Executive Summary

Achievements:
In line with Guyana’s obligation under the UNCRC,\(^1\) UNICEF provided technical support to the Office of the President in preparing its reply to the List of Issues raised by the UNCRC to the State Party’s Report. UNICEF also provided an independent representation on the situation of child rights in Guyana to the UNCRC. The timely response to the List of Issues, independent representations by civil society, and UNICEF will help the UNCRC to formulate solid conclusions in 2013, which will be critical to advocating the agenda for Guayanese children. Contributing to a similar result in Suriname, the government finalised its combined third and fourth Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) report, giving civil society and stakeholder the opportunity to comment on the report.

In addition, the finalisation and launch of Strategic Plans for the Rights of the Child Commission and the Indigenous People's Commission in Guyana has provided a clear, focused and comprehensive framework for child rights, in line with their mandates.

The signing of the Child Survival Pledge: “A Promise Renewed” by both the Governments of Guyana and Suriname demonstrated their resolve and political will to focus on the development and implementation of appropriate policies and programmes to reduce child mortality.

Shortfalls:
A shortage of funds resulted in the discontinuation of the Child Protection post in Guyana and Suriname’s Child Protection post being vacant. Key positions in Suriname were only filled towards the middle of the year. For communication posts in Suriname and consultancies, recruitment has been a major challenge because of the limited number of applicants.

Political challenges in Suriname led to rather frequent ministerial changes, which affected top managerial and technical personnel in key UNICEF partner ministries, which were usually changed when new ministers came on board. As a result, UNICEF/UN Agencies had to start all over with reorientation, capacity building, and literally had to renegotiate the initiatives for programme implementation that had been previously agreed upon.

The transition to VISION\(^2\) and its continuously evolving nature was a steep learning curve for staff. Several transactions were severely delayed as staff and specialised users spent an inordinate amount of time trying to resolve the many challenges in undertaking basic transactions. This slowed down programme implementation and caused embarrassing situations with partners, as it increased dependence on partner procurement systems.

Collaborative relationships:
In 2012, the Guyana/Suriname country office expanded its partnerships with civil society and academia, and it deepened collaboration with the UN system and regional banks. Partnerships with CRC and advocacy helped sustain the parliamentary momentum for Child Rights in Guyana.

Increased collaboration was forged in Suriname with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) through a Second Basic Education Improvement Programme to align future programming in the field of ICT4Education.\(^3\) Interagency collaboration also deepened in Suriname as a result of operationalizing the coordination mechanisms outlined in the UNDAF\(^4\) Action Plan in the areas of Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS, Data and Analysis, Social Services, and other programme areas.

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2. UNICEF’s Enterprise Resources Planning tool.
3. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for Education.
Country Situation Affecting Children and Women

The signing of the Country Programme Action Plan 2012–2016 for Guyana, together with the UNDAF 2012–2016 and the UNDAF Action Plan 2012-2016 (in which UNICEF support is embedded) for Suriname reaffirmed government commitment in both countries to address issues impacting the fulfilment of the rights of children and women, with a special focus on the most marginalized and the most disadvantaged groups.

There are 300,000 children living in Guyana; 11 percent (37,363) live in the hinterland regions and are the most disadvantaged. In Suriname, there are an estimated 191,309 children; approximately 12 percent of these children, who live in the interior or rural areas, are said to be disadvantaged. In terms of ethnicity, Amerindian children (in both Guyana and Suriname) and Maroon children (in Suriname) are among the most disadvantaged.

According to Guyana’s 2011 Situation Analysis, accessible health treatment and rehabilitation services are limited or non-existent in the hinterland. School attendance is low among children with disabilities, and very little special education training is available to teachers.

Compared with the 2009 report, the 2011 MDG Progress Report for Guyana provided a more positive outlook on the achievability of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by rating all eight targets as likely or potentially achievable by 2015. This was the case with MDG 4 (on child mortality) and MDG 5 (on maternal health), which were both rated as unlikely to be achieved in the 2009 report. The Government of Guyana has attributed the major decrease in the under-5 mortality rate from 120/1000 live births in 1991 to 17/1000 live births in 2008, to the successful implementation of nutrition and maternal and child care initiatives (including improved child immunization coverage); the integrated approach to child health; and better results in the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. Despite this positive outlook, the report highlighted issues surrounding the quality of care, particularly around the time of birth, and improved nutritional intake for both mother and child, as the key areas for attention in order to achieve MDG 4. The report found that the significant improvement in maternal mortality (86/100,000 live births in 2008 compared to 320/100,000 in 1991) was thanks to the almost universal coverage of antenatal care, increased access to improved facilities, and high (96 percent) coverage of births by skilled birth attendants. Additional improvements in the quality of care offered by the maternal health care professionals (including nurses and obstetricians) are listed as key to achieving MDG 5 in 2015. These initiatives need to be complemented by increased attention to issues of equity and the use of community-based strategies.

Suriname’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2010 has been finalised and will be published in 2013. MICS 2010 confirmed the findings of the Situation Analysis, which highlighted the disparities in the situation of children and women in the rural interior (the principal spatial domain of the Maroons and indigenous peoples of Suriname), and the urban and rural coastal region. MICS 2010 found that the rural interior has the lowest proportion of primary aged children in school (74 percent), the highest repetition rate at 28 percent, the highest percentage of teenage marriages (almost 20 percent), the least adult engagement in children’s activity (45 percent), and the highest diarrhoeal prevalence at 13 percent for children under 5.

An overall review of the indicators shows that there is no change in the data from 2006 to 2010 for the following indicators: children of primary school age attending school (87 percent in MICS 2010); primary school net attendance ratio (95 percent in MICS 2010); wasting prevalence (9 percent in MICS 2010); and antenatal care (91 percent in MICS 2010). The indicator for exclusive breastfeeding for children under 6 months continues to be low (2.8 percent), revealing a worrisome situation.

A positive trend was observed for the involvement of household members in learning activities for preschool children (72.9 percent in MICS 2010); underweight prevalence (6 percent in MICS 2010); the use of improved drinking water (95 percent in MICS 2010); and skilled attendant delivery (93 percent in MICS 2010).

A negative trend was noted for some key indicators: school readiness (88.4 percent in MICS 2006, but 76.3 percent in MICS 2010); the involvement of fathers in early learning activities (33.4 percent in MICS 2006, but 25.9 percent in MICS 2010); child discipline (84.4 percent in MICS 2006, but 86.1 percent in MICS 2010).
2010); child labour (6 percent in MICS 2006, but 9.6 percent in MICS 2010); young women married before the age of 15 (3.7 in MICS 2006, but 5.4 percent in MICS 2010); stunting prevalence (7.7 percent in MICS 2006, but 8 percent in MICS 2010); and immunization coverage for Polio 3 (87.6 percent in MICS 2006, but 83 percent in MICS 2010).

Other key data from MICS 2010 includes the fact that 23 percent of women aged 20 to 49 were married before their 18th birthday, and 13 percent of women aged 15 to 49 believe a husband is justified in beating his wife/partner for any of the reasons mentioned in the MICS study. Overall, 43 percent of women were found to have comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention, which was markedly higher in urban areas (47 percent) than in rural coastal areas (37 percent), the rural interior (20 percent) and by extension rural areas (30 percent).

Teenage pregnancy continues to be one of the major reasons for girls not continuing education in the interior of Suriname. According to the School Mapping 2010 data, 62 percent of school leaders indicated teen pregnancy as the reason for girls dropping out of school.

As per Suriname’s 2009 MDG report, the country is facing challenges in achieving the goal of universal education for boys and girls and in ensuring that children complete a full course of primary schooling. In health, notable progress is being made in combating HIV/AIDS and malaria, but there has been no significant progress in the area of universal access to reproductive health. The disparities in adequate access to health and other social services, access to suitable drinking water, and sanitation facilities in the remote areas and the interior are challenges in reducing infant mortality, maternal mortality and inequity in education.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

Guyana and Suriname have a joint Country Programme Document for 2012–2016 with shared Programme Component Results (PCRs) but with country-specific Intermediate Results (IRs). The Country Programme aims to strengthen systems for the continuous monitoring of the situation of children and women. These systems will guide evidence-based decision-making, policy work, and programming to improve the situation of children and women including through the implementation of the recommendations of the CRC. The programme focuses on producing critical analysis and knowledge on issues affecting children, such as the causes of child and maternal mortality; disparities in, and poor quality of education; gaps in the legal and policy base for child protection; mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; and factors within Guyana and Suriname that prevent the participation of children and young people in decision-making. The programme also aims to monitor and analyse resource allocations, with priority given to the most disadvantaged groups of children in the hinterland of Guyana and interior of Suriname based on reliable disaggregated data. With the availability of evidence, both countries should be able to continuously update equity and gender-sensitive national and subnational plans to guide progress for the survival, development, protection and participation of children and women at the aggregated level and among disadvantaged groups, based on the CRC and the CEDAW.  

By the end of 2012, the first year in the five-year cycle of the Guyana/Suriname 2012–2016 Country Programme, more than half the IRs assessed were on track towards achieving at their programme goal. The key achievements are reported in the Narrative Results Assessment section of this report. The core challenge of the country programme is not its relevance and effectiveness in addressing the identified barriers and bottlenecks for the most disadvantaged children, but in the numerous constraints being experienced, which are hindering rapid programme implementation.

These constraints include the discontinuation of the international Child Protection officer post in Guyana, and the inability to fill the Suriname Child Protection Officer position because of a lack of resources. In some cases, particularly in Suriname, funding for posts has been available but the national posts have not be filled because of a lack of qualified applicants. This is primarily because of the continuing emigration of skilled human resources from the Caribbean sub-region. Progress on several results was also affected due to

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5 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
difficulties in sourcing local consultants for critical tasks and studies, in a situation where the available budget was insufficient to source international expertise.

Political challenges in Suriname led to rather frequent ministerial changes, which affected top managerial and technical personnel in key UNICEF partner ministries. As a result, UNICEF/UN Agencies had to repeatedly reorient and capacity building, and they had to renegotiate programme initiatives that had previously been agreed upon.

Effective Advocacy

**Partially met benchmarks**

During 2012, an advocacy and communication strategy, aligned with UNICEF’s global Communication and Public Advocacy Framework, was developed to support the organisation’s work in Guyana. The implementation of this strategy will serve to mobilise public opinion and political will, and it will create an enabling environment to support the organisation’s work for the protection and development of children and women in Guyana.

