Executive Summary

In 2013, the Government of Suriname approved the long-pending Raamwet Kinder Opvang legislation. UNICEF assisted, at the request of Parliament, in conducting a baseline assessment on the status of child care in institutions. The strong partnership between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Police and UNICEF was important in obtaining this result. The approval of the legislation will enable effective structural monitoring, implementation and improvement of child care norms, standards and guidelines for institutions in Suriname.

To enhance availability of data for decision-making, UNICEF and the Bureau of Statistics ensured the completion of all five major national household surveys and National Census in the Guy_Dinfo, Guyana’s adaptation of DevInfo. The database was launched on 18 December 2013 with the participation of the Government of Guyana and the Bureau of Statistics, demonstrating strong national ownership of this high-quality product.

The construction and rehabilitation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities was completed in the remaining nine project villages, with official handover ceremonies in the villages of Abenaston and Boto Pasi. 3,701 persons in seven villages were provided with access to safe water and 90 family toilets, which were constructed in nine villages, provided safe sanitation for 450 persons. Over the years, approximately 16 villages targeting approximately 10,000 people have benefitted from this project, which is coming to a close. The partnership between the Government of Suriname, UNICEF and target communities was instrumental in local level prioritisation and cost sharing.

UNICEF expanded its partnership with civil society in Guyana on decentralising the investigation and reporting of sexual offences against children, and in Suriname on the operationalization of an integrated adolescent pilot project in one community. In addition to the active involvement of UNICEF in Suriname’s Delivering-as-One initiative, it collaborated with other UN agencies in providing technical support for the preparation of Guyana’s Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Acceleration Framework and Country Action Plan for MDG 5 - Maternal Health.

Constraints included the discontinuation of the international Child Protection Officer post in Guyana and the inability to find continued funding for the Suriname Education Specialist position due to lack of resources. In some cases, particularly in Suriname, funding for posts was available; however, the national posts (Child Protection, Communication for Development, Child Survival) were not filled because of a lack of qualified national applicants. This is primarily because of the continuing emigration of skilled human resources from the Caribbean sub-region. Furthermore, political uncertainties and frequent changes in counterparts and decision-makers continued to impact progress and timely implementation of programmes in Suriname. The planned Mid-term Review (MTR) in 2014 would need to address pragmatically these challenges on the ground, particularly in areas where the required technical capacity is not available.

Country Situation Affecting Children and Women

There are 300,000 children living in Guyana. Eleven per cent, or 37,363, live in the hinterland regions and are the most disadvantaged. In Suriname, it is estimated that there are 191,309 children, and approximately 12 per cent of them, 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.

Compared to the 2009 MDG Progress Report for Guyana, the 2011 iteration provided a more positive outlook on the achievability of the MDGs, by rating all eight targets as likely or potentially achievable by 2015. This was, for instance, the case in regard to MDG4 (Child mortality) and MDG5 (Maternal health), which were both rated by the 2009 report as unlikely to be achieved.

As per the 2013 estimates developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME), Guyana’s under-five mortality rate, infant mortality rate and neo-natal mortality rate have been estimated as...
35, 29 and 19, respectively. The country’s 2009 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) estimated that most child deaths under the age of five take place during the neo-natal period.

Significant improvement in maternal mortality (86 in 2008 compared to 320 in 1991) was obtained, as per Guyana’s MDG report. Improvements in the quality of care offered by the maternal health care professionals (including nurses and obstetricians) as well as integrated nutrition and child-care initiatives are listed as the key to the achievement of MDG5 and MDG4 in 2015. The planned Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2014 will provide the critical data for reporting against the MDGs.

Guyana was one of 11 countries that achieved universal antiretroviral therapy (ART) coverage by the end of 2011 and reached 95 per cent coverage for Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services in 2011 (National HIV Strategic Plan 2013-2020).

The 2009 DHS revealed that only 57.6 per cent of 20 to 24-year olds had completed secondary schooling or higher. The quality of education is a matter of concern in Guyana and throughout the Caribbean. A shortage of trained teachers, inadequate water and sanitation facilities, and a disconnection between the curriculum and the interests and practical needs of students are among the factors compromising the quality of education. Guyana does not yet offer a licensed, regulated and structured readiness programme for children below age three years and nine months.

The 2009 DHS also revealed that 34.6 per cent of 19-year old girls in Guyana were mothers or pregnant with their first child, with striking regional differences. The Qualitative Research Study on HIV Vulnerability among Young Key Affected Populations in Guyana, completed in 2013, found that many young people were grappling with various psycho-social issues (feelings of abandonment, low self-esteem, trauma, bullying, etc.) that were bottled up and for which professional counselling was generally not available, which resulted in feelings of isolation. In a few extreme cases, cutting, overdose and other forms of suicide had been attempted.

Suriname’s MICS 2010 was published in 2013. The report confirmed the findings of the Situation Analysis, which highlighted the disparities in the situation of children and women between the rural interior (the principal spatial domain of the Maroons and indigenous peoples of Suriname) and the urban and rural coastal region. Of children who are of primary school entry age (age six) in Suriname, 78 per cent attend the first grade of primary school in the rural interior. The MICS 2010 also revealed the lowest primary school completion rate (62 per cent), the highest percentage of teenage marriages (almost 20 per cent), and the lowest adult engagement (45 per cent) in children’s activity and the highest diarrhoeal prevalence, at 13 per cent for children under five years of age. Highlighting similar disparities, the secondary school net attendance ratio stands at 21 per cent in the rural interior as compared to 56.3 per cent in rural coastal and 66.2 per cent in urban areas.

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 per cent, MICS 2010), primary school net attendance ratio (95 per cent, MICS 2010), wasting prevalence (9 per cent, MICS 2010) and antenatal care (91 per cent, MICS 2010). The indicator for exclusive breastfeeding for children under six months continues to be low (2.8 per cent), revealing a worrisome situation. A positive trend was observed for involvement of household members in learning activities for pre-school children (72.9 per cent, MICS 2010), underweight prevalence (6 per cent, MICS 2010), use of improved drinking water (95 per cent, MICS 2010) and skilled attendant delivery (93 per cent, MICS 2010).

A negative trend was noted for some key indicators: school readiness (88.4 per cent, MICS 2006 and 76.3 per cent, MICS 2010), involvement of fathers in early learning activities (33.4 per cent, MICS 2006 and 25.9 per cent, MICS 2010), child discipline (84.4 per cent, MICS 2006 and 86.1 per cent, MICS 2010), child labour (6 per cent, MICS 2006 and 9.6 per cent, MICS 2010), young women married before 15 years of age (3.7 per cent, MICS 2006 and 5.4 per cent, MICS 2010), stunting prevalence (7.7 per cent, MICS 2006 and 8 per cent, MICS 2010) and immunisation coverage for polio 3 (87.6 per cent, MICS 2006 and 83 per cent, MICS 2010).
As per Suriname’s 2009 MDG report, the country is facing challenges to achieve the goal for universal education for boys and girls, and to ensure that children complete a full course of primary schooling. In health, notable progress is being made in combating HIV/AIDS and malaria incidence, but there has been no significant progress in the area of universal access to reproductive health.

As per the 2013 estimates developed by IGME, Suriname’s under-five mortality Rate, infant mortality rate and neo-natal mortality rate have been estimated as 21, 19 and 12, respectively. The main risk factors for neo-natal mortality are related to breech presentation or transverse lie, low birth weight and prematurity of less than 37 weeks of gestation, the latter of which accounts for at least 60 per cent of all (early) neo-natal deaths, highlighted in the National Safe Motherhood and New-born Health Action Plan 2013-2016. 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 reduced 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 Committee on the Rights of the Child. 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 sub-national 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 Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

By the end of 2013—the second year in the five-year cycle of the Guyana/Suriname 2012–2016 Country Programme—three-fourths of the IRs assessed were on track toward achieving 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 find continued funding for the Suriname Education Specialist position due to lack of resources. In some cases, particularly in Suriname, funding for posts has been available, but the national posts (Child Protection, Communication for Development, Child Survival) have not be filled because of a lack of qualified national applicants. This is primarily because of the continuing emigration of skilled human resources from the Caribbean sub-region. The planned MTR in 2014 would need to address pragmatically these challenges on the ground, particularly in areas where the required technical capacity is not available.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

There were no declared emergencies in either Guyana or Suriname, although UNICEF provided technical and material support to the Government of Guyana toward the national response to the gastroenteritis outbreak in the interior during March 2013.
Effective Advocacy

*Partially met benchmarks*

On child sexual abuse, the Rights of the Child Commission and the Child Care and Protection Agency are critical partners in rolling out the Break the Silence campaign, building on the TELL initiative that encouraged children to speak about sexual violence. During the launch of Child Protection Week in September, the issue received general attention by publication of information on child protection through newspaper inserts, press releases and human interest stories. The Government of Guyana committed to drafting a roadmap to address the issue of violence against children.

Alternative care reform was prioritised with Government of Guyana commitment through the submission of a draft alternative care policy to Cabinet for review and approval in 2014. This will provide the necessary guidance on reducing the number of children in institutional care and prioritise prevention and overall deinstitutionalisation of children (particularly those under three years of age).

In partnership with Rights of the Child Commission, Guyana hosted a workshop on child and youth participation, and a draft framework on child participation was prepared. Capacity-building activities to improve the quality of media reporting on children in Guyana were executed in partnership with the Rights of the Child Commission, including a workshop for youth journalists and a joint stakeholders meeting to further the development of the Code of Conduct for Media Practitioners. This, together with the on-going work in providing technical assistance in the formation of a civil society coalition for children, is expected to boost advocacy on child rights and related equity issues in Guyana.

In 2013, the Government of Suriname approved the long-pending Raamwet Kinder Opvang legislation. UNICEF assisted, at the request of Parliament, in conducting a baseline assessment on the status of child care in institutions. The strong partnership between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Police and UNICEF was important for obtaining this result. The approval of the legislation will enable effective structural monitoring, implementation and the improvement of child care norms, standards and guidelines for institutions in Suriname.

In Suriname, the Ministry of Justice and Police, together with Ministry of Education, Social Affairs and Housing and community members, are committed to addressing violence against children, including sexual violence. Furthermore, field-based projects were instrumental in advocacy at the national level. An assessment of knowledge, attitudes and practices at WASH projects sites contributed to the Ministry of Natural Resources hiring 40 new local water managers for day-to-day maintenance of water systems. This increase in dedicated water managers is a vital component with regard to the sustainability of the installed water systems. Similarly, UNICEF used the lessons learned from the pilot of the Computer-aided Learning project to advocate with partners for an informed strategy in ICT for education in Suriname.

Capacity Development

*Partially met benchmarks*

The Country Office (CO) implemented capacity development interventions at all levels.

