community health workers (CHWs) and midwives in indigenous communities in Guyana. This will allow sustainability and UNICEF’s smooth exit, especially since all levels of practitioners in the MCH programme are paid by the Government. The strategy supports an increased knowledge base in ECD among parents, grandparents and
siblings, and impacts positively on the readiness skills of indigenous boys and girls in Guyana. Local materials are used with the Machusi and Akawaio languages used in ECD posters. Information flows and data streams are linked to the formal MCH monitoring system, and CHWs trained in interpreting and analysing information on child health passports.

In Suriname, the Computer Aided Learning (CAL) project piloted in five interior schools provided new opportunities for children to improve their learning achievement. Given that remote areas have no internet and unstable electricity, UNICEF provided solar panel systems to three of five schools. Non-method-bound Math and Language supportive software were provided, and teachers were trained and were giving computer class practices of at least one hour per week to 800 children (grade 3 to 8). An intermediate assessment conducted in 2014 found that the satisfaction level of children has strongly increased, and children at all pilot schools like to go to school. Both children and teachers felt that children's performance had increased during computer class practices in the classroom. Community members are greatly satisfied with the fact that they see that their children very motivated to use computers, and children used the Dutch language more often at home. The pilot project contributed to the development of the national ICT for Education Policy and will be extended to more schools through the IDB-supported education programme.

Support to Integration and cross-sectoral linkages

In Guyana, advocacy for the Juvenile Justice Bill resulted in further opening of multi-sectoral discussions of the major shifts that could be expected in the areas of prevention, treatment and recovery of children in contact with the law. This is particularly important for increasing the age of criminal responsibility to 12 and the issues that require the boundaries of child protection to be clarified through better definition of roles and responsibilities (including budgetary allocation for children in contact with the law). UNICEF Guyana played a critical role in the preparation of documents for presentation in Council of Ministers. The use of mapping results, as one of the tools to clarify boundaries and coordination mechanisms, helped to ensure that the revised bill reflects a more holistic approach to justice for children.

The Adolescent Development Programme in Suriname supported the Government in implementing the Integrated Adolescent Development Framework, cross-cutting with other sectors, including Government ministries, national NGOs and community-based organisations. Despite the challenges posed to national level coordination due to the pending extension of the Presidential Task Force on Child and Adolescents (the coordinating body for the integrated framework) UNICEF continued to support line ministries (MoH, MoE, MoSA, MoJP and MoSY) and NGOS (Projekta, Medical Mission) in youth-friendly health services, basic life skill and vocational education, awareness raising and services to protect adolescents from violence and abuse and improve juvenile justice, as well as the participation of adolescents in decision-making and monitoring. Integration was also applied at the community level through establishment and building capacity of the Community Youth Network and development of a pilot Community Participatory Action Plan for Adolescents in the Maroon community.

Service Delivery

As both Guyana and Suriname are considered to be middle-income countries, UNICEF’s support for service delivery was limited.
Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation

Guyana’s initial State reports under the Optional Protocols on Children in Armed Conflict and Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (due in 2012) were completed with the support of UNICEF Guyana. The reports provided a useful tool on the state of children (as per Protocols) and will serve to assist in the planning and implementation of both the Convention and the Protocols, in light of overall State capacity.

Further, an awareness session for approximately 40 people (mainly Government officials and civil society representatives) was completed through the support of the UNICEF Geneva Office. The session resulted in a better understanding of the Convention and its implications and the introduction of a human rights focal point in the Government to ensure better monitoring and reporting under the treaty obligations. An agreement was reached on the way forward for a plan of action on the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.


In Suriname, following the submission of the 3rd and 4th combined State Report on the CRC in late 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs organised an internal review of the National Action Plan for Children (2009-2013). UNICEF has suggested extending the current Action Plan to 2016 while preparing the new Action Plan based on the recommendations to be received from the CRC Committee. UNICEF advocated with the Government to prepare the State Report on the Optional Protocols on Children in Armed Conflict and Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography that were due in May 2014.

Training in the human rights-based approach to programming was organised in Suriname with five key ministries and NGOs involved in the Adolescent Development Programme. The training reached over 30 participants, which contributed to the establishment of dialogue between the central ministries and the Community Youth Network, as well as adoption of the Community Participatory Adolescent Development Action Plan.

Gender Mainstreaming and Equality

In 2014 UNICEF Guyana/Suriname conducted a Gender Review of the Country Programme to further strengthen gender mainstreaming in UNICEF-assisted programmes. The Gender Review recommended three key programme issues that are relevant to UNICEF Country Programmes in both countries – high incidence of teen-age pregnancy, gender disparities in education and gender-based violence.

In Suriname, UNICEF is supporting programmatic interventions to address early pregnancy in Maroon communities through the integrated Adolescent Development Framework, particularly capacity building of local health workers on youth-friendly health services. In 2014, UNICEF supported the MoH and the MoSY in organising a Health Fair in Moengo, to raise the awareness and knowledge of adolescents on health and sexual knowledge. The Health Fair covered 1,200 adolescents and over 100 parents and teachers in the Moengo community.

In cooperation with UNFPA, UNICEF Suriname staff actively participated in the study on the status of adolescent health-seeking, using the integrated management of adolescent needs (IMAN) protocol. The study was carried out by Medical Mission, an NGO responsible for primary health services in the interior of Suriname. Based on the findings, a training project was
initiated, in partnership with Medical Mission, for 20 health workers in the interior areas around Guyaba, one of the pilot communities for the Adolescent Development Programme. However, it was also noted that an integrated strategy to address early pregnancy issues in Suriname is needed and a more systematic approach is required with multiple stakeholders, including the UNFPA and PAHO.

In Guyana, the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) programme continues to deliver life skills education to in-school children at primary and secondary levels, addressing multiple issues, including teenage pregnancy and risky behaviours. The evaluation of HFLE resulted in a consensus amongst programme partners and stakeholders on the importance of ensuring an integrated Guyanese Package (comprising HFLE in classrooms and life skills – extracurricular (including sports for development), career guidance, counselling and student welfare/support is developed and implemented. This would be delivered through a single national policy/programme, and a single management unit in the MoE.

**Environmental Sustainability**

During 2014 programmatic environmental sustainability activities for both Guyana and Suriname continued to be mainly WASH-focused. Further progress was made in Guyana within the education sector through ongoing partnership development with the Ministry of Education, sectoral partners and UNESCO for further Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Education Development (SED) infusion within the national curriculum. UNESCO was successfully approached for funding by the MoE, with technical inputs from UNICEF, to roll out implementation and monitoring during 2014 based on the achievements in 2013. Linking Guyana’s experiences with SED through regional and global SED networks will be facilitated during 2015 through LACRO and NYHQ technical support.

In Guyana, progress since 2013 has ensured that national WASH standards are now integrated in the national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strategy and covered under the policies and draft legislation relating to emergency preparedness and response, which have been submitted to Cabinet.

In Suriname UNICEF supported the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Regional Development to document the experiences of construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities in the nine project villages using solar-powered pumps and gravity-fed filtration systems, which were completed in early 2014. The documented experiences have provided valuable learning and advocacy points for the MoNR and MoRD for policy development and project planning, to enable provision to more interior communities of sustainable WASH; indications suggest that potential donors are showing interest. The Ministry of Natural Resources hired 40 new local water managers for day-to-day maintenance of water systems. This increase in dedicated water managers is vital for the sustainability of the installed water systems.

**Effective Leadership**

The Country Management Team (CMT) monitored on a monthly basis key performance indicators (KPIs) for the office. These indicators were used to identify potential risks and reduce their incidences. Among the indicators reviewed were fund implementation rates, direct cash transfers (DCTs), recruitment, open staff posts and contracts. The CMT recommended actions to be taken, for example, for DCTs over six months. A new indicator requested was to include contracts approaching expiry, to reduce occurrences of contracts being open after expiry dates. The CMT took a firm position on travel authorisations that remained open after trips had taken place.
UNICEF Guyana and Suriname conducted a Gender Review in 2014, with the support of the LAC Regional Office. The exercise improved staff awareness and knowledge on gender mainstreaming in UNICEF-supported programme. Through the participatory process, the review also provided recommendations and developed an Action Plan to improve gender mainstreaming in the Country Programme. The CMT prioritised the Gender Review.

A priority was the staff changes to be presented to the Programme and Budget Review (PBR) as a result of the impending Global Staff Service Centre (GSSC) and resulting office operational changes. Between April - May 2014, there were at least five ‘all staff’ discussions on the efficiency and effectiveness process and scenarios for the operations staffing structure. Ahead of the PBR discussions, individual meetings were held during these months by the Representative with all general service staff and operations staff and their supervisors, on their career and personal development plans. Inputs from these discussions were used in the 2014 Learning and Development Plan and will continue in the 2015 Plan.

In July 2013 UNICEF Guyana/Suriname had been audited by the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) and received a satisfactory rating with four recommendations: on implementation of Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers, HACT (high priority), quality assurance of FACE forms (medium priority), implementation controls for vendor master data (medium priority), and controls over records of property, plant and equipment (PPE), which was of medium priority. At the commencement of 2014, action on the PPE observation was pending for final reporting to OIAI at 31 January 2014. In March 2014, the office received confirmation from OIAI that all recommendations were now closed. UNICEF Guyana/Suriname continues to monitor these areas to ensure that the measures put in place are maintained.