The office advocated for the following key issues during the year:

**Child Survival:** The signing of the A Promise Renewed pledge by the Minister of Health was publicised in the media. Information was shared locally via press releases, and social media was used to share key advocacy messages. The heightened attention on the issue is expected to lead to some traction on key equity-centred policy issues that are being advocated for as part of the Country Programme.

**Out of School Children:** Key messages on information from the “Global Report on Out of School Children” were featured in the media, and at an Education Expo for students. Coverage highlighted reasons why children in Guyana may be out of school, and advocated for every child’s right to an education. This attention enhanced national awareness on the issue.

**Disability:** The press coverage of the UNICEF/Rotary partnership on the establishment of a disability friendly playground underscored the importance of UNICEF’s equity-focused Country Programme by drawing attention to rights of children with disabilities.

**Protection:** The launching of the TELL campaign was used to raise awareness on child sexual abuse. Because of the rising number of reported cases of abuse, there is a strong political commitment to addressing this issue. The Guyana office also commenced the development of “one pagers” on issues that UNICEF Guyana is advocating for as part of the approved Country Programme. These short documents have been useful in key high-level and technical engagements with partners and stakeholders, raising awareness and advocating for action on these issues.

In Suriname, the office carried out advocacy for concrete actions towards the reduction of neonatal mortality, as a follow-up to the signing of the Child Survival Call to Action pledge. This led to increased attention by policymakers to the finalization of the Safe Motherhood Action plan, and its approval by stakeholders.

The recently launched UN website in Suriname was developed with support from UNICEF, and it has highlighted issues related to children using social media. A UN-organized children’s photo competition, disaggregated data sheets targeted at parliamentarians and district commissioners, and user-friendly advocacy briefs on UN work in Suriname were some of the other strategies adopted to enhance visibility on children’s issues, and to ensure that these issues are a continuing part of discussions on national development.

The availability of technical resources was a major barrier to pursuing an effective communication and advocacy strategy for Suriname. Despite several rounds of advertisements, the office was unable to find suitable candidates for the National Officer Communications Officer position, because of the limited availability of qualified applicants.
Capacity Development

*Partially met benchmarks*

Capacity development was a fundamental programming principle in the development of the 2012 Annual Work Plans for Guyana and Suriname.

In Guyana, UNICEF supported the development of the capacities of government partners in the use of the Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks tool. It is expected that the technical skills acquired by the Ministry of Health staff will be instrumental in the development of the new National Health Sector Strategy.

Partnering with the Ministry of Education and Lesley University in the United States, UNICEF supported the rollout of a Guyana-specific programme for professional guidance and counselling in schools, and training for the schools welfare officers. There are significant gaps in guidance and counselling in the current school system, and this programme is the first of its kind in Guyana. With the involvement of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the expected results bode well for a more comprehensive approach to school-based counselling and referral systems. The first batch of 15 students will become trainers and will go on to execute a carefully designed “cascading” trainer programme.

Members of the Juvenile Branch of the Guyana Police Force were trained on international guidelines and frameworks for children in contact with the law. In order to institutionalise this training, the police plan to incorporate these new modules in the police cadre training course.

Progress was made in the area of adolescent development and participation in 2012. The Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) Coordinator, based in the Ministry of Education, improved their technical capacity to lead Guyana’s HFLE programme thanks to a study tour to Barbados.

In collaboration with the Civil Defence Commission, UNICEF worked as part of the United Nations Emergency Task Team (UNETT) to provide technical support through training and resource materials to increase the skills base of the commission volunteers in engaging with communities as part of the national disaster risk management strategy.

In Suriname, the completion of the MICS mobilized experts for in-country assistance, which led to the strengthening of human resources in the areas of managing surveys, survey methodology, quality assurance in surveys, reporting, and the understanding of key indicators on children and women. In addition, the Ministry of Health received technical support in the development of quantitative research designs for the national nutrition survey, while the Ministry of Education received similar assistance in analysing educational management information system data. In line with the Country Programme results, these critical interventions are expected to contribute to the development of in-country capacity in statistics, by improving the availability of quality, disaggregated data.

Communication for Development

*Initiating action to meet benchmarks*

The Guyana/Suriname Country Office prioritised the development of an integrated Communication for Development (C4D) strategy for the two offices. However, the activity had to be postponed because a suitable consultant could not be found.

UNICEF Suriname completed a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) booklet and teacher instruction leaflets in support of its planned results. The material is expected to increase the knowledge of children in primary school in the interior regarding access to and use of appropriate sanitation, hand washing with soap, and solid waste disposal. This booklet is the first of its kind in Suriname, and it was created taking the cultural diversity of Suriname into consideration.
On 19 November 2012, Guyana joined the global movement by commemorating the World Day for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, launching the Blue Teddy Bear TELL Campaign to raise awareness of child sexual abuse. The Ministry of Human Services is leading the campaign, which will continue until 2016. The expansion of the TELL Scheme in Guyanese schools has been started, and this will reach 270 new teachers and 270 Parent Teacher Associations by providing training at 90 primary schools in Regions 2, 3, 4 and 10. The target group consists of 5,400 children, and the aim is to make them fully knowledgeable about sexual abuse and empowered to tell/disclose if and when their rights have been violated.

**Strategic Partnerships**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

In 2012, the Guyana/Suriname country office expanded its partnerships with civil society and academia, and it deepened collaboration with the UN system and regional banks.

Partnerships with the Rights of the Child Commission and advocacy efforts resulted in sustained momentum on child rights issues in the Guyanese Parliament.

Collaboration with the Child Care and Protection Agency, the University of Guyana and the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Technical Working Group was strengthened, promoting the interdisciplinary nature of ECD. This partnership is expected to ensure that graduates from the University of Guyana’s ECD certificate programme have the relevant competencies to respond to the programming realities in ECD.

A multi-sectoral technical committee on juvenile justice was established in Guyana to advocate for reforms for children in contact with the law, in the areas of legislation and policy. The technical committee, comprised of implementing partners from the judiciary, the Rights of the Child Commission, and donor agencies, will provide pragmatic recommendations for the adoption of alternatives to detention for children who come into contact with the law.

The UN system in Guyana forged greater collaboration with the Rights Commissions, and the development of Joint Programme concept notes in new areas.

In Suriname, the partnership with parliament was critical in advocating for the approval of the Raamwet Vanginstellingen (legislation on the care of children in children’s homes). Increased collaboration was forged with the IADB in Suriname, for the Second Basic Education Improvement Programme to align future programming in the field of ICT4Education. Additionally, strategic collaboration with the presidential taskforce on children and adolescents provided an opportunity to pilot the inter-sectoral framework for adolescent development and participation.

Interagency collaboration deepened in Suriname following the operationalization of the coordination mechanisms outlined in the UNDAF Action Plan in the areas of health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, data and analysis, social services and other programme areas. The new joint UN Programme Coordination Mechanism for Health, Nutrition and HIV has strengthened interagency collaboration making for a more coordinated approach to support the Ministry of Health’s work to achieve health-related objectives.

Prior to 2012, UNETT was primarily led by UNICEF and the RC’s office in Suriname. In 2012, the UN Country Team fostered greater levels of interagency collaboration through the Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning component of the UNDAF, resulting in the appointment of the UNETT Coordinator from PAHO/WHO and pro-active commitments from the other resident UN agencies. This has enabled joint planning with the national disaster risk management agency resulting in a high degree of specificity in the national disaster risk

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6 Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization.
management strategy planning for 2013.

Finally, a renewed partnership with the CARICOM\textsuperscript{7} Secretariat for the assessment of member states on the Regional Framework for Action for Children 2008–2012, and its refinement for the period 2013–2015 to ensure adequate coverage in all areas of child rights, is likely to make children’s issues more prominent in development discourse across the sub-region.

### Knowledge Management

*Partially met benchmarks*

The situation analyses on women and children in both countries have served as an important information base for programme planning and interventions in the new Country Programme cycle 2012–2016. Complementary to the situation analyses, the country office prioritised the start of analytical work that will highlight issues of equity and marginalisation. The choices of in-country research have been based on an analysis of deprivations within each sector. Thanks to ministerial and senior executive level commitment to using the findings of the proposed research, the office has proceeded to draft the 2012 research Terms of Reference.

In 2012, the Guyana office commissioned a needs assessment of first-language education for indigenous children, a study on children in contact with the law, and a study on adolescents who are most at risk. In Suriname, the following studies were underway by the end of 2012: a qualitative study on the attitudes and behaviour of parents of children under 5 with regards to vaccination; a literature review on adolescent development; a situation analysis on indigenous and Maroon education; and a situation analysis of children and HIV.

Fortnightly knowledge-sharing sessions for UN and government partners were organized by UNICEF in Suriname on topics such as gender mainstreaming, adolescent health and nutrition, CRC reporting, and education for all. These have been useful forums to exchange information and brainstorm strategies to address issues for children and young people.

To accelerate the use of GuyD_Info as Guyana’s data dissemination platform,\textsuperscript{8} the country office began to feed the database all the published national data from MICS 2002 and 2006, Census 2002, and the Demographic and Health Survey 2009 reports. UNICEF is assisting the Statistical Bureaux in both Guyana and Suriname to standardise the periodic reporting of key national indicators from the routine monitoring of the situation of children and women across various sectors.

By the end of 2012, the country office had catalogued over 400 local and regional studies and evaluations pertaining to children and women in Guyana and Suriname. Together with the deployment of Microsoft Enterprise Search, this knowledge base will facilitate efficient access to available evidence for UNICEF staff in the development of programme documents and advocacy papers.

### Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

*Mostly met benchmarks*

The Country Programme Action Plan 2012–2016 for Guyana and the UNDAF Action Plan 2012–2016 for Suriname were signed by the respective governments this year. Both multi-year plans drew on the situation analyses of children and women, which focused on the most disadvantaged and are based on human rights principles and standards.

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\textsuperscript{7} Caribbean Community.

\textsuperscript{8} GuyD_Info is an updated database on Guyana. It is part of DevInfo, a powerful database system for monitoring human development.
In the design and review of the annual interventions for 2012 in both Guyana and Suriname, questions on ‘Motivation’, ‘Authority’ and ‘Resources’ were raised to ensure that focus was on priority capacity gaps for both right-holders and duty-bearers. The prioritised analytical work on first language education for indigenous children; children in contact with the law and most at-risk adolescents are addressing key gaps in knowledge for the design of future interventions in Guyana.