At the enabling environment level, the UNICEF Guyana CO supported the finalisation of the monitoring framework for the CARICOM Regional Framework for Action for Children and the conceptualisation of a monitoring system to support the tracking of CARICOM-level agreements. This extensible monitoring system, planned for implementation in 2014, will enhance CARICOM capacity to review and track progress on regional level agreements and advise member states. To advance national advocacy capacity for child rights, UNICEF supported the development of a framework for action for the Guyana Coalition for Children, in alignment with the CRC, which will provide a basis for stronger NGO and civil society engagement in 2014. Furthermore, UNICEF enabled improved access to major data sources through the developing and hosting of an on-line
version of Guy_D Info.

Additionally, a training of 61 persons from line ministries, civil society and UN agencies was conducted to ensure in-country capacity for the utilisation of GuyD_Info. To enhance high-level decision-making and engagement, UNICEF supported Suriname’s Parliament Office with the development and publication of disaggregated datasheets by the country’s districts utilising data from MICS. It is expected that this publication will trigger policy-makers to develop strategies and interventions, and will also provide a useful basis for future research.

In Guyana, the competencies of the Schools Welfare Department are woefully inadequate to meet the mounting psycho-social and emotional needs of the more than 160,000 schoolchildren. In an effort to build capacity, an agreement to have officers pursue a Master’s degree in Counselling, with specialisation in trauma counselling, was undertaken. Fifteen of the 35 schools’ welfare officers in Guyana are currently concluding the programme offered at Lesley University. As part of their post-study work, these officers are expected to facilitate certificate training programmes in Guyana for the remaining officers in various modules, ensuring a competent cohort.

Forty more Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners successfully completed the certificate programme for ECD practitioners at the University of Guyana, bringing the total number of persons who have completed the programme to one hundred and fifty, in five of the ten regions in Guyana. Practitioners demonstrated competencies in quality child-care services, emergency preparedness and in alerting authorities to suspected cases of child abuse and children with disabilities.

In Suriname, a training programme in Child-friendly Schooling (CFS) was developed that specifically addresses the learning needs of teachers in the interior. Eighteen Master Trainers and school guidance staff received a training-of-teachers course and 800 teachers in the interior were trained. This will greatly enhance the quality of teaching and learning in classrooms.

UNICEF provided technical assistance to the Ministries of Natural Resources and Regional Development in Suriname to expand water supply and increase sanitation and hygiene promotion in the interior, develop standards and guidelines for private initiatives for water supply in the interior, and secure buy-in from all stakeholders in ensuring the sustainability of investments.

**Communication for Development (C4D)**

*Partially met benchmarks*

In Suriname, the CO made progress toward developing a communication strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) ‘plus’ practices. A formative research, led by BoG, is underway to collect data on the motivations and sources of influence for the current IYCF practices in Suriname, and on early care-seeking, new-born care and WASH behaviours for children under two years of age. This research will provide the much-needed critical data for the development of an integrated communication strategy in 2014. UNICEF provided significant technical and financial support for this, with the availability of A Promise Renewed (APR) funds.

UNICEF Guyana and Suriname had planned to develop an integrated communication strategy for all sectors; however, the office was unable to recruit a C4D Officer due to lack of qualified applicants for the post.

**Service Delivery**

*Initiating action to meet benchmarks*

Both countries focus on upstream work and pilot interventions that feed into upstream work. No service delivery.
**Strategic Partnerships**

*Partially met benchmarks*

UNICEF collaborated with other UN agencies in providing technical support to the preparation of Guyana’s MDG Acceleration Framework and Country Action Plan for MDG 5 - Maternal Health. It was expected to be signed in early 2014 and would assist in improving the maternal mortality rate and achieving MDG 5. (The country will likely achieve all other MDGs in 2015.) The Ministry of Health and the UN will organise a meeting with bi-lateral donors to get financial support. Several donors have already indicated their interest.

Toward the operationalization of the Sexual Offences Act, the Government of Guyana signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a civil society group as a first step in decentralising investigation and reporting of sexual offences on children. The partnership agreement with the government, facilitated by UNICEF—and corresponding support for training on forensic interviewing of children by a child advocacy centre in the US—represents the first in a series of planned actions to decentralise child protection services, with oversight and monitoring being retained by the government, leading to the development of a systems approach to child protection. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical leadership to the country’s first combined NGO submission on trafficking in persons.

Toward ensuring increased access to disaggregated data, UNICEF supported the update and launch of GuyD_Info and the finalisation of a framework and a monitoring system for the Regional Framework for Action for Children. These previously-explained initiatives will support the enactment of equity-based national policies and legislations in fulfilment of Guyana’s child rights obligations.

In Suriname, UNICEF continued to expand joint collaboration with other UN agencies through the operationalization of the UNDAF Action Plan 2012-2016. In Guyana, UNICEF also initiated a partnership with the NGO Stichting Projekta toward the operationalization of the Integrated Adolescent pilot project in one community in Suriname.

In both countries, partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is fruitful, especially in the area of education where information exchange to avoid duplication of work is important. In Guyana, the IDB and UNICEF are co-financing a study on micro-nutrients and a consultancy to develop a policy for the Ministry of Labour and Human Services and Social Security. In Suriname, the IDB will provide funding to the Ministry of Education for replicating UNICEF's successful Computer-aided Learning (CAL) project.

Partnerships with NatComs are important, as bi-lateral donor funding is difficult to obtain. In particular, the partnerships with the UK NatCom for Guyana and the Dutch NatCom for Suriname continue to be crucial for the programmes.

**Knowledge Management**

*Partially met benchmarks*

A qualitative research study on HIV vulnerability among young key affected populations in Guyana was finalised and disseminated. The report provided a summary of the situation of affected persons aged 10 to 14, at a time when external aid is declining and several programmes that directly provide services to youth are being scaled down or terminated. This makes Guyana’s pledge to ensure zero new transmissions and its MDG goals all the more challenging, especially for at-risk adolescent populations.

An evaluation of the piloting of Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) in 30 schools, commissioned by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, concluded that there were some improvements in the knowledge and
attitudes of children who participated in it over the last three years. The reports identified important gaps in the national policy framework, human resource capacity, implementation and management of HFLE. A management response will be developed in 2014 and pave the way for more strategic UNICEF investments in this area.

To enhance availability of data for decision-making, UNICEF and Guyana’s Bureau of Statistics ensured the completion and availability of all five major national household surveys and the National Census in Guy_D Info. The database was hosted on-line and launched on 18 December 2013.

In Suriname, UNICEF supported the baseline research on the status of care in all child-care institutions that contributed to the passing of the Raamwet Kinder Opvang legislation. A desk review conducted by the Ministry of Health, with technical and financial support from UNICEF, assessed and analysed the existing data and information on the situation of adolescents in Suriname from a child rights perspective, reviewing how existing cultural factors, services and institutions provide the necessary stimulating and supporting environment for adolescents to mature into adults. On the basis of the findings and inputs from stakeholders, including the target group, an action plan for stimulating positive adolescent development was drafted to support the implementation of the Integrated Adolescent Framework. Additionally, the Situation Analysis and Assessment (SitAn) on HIV and children was also finalised. Both of these reports will support the government in finalising time-bound action plans for addressing key issues for children and HIV and adolescent health. A study on language issues in education in the interior of Suriname was completed, providing an in-depth analysis of the views and perceptions on bilingualism and the performance in education in schools with indigenous and Maroon children.

Suriname published and disseminated the final report of its MICS 4 survey, through extensive support from UNICEF. It is the only major source of household survey data on children and women in the country and provides critical information for policy- and decision-making. To enhance high-level decision-making and engagement, UNICEF supported De Nationale Assemblée of Suriname (Suriname’s Parliament Office) with the development and publication of disaggregated datasheets by Suriname’s districts utilising data from MICS. The development of the data sheets uncovered the lack of availability of data at the district level.

Human Rights-based Approach to Co-operation

*Partially met benchmarks*

The Committee on the Rights of the Child considered the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Guyana on 15 January and 1 February 2013. UNICEF had provided support for reporting on the List of Issues to the State party’s report, and continued to advocate in 2013 for follow-up on implementation of the observations. Major observations were made on violence against children (corporal punishment, sexual violence), family environment and alternative care, and children with disabilities. These observations remain one of the central tools that the CO will use to monitor the government’s obligations under the CRC.

The latest concluding observations by CEDAW date from 2012. Major observations related to violence against women and girls, trafficking and sexual exploitation, corporal punishment, and the situation of Amerindian women and young girls.

At programmatic levels, the CO invested in supporting the capacity of the Child Rights Commission to strengthen its complaints and monitoring procedures on child rights, and providing capacity development for judicial officers for the operationalization of the family court. As one of the means of ensuring that rights-holders are able to claim their rights and that duty-bearers are able to respect/fulfil their rights, the CO developed user-friendly versions of three laws relating to children (Adoption of Children; Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance; and Status of Children) that will be utilised, particularly by school welfare officers and children within the formal school system.

One of the gaps in the protection of all children’s rights is the non-passage of the Juvenile Justice Bill, 2008. On this front, the CO continued to advocate to ensure that this gap was filled so that both juvenile
justice issues and the wider child justice agenda could be prioritised.

For Suriname, the latest concluding observations by both CRC and CEDAW Committees were made in 2007. The draft State party report to the former was prepared in 2013, and was submitted at the end of November 2013. The State party report on CEDAW is under preparation and UNFPA and UNICEF are advocating for its finalisation. The framework for institutional care was, after years of advocacy, finally approved by Parliament in Suriname. The baseline study on the situation of children in institutions, undertaken by the CO and Parliament, contributed to this success and the monitoring process will commence in 2014. The CO and the Ministry of Justice and Police have facilitated training for judges and magistrates on child rights. This was the third session; there were two previous trainings in 2009 and 2010. The recommendations of each training session played an important role in the advancement of child’s rights in Suriname. The CO finalised WASH interventions in the hinterland and coastal areas in two Amerindian (one located in the far south of the country) and fourteen Maroon villages. The participative process, which fully included the villagers, guaranteed their ownership and full participation in the work. The CO also piloted a CAL project in the interior (three Maroon and two Amerindian villages) of Suriname.

**Gender Equality**

*Partially met benchmarks*

The analytical work commissioned in Guyana ensured that gender disaggregated data and analysis are available from the study on young key affected populations in Guyana, and the evaluation of the pilot HFLE as a timetabled subject. Gender continued to be mainstreamed as a key cross-cutting consideration in the annual work plans, with each key action/result delineating how gender issues will be treated.

However, a few gaps still need to be closed before this benchmark is fully met. For instance, although Guyana has made excellent progress on MDGs 2 and 3, there is still a need for greater emphasis on ensuring that boys complete both primary and secondary education, and transition to tertiary institutions. For protection, although services can be accessed by both boys and girls, there remains a need to understand better the underlying gender discriminatory dimensions of violence, particularly sexual violence. Additionally, in child survival and participation components, gender issues—especially in regard to socialisation—will continue to be addressed in order to ensure that Guyana realises all human rights standards concerning gender equality. Finally, UNICEF used its partnership with the Human Rights Commissions and its advocacy role with the Women and Gender Equality Commission to ensure that it can fulfil its mandate, given the nexus between CEDAW and the CRC.