Business continuity mechanisms were reviewed and the business continuity plans (BCPs) were updated. Tests of emergency equipment and telephone tree exercises were conducted and support mechanisms for emergencies, such as the alternative locations, were reviewed. The joint office continues to work to make the BCPs more robust and responsive to varying types of emergency situations.

Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) were conducted for the Guyana and Suriname Programme between September and December 2014, and confirmed that the Country Programme is on-track for achieving most planned results. Adjustments were made to output-level results statements and at the indicator and target level, while one result, on integration of Communication for Development, was dropped.

Financial Resources Management

The CMT monitored key performance indicators on a monthly basis to improve management of allocated funds and to reduce the incidence of risk. Financial indicators focused on DCTs (outstanding DCTs/CAGs over six months, within six-to-nine months and over nine months), funds utilisation (RR, OR and IB), contracts open after expiry date and contracts approaching expiry.

The Guyana office is the financial processing centre for Guyana and Suriname until the GSSC takes effect. Management of this system is continually reviewed to improve the timeliness of payments and better cash forecasting, and to ensure adequate support for the Suriname team, where there is a sole Operations Assistant. One challenge is the different financial rules and regulations in each country and different banking systems.
Payments were made in a timely manner based on the system put in place to ensure that both payments for Suriname and Guyana could be done in a scheduled manner. The Guyana Office continues to work on grouping payments to vendors in order to reduce the number of small transactions. In 2015, it will factor the single payment to implementing partners (IPs) into its HACT training in order to reduce the number of requests received daily from various departments/divisions of a single government IP.

E-banking implementation was challenged by limited e-banking facilities and transition challenges for government IPs from cheque payments to bank transfers. Management discussed with the programme team and HACT groups how to transition IPs, in particular Government IPs, from cheque payments to bank transfers. In 2015 management will work with the Government on ensuring that there can be a smooth transition and Suriname will lead both offices in this transition, due to the country’s more developed e-banking facilities.

Fund-raising and Donor Relations

The timely submission of donor reports is monitored by the CMT through the monitoring of Key Performance Indicators. The quality of donor report submissions is reviewed against the donor report checklist by the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) specialists in the two offices. UNICEF made every effort to fully utilise the OR resources allocated for 2014.

Resource mobilisation gaps persist. With both Guyana and Suriname being middle-income countries, traditional donor resources have been difficult to mobilise; only 20 per cent of funds were mobilised in addition to UNICEF Regular Resources. While funding for UNICEF was difficult to obtain from donors, UNICEF Guyana/Suriname was successful in assisting NGOs and Governments to obtain donor funding for children, in areas such as Trafficking In Persons and maternal and neonatal mortality (both for Guyana).

UNICEF participated in mobilising resources as part of regional and sub-regional funding mechanisms and joint UN proposals. In 2014, the primary donors included the UK National Committee for Guyana, and Dutch National Committee for Suriname – both donors focusing on Adolescent Development and Participation.

As part of the Guyana-Suriname Resource Mobilisation Strategy, the office has developed investment cases, videos and online presentations and has been submitting incremental budgets to donors to generate interest and provide donors with the maximum possible funding options.

UNICEF Guyana and Suriname has started exploring ways to engage the private sector to invest in children in both countries. In 2015 workshops will be organised to start engaging the private sector on business principles for children.

Evaluation

Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plans (IMEP) were prepared for 2014 for Guyana and Suriname, in accordance with UNICEF standards and guidelines. About 70 per cent of the M&E activities in the IMEP for Guyana and Suriname had been completed by December 31. Some of the more notable achievements for Guyana were the training of trainers in DevInfo 7 and the establishing of an online community to encourage uptake; finalisation and operationalisation of the CARICOM Monitoring System for the children and other frameworks; completion of the fieldwork, data processing and draft key findings report for the MICS. For Suriname, major
achievements included the launch of the MDG progress report and SurlInfo and CensusInfo databases and the conduct of a Child Protection Mapping and Systems Assessment (conducted in Guyana also).

The evaluation of the HFLE pilot in Guyana was a turning point for the programme. As part of the CARICOM approach, HFLE is expected to deliver life skills education to in-school children at primary and secondary level addressing multiple issues, including teenage pregnancy and risky behaviours. The findings and recommendations from the evaluation of the pilot resulted in a consensus amongst programme partners and stakeholders regarding the necessity of ensuring an integrated Guyanese Package comprising (HFLE) in classrooms and Life Skills – Extracurricular (including Sports for Development), Career Guidance, Counselling and Student Welfare/Support. This would be delivered through a single national policy/programme, system level delivery and monitoring by single management unit in the MoE, with a systematic approach to capacity development.

Challenges in completing all IMEP activities planned for both Guyana and Suriname included the limited in-country capacity to conduct high-level studies and evaluation, as well as high staff turnover in key implementing partners.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The Guyana office moved from a 1Mbps dedicated internet connection for its primary link from a local internet service provider to a shared 5 Mbps fibre-optics internet connection with another service provider. Fibre optics technology is new to Guyana. The annual cost saving from this change is estimated at US$22,848. In Suriname, this change had already been made when the office upgraded to 8 Mbps shared internet connection and discontinued the dedicated link. Total yearly savings at end-2014, compared to 2012, was estimated at US$36,828, a reduction from annual costs in 2012 of US$48,948 to annual costs in 2014 of US$12,120 in 2014.

The Guyana office is currently in discussions with local telephone service providers for more favourable mobile phone services.

The Suriname office moved to new shared premises and the IT working group of the OMT in Suriname is reviewing collaborations on Internet services for UN House, to reduce the agencies' ICT cost. The OMT in Guyana is also reviewing use of a common Internet service provider to reduce costs per agency.

Supply Management

Programme supplies procured in 2014 were sports equipment and child-friendly materials for health centres and schools. Operational procurement was comprised of two major activities in 2014 – usage of HQ security funds of US$36,730 for security improvements needed for the Guyana office and the relocation of the server room in Guyana from the ground floor to the first floor to reduce the risk of damage from flooding. No security funds were allocated for the Suriname office because the Suriname office relocated in July 2014 to a newly refurbished building.

The security changes undertaken for the Guyana office included installation of a fire suppression system for the server room, installation of a keypad access control to the server room, a new fire and burglar alarm system, shatterproof glass film on bottom windows, emergency exit signs and installation of a fire pump system. ICT equipment to replace damaged
and obsolete equipment was purchased, as were two satellite phones, a scanner, three shredders, phones and a CCTV system.

**Security for Staff and Premises**

In both Guyana and Suriname, security remained of paramount importance and measures were taken to strengthen security. The Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) for both countries was reviewed during and following a DSS HQ MOSS Compliance mission to Suriname and Guyana in the first quarter of the year, where both offices were found to have satisfactory measures in place and to be in compliance with their respective MOSS.

First aid training was given to staff in both countries in accordance with the MOSS for each country; staff enjoyed the practical training exercise and found the training to be beneficial for increasing ability to react to emergency situations. Staff in Guyana participated in the UNDSS organised SSAFE training to improve their awareness of safety and security.

The Suriname office moved to new premises in July 2014; before the move took place, the new building was reviewed by UNDSS and security changes recommended were made. In Guyana, the office utilised the HQ security funds provided to make major necessary changes, which included installation of shatterproof film in vulnerable locations, installation of a fire suppression system for the server room and keypad access control to the server room, a new fire and burglar alarm system, emergency exit signs and installation of a fire pump system. The building in Guyana was found to be vulnerable because it is a three-storey wooden structure of considerable age.

Management and the security focal points monitored potential security risks and maintained a close relationship with UNDSS. Staff were informed in a timely manner of security situations and security incidents involving staff were reported. There were no major security incidents in either Guyana or Suriname in 2014.

**Human Resources**

Within the year, the Guyana and Suriname offices underwent recruitment exercises for one national post in Guyana (M&E Specialist) and four national posts in Suriname (Communications Officer, Child Survival and Development Officer, Child Protection Officer) and a temporary Programme Assistant. The office continues to struggle with ability to fill national posts in Suriname due to nationality rules, which will be reviewed in the mid-term management review to be conducted in early 2015.

The working relationship amongst staff and between management and staff were an office priority in 2014; management and the staff association worked together to address issues of concern. This will remain a priority in the coming year and team-building sessions will be prioritised. UNICEF continued to encourage staff to use flexible work arrangements for a better work-life balance. In 2014, five staff in Guyana utilised flexible work schedules and one staff member in Suriname. Teleworking was also employed by staff during the year.

Four staff members benefitted from SSAFE training conducted by UNDSS and all staff members also benefitted from a joint UN Cares/Caring for Us session at the end of the year. One staff member participated in the Dynamic Leadership Certificate Course and one staff member participated in the Leadership Development Programme. Staff in Guyana benefitted from UN Coherence training conducted in Guyana by the UN Staff System College (UNSSC) and the Deputy Representative attended external UN Coherence Training, conducted by
UNSSC. The Operations staff benefitted from training in Panama in operational areas – procurement, finance and HR. These courses had been highly anticipated and were found to be beneficial to improving operational performance by staff and the office’s knowledge.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

The Guyana and Suriname offices migrated to Office365 in mid-2014, and users in both offices are now using Office 2013, Outlook and Lync. A SharePoint collaboration site was created and is in use. OneDrive will be fully implemented in 2015, as there were some concerns regarding bandwidth. This has allowed staff to work remotely more easily, because there is no need to connect via VPN; more staff are using the Bring Your Own Device tool to access UNICEF corporate emails.