Similarly in Suriname, intervention design will build upon the ongoing qualitative study on attitudes and behaviour of parents of children under 5 with regard to vaccination, a literature review on adolescent development, a situation analysis on indigenous and Maroon education, and a situation analysis of children and HIV. These will provide additional evidence to ensure interventions conform to human rights principles and standards.

In line with Guyana’s obligation under the UN CRC, UNICEF provided technical support to the Office of the President in preparing its reply to the List of Issues raised by the UN CRC on the State Party's Report. UNICEF also provided an independent representation on the situation of child rights in Guyana to the UN CRC. The response to the List of Issues and independent representations by civil society and UNICEF will assist the UN CRC to formulate solid concluding observations in 2013, which will be critical to advocating the agenda for Guyanese children. Contributing to a similar result in Suriname, the government is finalising its combined third and fourth CRC report, giving civil society and community stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the report.

The finalisation and launch of Strategic Plans for the Rights of the Child Commission and the Indigenous People’s Commission in Guyana, and the development of a reporting/complaints protocol for Rights of the Child Commission has provided a clear, focused and comprehensive framework for child rights, in line with the mandates of these commissions.

**Gender Equality**

*Partially met benchmarks*

Gender is mainstreamed in the planned interventions for Guyana’s Country Programme Action Plan 2012–and Suriname’s UNDAF Action Plan 2012–2016. Furthermore, in the design of the Annual Work Plans for 2012, gender was mainstreamed as a key cutting consideration in the planning of interventions.

UNICEF supported Guyana’s Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security in holding nationwide consultations in each region to source inputs from the general public on how to address gender-based violence. This has led to increased awareness on the issue and will help the design of targeted interventions. Another major milestone is the development of the protocols for professionals working with survivors of gender-based violence. These protocols will ensure quality service delivery, making sure cases are referred to the right service providers in the future.

Media monitoring reports were used to analyse the portrayal of children and women in Guyana’s media, and also to identify trends in issues regarding women, and the reporting or under-reporting of issues related to girls. This has helped to inform planning for future engagements and capacity building with the media on equity and gender-sensitive reporting.

**Environmental Sustainability**

*Partially met benchmarks*

The Level Two ECD Certificate programme at the University of Guyana was modified to incorporate a module on Disaster Preparedness. The module was designed to provide ECD practitioners with an understanding of environmental hazards and disaster preparedness as it relates to Early Childhood Education and their roles as custodians. Students were graded on their ability to identify environmental risks at their facilities and to
propose solutions for them. An examination of the ECD programme across the Caribbean revealed that other countries have yet to introduce a similar component. In Suriname, changes in the seasons caused by climate change have greatly impacted access to improved water resources, especially in the interior. Rainwater is the first and most used water source in the interior of Suriname, but the extended dry seasons have placed the population in the interior, especially children, at high risk of becoming ill from drinking contaminated water.

School attendance was also negatively impacted by the lack of water for hand washing and toilet use, and the lack of safe drinking water.

In five villages where the water systems have been restored, the schools were connected to the water system so that school children could have access to water during school hours.

### South–south and triangular cooperation

The South–South Cooperation began in 2011 between UNICEF Guyana; the ECD Technical Working Group; the University of Guyana; the University of the West Indies, Open Campus, Trinidad and Tobago; and the National Training Agency of Trinidad and Tobago. This has proven to be a solid foundation for the continued visioning and widening of the horizon for ECD in Guyana and the Caribbean.

In 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of the West Indies and the School of Education and Humanities in the University of Guyana. The agreement allows the direct continued use of staff from the Trinidad Centre to fill technical gaps at the University of Guyana, thus ensuring that the ECD programme meets the requirements for international recognition. This is expected to continue over the next two years, until the University of Guyana has gained competencies in the relevant areas.

UNICEF and the Government of Guyana recorded a proud moment in their cooperation in 2012 when the second-year Level Two ECD Certificate programme was modified to incorporate a module on Disaster Preparedness. This was a great achievement for the University of Guyana, because an examination of ECD programmes offered both nationally and regionally revealed that the Disaster Preparedness in ECD module was the first of its kind in the Caribbean.

The main task of South–South Cooperation in 2013 will be to negotiate for the certification gained at the successful completion of the ECD Practitioners Programme to be considered as an entry requirement for the University of Guyana Bachelor’s Degree programme in Early Childhood Education. The department is also looking forward to post-graduate programmes in ECD in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.
Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results

Guyana – 1800

**PC 1 - Strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation for equity-focused and gender sensitive fulfilment of children’s and women’s rights**

**Constrained**

**PCR 1800/A0/05/001** By 2016, Governments of Guyana and Suriname will have systems in place for the continuous monitoring of the situation for boys, girls, women in the general population and in the hinterland and rural areas of Guyana and the interior of Suriname, based on reliable disaggregated data. They will be using the data to formulate and continuously update equity and gender-sensitive national and subnational 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.

**Progress:** The year 2012 was the first of the five-year cycle, and programme implementation focused on building the structures and conditions on which subsequent action to ensure the achievement of the PCRs would rest. Most of the Guyana IRs under this PCR were rated ‘On-track’, though similar progress was not made in Suriname. Even so, significant progress was made in the latter, including progress under the IRs that have been assessed as ‘constrained’.

In Guyana, the required groundwork for action to ensure that policymakers have increased access to disaggregated data periodically was completed by end of the year. This will help them to enact equity-based national policies and legislations in fulfilment of Guyana’s child rights obligations. With regard to the child survival element of this PCR, plans towards addressing some of the priority gaps in health, nutrition and WASH were initiated and political commitment for implementation of the plans was demonstrated by the signing of the “A Promise Renewed” pledge by the Government of Guyana. In learning and development, two key pieces of equity-focused research on the needs of first-language education for indigenous children, and cost-benefit analysis for Child Friendly Schooling are expected to feed into the next national education sector plan and the 2013 education sector budget. In child protection, steps to strengthen available evidence and develop national plans and frameworks were initiated, and the amendments to the 2010 Sexual Offences Act were passed. Preliminary findings from the situation analysis on young key affected populations in Guyana became available within the year to provide the initial evidence for the development of a national strategic plan for adolescents.

In Suriname, the completion of the 2010 MICS report — to be published in early 2013 — led to improved access to quality disaggregated data and analysis. Contributing to evidence-based health strategies and supported by the signing of the “A Promise Renewed” pledge by the Government of Suriname, the health sector finalised the Safe Motherhood Action Plan to address issues of quality, access, and community action in the rural interior regions. The strengthening of routine information systems in education and the commissioning of research on indigenous and Maroon education are expected to contribute to evidence-based education sector plans and policies that are equity focused. In order to ensure that national legislations, policies, structures, plans and M&E systems for Child Protection are effective, the Government of Suriname expressed its agreement to conduct a comprehensive assessment using UNICEF’s global toolkit. Demonstrating a commitment to policies and plans for youth and adolescent development and participation, the Presidential Working Group on Children and Young People led the drafting of an integrated Adolescent Framework.

Part of the challenge encountered with regard to this PCR lies in the fact that there were some difficulties in raising the resources needed for more rapid programme implementation, because both Guyana and Suriname are middle-income countries. With more resources, UNICEF would have been able to source international expertise, because there are difficulties in sourcing local expertise in a number of programme areas. Several ministerial changes in Suriname led to changes at the technical level, which slowed down programme delivery in the country.

The way forward for Guyana and Suriname at this point is to find ways to raise the required resources, because that there is no reason to make any significant changes to the PCRs, IRs or their indicators.
IR 1800/A0/05/001/001 Policymakers have increased access to disaggregated data available periodically. They enact equity-based national policies and legislations in fulfilment of Guyana’s child rights obligations.

**Progress:** There are nine indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved for six of the seven indicators that were relevant for this reporting year. Overall, the required groundwork for action to ensure that policymakers have increased access to disaggregated data periodically and that they enact equity-based national policies and legislations in fulfilment of Guyana’s child rights obligations was completed by end of 2012.

Priority gaps in the capacity of the Bureau of Statistics to produce disaggregated data, and the actions required to fill those gaps are now known. Based on this knowledge, UNICEF supported the procurement of additional materials (including computers, desks and chairs), which has now placed the bureau in a position to be able to undertake the required data processing to ensure the early availability of disaggregated Census 2012 data.

In line with the planned targets for ensuring an updated DevInfo database for Guyana (GuyD_Info) UNICEF ensured the provision of technical services for inputting into the system all available in-country data from Census, MICS and Demographic and Health Surveys since 2002. With the planned online launch of GuyD_Info in 2013, there will be an improvement in the periodic availability of more up-to-date disaggregated data for the development of evidence-based policies and programmes.

It was expected that indicators for a Caribbean children’s rights monitoring system would be established by 2012, within the context of the Regional Framework for Action for Children. Though the revision to the Regional Framework was delayed, UNICEF supported the development of tools to assess the present state of Caribbean children and the expansion of the current framework to include all aspects of child development.

To ensure the availability of the annual status report from the Guyana Rights of the Child Commission, UNICEF supported the finalization and launch of Strategic Plans for the Rights of the Child Commission and the Indigenous People’s Commission.

In line with Guyana’s obligation under the CRC, UNICEF supported the Government of Guyana in preparing its reply to the List of Issues, which will be a critical step in monitoring child rights and holding the Government accountable to its obligations.

In support of the UN’s programme on strengthening parliamentary oversight capacity in Guyana, an assessment of Parliamentary Committees was conducted. This assessment provided the basis for developing the necessary plan of action to fortify the work of these committees as policymakers, and to ensure better oversight, reporting, budgeting and representation, as well as laws that are child-sensitive and adhere to the principle of protecting the best interests of the child.

IR 1800/A0/05/001/002 Priority gaps in health, nutrition and WASH are addressed through the development of evidence-based plans, guidelines and M&E systems.

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR. Of the two that were relevant for the reporting year, planned progress was achieved against one indicator while some progress was made on the second.

The Government of Guyana signed the Child Survival Pledge - A Call to Action: “A Promise Renewed”, demonstrating their political will to focus on the development and implementation of appropriate policies and programmes to reduce child mortality. Supportive to this, the capacity of Guyanese health economists/planners to cost the health services using the Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks tool was strengthened. Together with UNICEF’s on-going technical support, this is expected to contribute to the development of Guyana’s Health Sector Strategy 2013–2017.