Suriname struggles with similar gender issues as Guyana. The MICS 2010 report disseminated during 2013 included gender disaggregated data for evidence-based policy- and decision-making.

However, gender mainstreaming within sectoral policy remains a challenge. In its 2013–2016 work plan, the National Gender Bureau identified five gender priority areas: education; labour, income and poverty reduction; violence; health; and participation and decision making. Pressing gender-related issues in Suriname are teen pregnancies and gender-based violence, especially against adolescent girls. Teenage pregnancies (age 10 to 19) account for approximately 15 per cent of the total annual pregnancies. Although the Surinamese Parliament approved a bill that punishes domestic violence, about 12.5 per cent of women in Suriname believe that a husband or partner is justified in beating his wife or partner for any reason.

Using Dutch NatCom funding, the CO partnered with the Government of Suriname to support the piloting of an integrated child and adolescent policy framework in three areas where disparities are quite high. Raising awareness on gender issues within government agencies is part of this policy framework. To ensure local-level participation of adolescents, UNICEF Suriname also partnered with an NGO to empower adolescents and strengthen their ability to identify, address and monitor policy that influences their future.

**Environmental Sustainability**
Partially met benchmarks

Environmental sustainability activities for both Guyana and Suriname were mainly WASH focused, although further progress was made in the education sector through an on-going partnership development for 2014 with the Guyana Office for Climate Change and Ministry of Education for further climate change adaptation infusion within the national curriculum. The reason for a focus on WASH is that, although Guyana and Suriname have an abundance of rain and a large forest area, there are clear indications that rain patterns are changing: water sources are drying up or rain falls in larger quantities, but in a shorter period. In addition, the countries are prone to flooding and Guyana in particular has a sanitation problem (quality of water and garbage piling up).

In Guyana, national WASH standards are being integrated within the National Shelter Plan as part of the national Disaster Risk Management strategy. The Ministry of Housing and Water indicated to the UN and Guyana Red Cross Society during WASH forums in 2013 that consultations would begin in 2014 on the post-2015 Agenda for water quality and sustainability, providing a mechanism to establish the national WASH standards. This links directly with the UNICEF-supported Child Protection Sector Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), which was finalised and launched through the Ministry of Labour and Human Services and Social Security, and both the Health and Education sector EPRPs, for which UNICEF continued its technical support.

In Suriname, UNICEF financially and technically supported the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Regional Development to complete construction or rehabilitate WASH facilities in nine project villages, using solar-powered pumps and gravity-fed filtration systems, with official hand-over ceremonies in the villages of Abenaston and Boto Pasi. In 2013, 3,701 persons in seven villages were provided with access to safe water and 90 family toilets constructed in nine villages, directly providing safe sanitation for 450 persons.

To sustain these interventions, a total of 35 local-level facilitators were trained in Community-Led Total Sanitation methodology and are now able to support participatory decision-making processes at the local level. A joint action plan with both Ministries, in partnership with communities from the target villages, was developed and operationalised, resulting in the successful implementation of improvements in access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the selected villages.

As a result of UNICEF advocacy, using evidence from the project baseline Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey, the Ministry of Natural Resources hired 40 new local water managers for day-to-day maintenance of water systems. This increase in dedicated water managers is a vital component in regard to the sustainability of the installed water systems.

South-South and Triangular Co-operation

No specific South-South Co-operation in 2013.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCR 1800/A0/05/001 By 2016, Governments of Guyana and Suriname have in place systems for continuous monitoring of the situation for boys, girls and women in the general population, hinterland and rural areas of Guyana, and the interior of Suriname based on reliable disaggregated data, and are using the data to formulate and continuously update equity-and gender-sensitive national and sub-national plans to guide continuing progress in the survival, development, protection and participation of children and women at the aggregated level and among disadvantaged groups based on CRC and CEDAW.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Progress: Of the twelve IRs under this PCR, ten were rated on-track and two were constrained.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARICOM finalised its Regional Framework for Action for Children, and the monitoring framework that outlines benchmarks for monitoring progress on agreements on children's priorities in CARICOM countries. UNICEF Caribbean COs have contributed to the development of this framework over the years, with support from LACRO. UNICEF Guyana is spearheading the monitoring of this framework and developed the requirements specification for an on-line portal for progress reporting by member states to CARICOM. The development of this portal was commissioned and, when completed, will provide the necessary dashboards for monitoring progress on the steps taken by CARICOM member states in advancing regional commitments for children, ascribed in the framework. UNICEF is also providing support to CARICOM in establishing a similar monitoring framework for the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan, which can be hosted on the same on-line platform, and will also provide opportunities for member states to share their outputs (e.g. policy documents, strategic plans, reports, evaluations, etc.) against the framework.</td>
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<td>In Guyana, UNICEF provided technical assistance toward the development of the National Education Strategic Plan 2014–2019 and Guyana’s Youth Policy. These two strategic documents will provide the necessary framework toward the operationalization of universal secondary education and a multi-sectoral approach toward adolescents and youth. A qualitative research study on HIV vulnerability among young key affected populations in Guyana was finalised and an evaluation of Piloting HFLE as a timetabled subject in Guyana was completed. The research shed light on the situation of young people and the evaluation provided insights on the effectiveness of the primary programme for reducing risky behaviours among adolescents in Guyana. The on-going engagement and analytical work is expected to yield a more strategic and universal national approach toward addressing the needs of Guyanese adolescents in 2014 and beyond.</td>
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<td>The launch of Guy_D Info, Guyana’s DevInfo adaptation, as a complete product was a major success and significantly increased access to data in a short period of time. During the reporting year, Guyana also made significant progress toward the implementation of MICS in 2014 that will provide more recent data for decision-making for the post-2015 agenda.</td>
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<td>In 2013, the Government of Suriname approved the long-pending Raamwet Kinder Opvang legislation, which will provide guidance for the monitoring of care for children in institutions. UNICEF provided critical support in making a case for this approval, by supporting the Parliament of Suriname in establishing a baseline on the status of child care in institutions. Also, the multi-sectoral Adolescent Strategic Plan was approved. This cross-cutting plan, under the leadership of the Presidential Task Force, prioritises the needs of adolescents as a cross-cutting issue and outlines sectoral roles and responsibilities.</td>
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<td>Suriname also published its MICS report and disaggregated datasheets by Suriname’s districts, utilising data from MICS. The development of the data sheets uncovered the lack of availability of data at the district level in Suriname.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The on-going analytical work on school mapping and a study on language issues and general education impediments in the interior of Suriname will provide the necessary evidence to address equity in education further.</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Guyana, delays in signing of the MICS MoU, and bottlenecks in establishing the way forward on the reporting of CRC Optional Protocols and a National Action Plan on the CRC, stymied progress. Delays in the finalisation of the National Youth Policy and the Juvenile Justice Bill, and the low human resource capacity in Child Protection, continue to be constraints to progress in the realisation of child rights. Delays in the transfer of financial resources between partners and the limited involvement of non-state actors in APR were bottlenecks encountered in the child survival agenda.</td>
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<td>In Suriname, competing priorities and limited capacities affected progress, both internally and externally. Staff turnover, both externally and internally, also contributed to limited capacity. Political uncertainties and frequent changes in counterparts and decision-makers continue to impact progress and timely implementation of programmes in Suriname. The absence of the Child Protection Officer has been a major gap for Suriname, as the CO has not been able to find qualified applicants for the post.</td>
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<tr>
<th>IR 1800/A0/05/001/001 Policy-makers have increased access to disaggregated data available periodically and enact equity-based national policies and legislation in fulfillment of Guyana's child rights obligations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Progress: There are nine indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved against the five out of seven indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.</td>
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To enhance availability of data for decision-making, UNICEF and the Bureau of Statistics ensured the completion and availability of all five major national household surveys and National Census in the Guy_Dinfo. The database was hosted on-line and launched on 18 December 2013, with the participation of the Government of Guyana and the Bureau of Statistics, demonstrating strong national ownership of this high-quality product. Civil society organisations as well as the CARICOM secretariat also participated in this event.

Guyana joins the few CARICOM member state to have an on-line DevInfo adaptation. To ensure the utilisation of GuyD_Info, over sixty users from the CARICOM secretariat, the Bureau of Statistics, the University of Guyana (both campuses), civil society organisations, GoG line ministries and UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, PAHO/WHO and UNAIDS) participated in user orientations. Ensuring the effective use of Guy_Dinfo will be a key priority in 2014, including update of newly-available datasets.

UNICEF is closely engaged with the Bureau of Statistics in preparing for the implementation of the MICS. A MoU was signed between the Ministry of Finance and UNICEF, and solid groundwork was prepared to ensure that the field work would be completed in early 2014. UNICEF mobilised the technical and financial support from the Ministry of Health, UNDP, UNFPA, PAHO/WHO and UNAIDS for the conduct of this MICS, and was able to mobilise the necessary resources for this survey, although mostly financed by UNICEF.

CARICOM finalised its Regional Framework for Action for Children and the monitoring framework that outlines benchmarks for monitoring progress on agreements on children’s priorities in CARICOM countries. UNICEF Caribbean COs contributed to the development of this framework over the years, with support from LACRO. UNICEF Guyana is spearheading the monitoring of this framework and developed requirements specification for an on-line portal that has the strong ownership of CARICOM. The development of this portal was commissioned and will provide the necessary dashboards for monitoring progress on the steps taken by CARICOM member states in advancing regional commitments for children, ascribed in the framework. UNICEF is also providing support to CARICOM in establishing a similar monitoring framework for the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan that can be hosted on the same on-line platform, which will also provide opportunities for member states to share their outputs (e.g. policy documents, strategic plans, reports, evaluations, etc.) against the framework.

UNICEF provided technical support in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity development through its support during the meetings of Regional Supervisors/Managers in Education and Health.

Delays in signing of the MICS MoU and the way forward on the reporting of CRC Optional Protocols and a National Action Plan on the CRC stymied progress on all indicators under this IR.

**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. Planned progress was achieved against the one out of three indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

The development of the APR Scorecard in 2013 ensured a snapshot of the health status of children and women, and those areas that require further attention to achieve results for the intended target groups and those targets set out in MDGs 4 and 5. The APR agenda gained prominence in Guyana and additional resources allowed for prioritisation of critical gaps in health facilities.

The IR of the Micro-nutrient study is available. Key findings include iron-deficiency anaemia among young children (24.0 per cent) and pregnant women (41.3 per cent). Current findings being tracked for focused intervention within programme implementation include limited use of sprinkles among children with anaemia. For example, from a cohort of 27 children using sprinkles, only 33 per cent of those with anaemia used this micro-nutrient, compared to those with mild anaemia (14.8 per cent), moderate anaemia (11.1 per cent) and severe anaemia (7.4 per cent). In contrast, anaemia in pregnancy remains a major public health problem. The prevalence appeared lower in the first and second trimesters (34.1 per cent) versus the third trimester (46.9 per cent) and use of sprinkles among pregnant women with normal haemoglobin levels (54.3 per cent). Data available from this long pending report are critical to targeting future nutrition interventions, including those relating to adolescent health.