Since the migration to virtual servers in 2013/2014, the joint office can now easily deploy IT services that require new servers (e.g. in the case of new DHCP servers), without investing in additional equipment or increased energy costs to operate and cool physical servers.

VOIP and video conferencing considerably reduced the cost of communication in 2014 relative to previous years, and significant progress was made in reducing the cost for Internet connectivity in both Guyana and Suriname offices by approximately US$36,828 compared to 2012.

All ICT equipment meets the minimum hardware standards, and BGAN and other emergency telecoms were tested regularly for both offices. The Senior ICT Assistant was trained in ITIL Foundation for IT service management improvement.

A major project for ICT in 2014 was the move to the new UN House in Suriname, where support was given to the entire UN house through the now-functioning ICT Working Group. On-the-ground support was given to UNICEF to ensure the ICT infrastructure was moved and setup was completed in time for the new work week. In Guyana, the server room was moved to the first floor, eliminating the risk of basement flooding.

**Programme Components from RAM**

**ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS**

**OUTCOME 1** By 2016, Governments of Guyana and Suriname have in place systems for continuous monitoring of the situation for boys, girls, and women in the general population and in the hinterland and rural areas of Guyana and the interior of Suriname based on reliable disaggregated data and are using the data to formulate and continuously update equity-and gender-sensitive national and sub-national plans to guide continuing progress in the survival, development, protection and participation of children and women at the aggregated level and among disadvantaged groups based on CRC and CEDAW.

Good progress was made in both countries towards ensuring a system for continuous monitoring of the situation for boys, girls and women.

To increase the utilisation and further institutionalisation of GuyD_Info technology in Guyana, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was held for selected participants from institutions that are strategically positioned for ongoing utilisation. The participants have formed the national ‘GuyD_Info Support Group’ and have systematic interactions among new and continuing users, facilitated by a GuyD_Info online community. In Suriname, SurInfo and the Suriname
CensusInfo were launched in October 2014, resulting in more disaggregated data becoming more accessible to decision-makers and the general public (http://www.statistics-suriname.org/). The Government of Suriname launched the 2014 Country MDG report at the end of 2014.

In Guyana, the Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Health, with support from UNICEF and other UN agencies, jointly implemented MICS Round 5. The data from this survey, which is critical for Guyana’s final MDG report and the post-2015 agenda, will be disaggregated by region.

During the reporting period, CARICOM’s Regional Framework for Action for Children and a corresponding extendable children monitoring system were developed and operationalised. This system provides opportunities for member states to share their outputs (e.g. policy documents, strategic plans, evaluations, etc.) against benchmarks.

In Guyana, a national micronutrient study was finalised in 2014, which is key to informing policy and other decision-makers on the anaemia status of young children, school-age children and pregnant women. This study also provides data on iron-deficiency anaemia among young children (24 per cent) and pregnant women (41.3 per cent). These are of high public health significance, due to potential impact on the health status of new-borns, and infants.

In both Guyana and Suriname child protection mapping and assessments were completed using UNICEF Guyana’s comprehensive toolkit, and a draft Vision 2025 document, along with strategic plans, were developed for Child Protection.

Suriname’s Raamwet Opvanginstellingen (Law on Institutional Care), though approved in 2013, came into effect in August 2014. About half of all care institutions are now registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing. Collaboration with this ministry will facilitate the development and operationalisation of a monitoring system on the status of care instructions and the ministry’s subsidy policy and, by extension, will improve the quality of service.

Finally in Suriname, The Safe Motherhood and New-born Health Action Plan was approved by the Ministry of Health in 2014 and is being implemented. Through formative research, UNICEF supported the generation of evidence to develop an Infant and Young Child Feeding Plus Communication Strategy to address the extremely low exclusive breastfeeding rate in Suriname (2.8 per cent).

In Suriname, the administrative information system in all sectors, in particular education and social protection, is weak at best, resulting in insufficient data to support evidence-informed policy development, revision and programming. UNICEF Suriname is supporting the Government of Suriname in preparation for the 5th round Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 5) in 2015 that is expected to provide updates on disaggregated statistics for children.

In Guyana there is a paucity of survey data, for decision-making. Apart from a few in-country sources, such as the census, MICS and DHS, there are limited empirical disaggregated data to inform decision-making at the national and subnational levels.

Finally, limited human resources and capacities, including sourcing consultants, has been particularly challenging for both countries, affecting the completion of activities and thereby delaying the achievement of results.
OUTPUT 1 Policy makers have increased access to disaggregated data available periodically and enact equity based national policies and legislations in fulfilment of Guyana’s child rights obligations

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Further to the update of GuyD_Info, Guyana’s online DevInfo adaptation, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was conducted and 11 persons participated. In an effort to institutionalise GuyD_Info, participants in the ToT were selected from strategically positioned institutions, including the University of Guyana, National Library, UN agencies and the Bureau of Statistics (BoS). All participants completed their certification requirements, which was to conduct at least one post-training workshop for not less than five persons. Teach-back sessions were conducted for over 80 persons from the BoS, Ministry of Finance, Rights of the Child Commission, Women and Gender Equality Commissions, University of Guyana Library and the National Library. An online community was established to foster systematic interaction among new and continuing users. This Facebook page facilitates discussions and allows for the GuyD_Info Support Group, formed by the certified trainers, to provide step-by-step instructions to new and continuing users, thus furthering the utilisation and institutionalisation of GuyD_Info.

The BoS and MoH, with support from UNICEF and other UN agencies, jointly implemented the MICS 5. The fieldwork, data entry and processing were completed, a final draft of the key finding report was sent to UNICEF’s Regional Office for review and comments, while the initial chapters of the MICS final report are being drafted. A draft comparative analysis between key indicators in the MICS 3, MICS 5 and the DHS 2009 was also conducted. This and other analyses of the key findings report will be published in January, 2015. The final set of MICS 5 tables were sent for final approval by the global MICS office, as consultation with in-country subject matter experts is planned for January 2015.

With significant and systematic support from UNICEF Guyana, CARICOM finalised its Regional Framework for Action for Children and the monitoring framework that outlines benchmarks for monitoring progress on agreements on children’s priorities in CARICOM countries. UNICEF Guyana/Suriname contributed to the development of this framework over the years, with support from LACRO. The CARICOM monitoring System is in place and is being populated by Member States. System and Framework Manager training was conducted in July 2014. UNICEF Guyana also provided support to CARICOM in establishing a similar monitoring framework for the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan that can be hosted on the same online platform and will provide opportunities for member states to share their Outputs (e.g. policy documents, strategic plans, reports, evaluations, etc.) against the framework. Through UNICEF Guyana’s further support, some benchmarks for the Crime and Security framework were developed, and will be refined and finalised in 2015.

The critically important Child Protection (CP) Mapping and Assessment was completed (using the UNICEF Guyana comprehensive toolkit) and a draft vision 2025 document, along with a strategic plan was developed. This will heavily contribute to a documented framework to aid in a holistic and coordinated response by all sectors with direct and indirect responsibilities for child protection.

To ensure increased capacity of implementing partners to monitor performance and lead strong reviews and evaluations of joint projects/programmes, UNICEF Guyana conducted an M&E clinic for staff of the Rights of the Child Commission, Bureau of Statistics and UN organisations. The focus was on ensuring a clear understanding of the principles of monitoring and evaluation
and to provide the skills to prepare logical frameworks, using the principles of Results Based Management and the Human Rights Based Approach to Programming; developing outcome, output and impact indicators and conducting data analyses.

Some constraints were encountered. Capacity (especially human resource capacity) remains a perennial issue slowing the work of the sector and overall completion of the plans for institutional strengthening for the lead agency for child protection. While technical guidance was provided on the matter of the Family Court, making the Court operational remains one of the key points for joint advocacy.

OUTPUT 2 Priority gaps in Health, Nutrition and WASH are addressed through the development of evidence based plans, guidelines and M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Planned progress was achieved against two of the three indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

To ensure corporate strategic planning and implementation of projects and programmes within the health sector, a National Health Sector Strategy/Health Vision 2020 and MBB were completed and circulated to key stakeholders to inform decision-making and for reference.

A Micronutrient Study was completed and disseminated, and is considered key to informing relevant policy- and decision-makers at the national and sub-national levels, as it provides data on the anaemia status of young children, school-age children and pregnant women, as well as iron-deficiency anaemia among young children (24.0 per cent); and pregnant women (41.3 per cent). These matters are of high public health significance, and can impact the health status of new-borns, and infants. Study recommendations include revising the Anaemia Policy and Anaemia Protocol, and further capacity-building of health workers to address nutritional deficiencies in the identified target groups.

Efforts under the APR initiative included Vaccination Week activities completed in Barima/Waini, (North West), which was a low-performing site.

A hiatus in programme implementation occurred in the second quarter when 7 per cent of set-aside funds through DCTs became overdue, constraining planned activities, a bottleneck that persists with the implementing partner. Once the liquidations were cleared, programme implementation rates soared.

During a series of visits to coastal-rural and hinterland health facilities to observe application of the MCH Supervisory tool, it was found that the tool is cumbersome, taking more than three hours to complete. Consensus has not yet been reached on the way forward, despite attempts to convene meetings to finalise the tool; thus this activity and its follow-up were constrained.

OUTPUT 3 Priority gaps in Early Childhood Development and Child Friendly Schooling are addressed through the development of evidence based plans, guidelines and M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Planned progress was achieved against both indicators relevant for this reporting year.