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9 The central coordinating body for the generation and dissemination of disaggregated data.
The National Micronutrient Study could not be completed within the year due to challenges in funding of this multi-partner initiative. These challenges have affected the strengthening of the policies, protocols, and programmatic interventions required to address the nutritional needs of young children and pregnant women. However, the Nutritional Plan of Action was completed within the year, addressing anaemia in children and pregnant women, and malnutrition and stunting in children in hinterland regions. This will result in the early diagnosis of the problem and the use of appropriate protocols to enhance case management and improve maternal and child health outcomes.

The HealthQual Programme was expanded to locations in Region 9 to monitor the health status of young children, and to intensify the early detection of bottlenecks in quality service delivery, including the availability of essential materials and information, and adequately staffed services and facilities. In addition, collaboration has been forged with PAHO/WHO to scale up the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiatives in the hinterland regions and the use of supervisory tools to monitor service delivery at community-based health facilities in hinterland regions as part of UNICEF’s renewed focus on equity in Guyana.

The Ministry of Housing and Water stakeholder consultation provided an opportunity to include national WASH standards in the National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy scheduled for completion in 2013. Based on the global SPHERE standards, these national WASH standards will provide the necessary policy guidance to the implementing authorities in 2013 and beyond.

- On-track

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/003** Priority gaps in ECD and Child Friendly Schooling are addressed through the development of evidence-based plans, guidelines and M&E systems.

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved against the two indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

A needs assessment to guide the introduction of first-language education in indigenous communities was completed within the year. The findings highlight the linguistic and cultural needs of indigenous children and current challenges in their ability to cope with the demands of national assessments/examinations, which are presented in English only. The recommended policy options will be utilized to enhance the equity focus of the new Education Strategic Plan 2013–2017 by drawing attention to the needs of children in indigenous communities.

In support of the preparation of Guyana’s Education budget for 2013, UNICEF helped carry out a cost-benefit analysis of Child Friendly Schools in Guyana. Utilising the global guidelines on the components of Child Friendly Schools, the analysis provides guidance on how to improve access, the quality of pedagogy and infrastructure. Also covering dormitories, the analysis includes requisites for special needs education and alternative pathways of learning for all of the 11 education districts in the country.

The research on early childhood care practices in Guyana, covering all children up to 8 years of age was postponed due to demands for close supervision and integral involvement in the ongoing research on the Needs Assessment and Child Friendly Schools cost-benefit analysis.

- Constrained

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/004** Improved access to timely and quality disaggregated data and analysis (MICS, Census, SuriInfo,\(^\text{10}\) Situation Analyses).

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR. Two indicators were relevant for this reporting year and substantive progress was achieved against one of them.

The draft 2010 MICS 4 report has significantly enhanced the availability of updated disaggregated data on children and women. Furthermore, the MICS 4 process led to the strengthening of national capacities in executing surveys and developing survey methodologies. However, the finalization of the MICS report was delayed because for two reasons: disagreement between the Government of Suriname and UNICEF on data

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\(^{10}\) SuriInfo is a database on Suriname, part of the DevInfo system.
relating to immunization; and the failure of the consultant to submit certain deliverables on time. The final report is now scheduled to be launched in February 2013.

The Bureau of Statistics has been absorbed with the ongoing census, so activities related to the Suriname DevInfo database (SuriInfo) have been postponed to 2013. Nevertheless, in line with the planned targets to update SuriInfo, UNICEF provided technical capacity-building opportunities and support to the national team for updating indicators based on in-country data from the Census, MICS, the Demographic and Health Surveys and other national systems.

Although this IR is rated “constrained”, UNICEF supported activities to increase access to disaggregated data to facilitate evidence-based and equity-focused policymaking. UNICEF is supporting the Parliament of Suriname in the development of disaggregated district data sheets on women and children, which will provide parliament and other policymakers with access to data focusing on inequities, disadvantaged populations, and disparities among the regions.

Leadership challenges in the Bureau of Statistics and a weak coordination mechanism for the MICS report finalization negatively impacted the achievement of results under this IR.

- **Constrained**

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/005** Education sector plans and policies are evidence based, incorporating child friendly principles and innovative strategies, and supported by strengthened monitoring systems to track progress.

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR. Of the two indicators relevant for this reporting year, substantive progress was achieved against one indicator and some initial progress with achieved against the other.

It was envisaged that the Situation Analysis on Indigenous and Maroon Education would be finalised and disseminated in 2012. However, delays in hiring a consultant because of system problems resulted in shifting the completion of the study to January 2013. The first draft report has been submitted and the data analysis is being finalised. The final report is expected to provide a deepened understanding of the language and context-related issues affecting the quality of education and performance of indigenous and Maroon children within the formal education system. The evidence from this analysis will also be utilised for policy development on the issue of bilingual and contextualized education in the interior of Suriname.

UNICEF support to facilitate the availability of disaggregated data on key indicators from the Education Management Information System Suriname continued in 2012, with a school mapping report that was expected to be completed by December 2012. However, senior management changes and unclear policy guidance on the development of the information system within the ministry resulted in delays and the postponement of activities. In December 2012, the school mapping exercise was being finalised; the report expected in the first quarter of 2013.

This IR was significantly affected by the political situation in Suriname, which resulted in ministerial changes and changes in top-level technical personnel in key UNICEF partner ministries. As a result, UNICEF/UN Agencies had to repeat reorientation, capacity building, and the renegotiation of already agreed initiatives and activities. In addition, new government organizational structures, such as the Presidential Task Force on Education have increased layers in the decision-making process, exacerbating the impact of limited numbers of technical staff, high attrition, and competing priorities.

- **Constrained**

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/006** Effective national legislations, policies, structures, plans and M&E systems for child protection and gender-based violence are in place, including gender mainstreaming in sectors

**Progress:** There are six indicators under this IR that are relevant to this reporting year; two of them represent Joint UN collaboration. For the four UNICEF-specific indicators, planned progress has been achieved for one indicator, substantive progress has been made on one and initial progress has been made on the other two.
Government agreement for a comprehensive assessment of Child Protection, using the UNICEF child protection toolkit, has been secured. The assessment is scheduled to start with the technical support of UNICEF Headquarters in January 2013. It is expected to provide a prioritised set of recommendations towards the development of a child protection system. Political uncertainties and challenges with leadership and consensus building contributed to delays in passing of the Raamwet Kinder Opvang and Kinder Ombudsbureau legislations. In this context, and to ensure approval of the Raamwet Opvang, an agreement was secured with the Parliament of Suriname to execute a baseline assessment in selected children’s homes as input for the approval of the comprehensive legislation on the care of children in children’s homes. The Minister of Social Affairs and Housing has personally committed to advocate for approval in 2013. The Kinder Ombudsbureau structure is now in the process of being reviewed by parliament, with the debate focusing on whether it should be a General Ombudsbureau or one especially for children (those aged 0 to 18).

In line with the planned target for ensuring an updated data system for children in contact with the law within the Ministry of Justice and the police, UNICEF successfully supported the ministry in conducting an in-depth analysis with all stakeholders to assess the roles and usefulness of the data system. Based on this analysis, the upgrade will be carried out in 2013.

Some of the underlying issues causing policy and institutional bottlenecks in Child Protection and Juvenile Justice in Suriname include the following: a limited understanding of principal protection issues and responses, including their impact on the development of the country; and the need for a more coordinated multi-sectoral response driven by political leaders and bureaucrats. Finally, limited child protection funding and the inability to fund the Child Protection Officer post affected UNICEF’s ability to cover more ground in this sector in Suriname.

Constrained

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/007** Priority issues in child protection are addressed through the development of evidence-based plans, legislation, guidelines and M&E systems.

**Progress:** There are seven indicators under this IR. Of the six indicators that were relevant for this reporting year, planned progress was achieved against two indicators and some initial progress made on the other four, with an overall focus on the strengthening of institutions that will lead the development of evidence-based plans, legislation, guidelines and M&E systems.

It was envisaged that a draft strategic plan for the Women, Gender and Equality Commission would be available in 2012. However, following deliberations within the UN Country Team towards better streamlining of the UN system’s support to the rights commissions, it was agreed that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would provide lead support to the Women, Gender and Equality Commission in the preparation of this plan, while UNICEF would provide lead support to the Rights of the Child Commission. The initial groundwork that was carried out by UNICEF to prepare for the strategic plan for the Women, Gender and Equality Commission was handed over smoothly to UNDP.

Towards the development of a strategic plan for the Child Care and Protection Agency, the implementing partner encountered delays in sourcing a suitable consultant to develop the plan. It is expected that the strategic plan will be finalised in early 2013.

Initial discussions were held on the proposed women and child protection information management system. The discussions concluded that there was a need to engage all stakeholders in the development of the proposed system, so that comprehensive data on child protection is available in the future. It was agreed that buy-in from the stakeholders who will input data into the system is critical for its sustainability. The systems analysis and the development of specifications for the information management system will be carried out in 2013.

In 2012, UNICEF began work on the “Situation Analysis of Children in Contact with the Law”. The report is expected to be finalised in 2013 and will contribute to an improved understanding by decision-makers of the key issues for children in this area. It will also form the basis for policy recommendations and the

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1 Comprehensive legislation for children in institutional settings.
development of evidence-based programmes.

An agreement was reached on the proposed framework to achieve universal birth registration by 2015. By the end of 2012, implementing partners were working towards establishing the current birth registration situation in order to establish a baseline, identify the elements required to improve the current process, and determine the levels and types of coordination that will be needed.

UNICEF successfully advocated for amendments to the Sexual Offences Act. The amendments provided for three principal changes to the Sexual Offences Act, 2010: new committal procedures, the submission of evidence by the accused, and the ability of child to mark a statement (if he/she cannot write). These amendments now allow the act to be fully applied and harmonious with the remaining national laws. The act was not operational (before the amendment) because of a previous ruling by the Chief Justice that there were deficiencies in it (especially with regard to the right of the accused).

**Constrained**

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/008** An evidence-based national adolescent strategy is developed, implemented and evaluated.

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR, one of which was relevant for this reporting year. It was envisaged that the final report of the situation analysis on young key affected populations in Guyana would be available in 2012 to provide the necessary evidence for the development of a national strategic plan for adolescents.