Even though there was no progress in the inclusion of WASH standards as part of the National Integrated Water Policy, the standards are being integrated now in the National Shelter Plan as part of the national Disaster Risk Management strategy. The Ministry of Housing and Water indicated to the UN and Guyana Red Cross Society that consultations would begin in 2014 on the post-2015 Agenda for water quality and sustainability, providing a mechanism to establish the national WASH standards.

During the reporting period, UNICEF engaged policy and decision makers through consensus building to take over and sustain HealthQual services, and developed the capacities of 35 Regional Health Centre Supervisors and Health Facility Supervisors toward utilisation of existing data in improving quality of health and nutrition services.

Delays in the transfer of financial resources within Ministry of Health remained a major challenge and affected the finalisation of the micro-nutrient report. A key constraint in this area was around the mobilisation of civil society and other non-state actors on the APR agenda, thus limiting social mobilisation. More concerted efforts will be made on this in 2014, including support to a broader role in the area of M&E in health.
**IR 1800/A0/05/001/003** Priority gaps in Early Childhood Development 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 both indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

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

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/004** Improved access to timely and quality disaggregated data and analysis (MICS, Census, SuriInfo, SitAn)

**Progress:**

There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved against the one of two indicators that were relevant to UNICEF's work for this reporting year.

Suriname published and disseminated the final report of its MICS 4 survey, through extensive support from UNICEF. The report is the only major source of household survey data on children and women, and provides critical information for policy- and decision-making. The MICS allows not only generation of disaggregated data merely for international reporting, but is one of the key data sets used by the government, UNICEF, other UN agencies and stakeholders to monitor the achievement of the rights of children and women as defined in the CRC and CEDAW. The findings of the MICS 4 survey enabled the Government of Suriname to monitor national progress toward goals set in the Millennium Declaration and monitor goals set in national policies such as the Development Plan 2012-2016 and the United Nations Development Action Plan 2012-2016 (UNDAP). Additionally the MICS data have been critical in identifying key gaps in the health, education and protection programmes in the interior. A core result of this was the development of the adolescent framework/policy to address the identified gaps for adolescent development. The MICS report was immediately utilised as an input to UNDp's Human Development Atlas for Suriname.

To enhance high-level decision-making and engagement, UNICEF supported De Nationale Assemblée of Suriname (Suriname's Parliament Office) with the development and publication of disaggregated datasheets by Suriname's districts, utilising data from MICS. The development of the data sheets uncovered the lack of availability of data at the district level. The datasheets provide an overview of the status of children and women in regard to the fulfilment of their basic rights and where the disparities lie. It is expected that this publication will trigger policy-makers to develop strategies and interventions, and will also be a useful basis for future research.

Progress was made in finalisation of datasets that will be reflected in SuriInfo, Suriname's adaptation of DevInfo. It is expected that these datasets, including the newly-available MICS and Census, will shortly be updated in SuriInfo and the product will be hosted on-line, making data available and accessible to everybody.

The planned progress for 2013 was delayed due to competing priorities and limited capacities both internally and externally. Insufficient and weak statistical capacity and limited willingness among the sectors to collaborate efficiently on statistics presented bottlenecks. Most data are still available in paper, rather than digital, format and are not easily accessible or available.

**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. Planned progress was achieved against one of two indicators that were relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year.

With UNICEF's support, the Ministry of Education and Community Development completed the implementation of the school mapping, including data collection and presentation of initial findings. The report was to be finalised and presented in 2014. The school mapping research provides data per school on indicators that have direct impact on the quality of education and teaching, and give an in-depth
understanding of the factors that lead to disparities with regard to the performance and participation of children in the primary schools across the country.

The output generated by the school mapping project will comprise a comprehensive database capturing indicators on physical conditions, access to learning material, qualification and motivation of teachers, and other qualitative and quantitative indicators that will be used for monitoring progress and development of targeted interventions.

Besides the support to introduce CAL in five pilot schools, a qualitative study is being conducted to measure the impact of the programme and to provide lessons learned on the introduction of ICT-based teaching and learning practices in the interior of Suriname. Indicators on student performance and satisfaction levels amongst children, teachers and community members in relation to the provided education are being measured. In 2012, the planning of the study and establishment of a baseline took place. The CAL is currently being implemented, and the pilot is expected to be completed by 2014 with lessons learned already influencing the ICT component of the IDB-funded Basic Education Improvement Project.

Progress against planned results was affected by staff turnover at the level of the implementing partner. This and limited capacities at the technical level contributed to multiple delays.

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

**Progress:**

There are six indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved against one of four indicators that were relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year.

The Government of Suriname approved the Raamwet Kinder Opvang legislation which had been pending approval for many years. The approval of the legislation will provide guidance on the monitoring of care for children in institutions. UNICEF provided critical support in making a case for this approval by supporting the Parliament of Suriname in establishing a baseline on the status of child care in institutions.

Strong advocacy at the national level to support the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Justice and Police in getting Parliament to approve this long-standing child protection legislation is a major success for UNICEF. The approval of the legislation will enable effective structural monitoring, implementation and improvement of norms, standards and guidelines in child care institutions in Suriname.

UNICEF continued to advocate at the national level to support the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice and Police in getting the child protection institutions Kinderombudsbureau and Centrale Meldpunt approved. The Ministers of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Justice and Police committed to technical and advocacy efforts to ensure approval of these initiatives.

The Ministry of Social Affairs, with the support of UNICEF, initiated and led a comprehensive review of the child protection system (including the informal systems) in Suriname, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice and Police, Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Sports and Health. This assessment will set the framework for child protection in Suriname and design a plan of action to implement the recommendations for operationalising the framework. The whole process will lead to political mobilisation and participation, including identification of the common vision for child protection and the development of a roadmap.

UNICEF’s support to the rapid assessment of the Management Information System of the Ministry of Justice and Police highlighted the limited entry into their electronic system due to lack of trained staff (a result of high turnover), absence of working computers and limited knowledge on the usefulness of the data being entered. The Ministry was able to address some of the issues identified, making computers accessible for all key staff and providing job support on how to use the system. The rapid assessment analysis will also be used as input for the development of a more integrated data information system.

High mobility of counterparts and decision-makers has impacted progress and timely implementation of programs in the area of child protection. Political uncertainties, lack of leadership and consensus, and sometimes ambiguous co-ordination structures contributed to delays in approval of child protection initiatives such as the Kinder Ombuds bureau and Centrale Meldpunt.

The absence of a Child Protection Officer has been a major gap for Suriname, as the CO was not able to find qualified applicants for the post.

**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. Progress was constrained on five of the six indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.
Parliamentary action on birth registration was prioritised through agreement and commitment to prioritise a children’s agenda (starting with birth registration) through the Social Services Committee at the National Assembly.

UNICEF and partners prepared a paper to guide the operationalization of the Family Court, which was submitted to the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, and conducted capacity building for lawyers on the new Family Court rules as two of the critical steps for operationalising it.

The high levels of sexual and other violence have put a strain on the human resource capacity of the main partner for child protection. This resulted in, among other things, use of high-level technical resources to fill the gaps in counselling and other basic social services, thereby leaving gaps in capacity to follow-up on high-level issues.

The Juvenile Justice Bill, 2008—which affects the rights of all children, especially those in contact with the law—has yet to become law. This has created an avenue for children to be charged for “status offences.” Corporal punishment is still legally accepted, even though there was significant national dialogue on this issue in 2013. National tasks forces on domestic violence and sexual offences have not been able to meet on a regular basis in order to, among other things, resolve bottlenecks on co-ordination, management and detail a plan of action for prevention and response to sexual offences. A reform in social protection as a means of strengthening the prevention aspect of child protection is still needed. This demands strengthening/adding to the internal and external capacities and making key decisions on vacant posts and prioritisation of staff/work.

**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. Progress was constrained on the one indicator that was relevant for this reporting year.

Consultations toward the finalisation of the study of young key affected populations and the Plan of Action developed with the involvement of all stakeholders to address the recommendation was a critical step to ensuring translation of the findings and recommendation into the action plans of individual partners. The Ministry of Education’s leadership on this study and the technical support from UNICEF were critical to the process results, which will go a long way to ensure prioritisation of at-risk adolescents on the national agenda.

In support of the drafting of Guyana’s National Youth Policy, UNICEF and Commonwealth Youth Programme’s advocacy efforts resulted in an agreement that the development of the national policy should involve consultations with youth in the hinterland as well as rural and urban areas. A National Steering Committee and Youth Steering Committee provided oversight to the process, with UNICEF technical and financial support. The rich process will ensure ownership and ensure that the policy addresses priority issues concerning youth and adolescents. Delays in formation of the National Steering Committee, consultant availability and youth consultations affected the progress and a draft policy was to be available in early 2014.

**IR 1800/A0/05/001/010 Strengthened evidence-based health policies, strategies and improved health M&E systems**

**Progress:**

There are three indicators under this IR. None were relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year, as PAHO/WHO led the work on this on-behalf of the UN system.

UNICEF however, indirectly contributed to this with the availability of MICS4, which provides important district-level data on child health and nutrition, disaggregated by location, gender, wealth quintiles and ethnicity.

**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. Planned progress was achieved against the indicators that were relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year.

In 2013, the multi-sectoral Adolescent Strategic Plan was approved. This cross-cutting plan, under the leadership of the Presidential Task Force, prioritises the needs of adolescents as a cross-cutting issue and outlines sectoral roles and responsibilities.

While the issue has gained cross-sectoral prominence, there has been little progress at the sectoral level on the development of an Adolescent Policy in Education or the planned analysis on formal and non-formal further education initiatives. Changes at the senior management level of implementing partners have affected progress on this.
IR 1800/A0/05/001/012 Enhanced national capacity for designing legislation and to implement improved governance strategies in line with international human rights standards (CRC compliance monitored regularly; finalization of the 3rd and 4th CRC report; update action plan for children based on CRC recommendation.)

**Progress:**

There are four indicators under this IR. Planned progress could not be made on the one indicator that was relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year.

The combined 3rd and 4th CRC report for Suriname was submitted at the end of November to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by the Government of Suriname. In 2013 and earlier years, UNICEF advocated for the submission of this report and provided technical support to the process. Changes in the key ministries affected the timely submission of the report.