UNICEF Guyana’s technical inputs in the form of two papers on Inclusive Education and
Universal Secondary Education contribute in a significant way to the “soft component” of catering to the needs of all children eligible for secondary schooling. UNICEF Guyana’s technical support has influenced a paradigm shift in the MoE, which initially considered inclusive education as children with disabilities only, and universal secondary education in terms of access only. Making use of surveys and cost analyses, the papers propose strategies to counter both actual and potential forms of education exclusion. Moving beyond children with physical disabilities, the inclusive education strategy paper embraces all other aspects of children with special needs. These changes in perspectives augur well for the country’s attempts to ensure equity, at least until the end of compulsory schooling, as well as in supporting timely and sustained schooling. UNICEF Guyana’s primarily technical support was balanced by financial inputs made by the ILO and the MoE. It is expected that these inputs will become two of the pillars in the next Education Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019.

However, finalisation of the CFS monitoring system and monitoring system for schools’ welfare services for tracking vulnerable and potentially excluded children were delayed due to competing new priorities at the senior MoE level.

OUTPUT 4 Improved access to timely and quality disaggregated data and analysis (MICS, Census, SurilInfo, SITAN)

Analytical Statement of Progress:

In order to produce, disseminate and promote the use of data for improvement of policy analysis, advocacy and programme planning, the General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname updated the database of SurInfo and developed the Suriname CensusInfo database in 2014. The two databases were launched on Caribbean Statistics Day (October 15) (http://www.statistics-suriname.org/). SurInfo and CensusInfo consist of approximately 1,600 indicators with disaggregation where possible, including sex, geographic and economic-status. This enables officials of line ministries, other policymakers and development partners to have easy access to data. It also provides a useful tool for better understanding of the status of women and children in Suriname and supports the monitoring of the MDGs. UNICEF Suriname provided strong technical and financial support to this process.

An agreement was achieved with the Government to conduct the Round 5 MICS in 2015. With the support of UNICEF, five government officials (two from the Ministry of Social Affairs, two from the General Bureau for Statistics and one from the Ministry of Health) participated in the MICS 5 survey design workshop in Panama. The participants benefitted from this by receiving in-depth information with regard to the preparations of a MICS survey. Preparations for the survey are ongoing; field work is to be conducted in 2015.

During the year under review, the Government released the 2014 MDG Progress Report, with the financial support of UNDP. The General Bureau of Statistics launched the Environmental Statistical Yearbook, also financially supported by UNDP, and a draft Environmental Statistics Database was developed by the General Statistics using the DevInfo technology supported by UNICEF Suriname. This information is now available online to guide programme development and implementation in the relevant sectors.

The Government’s statistical capacity still needs strengthening. There were competing priorities with the limited human resources, resulting in some delays but overall progress is considered sufficient.
OUTPUT 5 Education sector plans and policies are evidence based, incorporating child friendly principles and innovative strategies, and supported by strengthened monitoring systems to track progress.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Planned progress was achieved against one of the three indicators that were relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year, reflecting overall constraints in this area.

The major achievements in 2014 were the development of the National Strategic Policy on ICT in Primary Education (ICT4E) and establishment of the ICT4E Unit in the Ministry of Education and Community Development (MoECD). The UNICEF-supported pilot project on Computer-Aided Learning (CAL) contributed directly to national policy development. The intermediate assessment of the pilot project in 2014 provided to the MoECD strong evidence that the use of computer-aided learning increased pupils’ interests in learning and improved teachers’ capacity. The CAL project is expected to be completed by 2015; a final assessment is planned for mid-2015.

An education statistics workshop was organised jointly by UNESCO and UNICEF to enhance capacity and knowledge of around 30 department managers and other key officials of the Ministry of Education. The workshop was intended to improve the quality of Suriname’s reporting on education indicators in the global education statistics database. It included a review of different surveys’ scopes; timeliness, accuracy, coverage and comparability of the data that are being provided by the country; as well as training on the methodology and analysis of the main international comparable indicators produced. With this, MoECD awareness of the urgent need for improving the Education Management Information System (EMIS) has been increased.

The latest Sectoral Plan for Education covers 2004-2008, pointing to an urgent need to update the Policy Plan based on recent developments in the education sector. The EMIS has not been functioning optimally and efforts to improving the institutional capacity of the Department of Research and Planning of MoECD did not make sufficient progress, due to incomplete capacity assessments and the failure to develop an action plan for further improvement. This has caused a significant gap in education statistics since 2010. Under the current Government there have been frequent changes at the level of the Minister’s post (current Minister was appointed mid-2013) as well as the Permanent Secretary (appointed early 2014), which seems to have stabilised in 2014; however, earlier changes are still affecting communication and coordination within the Ministry and with partners.

OUTPUT 6 Effective national legislation, policies, structures, plans and M&E systems for Child Protection and Gender Based Violence in place, including Gender mainstreaming in sectors

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A Child Protection System mapping involving key sectors was completed in 2014 under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing (MoSA), with the support of UNICEF Suriname. The mapping exercise followed the global child protection mapping toolkit and led to political mobilisation and commitment for child protection in Suriname. The Final Report on Child Protection Mapping and Assessment, including an Action Plan and recommendations for improving the Child Protection system, await approval of the Council of Ministers.

The legal framework for the installation of the ‘Kinderombudsbureau’, an independent institution for children, is likewise awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers. A plan for capacity
development will be drafted pending approval.

UNICEF Suriname continued support to the Child Protection database set up at the Ministry of Justice and Police (MoJP) in 2014. More departments of MoJP, including the prosecutor’s office, started entering data into the database, which is essential for the availability of data for policy and programming at the ministerial level. Training for the ministry’s department officials in the use of the system is currently ongoing, including the development of an indicators list and a reporting system.

The law on Institutional Care (Raamwet Opvanginstellingen) went into effect in August 2014, after being approved in late 2013. The MoSA called for the registration of all care institutions in order to launch a monitoring system on their status and to facilitate the Ministry’s subsidy policy and improvements in service quality. By end-2014, approximately half of the institutions have been registered.

A forum organised by the Institute of Graduate Studies and Research (IGSR) of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, in collaboration with UNICEF, was carried out with a focus on child rights in relation to violence and disciplinary methods. The Parliament of Suriname initiated national research on VAC, in collaboration with UNICEF, to be undertaken in 2015. It is expected that the findings will be used to develop more evidence-based legislation, policies and programmes to prevent child abuse and violence against children.

However, limited institutional capacity and competing priorities of the Ministry caused delays in approval of key documents. The data analysis for the Child Helpline and the development of the child protection indicator framework have not progressed as planned. An action plan for operationalisation of the Law on Care Institutions (Raamwet Opvanginstellingen) is yet to be developed.

OUTPUT 7 Priority issues in child protection are addressed through the development of evidence based plans, legislations, guidelines and M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:
There are seven indicators under this output. Progress was constrained on five of the six indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

Parliamentary Action on Birth Registration was prioritised through agreement and commitment to prioritise a children’s agenda (starting with birth registration) through the Social Services Committee at the National Assembly.

UNICEF Guyana and partners prepared a paper to guide operationalisation of the Family Court, which was submitted to the MOLHSS, as well as conducting capacity building for lawyers on the new Family Court rules, thus completing two of the critical steps for operationalising the Family Court.

High levels of sexual and other types of violence have placed a strain on the human resource capacity of the main partner for child protection. This has resulted in, among other things, use of high-level technical resources to fill gaps in counselling and other basic social services, thereby leaving gaps in capacity to follow-up on high level issues.
• The Juvenile Justice Bill, 2008 is still outstanding – which affects the rights of all children, especially those in contact with the law. This has created an avenue for children to be charged for “status offences”.
• Corporal punishment is still legally accepted, even though there has been significant national dialogue on this issue in 2013.
• National Tasks Forces on Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences have not been able to meet on a regular basis, in order to, among other things, resolve bottlenecks on coordination, management and detail a plan of action for prevention and response to sexual offences.
• A reform in social protection as a means of strengthening the prevention aspect of child protection is still needed. This requires strengthening/adding to both internal and external capacities and making key decisions on vacant posts and prioritisation of staff/work.

While it was envisaged that more significant progress would have been made towards operationalising the Family Court, progress was limited to the development of a technical note and agreements for capacity building, due to changes in national priorities.

OUTPUT 8 An evidence-based national adolescent strategy is developed, implemented and evaluated

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Progress was constrained on the one indicator that was relevant for this reporting year.

Through the advocacy efforts of UNICEF Guyana and the Commonwealth Youth Programme a National Youth Policy was drafted. Plans to address recommendations from the study on Young Key Affected Populations (YKAP), were drafted for individual Ministries and agencies. However the draft policy was poorly written, obliging the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport to request UNICEF Guyana's support to engage a consultant to finalise the Youth Policy and Action Plan, which reflects the needs of Guyanese youth.

OUTPUT 9 Strengthened evidence-based health policies, strategies and improved Health M&E systems

Analytical Statement of Progress:
There are three indicators under this output. PAHO/WHO led the work on this output on-behalf of the UN system.

Jointly with PAHO and UNFPA, UNICEF Suriname provided technical support to the Ministry of Health on health policy, strategy development and institutional capacity building; in particular, for implementation of the Safe Motherhood and New-born Health Action Plan. A communication strategy for IYCF+ was developed based on formative research. The IYCF+ Communication Strategy not only addresses the extremely low breastfeeding rates in Suriname, but could also integrate other child health-related behaviour change communication strategies. Through the IYCF+ project, there is now more coherence in the work of the Family and Child Health unit of the Ministry of Health, as there are clear linkages among the different components of their work.