Preliminary findings (published earlier in the year) from the situation analysis revealed that sexual experience precedes sexual education among vulnerable youth, and that policymakers’ understanding of this must shift away from geographical location to a more holistic view that encompasses place, people and other social factors. The findings were presented and reviewed with stakeholders, gaps were identified in the current adolescent approach, and a desk review of participation programmes for adolescents was conducted. The desk review noted the limited reflection of the development component for adolescents, a lack of inter-sectoral or inter-ministerial collaboration and the absence of an implementation plan for adolescents. The stakeholders agreed that a holistic approach is required to address the needs of adolescents. The shifting priorities of implementing partners and the closure of the adolescent unit in the Ministry of Health meant the situation analysis was not finalised by the end of 2012 as planned.

A national peer education programme is envisaged as an important component of the national adolescent strategic plan. Initial meetings were held with stakeholders and consensus was reached on the development of a plan of action for national peer education. Several important steps will need to be taken towards the development of the strategic plan, including a desk review of all peer education programmes, including manuals.

The absence of a policy/legal framework and an institutional and management/coordination mechanism continues to be a major obstacle towards achieving this IR. The completion of the situation analysis in 2013 and new partnerships and alliances will be critical to sustaining advocacy efforts towards addressing these issues.

**Constrained**

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/011** Policies and plans for youth and adolescent development and participation are formulated, implemented and monitored.

**Progress:** There are two indicators under this IR, one of which is UNICEF-specific and relevant for this reporting year.

The final report of the “Situation Analysis on Adolescents in Suriname” was due to be available in 2012, to provide the necessary evidence base for the implementation of a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to adolescent development. However the delayed signing of the UNDAF and UNDAF Action Plan, and the consequent delay in signing the Suriname Annual Work Plan and operationalizing the UNDAF coordination structures delayed the start of activities within the IR. Additionally, limited staffing capacity within the
Ministry of Health was a major obstacle to achieving this IR. Completion of the Situation Analysis in 2013 and the forging of new partnerships/alliances to strengthen the Ministry of Health are critical steps towards overcoming these issues.

Despite the delays in finalising the Situation Analysis on Adolescents, joint UN support led by UNICEF enabled the drafting of an Integrated Adolescent Framework for the Government of Suriname under the leadership of the Presidential Working Group on Children and Young People. In collaboration with the Dutch National Committee, UNICEF secured funding to pilot the integrated approach to adolescent development in three selected communities.

**PC 2 - Evidence-based policies and programmes for equity-focused and gender-sensitive action on the survival, development, protection and participation of children and women**

**PCR 1800/A0/05/002** By 2016, Guyana and Suriname will have completed the implementation of their respective evidence-based and equity and gender-sensitive programmes of action to achieve the MD/MDGs on survival and development, protection, and the 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. Both countries will also be implementing a post MD/MDGs target date (2015) programme of action to achieve continuing progress in the survival, development, protection, and participation of children and women with equity based on CRC and CEDAW principles.

**Progress:** Most of the IRs under this PCR were rated ‘On-track’ for both Guyana and Suriname. Significant progress was made, even in the IRs that have been assessed as ‘constrained’. As 2012 was the first year of the new Country Programme, this progress indicates that significant groundwork was accomplished, laying the foundations for the achievement of the planned Country Programme results in 2016.

Contributing to the development of evidence-based programmes for child and maternal health and nutrition in Guyana, the minimum standards for maternal care, PMTCT and baby friendly services were outlined in the National Package of Publicly Guaranteed Health Services, in support of which health workers received training in the integrated PMTCT/ Maternal and Child Health approach. In order to strengthen capacity to implement ECD and basic education programmes in low-performing regions or areas, monitoring tools using national minimum standards were established and several practitioners, administrators and officers received training. UNICEF strengthened the implementation of evidence-based child protection initiatives by improving the services offered at Community Care Points and services for children in contact with the law. Finally, UNICEF supported the expansion and enrichment of the HFLE programme that focuses on adolescent development in Guyana.

In Suriname, the implementation of integrated programmes for mother and child health and nutrition was enhanced through UNICEF’s support in developing the communication skills of health workers to improve vaccination coverage and promote childcare practices. The implementation of Child Friendly School approaches and innovative strategies was enhanced through the training of teachers and school guidance counsellors, and the rollout of the Computer-Aided Learning project. In child protection, UNICEF reached an agreement with the Parliament of Suriname to execute a baseline assessment in selected children’s homes, as a step towards ensuring approval of the *Raamwet Opvang*. In WASH, UNICEF leveraged support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Regional Development to respond to WASH priorities identified in the community plans of eight disadvantaged communities.

Contingent to the mobilisation of the required financial resources and political stability, it is expected that progress will accelerate in 2013 and beyond. Therefore, no significant changes in the PCR, IRs or their indicators are currently needed.

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/001** Evidence-based programmes for child and maternal health and nutrition are developed and implemented in rural, hinterland and low-performing areas.
**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved for one of the three indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

The minimum standards for maternal care, PMTCT and baby friendly services have been established to a large extent in the National Package of Publicly Guaranteed Health Services. These will be used to refine and further develop monitoring indicators, tools and mechanisms to monitor the quality of health and nutrition services, resulting in the timely identification of bottlenecks in service delivery. However, the limited access to existing data from the Health Management Information System is affecting prioritization, decision-making and the leveraging of resources for low-performing areas. UNICEF will continue to advocate for making this data available for use in strategic planning and decision-making.

Working towards eliminating mother to child transmission in the hinterland regions of Guyana, UNICEF began to train healthcare providers in the integrated PMTCT/ Maternal and Child Health approach, including male involvement and scale-up service delivery. In addition, the manual for male involvement in PMTCT was completed. This manual will be tested with appropriate target audiences in selected regions, and subsequently modified before being rolled out to help build the capacity of health professionals in low-performing and hinterland regions.

**On-track**

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/002 Enhanced national capacity in the implementation of quality, culturally appropriate ECD services and basic education programmes rural, hinterland and low performing areas.**

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress, which included some significant successes, was achieved for two of the three indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

The tools for monitoring minimum standards (including standards for cultural and linguistic appropriateness) for ECD facilities were established and a pilot is in progress. Initial results reveal an increase from 6 percent to 12.6 percent in the number of facilities with qualified practitioners, including those with knowledge and skills in environmental hazards and disaster preparedness in ECD, and who understand their roles as ECD custodians. Contributing to improving the standard of ECD service delivery, 82 percent of participants successfully completed the University Certificate Programme for ECD Practitioners, thereby addressing the limited availability of long-term staff for ECD implementation. Furthermore, 40 Infant Field Officers (four per region) have been certified as competent to coach unqualified and under-qualified teachers from nursery to grade 2, based on the monitoring of classroom activities, lesson plans and children’s progress reports for active participation by all children. Strategies to include ECD in maternal health clinics in target regions were only agreed in late October. Upgrades to meet minimum standards are now scheduled to begin in 2013.

As planned, the Child Friendly Schools certification process was reviewed and competencies among education regional administrators in all 11 education districts were strengthened to ensure the region-specific implementation of action plans. Tools for Child Friendly Schools monitoring and certification were developed, protocols and timelines for the certification process established, and the team of assessors for certifying schools was identified within the year. Forty senior education officers and 65 teachers representing 10 regions were sensitized to Child Friendly Schools standards. Certification of participants of these regional sensitization initiatives will begin in 2013, building up the activities to raise awareness of inclusive education among regional school communities that were completed in 2012.

The Child Friendly Schools certification process is expected to provide data on the availability of essential materials; the adequacy of staffing for services, facilities and information; and the quality of services and goods. This should make it easy for local, regional and national authorities to identify low-performing schools and regions for remedial action.

To enhance national capacity in Child Friendly Schools service delivery, 15 school welfare officers participated in phase one of the graduate programme in counselling at the Lesley University in Boston, United States of America. The programme is expected to develop a cadre of local experts with enhanced competencies in guidance and counselling, who can develop, implement, monitor and sustain a robust child protection programme at nursery, primary and secondary levels. They will be able to train others within the system, thus gradually narrowing the gaps for the out-of-school children and increasing the participation of all school-
aged children.

Climate change education (including Guyana’s low carbon development strategy) was fully integrated into the curricula of nursery, primary and secondary schools. One third of teachers were trained at all levels, and UNICEF provided supplementary local materials (activity booklets, DVDs, etc.) to encourage child participation in classrooms. Eighty percent of teachers of science and social studies were equipped with knowledge and skills for climate change education and they were shown how to integrate this education into the classroom programme.

The limited availability of education thematic funding for 2013 is likely to slow down the significant progress made in 2012. The country office will take steps to accelerate resource mobilisation efforts in this area in 2013.

**Constrained**

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/003** Enhanced national capacity in the development and implementation of evidence-based child protection programmes with attention given to areas of disparities.

**Progress:** There are seven indicators under this IR that are relevant to this reporting year. Limited progress was achieved against five indicators, while progress was made as planned against the other two.

The development of guidelines and protocols for the Women and Child Protection Centre and Family Courts was delayed. The planned Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Guyana could also not be finalised. Future targets will be revised to accommodate these delays and more realistic work plans developed in light of the reduction in staff capacity caused by the limited funding for child protection.

It was envisaged that an intensive course on counselling skills would be developed for social workers in 2012, but this could not be initiated within the year. However, under the leadership of the probation department in Guyana, 60 Community Care Point volunteers now have the skills for identifying the symptoms of child abuse and undertaking trauma counselling. Additionally, these Care Point volunteers have the skills for community-based fundraising to sustain their operations with minimal external financial support. Sixty administrators of children’s homes now have basic counselling skills to deal with abused children in the institutions for which they are responsible, and they are providing a platform for the caregivers to receive psychosocial support.

Fifty more children were rescued from abusive households and, through the Ministry of Human Services, were placed with loving families who either fostered or adopted them.

Utilizing the UN guidance on justice issues, legal aid and reintegration services were extended to 100 children in contact with the law in Guyana. In addition, 100 police officers in Guyana have benefitted from UNICEF-supported training that improved their skills and attitudes to respond effectively to issues surrounding the protection of children who come into contact with the law.

Policy/legal, budgetary and institutional bottlenecks notwithstanding, the most critical obstacle was the lack of funding to implement child protection programmes during 2012. A shortage of Other Resources also resulted in the discontinuation of international expertise in Guyana and created challenges in managing partner expectations.

In addition, the limited understanding of principal prevention and protection issues and responses, and their impact on children and the development of the country, is a barrier to the delivery of key protection results for children. Programme implementation was affected by civil unrest beginning in July in Region 10, which meant critical time-sensitive activities had to be cancelled. A fire at the Juvenile Detention Centre also affected some assets provided in previous years.
was achieved against one indicator, while some progress was made on the second.