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

**PCR 1800/A0/05/002 By 2016, Guyana and Suriname have completed implementation of respective evidence-based and equity and gender-sensitive programmes of action to achieve the MDG targets on survival and development, protection and participation for boys, girls and women in the general population, hinterland and rural areas of Guyana and in the interior of Suriname; and both countries are implementing a post-MDG target date (2015) programme of action for achievement of continuing progress in the survival, development, protection and participation of children and women with equity based on CRC and CEDAW principles.**

**Progress:** Of the ten IRs under this PCR, seven were rated on-track and three were constrained.

In Guyana, UNICEF and partners enhanced access to quality health services in the interior through the refurbishing of one health facility, procurement of mother and child health equipment for referral hospitals and training of health workers in the hinterland regions. A monitoring and assessment system for CFS was established during the reporting period; this is expected to advance the equity agenda by targeting appropriate resources to low-performing schools in 2014 and beyond. The upgrade of a rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities was another step in advancing equal access to quality learning and development for all children. The cost-effectiveness and sustainability of future capacity development interventions was also enhanced through the mainstreaming of ECD in the pre-service curricula of community health workers and PMTCT in the nurses’ training curricula.


In Suriname, the construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities was completed in nine interior project villages in 2013. 3,701 persons in seven villages were provided with access to safe water, and 90 family toilets were constructed in nine villages during the year, directly providing safe sanitation for 450 persons.

In terms of child protection, Guyana and Suriname progressed on the mapping and assessment of the existing child protection system, which will contribute to the development of a vision and roadmap for a comprehensive child protection system for the two countries. Guyana and Suriname completed an assessment of children in institutional care, which proved to be influential.

Guyana initiated a programme on sports and culture, and developed a draft framework for child participation. Suriname initiated an integrated pilot programme for adolescents in three communities.

In addition to the challenges mentioned under PCR1, the limited availability of partners in the area of child protection and sports and culture in Guyana were major bottlenecks in implementation. Another bottleneck was the lack of funding for Suriname’s food consumption survey.

**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 against one of three indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.

UNICEF supported the refurbishing of one health facility in the hinterland in Region One by ensuring a clinical assessment room that provides the necessary privacy and space to deliver PMTCT services. The additional APR resources were utilised to procure maternal and foetal monitors for five referral hospitals, including the National Referral Hospital, where most maternal mortality occurs.

With continued attention to low-performing regions, health care providers were trained in safe motherhood/PMTCT at four selected sites.
In addition, awareness sessions were held for 35 health professionals on Ten Steps to Breastfeeding from Policy to Practice for six selected sites in the hinterland regions, in addition to national advocacy efforts on the issue of breastfeeding during breastfeeding week.

APR funds were also used to procure essential reference material in the form of textbooks for the residential specialists training programme for medical doctors in obstetrics and gynaecology and the Midwives Training Programme. UNICEF played a catalytic role in ensuring that PMTCT training was integrated into nurses’ training curricula and the availability of necessary PMTCT training materials. This will ensure that future nurses joining the health system will have the necessary skills in PMTCT, thereby reducing costs for in-service trainings.

Major bottlenecks encountered during the reporting period relate to delays at the level of the implementing partner in ensuring efficient transactions within the Ministry of Health and with UNICEF, which can be minimised and could advance results in the area of child health and nutrition.

**On-track**

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

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

Monitoring tools for Guyana’s CFS monitoring and certification were developed, protocols for certification process established, teams of assessors for certifying schools identified and timelines for certification established. These results ensured the full participation of children, parents, teachers and education officers, including Regional Education Officers and civil society. Schools now follow a structured process nationally and aspire to a common goal to demonstrate all components of the CFS ideal. Most importantly, in a national culture that forces the authorities to retain corporal punishment as legal in schools, Guyana’s CFS monitoring and assessment system encourages the use of alternative forms of discipline and demonstrates that it can be effective. Unique to Guyana, the CFS assessment process allows schools to defend their submissions to a national assessment teams that continuously assess themselves against the ideal in order to maintain CFS standards. In 2013, 15 per cent of the nation’s schools, serving more than 15,000 children across Guyana, scored more than 75 per cent on Guyana’s CFS standards.

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

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

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

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

**On-track**

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

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

An agreement on external review of the Social Welfare Programme, through a MoU, was established with the University of Guyana and UWI/University of the Southern Caribbean. These initial steps will pave the way for addressing critical human resource capacity gaps with competencies in counselling.

An assessment of children in institutional care resulted in the prioritisation of one residential institution for closure and providing critical policy recommendations. Alternative care reform is now a government priority through the planned submission of a draft alternative care policy to Cabinet in 2014 for review and approval. This will provide the necessary guidance on reducing the number of children in institutional care and prioritise prevention and overall deinstitutionalisation of children, particularly those under three years of age. In
regard to juvenile justice, reintegation support was strengthened through co-ordination and referral mechanisms, particularly in the health and education sectors, in order to provide support for children in detention.

The limited number and capacity of partners in the area of child protection saw limited progress. The 2014 work plan will be further prioritised to ensure that planned activities are realistic.

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/004 Expand and strengthen key national programmes for adolescent development**

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

An evaluation, commission by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, of the HFLE pilot project in 30 schools concluded that there were some improvements in the knowledge and attitudes of children who participated in it over the last three years. The reports points to important gaps in the national policy framework, human resource capacity, implementation and management of HFLE. A management response was to be developed in 2014 and pave the way for more strategic UNICEF investments in this area. Meanwhile, in October, UNICEF phased out its financial support for the payment of the HFLE Co-ordinator salary as the Ministry of Education takes on this responsibility in the long run.

Guyana developed a draft framework for child participation with the participation of children and adults in a two-day meeting involving key national stakeholders. The framework is a guide for meaningful participation for child and youth participation and will assist policymakers and young people at the community, regional and national levels to develop strategies for increasing adolescent participation within programme development, implementation and institutional structures. Young people will be in a better position to demand their right to participate in all areas that are important to them and to ensure that their participation is included in policies and programmes.

UNICEF provided on-going technical support to the process leading to the development of the National Peer Education Programme. A draft concept note was developed for the development of the initiative, several meetings were held, gaps in programme identified, and draft standards and guidelines completed; however, the manual for the implementation of the programme has not yet been done. Peer education will be another structured methodology (complete with guidelines and standards) and a means of delivering high-quality, culturally-appropriate and contextually-relevant information and life skills, particularly for young people and adolescents. Girls and boys, both in and out of school, in the ten regions of Guyana will have access to structured peer education programmes, which will strengthen their skills in making healthy lifestyle choices.

Through the generous funding commitment of the UK Natcom, UNICEF Guyana initiated a Sports and Culture for Development project in target institutions and communities. Given the gaps in the target sites, this project will benefit children by improving their access to sports and culture programmes, and provide them with an opportunity for expression and to channel positive energy. UNICEF is also providing technical support to the development of a National Plan for Music, Sports and Culture for Development.

Availability of dedicated partners in the area of sports and culture for development has been a challenge and caused delays in programme implementation. Limited national capacity in research and evaluation continued to be a bottleneck in Guyana.

**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 achieved against the one of two indicators that were relevant to UNICEF’s work for this reporting year.

With a view to accelerating progress on the APR agenda, the Government of Suriname endorsed the National Safe Motherhood and New-born Health Action Plan 2013-2016. It provides a framework for health care providers and other relevant stakeholders at all levels of care in regard to the health of mothers and new-borns. On one of the priorities identified by the Government of Suriname and as a follow-up to the Suriname MICS 4 report, UNICEF collaborated with the Bureau of Public Health to develop a concept note for the development of an Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) ‘plus’ communication strategy. A formative research led by Bureau was commissioned to collect data on the motivations and sources of influence for the current IYCF practices in Suriname and on early care-seeking, new-born care and WASH behaviours for children under two years of age. This research will provide the much-needed critical data for the development of an integrated communication strategy in 2014. UNICEF provided significant technical and financial support to this, with the availability of APR funds.

During the reporting year, a complete proposal for a National Food Consumption Survey was developed by the Ministry of Health, with technical support from UNICEF. This proposal is being used by the Ministry to leverage internal and external resources. In addition, UNICEF also supported a qualitative study on factors influencing the drop-out rate and in-depth discussion with caregivers on behaviours in regard to vaccination of their children. Based on the findings, Ministry of Health is now developing strategies that will improve vaccination coverage in the interior.

A desk review conducted by the Ministry of Health, with technical and financial support from UNICEF, assessed and analysed the existing data and information on the situation of adolescents in Suriname from a child rights perspective, reviewing how existing cultural factors, services and institutions provide the necessary stimulating and supportive environment for adolescents to mature into adults. On the
basis of the findings and inputs from stakeholders, including the target group, an action plan for stimulating positive adolescent development was drafted to support the implementation of the Integrated Adolescent Framework. Additionally, the SitAn on HIV and Children was also finalised. Both of these reports will support the government in finalising time-bound action plans for addressing key issues for children and HIV and adolescent health.

A key constraint was the limited availability of resources to conduct the National Food Consumption Survey. Gaps in capacity and competing priorities internally and externally led to delays in the development of project documents as well as the timely implementation and reporting on activities.

IR 1800/A0/05/002/007 Enhanced national capacity to implement CFS approaches and innovative strategies (e.g. ICT) to enhance access to quality education

Progress: There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved against one of three indicators that were relevant to UNICEF's work for this reporting year, while data were not available to report on one indicator.

In relation to the strategic vision document "Ik geloof in jou" (I believe in you), an in-service teacher training programme was developed and implemented to strengthen the capacity of all teachers in Suriname to implement Child-friendly Education practices. From 2010 to 2012, UNICEF trained 90 per cent of all teachers in the interior (more than 800 teachers at 90 schools) through three two-day in-service teacher training programmes that covered subjects as activating didactics and the creating of conducive learning environments. The evaluation of the third phase of the programme highlighted the need for additional training of teachers in the interior. In 2013, an additional training programme, specifically addressing the learning needs of teachers in the interior, was developed. 18 Master Trainers and school guidance staff received a training-of-teachers course and 800 teachers in the interior were trained. In 2014, an individual classroom coaching programme was to be implemented to support the further implementation of Child-friendly Teaching practices.

Directly related to the In-Service Teacher Training programme, continuous support to teachers in the interior when implementing new educational practices was identified as a crucial point of action. Through the development of a training programme for new school guidance staff at the two Nucleus Centres in the interior of Suriname, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education and Community Development in strengthening on-site professional guidance to teachers in the interior.

This project strengthens the capacity of school guidance staff at the Nucleus Centres in the interior and at the Ministry level through the development of an advanced training programme for on-the-job training of 10 guidance staff members for the Nucleus Centres and of 10 senior staff at the Guidance Department, Ministry of Education and Community Development and Nucleus Centres, allowing them to support the training of new guidance staff members utilising the newly-developed training materials and to support structurally all teachers in the interior on implementing Child-friendly Education.

Aiming to strengthen the school performance of 700 children in the interior of Suriname, the Ministry and UNICEF jointly introduced CAL in five pilot schools in the districts of Marowijne, Brokopondo and Sipaliwini. Currently, 135 laptops (including maintenance contracts) are procured and installed at the five pilot schools. Active lobbying of the CAL Co-ordinator and the UNICEF Education Specialist resulted in the free provision of educational software on the topics of math and language to be used for the pilot project. In addition to the procurement of the laptops, a joint Ministry of Education and Community Development–UNICEF analysis of the school facilities took place, resulting in identification of a request for additional support to equip three pilot schools with a solar panel electricity system. Additionally, the momentum of the project was used by two schools to raise funds for additional resources to build a computer classroom and procure additional equipment.