Although a proposal for a National Nutrition Survey was developed, Government funding for the survey was not available during 2014. The survey remains relevant as a means to obtain data for combatting non-communicable diseases, particularly obesity amongst children. UNICEF Suriname will continue advocating for undertaking the survey.
UNICEF Suriname’s support to the Health Management Information System (HMIS) focused on improving immunisation statistics. The first training on the Extended Programme for Immunisation (EPI) registration was conducted in November for 75 staff of Regional Health Centres to improve data collection and quality control; these workers’ capacities are further strengthened to collect data. UNICEF Suriname participated actively as member of the EPI Technical Committee and contributed to the discussion on, amongst others, HPV vaccine supply, pertussis vaccination of pregnant women, and the Vaccine Supply Stock Management software training organised by PAHO. In preparation for the 2015 MICS, that will provide most updated data for health-related indicators, one of the MOH staff participated in the MICS Survey design workshop, with the support of UNICEF.

Research on neonatal mortality and severe morbidity, planned together with UNFPA’s initiative for maternal mortality audit, was not carried out due to the difficulties in recruiting of impartial maternal and child mortality auditors and possible duplication with a similar initiative by the association of midwives.

A key constraint has been the unavailability of Government resources to conduct the national nutrition survey. Procedures and protocols for data collection, processing and analysis of data of the HMIS were not always clear, transparent and comparable with international guidelines and requirements. Comparability and use of national data was therefore a challenge.

**OUTPUT 10** Policies and plans for Youth and Adolescent Development and Participation are formulated, implemented and monitored

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The national Integrated Adolescent Development Plan was implemented in one of the three pilot communities – Moengo. With the support of the NGO Projekta, the Moengo community developed a community action plan through a participatory approach, with strong participation of local adolescents, stakeholders and central Government officials.

Leadership of the Presidential Task Force was limited by the pending extension of its assignment, affecting national coordination and monitoring of the Integrated Adolescent Development Framework. During the UNDAF Joint Steering Committee meeting, it was decided to establish the Programme Coordination Group for adolescent programmes with the expectation that this mechanism will improve progress with regard to programme implementation and ensure alignment of several initiatives in the adolescent programme.

**OUTPUT 11** Enhanced national capacity for designing legislation and to implement improved governance strategies in line with international human rights standards [CRC compliance monitored regularly. Finalisation of the 3rd and 4th CRC report. Update action plan for children based on CRC recommendation.]

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The combined 3rd and 4th CRC report was submitted at the end of 2013 by the Ministry of Social Affairs to the UN Child Rights Committee in Geneva. The pre-session of the Working Group will include participation by UNICEF and civil society in Geneva, and is scheduled to take place in the second half of 2015.
UNICEF Suriname facilitated the participation of the University of Guyana in the Caribbean Child Rights Observatory Network (CCRON) that was established at the University of the West-Indies in Trinidad and Tobago. The Network is to serve as a hub to advocate for children’s issues, thus giving a voice to the most excluded and disadvantaged groups in the region. The University of Suriname became a member of CCRON and provided documentation to the CCRON.

Child rights were put in the spotlight and got broad public awareness in Suriname through various activities during the celebration of the CRC 25th Anniversary in 2014. UNICEF supported the forum discussion on Violence against Children, with participation by high-level officials, including the chair of the national Parliament and the Minister of Justice and Police. With the support of UNICEF, 25 “One-minute child rights” videos were produced with children’s participation facilitated by the NGO “The Back Lot”. The videos were broadcast during November to December on a daily basis through the “10 min youth journal” programme on two national TV channels.

In partnership with EU and the Dutch Embassy in Suriname, the launch of the Child Rights toolkit took place on 10th December, UN Human Rights Day.

OUTCOME 2 By 2016, Guyana and Suriname have completed implementation of respective evidence-based and equity and gender-sensitive programmes of action to achieve the MD/MDGs targets on survival and development, protection, and participation for boys, girls, and women in the general population and in the hinterland and rural areas of Guyana and in the interior of Suriname and both countries are implementing a post-MD/MDGs target date (2015) programme of action for achievement of continuing progress in the survival, development, protection, and participation of children and women with equity based on CRC and CEDAW principles.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Results Achieved
Progress was achieved on evidence-based policies and programmes for equity-focused and gender-sensitive action on survival, development, protection and participation of children and women.

In Guyana work continued in the areas of Early Childhood Education, with the development of modules, integrated curriculum for health workers and a focus on the most remote areas where indigenous families live. Work continued on the Child-Friendly Schools programme with the development of monitoring tools and a certification process, as well as a focus on positive discipline as a step toward abolishing corporal punishment. In Guyana, the Master’s programme in Counselling and Trauma-Sensitive Interventions resulted in the emergence of a new focus on schools’ welfare programming. Further, a new social work curriculum was introduced at the University of Guyana after a critical assessment of the previous programme.

This new programme, which meets the standards of the International Federation of Social Workers and the needs of the country, will ensure more thorough training to meet the emerging challenges in this field.

The Child Protection Mapping was completed in both countries. In Guyana a draft strategic plan for the MoLHSSS was developed, but still needs considerable improvement. The Parliament started consultations on the removal of corporal punishment, but these were stalled due to the prorogation of Parliament on the 10th of November. In Suriname the Ministry of Social Affairs
and Housing started the registration of all care institutions, required by the 2013 Law on Institutional Care.

Toward the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Guyana, the PMTCT Curriculum was successfully integrated into the nurses’ training programme, thus ensuring sustainability and a body of primary health care personnel with the competencies to deliver high-quality treatment, care and support services especially for mothers who are infected with HIV.

UNICEF Guyana’s Adolescent Development and Participation programme, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, continued its implementation of the Sports and Culture for Development project in targeted institutions and communities. The Child Protection and Adolescent Programmes in Suriname focused on community initiatives, including community participatory planning for adolescent development in Moengo, one of the pilot communities. The Moengo Youth Development Action Plan was developed and implemented.

In Suriname the 2014 Country MDG report demonstrated a continuous decline of the under-5 mortality rate (from 27.2 per cent in 2000 to 16.8 per cent in 2012) and infant mortality rate (20.2 per cent in 2000 and 14.6 per cent in 2012, HMIS). The Safe Motherhood and New-born Health Action Plan is currently being implemented. UNICEF supported the implementation of the IYCF+ Communication Strategy to address weak breastfeeding practices (2.8 per cent of exclusive breastfeeding rate, MICS 2010).

Although in general, educational enrolment is high in Suriname; according to the Government’s report showing a 96 per cent primary net enrolment rate (2014 MDG Report). Children of Maroon and indigenous groups in interior Suriname are still left behind. Three phases of in-service teachers training in Suriname were completed and over 800 teachers in the interior schools trained in Child Friendly teaching methodology. With the Computer-Aided Learning Project supported by UNICEF, some 700 children in five pilot schools in the interior of Suriname increased their learning interests in Math and Language, based on the findings of the intermediate assessment of the project. These interventions will contribute to improve learning achievement of children in the interior.

The UNICEF Suriname-supported Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion project was completed in 2014, covering 16 interior villages and estimated 7,000 isolated people.

Child Protection and Adolescent Programmes in Suriname focused on community initiatives, including community participatory planning for adolescent development in Moengo, one of the pilot communities. The Moengo Youth Development Action Plan was developed and implemented. Nine project proposals developed by local NGOs and CBOs are under review for implementation in 2015. Around 2,500 adolescents in Moengo will benefit from these activities and their development situation improved.

During the reporting period, limited coordination capacity at the national level and limited capacity at the local level to implement programmes are major challenges to improving services for children and adolescents in Guyana and Suriname. The scarcity of dedicated partners to implement key programmes as well as limited national capacity to conduct studies and evaluation continues to be a challenge in both countries.

**OUTPUT 1** Evidence-based programmes for child and maternal health and nutrition are developed and implemented in rural, hinterland and low performing areas.
Analytical Statement of Progress:

Planned progress was achieved against two out of the three indicators relevant for this reporting year.

Achievements in this output area were:

- Curriculum for upgrade of CHWs in Midwifery Skills with emphasis on IMCI for Neonates completed and available; and 15 CHWs from Hinterland regions trained.
- Draft SOPs for paediatric care of HIV-exposed infants completed.
- Integration of SOP for paediatric care for HIV-exposed infants on track.
- Implementation of the draft Integrated PMTCT Curriculum into nurses’ training programme completed. Health Sciences Education Tutors’ and Coordinators’ reviewed the draft curriculum and identified main entry points across curricula and identified gaps; Tutors and Coordinators’ were oriented to use tools, with support from MCH and HIV and AIDS experts.
- Funds disbursed to upgrade one prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) site in hinterland area to meet minimum standards of PMTCT Services.
- Capacity development for application of dried blood sampling in two hinterland regions (Regions 7 and 8) completed.
- Funds disbursed for training and supervision on Management of STIs for elimination of PMTCT delayed; re-scheduled to January 2015.
- Baby Friendly Hospitals (BFHs) Assessment and Certification delayed and re-scheduled to February-March 2015; follow-up visit to maintain BFHs constrained.
- Advocacy and communication activities for national breastfeeding week completed. Public information on breastfeeding messages shared through the print media.
- Field monitoring of Child Survival Programmes in coastal-rural and hinterland programmes completed.