Teachers from 98 secondary schools and 78 primary schools received training to deliver HFLE as a timetabled subject. There are now 26,730 secondary school students and 19,250 primary school students benefiting from quality HFLE programming. In addition, the HFLE programme curriculum for grades 1 and 2 was developed and teachers were trained in the new curricula. This resulted in 725 children receiving quality HFLE programmes, enhancing their capacity to make responsible decisions, a skill that can last a lifetime.

The capacity of the HFLE coordinator and two other people from the Ministry of Education was strengthened through a study tour to Barbados, where they observed the implementation of the HFLE programme as a timetabled subject. The HFLE coordinator monitored and provided technical support and quality assurance to 35 schools through 42 visits.

The planned evaluation of HFLE as a timetabled subject could not take place because no consultant with the requisite qualifications and experience was available to carry out the evaluation. It is hoped that the country office will be able to source an experienced evaluator in 2013 to undertake this important assignment, the results of which are critical to the sustainability and scaling-up of the HFLE initiative.

The planned initial bilateral (Government of Guyana – UNICEF) consultations were completed for a coordinated approach to adolescent development using music, sports and culture. An inter-sectoral meeting to take this initiative forward is planned for early 2013.

As a way of encouraging adolescent and youth participation, UNICEF continued its support to Youth Media Guyana to produce and broadcast short videos on television and the Internet (including several 11-minute news segments). These provide updates highlighting the achievements and involvement of adolescents and youth in the realization of their rights.

On-track

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/006 Enhanced national capacity to formulate and implement integrated programmes for mother and child health and nutrition.**

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR; planned progress was made against two indicators, while the other is a Joint UN Indicator.

A total of 410 additional healthcare workers now have improved their skills in proactively communicate with parents, using the revised *Baby and Toddler Book* to increase parents’ ability to provide young children with an appropriately caring and stimulating environment. Parents of approximately 10,000 children received the *Baby and Toddler Book* in 2012.

In addition, UNICEF helped improve vaccination coverage in the interior through training and C4D support, resulting in 257 children (aged 0–7 years) visiting the vaccination sites during the Americas Vaccination week. A total of 195 children (179 in the 0–4 age group) were vaccinated.

With regard to the development of informed programmes on mother and child health and nutrition, UNICEF provided technical support to the Government of Suriname in the design of a national nutrition survey targeting households and schools.

On-track

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/007 Enhanced national capacity to implement Child Friendly School approaches and innovative strategies (e.g. ICT) to improve access to quality education.**

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR; two are relevant for this reporting year. Planned progress was achieved in one of the indicators, and limited progress was seen in the second.

In order to strengthen the capacity of teachers and school guidance staff in the interior of Suriname, 153 teachers in 20 school teams now have enhanced technical skills to implement Child Friendly practices. In addition, an in-service training programme has been developed to equip new school guidance staff with the
capacity to provide quality support to primary school teachers when introducing Child Friendly practices in their respective schools in the interior. Although target achievement for the Computer Aided Learning project was significantly constrained, training was underway for 53 teachers, schools leaders and members of the Parent Teacher Associations of the five Computer-Aided Learning pilot schools in the interior of Suriname. Participants were shown how to use ICT-based teaching and learning methods in their lessons.

The achievement of targets for Computer-Aided Learning were significantly affected by the political crises in Suriname, which resulted in ministerial changes that had a snowball effect at the top technical level in key UNICEF partner ministries. With each change, UNICEF/UN Agencies had to start all over with reorientation, capacity building, and renegotiation of already agreed programmes. Additionally, new organizational structures within the government added layers to the decision-making process, thereby exacerbating the difficulties associated with the limited numbers of technical staff, high attrition, and competing priorities. Challenges in UNICEF’s enterprise system (VISION) severely delayed the procurement process, which affected the availability of computers and subsequently the results for the Computer-Aided Learning project.

On-track

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/008** Adolescent/youth development and participation programmes, including sports, are developed and implemented.

**Progress:** There are two indicators under this IR; both are joint UN indicators.

Although there are no UNICEF-specific indicators within this IR, UNICEF contributed to efforts to establish the requisite foundations for achievement of the joint UN results. UNICEF advocacy and technical support was instrumental in identifying key gaps in the health, education and protection programmes in the interior, the most disadvantaged geographical area in Suriname. A core result of this is the development of an adolescent framework to address long-standing issues on adolescent development. The integrated adolescent framework was developed by the ministries with guidance from the Presidential Taskforce on Children and Young People. With UNICEF support, the framework will be piloted in select sites by the Ministries of Education, Social Affairs, Health, Sports and Youth, and Justice and Police.  

On-track

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/009** Targeted vulnerable communities have improved access to WASH services and national plans are prioritised in under-served communities.

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR; two are UNICEF-specific and one is a joint UN indicator. Planned progress was achieved for both the UNICEF-specific indicators for this reporting year.

In contribution to the joint UN result, UNICEF developed a joint work plan with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Regional Development to guarantee sustainability, increase government ownership, and ensure the successful implementation of sanitation interventions. Demand generation for improved sanitation through the community mobilization activities with women and village elders in eight villages resulted in the identification and implementation of locally relevant solutions. Priority interventions identified by communities included improved access to safe drinking water (with attention to the training of local managers for water systems), and improved access to sanitation. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Regional Development are supporting communities with the implementation of these plans. Technical support for the creation of an independent entity for water supply in the interior has been discontinued until it is reviewed by ministers.

As a result of advocacy efforts, UNICEF successfully brought issues relating to school WASH to the attention of relevant partners, who will help support key ministries in developing a comprehensive plan for school WASH in the interior.

Although this IR was also affected by the political crises, focused advocacy and targeted technical support ensured the achievement of the planned targets for 2012.

On-track

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/010** Child protection and gender-based violence programmes are developed and
implemented.

**Progress:** There are three indicators under this IR; one is a Joint UN indicator, and two are related to UNICEF. Planned progress was achieved for the one indicator that was relevant for this reporting year.

Agreement was reached with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing on streamlining the content of ECD training. Thanks to this, 50 ECD providers (delivering services to about 500 children) were trained on the revised ECD care guidelines.

An agreement for a comprehensive assessment of child protection, using the UNICEF child protection toolkit, has been secured with the Government of Suriname. It is expected to provide a prioritised set of recommendations towards the development of a more comprehensive child protection system.

Political uncertainties, challenges with leadership and difficulty reaching consensus on the way forward all contributed to delays in passing the *Raamwet Kinder Opvang*. As a step towards ensuring approval of the *Raamwet Opvang*, UNICEF reached an agreement with the Parliament of Suriname to execute a baseline assessment in selected children homes as input for the approval process.

**Constrained**

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/011** Improved implementation of evidence-based programmes to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS in the populations most at risk and other vulnerable groups.

**Progress:** There are four indicators under this IR, of which three are joint UN indicators and one is related to UNICEF for this reporting year.

It was envisaged that the final report of the “Situation Analysis on Children and HIV/AIDS” would be available by December 2012. However, the activity was delayed by the late signing of the UNDAF and UNDAF Action Plan, and the consequent delay in signing the Suriname Annual Work Plan and late operationalization of UNDAF coordination structures. It is expected that the recommendations of this situation analysis (now planned for release in first quarter 2013) will provide critical inputs for advocacy relating to evidence-based interventions targeting the populations most at risk and other vulnerable groups.

**PC 800 - Cross-sectoral costs**

**On-track**

**PCR 1800/A0/05/003** Cross Sectoral

**Progress:** All the IRs under this PCR (except one for Suriname) were rated ‘On-track’. Progress has been made, including in the IR that has been assessed as ‘constrained’.

Towards an increased understanding of children's priority issues among key decision-makers and communities, the Guyana office finalised its Advocacy and Communication Strategy and started to implement it through media and various public events. In support of national plans for Emergency Preparedness and Response, UNICEF coordinated the UNETT and supported the drafting of a child protection emergency preparedness and response plan.

The planned integrated C4D Strategy for Guyana and Suriname in support of planned behaviour change communication results could not be developed. Despite several rounds of advertisements, UNICEF was unable to attract suitable candidates for the C4D position and for an important C4D consultancy, and this directly impacted the achievement of the C4D targets set in the Annual Work Plan. In addition, the Communications Officer position in Suriname remains vacant because the office has not been able to find qualified applicants, in spite of support from the UNICEF Regional Office with the wide multi-avenue dissemination of the vacancy announcements and advertisements. With the sourcing of relevant expertise in Communications and C4D in 2013, it is expected that this PCR will be fully on-track towards achieving the planned result.
In order to objectively assess progress towards the realization of the PCR and IRs set out in the Guyana/Suriname Country Programme, annual targets were established. Together with detailed Annual Work Plans, the country office has operationalized a multi-level performance monitoring system, which includes monitoring individual staff performance. Lessons learned from the first year of implementation will feed into the development of the 2013 Annual Work Plan.

Progress: There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved for two of the three indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

The Advocacy and Communication Strategy for UNICEF Guyana was developed, in alignment with the UNICEF Communication and Public Advocacy Framework, to support the new country programme for 2012–2016. In addition, support was provided for Advocacy for Children events / activities in line with the communications strategy, including Youth Day, Universal Children’s Day, the CRC Anniversary and Sports Kits for the juvenile offenders at New Opportunity Corps. My Rights and Responsibilities booklets were also printed for distribution in line with the communication strategy. These booklets present the Articles of the CRC in child-friendly language, to help children to understand their rights and responsibilities as enshrined in the convention.

Delays in training and limited access to the Red Dot platform in the initial stages hampered timely updates to the UNICEF Guyana website. It is also costly and time-consuming to travel within Guyana to observe and document UNICEF’s work and programming, assess its impact, and showcase successes and best practices. This has limited the office’s ability to capture human-interest stories and document certain programmes, and it could hamper strategic communication planning and resource mobilization efforts going forward. The office has taken steps to address these constraints as they are encountered, and it has put mechanisms in place where possible to overcome them.

The country office had planned to develop an inter-sectoral C4D strategy for Guyana and Suriname in 2012. However, this could not be accomplished because of a lack of technical resources, including the inability to fill the Guyana/Suriname C4D Officer post and the C4D consultancy, as mentioned above.