Training sessions were conducted to provide all teachers of the pilot schools with basic and advanced computer skills. Fifty-three teachers, school leaders and members of parents associations were trained in early January in basic ICT skills and use of the provided practice software. Twenty-two change agents (consisting of teachers, community members, policy-makers and project stakeholders) received training on the use of the education software through a distance learning programme. Sixty teachers, school leaders and members of parents associations were trained in the use of the educational software and its practical implementation at the school and class levels.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Department of Parent Participation of the Ministry of Education and Community Development to develop a programme to increase parental involvement in three pilot sites in Suriname. Joint field visits were conducted to establish a solid understanding of current issues in relation to parental participation in one of the pilot sites. A programme intervention strategy was defined. Related activities were to commence in 2014.

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. Planned progress was achieved against one of two indicators that were relevant to UNICEF's work for this reporting year.

The adolescents program is led by a Presidential Task Force. Among other duties, it coordinates joint identification and development of inter-sectoral adolescents programming in selected pilot areas. Programme development sessions and a site visit to pilot areas took
UNICEF signed a Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with one of Suriname’s leading NGOs on governance, participation and gender to contribute to the empowerment of adolescents and to address gender issues. Based on this PCA, the NGO will conduct a baseline assessment (social and institutional mapping) in one of the three pilot communities and establish a participatory monitoring system to enable adolescents to participate at the community level, especially in the monitoring processes. Although this inter-sectoral approach proved to be effective in enhancing the knowledge of partners in regard to joint (community-based) programming, this process has been slow and encountered delays. To date, a major achievement has been the finalisation of a joint policy strategy for adolescents and identification of service providers for a joint platform in one of the pilot areas. Joint programming visits for prioritisation of activities are being carried out, which will lead to clear identification of programmes for each sector.

The UN, led by UNICEF, will continue to partner and give close technical, monitoring and communication-related support to the government (Presidential Task Force and the five ministries) toward piloting the comprehensive framework in select communities where disparities are high and the measurable impact would be greater, thus reaching some of the most vulnerable adolescents. At the national level, emphasis would be placed on establishing institutional linkages such as regular government meetings between the five ministries and reviewing the data from the pilot sites to guide national action, including approval of relevant policy documents, guidelines and technical support.

**IR 1800/A0/05/002/009** Targeted vulnerable communities have improved access to WASH services and national plans prioritise underserved communities

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

The construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities was completed in nine project villages with official handover ceremonies in the villages of Abenaston and Boto Pasi. 3,701 persons in seven villages were provided with access to safe water and 90 family toilets were constructed in nine villages, directly providing safe sanitation for 450 persons.

Approximately 16 villages targeting approximately 10,000 people have benefitted from this project, which is coming to a close. The strong involvement and quality technical support of UNICEF to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Regional Development was acknowledged and appreciated, and seen as a best practice and a key factor in the implementation of the WASH programme. However one of the major bottlenecks was the poor communication with the local communities and ministries. A lesson learned is to communicate clearly to everyone involved in the decisions and plans for the project, including clarity of roles and responsibilities.

During the life of the project, several relationships and partnerships were built, which included the Bureau of Public Health, the Foundation for Development in the Interior, the National Women's Movement, the Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of Natural Resources. A joint action plan with both ministries, in partnership with communities from the target villages, was developed and operationalised, resulting in the successful implementation of improvements in access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the selected villages.

With the technical support of UNICEF, involvement of the staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources intensified in WASH activities in the interior. However, it also became clear that there was no clear definition of roles and responsibilities regarding waste disposal in the interior. In particular, the sanitation agenda is not prominent nationally and it is not clear if this should be anchored within the Ministry of Regional Development or the Ministry of Health. Most of the districts and interior communities do not have a waste water management plan and, as the government increase its provision of water supply services, the management of sewage and waste water becomes an important environmental issue.

The project activities also experienced significant constraints due to changes in senior and technical level staffing in the ministries (including on the level of the Permanent Secretary and Deputy Director). Poor communication between several partners involved led to uncertainty and distress in communities.

**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. Planned progress was achieved against one of two indicators that were relevant to UNICEF's work for this reporting year.

In 2013, UNICEF supported the baseline assessment on the status of child care in institutions. This assessment, led by the Parliament of Suriname, proved critical in making a case for the approval of the long-pending child protection legislation Raamwet Opvang Instellingen. The approval of the legislation will enable effective structural monitoring, implementation and the improvement of child care norms, standards and guidelines in institutions.

However, the delay in approval affected the planned capacity development of personnel in child care institutions in the interior. There were delays also in reaching agreement on and in developing an implementation plan for Meld en adviespunt. With the approval of the
legislation, the government is prioritising the support to institutions to implement the norms, standards and guidelines for improved child care rather than setting up new institutions as the Meld and adviespunt. UNICEF support will be in the development and implementation of the action plan for child care standards, norms and guidelines as included in the newly legislation.

UNICEF supported the Government of Suriname in enhancing the capacities of key government technical staff through the participation in the Caribbean Sub-regional Meetings on Violence against Children and meetings held on the use of the Child Protection Assessment Toolkit.

The absence of the Child Protection Officer was a major gap for Suriname, as the office has not been able to find qualified applicants for the post.

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<tr>
<th>IR 1800/A0/05/002/011 Improved implementation of evidence-based programmes to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS in most at-risk populations and vulnerable groups</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Progress:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>There are three indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved against the one of three indicators that were relevant to UNICEF's work for this reporting year, while data was not available to report on one indicator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>There are four indicators under this IR, of which only one is applicable for UNICEF. UNICEF supported the finalisation, printing and dissemination of SitAn on Children and HIV, including development of an action plan. Human rights and other issues related to gender/indigenous children were included in the analysis. In addition, MICS 4 data were used in developing the SitAn, which has proven to be useful.</td>
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**PC 800 - Cross-sectoral costs**

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<tr>
<th>PCR 1800/A0/05/003 Cross Sectoral</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Progress:</strong> Of the six IRs under this PCR, four were rated on-track and three were constrained.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toward increased understanding of children's priority issues among key decision-makers and communities, and in line with the advocacy and communication strategy for the Guyana CO, a stronger partnership with the media was established and maintained throughout the year, thus increasing the visibility and understanding of UNICEF and its work for children. Several advocacy events and activities for children were supported, in line with the office strategy. During Guyana's Child Protection Week, several high-visibility activities focused on the Break the Silence on Child Sexual Abuse regional campaign, and also incorporated elements of the global END Violence campaign. The media were engaged at a forum on their role in child protection and encouraged to strengthen their commitment to protecting children by keeping these issue in the forefront of public consciousness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF Guyana and Suriname had planned to develop an integrated communication strategy for all sectors. However, the office was unable to recruit a C4D Officer due to lack of qualified applicants for the post. The Suriname CO was also unable to recruit a Communications Officer until late in the year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>However, the CO made progress toward developing a communication strategy for IYCF 'plus'. A formative research, led by the Bureau of Public Health, was commissioned to collect data on the motivations and sources of influence for the current IYCF practices in Suriname and on early care-seeking, new-born care and WASH behaviours for children under two years of age. This research will provide the much-needed critical data for the development of an integrated communication strategy in 2014. UNICEF provided significant technical and financial support for this, with available APR funds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF continued to provide technical support to emergency preparedness in Guyana and Suriname. In 2013, the focus on disability issues within national Disaster Risk Management was enhanced. Also, UNICEF provided leadership to an inter-agency Business Continuity Plan simulation. In Suriname, UNICEF initiated emergency WASH training with the Ministry of Natural Resources and ensured that eight staff in the Ministry had technical skills in the area of hygiene promotion in emergencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Guyana CO updated its Situation Analysis of Children and Women through a review of causality analysis, role and capacity gap analysis and determinant analysis. The updating process was useful in narrowing the focus of UNICEFs technical and financial investments on a few bottlenecks and will be aligned with the new Strategic Plan during the planned MTR in 2014. Mid-Year and Annual Reviews were conducted as planned.</td>
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<tr>
<th>IR 1800/A0/05/003/001 Increased understanding of children's priority issues among key decision-makers and communities, including opportunities for children to express their views</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Progress:</strong> There are four indicators under this IR. Planned progress was achieved against two of three indicators that were relevant for this reporting year.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Toward increased understanding of children’s priority issues among key decision-makers and communities, and in line with the advocacy and communication strategy for the Guyana CO, a stronger partnership with the media was established and maintained throughout the year, thus increasing the visibility and understanding of UNICEF and its work for children in Guyana. Several advocacy events and activities for children were supported in line with the CO strategy. These included the launch of the State of the World’s Children 2013 in conjunction with the opening of a disability-friendly playground—the first of its kind in Guyana—and support for a multi-media campaign for inclusive treatment of children with disabilities in partnership with the National Commission on Disability.

Other key activities were also supported in partnership with the Child Care and Protection Agency and the Rights of the Child Commission, and these provided an opportunity for highlighting important issues for children’s rights. These included Universal Children’s Day, Day of the Girl Child, Immunisation Week, Breastfeeding Week and Child Protection Week. Cross-cutting considerations of children’s rights, gender, equity and human rights were incorporated into all activities.

During Guyana’s Child Protection Week, several high-visibility activities focused on the Break the Silence on Child Sexual Abuse regional campaign and incorporated elements of the global END Violence campaign. The media were engaged at a forum on their role inchild protection and encouraged to strengthen their commitment to protecting children by keeping these issue in the forefront of public consciousness.

Capacity-building activities to improve the quality of media reporting on children in Guyana were executed in partnership with the Rights of the Child Commission, including a workshop for youth journalists and a joint Stakeholders Meeting to further the Development of Code of Conduct for Media Practitioners.

Technical support was also provided for the development of a framework of action for a Children’s Coalition, in alignment with the CRC. This was to provide a basis for stronger NGO and civil society engagement in 2014.

The communication tools and resource materials for the Guyana CO were updated and maintained, including its website and photography database. Key issues affecting children in Guyana were documented through videos and human interest stories.

IR 1800/A0/05/003/002 National plans for Emergency Preparedness and Response are in place for key sectors, including UNICEF’s capacity to respond in line with Core Commitments for Children (CCCs)

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

The CO successfully facilitated financial and technical support for the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2013 activities with the “Disability in Disaster” theme implemented through the co-ordination of the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) for the successful integration of a disability focus within national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) planning. The CDC co-ordinated sensitisation workshops for national DRM partners, a competition for children attending Guyana’s special needs schools and registration drives for disabled persons with the regional DRM bodies through partnerships with the National Commission for Disability, Ministry of Education and the Guyana Red Cross Society to implement project components.