The major constraint encountered during the reporting period related to delays at the level of the implementing partner in ensuring efficient transactions within the Ministry and with UNICEF. Minimising such delays could advance results in the area of Child Health and Nutrition.

OUTPUT 2

Enhanced national capacity in the implementation of quality culturally appropriate ECD services and basic education programmes in rural, hinterland and low performing areas

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Planned progress was achieved against two of the three indicators relevant for this reporting year.

During the reporting year, monitoring tools for Guyana’s CFS monitoring and certification were developed, protocols for certification process established, teams of assessors for certifying schools identified and timelines for certification established. These results ensured the full participation of children, parents, teachers, education officers (including Regional Education Officers) and civil society. Schools now follow a structured process nationally; aspire to a common goal to demonstrate all components of the CFS ideal. Most importantly, in a national culture that forces authorities to retain corporal punishment as legal in schools, Guyana’s CFS monitoring and assessment system encourages the use of alternative forms of discipline and demonstrates that they can be effective. Unique to Guyana, the CFS assessment process allows schools to defend their submissions to a national assessment team, and continuously
assess themselves against the ideal and to maintain CFS standards. Fifteen per cent of the
nation's schools, serving more than 15,000 children across Guyana scored higher than 75 per
cent on Guyana's CFS standards.

The development of indicators for tracking and reintegration of out-of-school children will (a)
provide data for characterisation, quantification and location of actual and potential exclusion;
(b) identify barriers to inclusion; (c) propose strategies to remove barriers; and (d) obtain
consensus and commitment to inclusive education, thus forming the basis for a national data
base for a school welfare system in Guyana.

Coupled with capacity development programmes, chief of which is the Master’s program in
Counselling and Trauma-Sensitive Interventions, a new focus on schools’ welfare programming
has emerged. Fifteen beneficiaries of this programme now coach peers in expressive arts
therapy and conduct parent education programmes. These new perspectives pave the way for
embracing and sustaining a robust child protection system in all schools and narrow the gap for
out-of-school children.

UNICEF Guyana supported upgrading of the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre, ensuring that
more than 20 residential and 30 day children with severe disabilities are now able to enjoy
therapy and learning activities in spacious, bright, gender-sensitive activity areas, wheelchair
access to washrooms and a comfortable dining area.

Leveraging results through collaboration across programmes and use of expertise within the
implementing ministry, and guided by the technical expertise in UNICEF Guyana, ECD modules
were identified for each of the categories of ECD practitioners; integrated curriculum developed
for the CHWs and a facilitator’s guide was ready for use in training as of January 2014. This
initiative ensures culturally appropriate ECD with greater home reach in the most remote areas
where indigenous families live, and facilitates hands-on parent education programmes. The use
of expertise from the Implementing agency guarantees ownership and sustainability of the
programme. The competencies gained through this programme will serve the child care and
parent education programme of maternal health clinics (the hinterland version of play groups),
brought greater value to parent involvement and child growth monitoring in pre and post natal
clinics in 2014.

However, the development of a specialised certificate programme in counselling and integration
techniques and pilot testing in two dormitories to support vulnerable and potentially excluded
children was delayed.

**OUTPUT 3** Enhanced national capacity in the development and implementation of evidence
based child protection programmes with attention to areas of disparities

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**

The Social Work Programme was externally evaluated, with a view to introducing a new
curriculum that meets both the International Federation of Social Workers standards and
country needs. There was Child Care & Protection Agency advanced preparation for the multi-
year capacity building plan, which would seek to introduce specialised aspects of social work
training (e.g. medical social work and family counselling) as part of developing its capacity to
deliver quality services.
Moreover, user-friendly laws were developed (based on the “package of legislation for children”) to assist rights-holders/duty-bearers in better understanding the law. Support was issued to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the motion for the abolition of corporal punishment by encouraging the participation of children. Additionally, as a means of meeting aspects of the global standard on juveniles deprived of their liberty, reintegration of children in contact with the law (to date 100) was supported and training for service providers.

Two main constraints were encountered. UNICEF Guyana engaged with one CSO for community-based action on violence, as part of “Break the Silence”, but engagement was stymied largely due to limited human and financial resources. Secondly, limited numbers and capacity of partners in the area of Child Protection has constrained progress. The 2015 work-plan will be further prioritised to ensure that planned activities are realistic.

**OUTPUT 4** Expand and strengthen key national programmes for adolescent development

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Of the seven indicators under this output, planned progress was achieved against two of the six that were relevant for this reporting year.

Further to the completion and dissemination of the evaluation of the pilot HFLE programme commissioned by UNICEF Guyana and the Ministry of Education in 30 schools, a workshop was conducted with all stakeholders to discuss the findings. This two-day meeting informed the development of a draft plan of action, which will shape the roll-out of HFLE in all schools.

Through a generous funding commitment by the UK Natcom, UNICEF Guyana continued its implementation of the Sports and Culture for Development programme in targeted institutions and communities. During 2014, programme design and implementation manuals were developed, persons from schools and communities were trained to implement the programme in seven dormitory schools, one juvenile detention centre and two communities. Equipment for the implementation of this programme was procured and distributed to the relevant schools/institutions. A strong monitoring system, based on an observational study model, was developed and is being implemented. The results are expected to show correlation between sports for development and the changes that take place – but not necessarily causation, which cannot be proven since there was no random selection, manipulation or control of subjects.

UNICEF Guyana is also providing technical support to the development of a National Plan for Music, Sports and Culture for development.

Availability of dedicated partners in the area of Sports and Culture for Development has been a challenge, causing delays in programme implementation. Limited national capacity in research and evaluation continues to be a bottleneck in Guyana.

**OUTPUT 5** Enhanced national capacity to formulate and implement integrated programmes for Mother and Child Health and Nutrition

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
There are three indicators under this output. Planned progress was achieved against one of the two indicators relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year.

With the endorsement of the National Safe Motherhood and New-born Health (SMNH) Action Plan 2013-2016, Suriname continued work on the ‘A Promise Renewed’ (APR) agenda with
The exclusive breastfeeding rate is 2.8 per cent in Suriname, one of the lowest rates in the world. Collaborating with the Bureau of Health, a comprehensive Communication Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding - 'Plus’ was developed. The Strategy was defined after finalising formative research which provided data on the motivations and sources of influence for current IYCF practices in Suriname and on early care-seeking, new-born care and WASH behaviours for children under two years. The communication strategy provided core messages on breastfeeding, proposed a communication mechanism for addressing different audiences, and overall recommendations on policy development and reform. Implementation of the communication strategy is ongoing. The IYCF+ communication strategy was formally launched by the First Lady and the Minister of Health in August 2014 during World Breastfeeding Week, through close collaboration between UNICEF Suriname, the Bureau of Health and the Stibosu Foundation for Promotion of Breastfeeding.

UNICEF joined PAHO’s initiative to partner with Enfants du Monde on the ‘Individuals, Families, Communities’ approach in Suriname. Government partners and the UN were trained in this approach, and a field visit was made to Guyaba (a Maroon village in the interior). UNICEF also supported BoG participatin in the Regional Training on Care for Child Development (C4CD) that would bring additional capacity on Early Childhood Development (ECD) to Suriname.

The capacity of the Bureau of Public Health has improved, but still need more strengthening.

OUTPUT 6 Enhanced national capacity to implement Child Friendly School approaches and innovative strategies (e.g. ICT) to enhance access to quality education

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Planned progress was achieved against one of three indicators relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year, but overall this output experienced constraints.

In relation to the strategic vision document “Ik geloof in jou” ('I believe in you'), an in-service teacher training project was developed and implemented to strengthen the capacity of all teachers in Suriname to implement child-friendly education practices. Between 2012 and 2014 UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Community Development (MoECD) through implementation of three rounds of in-service teacher training sessions for 834 primary school teachers (89.7 per cent) in 92 primary schools in the interior areas. To ensure the sustainability of these training sessions, School Guidance staff of the MoECD in two Education centres (Nucleus centres) in the interior participated in the Training of Trainers courses on Child Friendly School methodologies and individual classroom coaching. These guidance staff members are now equipped and able to guide primary schools teachers in the interior on how to apply CFS methodologies in their classroom. In addition, around 100 new interior school teachers received training before starting their assignments. An evaluation of the UNICEF-supported ‘I believe in you’ programme in the interior was prepared and execution is planned in early 2015.

In addition, UNICEF supported the MoECD to strengthen the capacity of School Guidance staff at the Nucleus Centres and the central Ministry level through the development of an advanced training programme offering on-the-job training to 10 senior staff at the Guidance Department and Nucleus centres. This programme allowed them to support the training of new Guidance
Staff members utilising the newly developed training materials, and to support all teachers in the interior regions of Suriname.

The Computer-Aided Learning project entered its last year of implementation in five pilot schools (three public schools, two private religious schools) in the interior districts of Para, Marowijne and Brokopondo. Approximately 700 children in the pilot schools benefited from the computer-aided learning experiences. An intermediate assessment of the project conducted in 2014 found that students’ motivation for Language and Math subjects had significantly increased at the pilot schools. Additional training for MoECD staff and two religious foundations ensured continuity of the guidance and monitoring to these schools after the project. During the year MoECD and religious foundation staff began to carry out monitoring visits to the pilot schools. Monitoring checklists were jointly developed and monitoring visits implemented and reported on.