On 19 November 2012, Guyana joined the global movement by commemorating the World Day for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, launching the Blue Teddy Bear TELL Campaign to raise awareness on child sexual abuse. The Ministry of Human Services is leading the campaign, which will continue until 2016. The expansion of the TELL Scheme in Guyanese schools has begun and this will reach 270 new teachers and 270 members of the Parent–Teacher’s Association by providing training at 90 primary schools in Regions 2, 3, 4 and 10. The campaign aims to reach 5,400 children, making them fully knowledgeable about sexual abuse and empowered to talk about any violations of their rights.

Weekly media tracking was also implemented to capture issues in areas of relevance to UNICEF Guyana’s work and programming, and periodic reports will be submitted to the Rights of the Child Commission for follow-up action. Media monitoring will support the implementation of a code of conduct for journalists, and reports generated will track improvements in media reporting over the period of monitoring. This will assist in determining the effectiveness of planned media sensitization exercises. The office will also monitor the success of the code in ensuring that ethical and gender-sensitive reporting on children and women is established and maintained.

Progress: There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved for one of the two indicators that were relevant for this reporting year, while some progress was made on the other.
UNICEF has led the coordination of UNETT, the Health, WASH and Education sectors in systematically mainstreaming the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies. Partnerships with the National Disaster Risk Management Agency and stakeholders were further strengthened in 2012. Emergency preparedness was mainstreamed in the development of Annual Work Plan for 2012.

As part of the Annual Work Plan, the drafting of the Child Protection Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning plan was completed for the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security. Once finalized, this plan will be instrumental in guiding the design and implementation of psychosocial support interventions in response to an emergency situation in the education sector. Significant delays at partner level in providing feedback in a timely manner have resulted in delays in the approval of key documents, thereby affecting the timely implementation of programme activities.

**On-track**

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/003 UNICEF/Government of Guyana Country Programme 2012–2016 monitoring mechanisms and tools are in place.**

**Progress:** There are two indicators under this IR that are relevant to this reporting year. Progress was made as planned against both.

An Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was prepared for Guyana following the approval of the Country Programme Action Plan for 2012–2016 and the 2012 Annual Work Plans. Systems were established for the quarterly monitoring of the IMEP, and to report progress and findings from studies and evaluations to the Country Management Team. A standard operating procedure was established for the management of studies and evaluations. The procedure also outlines the standards and accountabilities for quality assurance and reporting. By the end of 2012, the office had completed more than 70 percent of the 2012 IMEP activities, although only 3 of 12 studies were completed. Whilst the planning of studies could have been more realistic in some programmes, several of the studies could not be initiated or completed in a timely manner because of the lack of suitable local or international consultants willing to undertake the assignment within the available budget.

**On-track**

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/004 UNICEF/Government of Suriname Country Programme 2012–2016 monitoring mechanisms and tools are in place.**

**Progress:** There are two indicators under this IR that are relevant to this reporting year. Planned progress was achieved against one indicator, and some progress was made against the other.

An IMEP was prepared for Suriname following the approval of the Country Programme Action Plan for 2012–2016 and the 2012 Annual Work Plans. Just as for Guyana, the office established systems for the quarterly monitoring of the IMEP, and to report progress and findings from studies and evaluations to the Country Management Team. A standard operating procedure was set up to manage studies and evaluations. The procedure also outlines the standards and accountabilities for quality assurance and reporting.

By the end of 2012, the office had completed 48 percent of the 2012 IMEP activities. The low completion rate is largely the result of the political crisis in the country and the challenge of programme implementation, which is also being experienced by other agencies including IDB, VVOB, and the UN system in general. The shift to a single treasury account for all UN-related transactions from July onwards exacerbated the delays.

To tackle these obstacles, it will be vital to forge new partnerships/alliances to improve the implementation capacity of the ministries. The operationalization of the new UN Programme Coordination Structures to monitor the UNDAF Action Plan, and continuous advocacy with key members of the government will also play an important role.

In order to objectively assess progress towards the realization of Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results ascribed in the Country Programme, annual targets were established. Together with detailed Annual Work Plans, as part of the Guyana/Suriname Country Office initiative, Suriname has
operationalized a multi-level performance monitoring system, including for individual staff performance. Lessons learned from the first year of implementation will feed into the development of 2013 Annual Work Plan.

**Constrained**

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/005** A coherent behaviour change communication and advocacy strategy is developed and implemented.

**Progress:** There are two indicators under this IR, one of which is a joint UN indicator.

Achievement of the UNICEF-specific indicator — the C4D strategy — has been significantly constrained by limited technical resources. As mentioned above, UNICEF was unable to attract suitable candidates for the C4D position and for an important C4D consultancy, which has directly impacted achievement of C4D targets set in the Annual Work Plan. The Communications Officer position in Suriname also remains vacant.

Despite constraints in technical capacity in the C4D area, UNICEF was able to partner with the Bureau of Education in the Interior to develop a water and sanitation awareness booklet for children in schools. The booklet was printed and disseminated by the Ministry of Education to 92 schools in the interior. Although the project has been implemented in very few communities, the impact has been significantly larger, because data generated through the project has demonstrated the disparity between urban and rural school sanitation facilities, highlighting the urgent need for action for sanitation in schools in the interior. As a result of this increased recognition, the Ministries of Education, Regional Development and Natural Resources (with the support of UNICEF) are working towards developing a comprehensive plan and resource mobilization strategy to address the availability of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in schools in the interior.

**On-track**

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/006** Improved national emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity.

**Progress:** There are two indicators under this IR, one of which one is a joint UN indicator.

Emergency Preparedness was mainstreamed in the development of Annual Work Plans in Suriname. Areas for UNICEF programmatic support have been clearly defined in the UNDAF. While PAHO/WHO leads the Suriname UNETT, UNICEF is providing leadership in the WASH and education sectors, as well as support to the relevant ministries. During the year, the Interagency Emergency Response Plan was updated and action plans to strengthen the District Emergency Operation Centres were put in place as part of Suriname’s disaster management policy.

**On-track**

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/007** Human Resources for effective programme delivery.

**Progress:** Based on the Annual Review, this IR is on-track as all its activities were implemented as planned.

**On-track**

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/008** Human Resources for effective programme delivery.

**Progress:** Based on the Annual Review, this IR is on-track as all its activities were implemented as planned.

**On-track**

**PCR 1800/A0/05/800** Effective and efficient programme management and operations support.

**Progress:** Based on the Annual Review, this IR is on-track as all its activities were implemented as planned.

**On-track**

**IR 1800/A0/05/800/001** Governance and Systems

**Progress:** Based on the Annual Review, this IR is on-track as all its activities were implemented as planned.
IR 1800/A0/05/800/002 Financial Resources and Stewardship

**Progress:** Based on the Annual Review, this IR is on-track as all its activities were implemented as planned.

- On-track

IR 1800/A0/05/800/003 Human Capacity

**Progress:** Based on the Annual Review, this IR is on-track as all its activities were implemented as planned.

- On-track

IR 1800/A0/05/800/888 HR

**Progress:** Based on the Annual Review, this IR is on-track as all its activities were implemented as planned.
Effective Governance Structure

The year 2012 saw the launch of the new country programme for 2012–2016, under which UNICEF Guyana and Suriname began working with a shared operations structure that is designed to support a more effective and efficient approach to both programme work and operations. Thus, efforts in 2012 concentrated on streamlining operations and work processes for the two offices. The joint operations structure is facilitated by a hub (in Guyana), which processes transactions for the Guyana and Suriname offices. In many instances, processes are initiated in Suriname and completed in Guyana.

In line with the joint operating structure, the joint office committees are comprised of staff members from both offices. The composition of the committees was reviewed within the reporting period to ensure that all staff members in Guyana and Suriname were on at least one office committee, as a strategy to promote a more even distribution of work. The mix of participants and shared experiences from the two countries facilitated rigorous reviews, enriched discussions and improved quality assurance.

All statutory meetings were held in accordance with schedule. The Country Management Team met every month and revised its standard agenda and list of management indicators following the introduction of VISION. The revised monthly agenda (with additional items during meetings that fell at the end of a quarter) enabled the Country Management Team to have a more comprehensive overview of progress, which included monitoring the progress of the Annual Management Plan targets and the IMEP each quarter. The Joint Consultative Committee met quarterly and General Staff Meetings were held every month. Minutes of all statutory meetings (including the Country Management Team) were routinely shared with all staff members.

The results of the latest Global Staff Survey for Guyana and Suriname were reviewed in both offices on Staff Development Days, led by the Staff Association Executive. A joint Global Staff Survey Improvement Plan for both offices was developed, implemented, and placed as a permanent agenda item of the monthly General Staff meetings, quarterly meetings, and Joint Consultative Committee meetings. This was done in order to follow up on progress made and drive the process.

A key achievement in 2012 was the development of standard operating procedures for programme and operations work processes, which were drawn up by staff members of the Guyana and Suriname offices. The process was driven by a desire to clarify and simplify processes because of the introduction of VISION, System Roles and the Guyana/Suriname Operation Hub, as well as a need to improve the segregation of duties. The standard operating procedures are based on the UNICEF financial policies and guidelines. They are designed to provide easy access to key information and the nature of key steps in work processes. Each standard operating procedure includes the filing and documentation requirements for the various stages of the process.

The Suriname office, which shares premises with other UN-system organisations, has been working on a move to a new UN House, to be funded by the Government of Suriname. The move is expected to occur in early 2013.

Strategic Risk Management

The offices’ strategic approach to risk management was referenced to the risk areas identified in the Guyana and Suriname Risk and Control Self-Assessment Reports. It was also based on the monthly Country Management Team reviews of UNICEF’s country office management indicators, which enabled a systematic approach to risk mitigation. This country management team risk management system was complemented by a similar one for programmes (the system for operations is already fully integrated in the Country Management Team process). The Enterprise Risk Management profiles and libraries for Guyana and Suriname were updated and modified within the year based on Global Change Management Office’s instructions, and they were monitored based on the corresponding progress reports produced through the country offices’ quality assurance mechanism. Progress has been made by implementing mitigation strategies to reduce the likelihood of residual risk for some existing risk areas and no new risk areas for inclusion in 2013 emerged in 2012.
The Early Warning Early Action system was maintained and updated with both offices, meeting all global and regional deadlines. TACRO’s\textsuperscript{12} mid-year review of the key action tabs for both Guyana and Suriname identified action points that need to be addressed in 2013. The review will guide cross-sectoral emergency preparedness and response planning strategies for each PCR. The Business Continuity Plan (BCP) process has been built into the Early Warning Early Action system, facilitating a more coordinated approach to emergency preparedness and response planning, which reflects the direct symbiotic nature of the partnership between operations and programmes. The BCP was tested in 2012 through the Desk Check, Walk Through, and Simulation exercises guided by the UNICEF Business Continuity Management Information Note on Exercise Planning.