The CO successfully facilitated an inter-agency UN Emergency Technical Team Business Continuity Plan (BCP) simulation exercise in conjunction with the CDC. The CO provided financial support and co-ordination leadership for the four UN agencies that participated in this exercise, with the final report presented to the UN Country Team.

Based on this successful simulation exercise, the CO technically supported South-South co-operation with the Eastern Caribbean Office (ECO) for a multi-country emergency simulation exercise in October 2013 led by the LACRO Emergency Section. Through this exercise, linkages with the ECO and LACRO Emergency Section were established for the CO based on developing and implementing response plans for corporate response strategies, thereby enabling active staff training in the CCCs. The 2013 simulation experience was to form the basis for the CO Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) 2014 simulation planning strategies.

The Child Protection Sector EPrp was finalised and launched through the Ministry of Labour and Human Services and Social Security. The EPRP sector will directly assist the Ministry to fulfil its assigned lead role for protection of children in shelters under the national DRM plan and meshes with the CDC-led development during 2014 of the Shelter Management Plan.

IR 1800/A0/05/003/003 UNICEF/Government of Guyana Country Programme 2012-16 monitoring mechanisms and tools in place

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

The Mid-year and Annual Reviews were conducted as planned in 2013. The unavailability of key partners, however, affected the cross-sectoral meeting following the Mid-year Review. In preparation for the 2014 MTR, the Guyana CO updated its SitAn for Children and Women through an update on the causality analysis, role and capacity gap analysis and determinant analysis. The updating process was useful in narrowing the focus of UNICEF technical and financial investments on a few bottlenecks aligned with the new Strategic Plan during the planned MTR in 2014.
Planned progress could not be made on more than 70 per cent of M&E projected activities in the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP), even though the CO made efforts to prioritise its investments in M&E. The major barriers encountered to the required progress were the lack of prioritisation of some IMEP activities, especially studies by the Government of Guyana and other implementing partners. Progress was also hindered by the lack of capacity in the implementing partner to complete IMEP activities within the given timeline.

In support of stronger UN capacity in M&E, UNICEF led the preparation of an M&E assessment for all UN agencies. The findings of this were to be analysed in the first quarter of 2014 and will inform the capacity development priorities within UN M&E.

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/004 UNICEF/Government of Suriname Country Programme 2012-16 monitoring mechanisms and tools in place**

**Progress:** UNICEF directly provided technical support to the UNDAP Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign affairs in the strengthening and improvement of the UNDAP Action Plan co-ordination.

UNICEF's leadership and support to the UNDAP Action Plan co-ordination and monitoring and the development and effective functioning of the Programme Coordination Groups resulted in improvements to the co-ordination of joint UN efforts to improve the lives of children and women in Suriname. UNICEF provided technical guidance and support for the evaluation of the Programme Coordination Groups (PCG) architecture with the objective of improving the PCG structure. During the reporting period, it was agreed that the DATA PCG will be used to do the Suriname MDG reporting.

**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. Planned progress was not achieved against the one indicator that was relevant to UNICEF's work for this reporting year.

UNICEF Guyana and Suriname had planned to develop an integrated communication strategy for all sectors. However, the CO was unable to recruit a C4D Officer due to lack of qualified applications for the post.

However, the CO made progress in the creation of a communication strategy for IYCF ‘plus’. A formative research, led by the Bureau of Public Health, was commissioned to collect data on the motivations and sources of influence for the current IYCF practices in Suriname and on new-born care and WASH behaviours for children under two years of age. This research will provide the much-needed critical data for the development of an integrated communication strategy in 2014. UNICEF provided significant technical and financial support to this, with the availability of APR funds.

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

**Progress:** There are two indicators under this IR. Planned progress was not achieved against the one indicator that was relevant to joint UN work for this reporting year.

The Suriname UN Emergency Task Team did not meet during the second half of 2013, limiting progress on joint UN plans for emergency preparedness. However, UNICEF initiated emergency WASH training with the Ministry of Natural Resources and ensured that eight staff there had technical skills in the area of hygiene promotion in emergencies.

There were no declared emergencies in 2013.

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/007 Human Resources for effective delivery of programmes**

**Progress:**

Based on the Mid-year Review, the status of this Intermediate Result (IR) is on track, as all activities under this IR were to be implemented as planned, by the end of 2013.

**IR 1800/A0/05/003/008 Human resources for effective delivery of programmes**
**Progress:**

Based on the Mid-Year Review, the status of this IR is on track, as all activities under this IR were to be implemented as planned, by the end of 2013.

| PCR 1800/A0/05/800 "Effective and efficient programme management and operations support" |
| On-track |

**Progress:**

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

| IR 1800/A0/05/800/001 Governance and systems |
| On-track |

**Progress:**

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

| IR 1800/A0/05/800/002 Financial resources and stewardship |
| On-track |

**Progress:**

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

| IR 1800/A0/05/800/003 Human capacity |
| On-track |

**Progress:**

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

| IR 1800/A0/05/800/888 HR |
| On-track |

**Progress:**

Based on the Annual Review, the status of this IR is on track, as all activities under this IR were implemented as planned.
Effective Governance Structure

The CO built on the work that began in 2012 to create a cohesive office team for Guyana and Suriname. To this end, the CO focused on refining its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and held a joint Programme, Policy and Procedure (PPP) training/staff retreat.

The SOPs were developed by staff of both offices and issued in the last quarter of 2012. They mitigate risk in the CO by providing guidelines for all staff. In 2013, a Mid-year Review of the SOPs was conducted. A review was also done of the distribution of duties between the Guyana and Suriname Operations team to take into account the smaller Operations staff complement in Suriname. This included removing HR duties from the Operations Assistant in Suriname; these are now done by the HR Assistant for Guyana/Suriname who is based on Guyana.

In accordance with the one office structure of Guyana-Suriname, all committees are comprised of staff from both Guyana and Suriname. In regard to risk mitigation, the composition and limits of joint committees were reviewed. Changes made included increasing the review limit of the CRC, changing the chair of the Central Review Body (CRB), adding Vice Chairs to some committees and adding a larger number of alternates to reduce possibility of segregation of duty conflicts.

Statutory meetings were held in accordance with the CO’s established schedule. The CMT met 12 times, the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) 2 times and general staff meetings were conducted 12 times. For risk mitigation, the key indicators of the office were reviewed at each CMT meeting and follow up action was taken.

The CO was audited by the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) and the audit report was issued on 26 July 2013. The report made four observations in regard to HACT, FACE forms, vendor master data, and Property, Plant and Equipment. Based on the audit observations, the CO made changes to the SOPs for Direct Cash Transfers (DCTs), Vendor Master and Asset Management, and commenced implementation of these changes. The Guyana and Suriname offices also progressed on the conduct of micro assessments. As a result, the CO was able to have three of the four areas closed by OIAI by November 2013, and a report on the fourth area (property, plant and equipment) was to be submitted by the office to OIAI by end of January 2014.

UNICEF Suriname shares rented premises with UNDP and UNFPA. The move, to be rented by the government for the UN, was originally planned for early 2013, but had to be postponed because the landlord of the building was unable to make the renovations needed. By the end 2013, another building was identified and a lease was signed by the Government of Suriname with the landlord. The move to the new UN House was expected to occur in the first quarter of 2014. This move will provide the UN with rent-free accommodation, will be more Minimum Operating Security Standards (MOSS) compliant, and is expected to result in fewer repairs and lower maintenance costs.

Strategic Risk Management

The CO’s Risk Control and Self-Assessment system and its previous Excel reporting was revised and uploaded onto the VISION Performance Management portal according to global instructions.

For each of the 12 risk areas, CMT identified focal point staff who were supported by the Emergency Specialist to consolidate and input information into the ERM portal. Thus, the offices’ strategic approach to risk management was referenced to the risk areas identified in tandem with the monthly CMT reviews of UNICEF CO management indicators, which enabled a systematic approach to risk mitigation during 2013. The EWEA system was maintained and updated with both offices, meeting all global and regional deadlines. TACRO’s Mid-year Review of the key action tabs for both Guyana and Suriname identified action points that needed to be addressed in 2014. The review will guide cross-sectoral emergency preparedness and response planning strategies for each PCR. The BCP process, built into the EWEA system, is facilitating a more co-ordinated approach to emergency preparedness and response planning, co-ordinated by the Security and
Emergency Committee. The BCP was tested in 2013 through a joint simulation exercise with the UNETT and National Disaster Risk Management Agency in Guyana involving the establishment of an emergency operations centre at the national emergency relocation site.

MOSS compliance continued to be regularly monitored for both COs in close collaboration with UNDSS and inter-agency partners through participation in Security Management Team meetings and training sessions. MOSS compliance missions were scheduled for the end of 2013, but were postponed and were to take place in early 2014.

**Evaluation**

IMEPs for Guyana and Suriname were prepared for 2013 in accordance with the approved Guyana Country Programme Action Plan, the Suriname UNDAF Action Plan and the corresponding annual work plans. About 70 per cent of the M&E activities ascribed in the IMEP for Guyana and Suriname were completed by 31 December. Some of the more notable achievements were the launch of GuyD_Info, with all available data from major household surveys and censuses; the completion of the study on the most at-risk adolescents; the finalisation of the Monitoring Framework for Regional Framework for Action for Children; the HFLE Evaluation in Guyana; and the publishing of the MICS 4 report in Suriname. Challenges in completing all IMEP activities planned for 2013 reflected the completion of planned activities as per the annual work plan and the limited in-country capacity to conduct high-level studies and evaluation, resulting in delays.

SOPs were developed for the joint office and implemented for six months. During that time, staff members examined the SOPs to determine the appropriateness of roles, workflow and timelines and to ensure that each SOP reflected the latest UNICEF policies and guidelines.

At the end of the six-month period, the SOPs were reviewed and adjusted. The adjustments were informed by feedback from relevant staff and management. The SOPs were found to be instrumental in ensuring adequate quality assurance and streamlining of office processes. The SOPs that were more often used are those related to contracts, procurement of goods and services, the conduct of studies, and evaluation and cash transfers, among others. Generally, SOPs contributed significantly to the thoroughness of processes and deliverables, although it was not determined in the pilot stage that they resulted in significant timesaving.

One evaluation was planned for Guyana in 2013 to assess the HFLE Life Skills-Based Curriculum Pilot Programme, as a timetabled subject offered in 30 secondary schools for students in grade 7 between September 2010 and May 2012. This evaluation was completed; the final report was drafted and is being finalised. The draft report points to important gaps in the national policy framework, human resource capacity, and implementation and management of HFLE. Once this report is completed, the Ministry of Education will lead the development and implementation of a management response to this evaluation in 2014. No evaluation was done for Suriname in 2013.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

At the commencement of 2013, approximately 70 per cent of hardware used in Guyana and Suriname was not compliant with ITSS standards, as they had exceeded their useful life. The objective in 2013 was to reduce maintenance and overhead costs and to make all equipment ICT compliant by upgrading non-compliant equipment. This project was previously approved for implementation in 2012; but, due to technical challenges in completing the procurement in VISION by the end of 2012, funds provided by TACRO were unable to be utilised and the project was postponed to 2013. At 31 December 2013, all ICT equipment, including laptops, desktops, servers, networks and emergency telecommunication equipment, were ITSS compliant.