In-service teacher training to teachers in the interior was costly, due to the distance and inconvenient access to the interior area. With the ICT4E strategy policy, new methodologies for capacity building of interior teachers need to be developed, such as distance education. There was no clear follow-up of the in-service teachers training on how the learned CFS methodology was applied in classrooms. Country-specific CFS standards will be developed in 2015 and used for school assessment.

OUTPUT 7 Adolescent/Youth development and participation programmes, including Sports, are developed and implemented.

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Through the Adolescent Development Programme, UNICEF has further developed partnership with NGOs in Suriname. A Programme Coordination Agreement (PCA) was signed at the end of 2013 with one of Suriname’s leading NGO’s on Governance, Participation and Gender to support implementation of the programme. Representatives from all the key ministries and local service providers were sensitised on gender issues and human rights-based approaches, and were also trained in the basics of dialogue and community participation. A social and institutional baseline of one of the three pilot communities in the project was conducted, which guided the development of the programme; a community action plan was developed with significant input from adolescents from the community. Adolescents in the first pilot community were also sensitised on gender and human rights-based approaches and provided with knowledge and basic skills on dialogue and participation. These capacity building efforts resulted in the establishment and operationalisation of a local level coordination mechanism consisting of representatives of local service providers. Implementation of the community action plan started with a youth health fair, making adolescents and their parents knowledgeable about the importance of a healthy lifestyle. About 1,200 adolescents attended the Health Fair. To make the community aware of the basic rights of children and to inform the community about detecting violence and child abuse, its impact of and how to deal with it, the above-mentioned radio programmes offered an interactive platform to ensure participation by children and youth to ensure their voice is heard.

The Presidential Task Force faced an expired mandate since mid-2014, which for some time led to minimal involvement by the group in playing a lead role in the further monitoring and acceleration of Adolescents Action plan. The mandate was renewed later in the year, but still contributed to minimal inter-sectoral programming at national level. UNICEF supported maintaining inter-sectoral coordination through building inter-sectoral dialogue efforts into the
Projekta-facilitated pilot. Some instruments, such as a monitoring template and a profile for Government representatives to participate in monitoring and coordination at the national level, were developed with the support of Projekta.

UNICEF Suriname continued to support adolescent empowerment in the pilot communities by signing a second PCA with the same NGO, which addressed the low capacity of local community based organisations (CBOs) in project planning and management. The NGO facilitated the training and helped the local coordination mechanism to develop nine sound project proposals that are under review by UNICEF for further support.

With the support of UNICEF Suriname, a youth-friendly website (for children aged 10-to-16 years) was launched in mid-2014, together with the national Parliament, to facilitate access to information with regard to Parliament’s work and upcoming elections (May 2015). To ensure sustainability and promote better use of the website, UNICEF will support a second phase, to include trainings in translation of articles and documents into youth-friendly language and training for technical management of the website.

Coordination of the adolescent programme at the national level and the establishment of institutional mechanisms did not progress as planned, due to the lapse in the mandate of the Presidential Task Force. Planned progress at the local level was achieved, however the limited availability of local NGOs to support project implementation in the community slowed down implementation of activities with real results for adolescents living in Moengo.

**OUTPUT 8** Targeted vulnerable communities have improved access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and national plans prioritise underserved communities

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Of the three indicators, planned progress was achieved against one that was relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year.

The UNICEF-supported Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) project was implemented from 2010-2013 covering 16 villages and an estimated 7,000 isolated people. The project came to the end in 2014 with the completion of construction works for water and sanitation in the targeted villages. A review and documentation using the Appreciative Inquiry method was carried out in 2014, revealing that overall, the project increased the awareness of both the central government and local communities on water, sanitation and hygiene practices. The community participatory planning process encouraged local ownership and empowered women to participate in decision-making and contribute to the improvement of children’s health. The documentation (in English and Dutch) has been used as an advocacy tool to continue to mobilise resources for WASH from the Government, other development partners and the private sector. An example is the recent WASH activity that started in Apetina, one of the most remote villages in south Suriname to make clean water accessible in school, to be funded jointly by UNICEF, the Small Grant Programme (SGP, a UNEP programme) and the Rotary Club (private sector). It is expected that the activity will improve access to water for not only around 200 school children, but also some 7,000 villagers.

The review and documentation noted that the construction of water and sanitation facilities in the interior is very costly. Development of cost-effective modules and approaches becomes very critical. While the National Water Master Plan has been developed, there is a need for clear direction, policies and plans for sanitation and hygiene in the interior. Responsibilities for rural sanitation are not assigned clearly to specific ministry/ies. Water, sanitation and hygiene in
interior schools have drawn considerable attention from the MoECD. In 2015, UNICEF will support the MoECD on a school WASH assessment and integrate WASH in the CFS standards to be developed.

**OUTPUT 9** Child Protection and Gender-based Violence programmes are developed and implemented

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Planned progress was partly achieved against one of two indicators relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year; no activities were included in 2014 for the second target.

In addition to the advocacy on violence against children, a field intervention was integrated into the Adolescent Development Programme focused in the pilot community of Moengo, populated mostly by Maroon and Javanese ethnic groups. UNICEF provided support to the local community to develop radio programmes to increase the awareness of violence against children through community radio. Radio programmes were developed and aired in both Dutch and local language. An initiative related to a child protection service provider network in the community is under development, with the purpose of improving access of adolescents to child protection services, including counselling, consultation and response to issues related to their rights.

Local intervention activities were slowed by delays in the transfer of programme funds within the Government system.

**OUTPUT 10** Improved implementation of evidence-based programmes to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS in Most at Risk Populations and vulnerable groups

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Of the three indicators under this output planned progress was partially achieved against one of the two indicators relevant to UNICEF’s work in 2014. Overall progress is on-track, as UNICEF has ensured participation and partnership in the HIV/Health sector and will ensure that children’s and adolescent’s issues are prioritised.

UNICEF Suriname jointly together with UNAIDS, PAHO and UNFPA supported the country’s application to the Global Funds for HIV and TB. As part of the process, the Country Coordination Mechanism coordinated the development of the National Strategy Plan (NSP) for HIV. However, the separate Action Plan for Children and HIV developed originally foreseen was not developed. UNICEF will focus on ensuring that children affected by HIV/AIDS, and plans were under way in late 2014, to be implemented in 2015, including a mapping and assessment of NGOs working on HIV/AIDS, a needs assessment of children with HIV/AIDS (including field monitoring and assessment of community health education on PMTCT) and improving the HIV surveillance system.
OUTCOME 3 Cross Sectoral

Analytical Statement of Progress: Results Achieved

In order to objectively assess progress towards the realisation of outcomes and outputs in the Country Programme, both Guyana and Suriname developed annual work plans which were reviewed and adjusted at mid-year to assess the performance by programme and to determine, among other things, what are the expected accomplishments by the end of the reporting period. Both countries have made significant progress in all areas of cross-sectoral work.

A mid-term review of the Country Programme was successfully conducted during the reporting year. This review sought to: 1) determine the continued relevance of the Country Programme and programme progress towards the achievement of planned Results, including bottlenecks and lessons learned and to provide recommendations, both substantive and process-related, for the next Country Programme Cycle; 2) update planned results, interventions, indicators and annual targets. Ensure alignment with UNICEF Guyana Strategic Plan, Gender Action Plan and appropriate coding in the revised RAM; 3) review and update the Country Programme Management Plan, including communications and advocacy strategies and the resource mobilisation strategy. After this robust review, the requisite adjustments were made to programme priorities, in consultation with implementing partners, for this programme cycle. These adjustments included discontinuing some activities since in some cases, national priorities shifted and in others UNICEF Guyana’s direct support led to some initiatives being institutionalised; for example, the orientation to GuyD_Info user interface. This review confirmed that for the most part UNICEF was doing the right things and doing those things right in the two countries.

Both the Guyana and Suriname offices prepared Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plans and tracked and reported progress to the Country Management Team quarterly. Standard Operating Procedure established for the management of studies and evaluations, as well as the procedures and accountabilities for quality assurance and reporting, were carefully followed.

During the reporting period, a Gender Review was commissioned by UNICEF Guyana/Suriname in the middle of the Country Programme Cycle 2012-16, before the Mid-Term Review (MTR) in the second half of 2014. The objectives included identifying key possible working areas for UNICEF in promoting gender equality and assessing the quality of gender mainstreaming in programme planning, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

The review found that a majority of the documents assessed in the review used gender-sensitive language and images and that programme and policy directions are clearly focussed on equity. These findings will be used to further the realisation of gender mainstreaming in the future.

To increase understanding of priority children’s issues among key decision-makers and in communities, and in line with UNICEF Guyana’s advocacy and communication strategy, a stronger partnership with the media was established and maintained throughout the year, thus increasing the visibility and understanding of UNICEF Guyana and its work for children in Guyana. Several advocacy events and activities for children, and training of media operatives were supported in line with the strategy, including collaboration with the Parliament of Guyana to advance child rights.

In order to build stronger alliances, with special emphasis on the media, UNICEF Guyana also hosted a media visit from international media representatives and the UK NatCom, as well as
Commonwealth Games personnel, focussing on the importance of inclusive play for children with disabilities, as part of the UNICEF UK partnership with the Commonwealth Games.

Through UNICEF Guyana’s leadership, the UN Emergency Technical Team facilitated the UN’s technical support to the CDC, and maintained and enhanced networking linkages with regional and global DRM forums.

In Suriname, the One-UN approach remains a continuous success through the leadership and coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Residential Coordination Office. The Mid-Term Review of the UNDAF (2012-2016) was carried out in 2014 and strong technical support was provided by UNICEF on the MTR methodology. UNICEF actively participated in Programme Coordination Groups’ discussions on UNDAF review of health, education, social protection, water and sanitation, and data and research. The UNDAF MTR report will be finalised in early 2015 and the recommendations will be considered for the second half of the UNDAF period and the development of the new UNDAF.

The capacity of the UNDAF coordination mechanism (the UNDAF Secretaries and PCGs) in Suriname was strengthened in relation to gender, human rights based approach for programming and result-based management through the joint support of UN Agencies in Suriname. Micro-assessments were completed with 17 UN programme implementing partners and efforts were made toward HACT compliance in Suriname,

Challenges to the UNDAF coordination mechanism included changes in committee members that resulted knowledge gaps in several programme coordination groups. In Suriname, a remaining challenge was recruitment of a Communication for Development Officer, resulting in limited opportunities to promote behaviour change at the community and individual levels.

The development of a Code of Conduct for media practitioners was delayed due to competing priorities among key stakeholders. In addition, planned progress could not be achieved on more than 70 per cent of M&E activities planned in the IMEP, even though the Country Office made efforts to prioritise its investments in M&E capacity-building among implementing partners. The major barriers encountered were delays in the review of deliverables and lengthy approval processes; such as occurred with the study on children in contact with the law.

OUTPUT 1 Increased understanding of children's priority issues among key decision makers and communities, including opportunities for children to express their views

Analytical Statement of Progress:
There are four indicators under this output. Planned progress was achieved against two of the three indicators relevant for this reporting year.

Towards increased understanding of children's priority issues among key decision makers and communities, and in line with the Advocacy and Communication Strategy for the Guyana office, a stronger partnership with the media was established and maintained throughout the year, thus increasing the visibility and understanding of UNICEF Guyana and its work for children in Guyana. Several advocacy events and activities for children were supported in line with the strategy, including a collaboration with the Parliament of Guyana to advance Child Rights through Art through a national art competition. UNICEF Guyana also hosted a media visit from international media representatives and UNICEF supporters, focussing on the importance of inclusive play for children with disabilities, as part of the UNICEF UK partnership with the Commonwealth Games.
Other key activities were also supported in collaboration with national partners, providing an opportunity to highlight important issues for children's rights. Activities supported included Breastfeeding Week and presentations on children’s rights at schools around Guyana, as part of activities for the CRC 25th Anniversary.

During Guyana’s Child Protection Week several high-visibility advocacy activities were undertaken in support of the regional campaign “Break the silence on child sexual abuse”.

Monitoring of the quality of media reporting on children in Guyana was conducted in partnership with the Rights of the Child Commission, and a Code of Conduct for Media Practitioners was developed. Finalisation was delayed due to competing priorities among key stakeholders. Completion of this activity was shifted to 2015.

The communication tools and resource materials for the Guyana office were updated and maintained, including the website and photography database. Key issues affecting children in Guyana were documented through videos and human interest stories, with special focus on Sports for Development programmes in the interior.

Cross-cutting considerations of children's rights, gender, equity and human rights were incorporated into all activities.

OUTPUT 2 National plans for Emergency Preparedness and Response are in place for key sectors, including UNICEF’s capacity to respond in line with CCCs

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Through the national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy and Bill preparation process led by the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), UNICEF Guyana has provided key technical guidance and inputs enabling the incorporation of the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies, disability and further advances with gender mainstreaming. Finalisation of documentation and submission to Cabinet for review by the CDC, with the full participation of all DRM stakeholders, was achieved during the reporting period. The Health sector plan has been reviewed and updated through Ministry of Health-led statutory committees to which UNICEF Guyana provided technical guidance and inputs by the Child Survival and Emergency officers. UNICEF Guyana also provided technical guidance and support to improve coordination mechanisms for the CDC to integrate protocols for Education and Child Protection during emergencies into the overall national DRM plan. Continuing UNICEF Guyana’s support to the CDC in commemorating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, this year’s activities developed and enhanced linkages between children, caregivers and the elderly in joint disaster risk reduction preparedness.

In line with national DRM policy, further interventions to formalise links between the CDC and the Ministry of Labour Human Services & Social Security progressed, ensuring a child focus within preparedness, response and early recovery planning.

Through UNICEF Guyana’s leadership, the UN Emergency Technical Team facilitated the UN’s technical support to the CDC, and maintained and enhanced networking linkages with regional and global DRM forums. The Emergency Specialist undertook a stretch assignment with EMOPS NYHQ, which has presented many opportunities to enhance UNICEF Guyana/ Suriname’s DRM and resilience capacity during 2015 and beyond to ensure compliance with global policies that focus on children.
OUTPUT 3 UNICEF/GoG Country Programme 2012-16 monitoring mechanisms and tools in place

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Planned progress was achieved against both indicators for this reporting year.

The Mid-Year and Annual Reviews were conducted as planned in 2014.

An MTR was successfully conducted during the reporting year. The objective of this review was to:

- Determine the continued relevance of the Country Programme and programme progress towards the achievement of planned Country Programme results, including bottlenecks and lessons learned. Provide recommendations, both substantive and process-related, for the next Country Programme Cycle.
- Update planned results, interventions, indicators and annual targets. Ensure alignment with the UNICEF Guyana Strategic Plan, Gender Action Plan and appropriate coding in the revised RAM.

The gender assessment of the Country Programme was completed in Guyana and Suriname and the report finalised and disseminated.

After this robust review, the requisite adjustments were made to programme priorities, in consultation with implementing partners, for this programme cycle. These adjustments included discontinuing some activities, since in some cases national priorities had shifted or, through UNICEF Guyana's direct support, some initiatives had been institutionalised; as was the case for orientation to GuyD_Info user interface.

Planned progress could not be made on more than 70 per cent of M&E activities planned in the IMEP, despite efforts to prioritise investments in M&E capacity building among implementing partners. The major barriers encountered to the required progress were delays in the review of deliverables and lengthy approval processes, as occurred for the study on children in contact with the law and its dissemination.

OUTPUT 4 UNICEF/GoS Country Programme 2012-16 monitoring mechanisms and tools in place

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Planned progress for the period under review was achieved against both targets.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) increased its leadership in coordination of the UNDAF and national reporting on the MDGs. UNICEF provided strong support in strengthening the UNDAF coordination mechanism, including the UNDAF Secretariat, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) and the Programme Coordination Groups (PCGs). The UNDAF Mid-Term Review led by the UN Regional Coordinator and the MoFA was carried in 2014 with the objective of reviewing progress toward UNDAF targets, overcoming challenges and making necessary adjustments accordingly. UNICEF Suriname's leadership and support to the UNDAF
Action Plan coordination and monitoring and the development and effective functioning of the Programme Coordination Groups resulted in improvement of the coordination of joint UN efforts. As part of the UNDAF Mid-Term Review, UNICEF provided technical guidance and support to an analysis of the Programme Coordination Groups’ architecture. The PCG structure was also utilised to support Suriname MDG reporting. The Suriname MDG progress report was launched in 2014 with the support of the UN system in Suriname.

Basic Training on Results-Based Management was started in 2014 and scheduled to continue in 2015. Eighty Government officials have attended this training and have had their capacities strengthened to further improve planning and monitoring in their programme areas.

As part of the one-UN initiative, UNICEF, together with other UN Agencies, supported the completion of HACT micro-assessments for 14 implementing partners in 2014. The micro-assessments will allow for further implementation of the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers approach, to improve programme implementation effectiveness. An orientation of the Government Treasury Single Account and the HACT was organised with relevant Government staff and led by the MoFA.

An internal gender review of the UNICEF Suriname programme, including a joint gender review meeting with partners, was held in July 2014 in both Guyana and Suriname offices. A report, including recommendations on gender mainstreaming, was produced to guide the programme on further improvement of the integration and mainstreaming of gender in programming.

**OUTPUT 5** A coherent behaviour-change communication and advocacy strategy is developed and implemented

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Both of the targets under this output were constrained. Due to the difficulties in recruiting a C4D Officer, the integrated C4D strategy was not developed. However, the completed Communication Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding Plus (IYCF +) does provide a basic mechanism to integrate all early childhood development as well as maternal and child health issues into the communication strategy as a package. The Country Programme MTR recommended discontinuing these targets and integrating the communication strategy development into programme sectors.

**OUTPUT 6** Improved national emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
There are two targets under this output. One has not progressed and the other has faced constraints.

UNICEF participated in the inter-agency support to the country’s response to the Ebola and Chikungunya epidemics.

**OUTPUT 7** Human Resources for effective delivery of programmes

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Based on the Annual Review, the status of this Output is on-track as all activities were implemented as planned.
OUTPUT 8 Human Resources for effective delivery of programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the Annual Review, the status of this Output is on-track as all activities were implemented as planned

OUTCOME 4 Effective and efficient programme management and operations support

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the Annual Review, the status of this Output is on-track, as all activities were implemented as planned.

OUTPUT 1 Development Effectiveness

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the Annual Review, the status of this Output is on-track as all activities were implemented as planned.

OUTPUT 2 Staff Costs

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the Annual Review, the status of this Output is on-track as all activities under this Output were implemented as planned.

OUTPUT 3 Miscellaneous Supplies

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the Annual Review, the status of this Output is on-track as all activities were implemented as planned.

OUTPUT 4 Staff Costs

Analytical Statement of Progress:

Based on the Annual Review, the status of this Output is on-track as all activities under this Output were implemented as planned.