MOSS\textsuperscript{13} compliance continued to be regularly monitored for both offices in close collaboration with UNDSS\textsuperscript{14} and interagency partners through participation in Security Management Team meetings and training sessions.

Evaluation

Following the approval of the Guyana Country Programme Action Plan and the Suriname UNDAF Action Plan and their corresponding Annual Work Plans, the IMEPs for Guyana and Suriname were developed and shared with TACRO. Two M&E specialists are now in place in the Guyana and Suriname offices. The implementation of the IMEPs for both offices was the responsibility of these M&E specialists, who monitored the progress of M&E activities and reported to the Country Management Team and programme meetings periodically. A standard operating procedure was established by the office to ensure adequate quality assurance and the streamlining of office processes for the management of evaluations and studies.

An evaluation was planned in Guyana to assess the HFLE Life Skills-Based Curriculum Pilot Programme, as a timetabled subject offered in 10 secondary schools for students in grade 7 between September 2010 and May 2012. However, though the call for Expressions of Interest was advertised locally, regionally, and internationally, no suitable evaluator was found to undertake this task. The decision was taken to defer this evaluation to 2013.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

ICT policies developed by the IT Solutions and Services Division (ITSS) were implemented in the Guyana and Suriname offices for desktops, laptops and servers. The virtualization project was completed in early 2012, and it has reduced the number of physical servers from 7 to 2 in Guyana and from 5 to 1 in the Suriname offices. Citrix Remote Access servers were installed in both offices as part of the BCP. Additionally, the offices have deployed the Mission Control firewalls and users are now able to connect via VPN with two layers of security – password and token. The WSUS servers have been deployed in both offices, and the operating system has been upgraded to Server 2008 R2 for the ADDC, Mail and File servers according to ITSS requirements.

Internet connectivity for the Guyana office was upgraded to the ITSS-recommended speed of 1 Mbps for the use of VISION, while the Suriname office internet connectivity remained at 512 Kbps. VISION was implemented smoothly in terms of connectivity in the Guyana office as bandwidth was sufficient. However, for the Suriname office, the traffic for corporate applications will be segmented from internet traffic to ensure enough bandwidth is available for VISION.

The implementation of GS intranet with integrated Microsoft Search Server 2012 allowed users to quickly search the contents of the shared drive in both offices. This was previously challenging using the native

\textsuperscript{12} Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean.  
\textsuperscript{13} Minimum Operating Security Standards.  
\textsuperscript{14} United Nations Department of Safety and Security.
Windows Search tool. The use of Skype, VOIP, WebEx and Polycom Video Conference have become standard and important communication media both between UNICEF Guyana and UNICEF Suriname, and between the UNICEF offices and our partners. This is an important cost-saving strategy, especially since the joint office structure requires shared meetings and interviews. To ensure continued excellence in the area of ICT, the Guyana and Suriname offices’ IT equipment standards were reviewed and an IT Procurement Proposal was developed in order to fill the gap for hardware that was no longer compliant with UNICEF standards.

Many challenges were encountered during the year with usage of VISION. These were related to the establishment and usage of roles, and completing processes in the system. In some cases, this resulted in lengthy delays in generating outputs. Where possible, solutions were sought from calls logged in Service Manager, from knowledge sharing with other country offices, and use of i-Learning and WebEx.

### Fundraising and Donor Relations

The office submitted all donor reports on time. In addition, the office’s standard operating procedures set out quality assurance benchmarks and work processes for preparing donor proposals and submitting donor reports. Programme Budget Allotments (PBAs) that were due to expire during the reporting period were fully utilised.

As per the Country Programme Management Plan 2012–2016 and the 2012 Annual Management Plan, the office developed a Guyana/Suriname Resource Mobilisation Strategy for addressing the funding gaps of the Country Programme and to leverage resources for children. As part of this ten-point strategy, the office developed twelve investment cases to generate interest among traditional and non-traditional donors. An initial plan has been prepared to operationalise the strategy in a way that sets individual accountabilities within the ambit of a resource mobilisation team within the Guyana/Suriname Country Office.

The Guyana office led the development of a Joint Concept note on Social Protection and Protection from Violence, Exploitation and Abuse for submission to MDTF. As part of this concept note, IOM, PAHO/WHO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and UN Women have developed a joint multi-year programme of cooperation, which will enhance access to funding for Guyana in the area of child protection, forging greater synergies.

### Management of Financial and Other Assets

Tracking and quality assurance for the management of cash transfers ensured that there were no outstanding Direct Cash Transfers (over the 9-month period) throughout the year. The full utilisation of Regular Resources was affected by the late start of the Country Programme and the political uncertainties in Suriname. All Other Resources were spent within the expiry date of the PBA. An audit of Guyana and Suriname is scheduled for 2013.

Bank reconciliations were periodically monitored and management continued to take the necessary steps to improve the management of cash resources. For example, cash requirements were projected on a quarterly basis, with detailed bi-weekly projections for which programme officers were held accountable.

The monitoring of global and regional indicators to ensure good financial management practices was facilitated through the programme management, operations management, and Country Management Team meetings.

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15 International Organization for Migration.
16 United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.
18 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
19 UN Agency for gender equality and the empowerment of women.
Supply Management

Supply management for the two offices was challenged by staff availability and VISION-related issues. The Guyana office was left without its substantive supply personnel for three quarters of the year, due to illness. Unfortunately, this staff member was also the trained VISION super user. However, the interim staff member and office team as a whole did a commendable job in assisting the supply function, utilising guidance material in i-Learning and knowledge support from other UNICEF offices to facilitate procurement. The overall effects of reduced capacity were delays in commencing procurement in the first half of the year, and time that had to be spent learning the processes. As a result, more procurement was done through implementing partner procurement processes and paid for via direct cash transfers.

In addition to this, there were VISION-related challenges for which service calls were logged, but which remained unresolved at the end of the year. This also led to delays in procuring supplies for implementing partners. Assistance has been sought from the Regional Office for supply capacity building and strengthening in 2013 to ensure that there are no bottlenecks in this area.

Human Resources

Management and the Staff Association continued to work together to create opportunities to discuss issues of interest and concern to staff. Joint monthly staff meetings were held with the Guyana and Suriname team, using video and teleconferencing. These meetings have been very effective for information sharing and have improved communication within the office. Staff members in both offices benefitted from group training in CBI techniques, thereby increasing their capacities to conduct interviews. Emphasis on flexi-time and the use of annual leave were major strategies to create a more conducive work environment.

In 2012, staff members benefitted from SSAFE training by UNDSS, and group CBI training. The emergency specialist and representative received emergency response training, the senior IT assistant had emergency IT training, and the operations manager received Performance Management training. These are key to the development of the offices and with this training, it is expected that the office will excel in these areas.

In 2012, the Guyana and Suriname offices were able to fill most of the vacant posts under the new country programme. However, it proved more difficult to fill the vacant national posts in Suriname because of a lack of qualified applicants and to date the office has been unable to fill the posts of C4D Officer and Communications Officer. Additionally, the International Child Protection post in Guyana had to be vacated because of a lack of Other Resources, whilst the Child Protection position in Suriname remained vacant for the same reason. Efforts will continue in 2013, with assistance from the Regional Office, to explore options for finding suitable candidates. Incomplete staffing, particularly in the Suriname office, has affected programme implementation, UNICEF visibility, and effectiveness.

The challenges the office faced with the illness-induced absence of its supply staff have been discussed above. In addition, an experienced Programme Assistant was off work for the second half of the year on extended maternity leave, followed by annual leave. The staff member later resigned in order accompany her spouse, who migrated to take up an international NGO post. Both the supply staff on sick leave and the Programme Assistant were VISION super users for their areas, and their absence, in the context of the small complement of staff in both offices, affected the efficiency of operations and programmes and resulted in multi-tasking and increased workload for other staff members. Staff in both offices must be commended for their commitment to UNICEF’s work despite the increased workload caused by reduced capacity and VISION challenges.

20 Competency Based Interview.
21 Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments.
Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The use of video conferencing between the Guyana and Suriname offices and other offices continued to be an effective and efficient method of communication in 2012. Towards reducing high utility costs, the use of free Skype calls (computer to computer) has been encouraged for external communication and a Skype directory for the two offices has been circulated. This is working well in Guyana but, due to IT connectivity challenges in Suriname, Skype usage has not been as successful there. In another bid to save costs, VOIP cards were procured in 2012 and this is expected to generate a significant reduction in telephone costs.

Efficiencies in the Guyana office were improved through the development of an internal database of consultants, which was compiled using information from previous consultants and suitable candidates who responded to a Call for Consultants at the beginning of the year. The use of this database has generated savings on advertising costs. More progress has been made with the compilation of a joint database of consultants for the UN agencies in Guyana, and usage is expected to commence in 2013. Cost savings in the Suriname office continued as a result of participation in joint agreements with the other UN agencies for the rental of the common premises (UN House), security guard services, cleaning services, and an IT consultant for the UN House.

A move to E-banking is being explored for the Suriname office to make the payment process more efficient. E-banking facilities for payment processes are not yet available in Guyana.

Changes in Annual Management Plan and Country Programme Management Plan

The office will build on the significant progress made in 2012 in terms of the established management priorities. No changes to the approved office structure are envisaged.
### Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCP</td>
<td>Business Continuity Plan</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<td>CBI</td>
<td>Competency Based Interview</td>
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<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>ECD</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
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<td>HFLE</td>
<td>Health and Family Life Education</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
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<td>IADB</td>
<td>Inter-American Development Bank</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<td>IMEP</td>
<td>Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organisation for Migration</td>
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<td>IR</td>
<td>Intermediate Result</td>
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<td>Information Technology Solutions and Services Division</td>
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<td>MDGs</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<td>MOSS</td>
<td>Minimum Operating Security Standards</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAHO/WHO</td>
<td>Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization</td>
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<td>PBA</td>
<td>Programme Budget Allotment</td>
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<td>PCR</td>
<td>Programme Component Result</td>
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<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>Prevention of Mother to Child transmission</td>
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<td>SSAFE</td>
<td>Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments</td>
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<td>TACRO</td>
<td>Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>UNCRC</td>
<td>United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>UN Agency for gender equality and the empowerment of women</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
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