The implementation of Cisco VPN, along with Mission Control Security Tokens for laptop users, is stable and user friendly and more staff are working remotely.

One of the major projects implemented in 2013 was the use of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) as a cost-
saving mechanism. In the Guyana CO, this system is integrated into the PBX, allowing staff to access any UNICEF office directly from their touch tone handsets. In Suriname, this is integrated into a multi-line, multiple handset telephone system.

The Polycom VSX video conference devices in place in both Guyana and Suriname have become the standard for interactive meetings. A Polycom ceiling microphone was implemented in Suriname to cater for larger meetings.

After severe challenges with internal connectivity in the Suriname CO, a new Category 6 gigabit Local Area Network (LAN) was installed in mid-2013. The previous LAN was in existence for more than ten years and had multiple points of failure and several non-compliant ad hoc network switches. These switches were replaced by a UNICEF standard gigabit network switch for servers and UNICEF standard 100 Mbps network switches for users. This resulted in a major increase in reliability and robustness of the network in the Suriname CO. However, the CO will move to a new UN House in early 2014, which was unknown at the time of implementation of the LAN project.

The Suriname CO previously had only a 512 Kbps dedicated Internet connection for both IPsec and Public internet traffic. This resulted in sluggish performance of the primary link. In mid-2013, a 4 Mbps shared Internet connection was installed as a failover link. This acts as the link for public Internet traffic during normal operations and for both IPsec traffic and the public Internet connection if there is an outage in the primary link. This has improved overall speed and performance of the 512 Kbps primary link, as bandwidth was freed up to handle only mission critical IPsec traffic.

The Guyana CO has a stable 1 Mbps primary link. It has onsite i-Direct VSAT and both Guyana and Suriname have Thane Explorer BGAN equipment, which provide data connectivity in emergencies. Both Guyana and Suriname also have Motorola satellite phones.

**Fundraising and Donor Relations**

The CO ensured a 100 per cent timely submission of donor reports that met the expected quality standards. Quality assurance mechanisms were further streamlined. By the end of 2013, the CO had mobilised 27 per cent of the planned OR ceiling in the CPD. Allocated grants were fully utilised and no grant extensions were requested.

Aligned with the office resource mobilisation strategy, the CO engaged UNICEF Natcom and local bi-lateral donors such as the European Union (EU) using the finalised investment cases. The CO participated in the timely submission of requests for thematic and set-aside resources.

The CO actively engaged in Caribbean fundraising strategies. With the assistance of the Regional Office, a concept paper on violence against children was developed for the Caribbean region, to be submitted with CARICOM to the EU in Brussels. The Jamaica CO took the initiative to produce tools for fundraising with the private sector in the Caribbean region, and the CO actively participated in this.

The MDG Accelerated Framework on MDG5, prepared under UNDP leadership, was ready for approval by the government by the end of 2013, and discussions were held with bi-lateral donors from the LAC region for financing some specific interventions that would impact on neo-natal mortality as well as maternal mortality.

**Management of Financial and Other Assets**

Tracking and quality assurance for the management of funds ensured that there were no outstanding direct cash transfers over the nine-month period, except for those with VISION-related queries. All other expiring resources were utilised within the original duration of the PBA.

The CO was audited by the OIAI and received a satisfactory rating. The audit report was issued on 26 July 2013 and made four observations on implementation of HACT (high priority), quality assurance of FACE forms
Implementation controls for vendor master data (medium priority) and controls over the records of property, plant and equipment (medium priority). Based on the audit observations, the CO made changes to the SOPs for DCTs, Vendor Master and Asset Management, and made good progress with the implementation of HACT in Guyana and Suriname. Since the audit, the HACT team in Guyana conducted spot checks of four implementing partners through multiple visits, and four micro assessments were conducted by the National Audit Office, of which two reports were finalised. Follow-up actions and strategies were developed in Guyana to improve the quality of micro-assessments and a workshop was planned for the first quarter of 2014 to re-orient the partners on HACT and to address capacity-building gaps that were identified during the spot checks. In Suriname, since the audit the Centrale Lands Accountants Dienst company was contracted to conduct micro assessments of 14 UN partners, of which eight reports were concluded. Three of the four observation areas were closed by OIAI by the end of November 2013 and a report on the final observation area (property, plant and equipment) was to be submitted to OIAI by end of January 2014.

Management continued to take the necessary steps to improve the oversight of cash resources. For example, cash is projected on a quarterly basis with detailed bi-weekly projections for which programme officers are held accountable. Additionally, monitoring for timely reconciliation of accounts continued with the minimum amounts of adjusting entries. Monitoring of global and regional indicators to ensure good financial management practices was facilitated through the programme management and CMT meetings.

**Supply Management**

The CO has no controlled warehouse in the country or an emergency stock. (The major emergencies are flooding—the last major one was in 2005—and gastro-enteritis.) The value of direct procurement by the CO was $365,778, of which programme supply and services was $177,500. Programme services procured for implementing partners in Guyana included evaluation of the HFLE life skills-based curriculum pilot programme as a timetabled subject for schools, development and deployment of a monitoring system that allows Caribbean countries to report progress against the Regional Framework for Action for Children, DevInfo training, and printing and hosting workshops. Programme services procured for implementing partners in Suriname included support of the CAL initiative for five schools. Programme supplies procured for implementing partners in Guyana included air conditioning units for the MICS project, desktops/laptops and salt kits. Additionally, the CO paid for a combined PPP training and staff retreat in February 2013 for the Guyana and Suriname staff.

Operations procurement of services and supplies were $188,278; this included the purchase of essential ICT equipment for Guyana and Suriname, including laptops, switches, monitors, VOIP equipment and a server. This equipment will replace those in Guyana and Suriname that are past their useful life, as well as provide cost-saving technology. This purchase was scheduled to be made in 2012, but had to be postponed due to challenges in VISION with the order in the last quarter of 2012.

The CO remained without a substantive Administrative/Supply Assistant for the year due to illness. However, the supply area was strengthened in 2013 by a competent Officer in Charge who made great strides in on-the-job learning. Group supply training was planned to be held in December 2013, but had to be postponed to 2014 due to the unavailability of the trainer. Group training was planned to ensure knowledge retention in the Guyana-Suriname office and to increase the knowledge of all those involved directly and indirectly in the procurement process. Supply training was to be a priority for 2014.

**Human Resources**

Retention of staff was a challenge in 2013 for Guyana, where five general service staff left in 2013 for better salary and growth opportunities outside of UNICEF. The Guyana CO was able to fill all five posts by the end of the year (two Programme Assistants, an HR Assistant, a Senior Executive Assistant and a driver). The international Child Protection Specialist post in Guyana will remain vacant due to lack of funding.

In Suriname, recruitment of local staff remained a challenge. The office was unable to fill four key National Officer posts in Suriname for by the end of the year (Communication for Development Officer,
Communications Officer, Child Survival and Development Officer, and Child Protection Officer) due to an inability to find qualified nationals for these posts. Suriname has a single nationality rule and, as a result, many locally-born professionals who are resident in Suriname have taken on Dutch nationality and are therefore ineligible for national posts. However, the CO was able to contract a consultant to assist in the area of child survival in order to ensure continuity of activities for this programme. Due to the continuing recruitment challenges, the CO will review these posts in the MTR.

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 tele-conferencing. The CO continued to encourage staff to use flexible work arrangements for a better work-life balance. In 2013, six staff in Guyana and one staff member in Suriname utilised flexible work schedules.

In 2013, a group of four staff members benefitted from SSAFE training conducted by UNDSS, and staff members also benefitted from a UN Cares course on HIV/AIDS awareness. Four staff participated in the Dynamic Leadership Certificate Courses and one staff member participated in the Leadership Development Programme. The Representative participated in the Managing People for Results training at the RMT and the Operations Manager participated in UN Coherence training. These training courses will contribute to the growth of staff and improved performance of the CO.

The improvement plan for the results of the 2011 Global Staff Survey remained a permanent agenda item for the monthly staff meeting and for the quarterly JCC meetings in 2013. A staff retreat was held in February 2013 and an action plan was formulated to address issues raised by staff. Progress on the action plan is reviewed by the JCC.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Efficiency gains were realised in ICT in 2013. With assistance in funding and review of the proposal by TACRO, the CO was able to change 70 per cent of its ICT equipment that will reduce maintenance and administrative overhead costs. The VOIP system, which was implemented in 2013 in Guyana and Suriname, is now the first means of making inter-office international calls free of charge. The use of free Skype calls (computer-to-computer) is encouraged for external communication and more staff members are utilising this means of communication.

Permission was obtained in 2013 from the Regional Chief of ICT for the establishment of a SharePoint site to facilitate sharing of files and information between Guyana and Suriname; this will reduce printing costs and physical transfer of files costs when fully utilised. In December 2012, the Guyana office purchased a multi-purpose printer/scanner, which is expected to generate savings over a five-year period from owning rather than paying a monthly rental, as was done until December 2012. The CO benefitted from this in 2013.

Cost savings in the Suriname CO 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.

### Changes in AMP & CPMP

No significant changes foreseen for the 2014 AMP. Changes may be considered during MTR.

### Summary Notes and Acronyms

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMP</td>
<td>Annual Management plan</td>
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<td>APR</td>
<td>A Promised Renewed</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCP</td>
<td>Business Continuity Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for Development</td>
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CAL Computer-aided Learning
CARICOM Caribbean Community Secretariat
CCC Core Commitments for Children
CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFS Child-friendly Schooling
CMT Country Management Team
CO Country Office
CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child
DHS Demographic and Health Survey
DRM Disaster Risk Management
ECD Early Childhood Development
EPRP Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning
ERM Enterprise Risk Management
EWEA Early Warning Early Action
GuyD_Info Guyana’s version of DevInfo
HACT Harmonised Approach to Cash Transactions
HFLE Health and Family Life Education
ICT Information and Communication Technology
IDB Inter-American Development Bank
IGME UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
IMEP Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IR Intermediate Results
IT Information Technology
KAP Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG Millennium Development Goal
MICS Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MTR Mid-term Review
MOSS Minimum Operating Security Standards
NGO Non-governmental Organisation
OIAI Office of Internal Audit and Investigation
PAHO Pan-American Health Organization
PAS/e-PAS Performance Appraisal System
PCR Programme Component Result
PMTCT Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PPP Programme Policy and Procedure
RMT Regional Management Team
SitAn Situation Analysis and Assessment
SOP Standard Operating Procedures
Suri-Info Suriname’s version of DevInfo
LACRO Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office
UNCT United Nations Country Team
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS United Nations Department for Safety and Security
UNETT United National Emergency Technical Team
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
UNGASS United Nations General Assembly Special Session
USAID United States Agency for International Development
WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene