Executive Summary

Critical economic changes and forecasts for the two countries occurred in 2016. While in Guyana it became clear that newly found oil sources would boost economic growth, in Suriname a financial crisis linked to the dip in commodity prices hit the population hard, causing wild swings in inflation. In Guyana, the effects of oil are not yet tangible and had little impact on data, although the country graduated from lower-middle-income to upper-middle-income status in July 2016. In Suriname, the impact of inflation on the population was tangible by year’s-end. A key interlocutor in social protection, UNICEF supported both countries to address their respective situations by ensuring that the most vulnerable children and families are at the forefront of the national agendas, while developing plans to ensure a fair share of foreseen wealth in Guyana and mitigating the harsh impact of the financial crisis in Suriname.

Both countries were affected by the Zika outbreak. To prevent new cases of this congenital syndrome, UNICEF and partners supported communication outreach on how to prevent vector-borne diseases and avoid the creation of breeding sites. This initiative reached 340,000 people in the most populated areas of Suriname, and 90,000 people in the most affected regions of Guyana. Vector repellents were distributed to pregnant women and women of reproductive age (16,000 in Guyana and 12,500 in Suriname). For prevention, the focus was on strengthening early detection as part of the childhood development programme, and on building the capacity of health workers to provide adequate information and support to women who had a child born with disabilities tied to Zika. Supported by UNICEF in previous years, the emergency coordination mechanism responded rapidly and with high-quality work.

Building capacity on data collection and knowledge, UNICEF strengthened evidence-generation efforts in both countries by providing technical support for the development of situation analyses, conducting key surveys (such as the multiple indicator cluster survey, MICS), to initiate studies on out-of-school children and on violence against children (VAC) in Suriname. UNICEF also built capacity for developing and passing key policies, such as the child care policy and youth policy in Guyana.

Promoting child protection in Suriname, UNICEF brought together key actors, including the President, six line ministers and the chairwoman of the Parliament. The retreat was key in forming a coordination mechanism to prevent and respond to widespread violence against children. In Guyana, UNICEF supported the establishment of a family court and national efforts to revise the Sexual Offences Act.

In relation to education, the ‘positive discipline’ programme prove to be successful in Guyana for increasing teachers’ awareness of the negative impact of corporal punishment; however corporal punishment was not legally banned and this remains a concern. In Suriname, UNICEF supported an anti-bullying programme and tools to increase the detection and reporting of bullying and encourage children not to bully. The tools were endorsed and disseminated by the Ministry of Education (MoE).
For the first time in Guyana, indigenous adolescent boys and girls in dormitory secondary schools could access guidance and counselling in a space and time convenient to them. Piloted in three of the 17 dormitories, the initiative’s preliminary results indicate that at least one child was saved from attempting suicide; more than 700 children acknowledged having suicidal thoughts; a decrease in bullying took place; in-class participation and performance and interactions between boys and girls, dormitory parents and kitchen and administrative staff all improved.

Led by Suriname’s Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), a new initiative brought together traditional birth attendants and community health workers to improve safe delivery in a culturally sensitive approach. Initial results were very encouraging; five additional health facilities were accredited as baby-friendly.

Focusing on adolescents in the interior in both counties, two key programmes were finalized, yielding significant results related to outreaching to young people, including mainstreaming the sport-for-development curriculum in Guyana and establishing adolescent-friendly health services in Suriname.

**Humanitarian Assistance**

In response to the Level 2 Zika emergency, UNICEF provided technical and logistical support to Guyana’s national Zika response coordination mechanism, led by the Civil Defence Commission (CDC). Through this coordination mechanism provided support for volunteer training in community outreach for the elimination of vector breeding sites. The volunteers reached 90,000 people in five administrative regions, led by the vector control service unit of the MoPH. Through a project cooperation agreement with the Guyana Red Cross Society (GRCS), psychosocial support training for clinic attendees, individuals, families and communities to prevent and manage conditions associated with Zika (microcephaly and Guillain-Barre’ Syndrome) were implemented in five administrative regions and medically approved and culturally appropriate vector repellents were distributed to 16,000 pregnant women and women of reproductive age, with a focus on teenagers.

In Suriname, UNICEF provided technical and logistical support to the national Zika response coordination mechanism led by the MoPH. UNICEF organized a communication for development (C4D) and Zika workshop hosted by the MoPH for 40 health sector responders, including five from Guyana. This built upon initial MoPH/ UNICEF-supported communication outreach, which covered 340,000 people in the first quarter of 2016. Through the participation of five Guyanese health and C4D professionals, further progress was made to enhance the development of cross-border interventions using the C4D approach to prevent and manage Zika and its related congenital microcephaly syndromes.

UNICEF supported the training of 73 health care workers based at interior health posts; the remaining workers will be trained in early 2017. Some 6,000 repellents, 12,500 metre2 of water barrel capping material and with 3,500 informational flyers and 200 posters on vector-control activities were distributed through community outreach activities of this agreement, covering 12,500 people in interior districts.

**Emerging Areas of Importance**

**Integrated early childhood development (ECD).** Utilizing multi-disciplinary teams and scientific evidence, UNICEF in Guyana consolidated the integrated early childhood development (ECD) programme by working across Government Ministries to advocate for and demonstrate the need to move beyond sectoral interventions to encompass the right combination of early stimulation, nutrition, growth monitoring and development and child protection. After discussions with different ministers, the Representative was invited to
present the advantages of ECD and the need to design a comprehensive policy, ensure multi-sectoral coordination and invest in ECD at a Cabinet meeting. As a result, the Government committed to the development of a comprehensive policy and investment in ECD services throughout the country. UNICEF continued to support sectoral initiatives to strengthen ECD services. A strategic moment of reflection will be organized in 2017 with partners, to assess how different initiatives can better lead to results.

**Second decade of life.** Responding to the findings and recommendations of the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) evaluation in Guyana, UNICEF, in partnership with the MoE, completed the development of a comprehensive package for HFLE implementation. The package includes a multi-sectoral national programme document, which outlines delivery standards, structures, rewards/incentives and multi-sectoral coordination/collaboration mechanisms. Additionally, the HFLE curriculum was revised from grades One to 10, including sex education. Recognizing the potential for resistance from teachers to inclusion of sex education as part of the curriculum, UNICEF supported efforts by the MoE and teachers training college to prevent this potential bottleneck.

**Climate change and children.** UNICEF, as part of the global imitative ‘Earth Hour’ in Suriname, partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to develop and implement a series of workshops with children in primary schools on climate change and its impact. Additionally, to sensitize children and families on the importance of saving energy for environmental protection, UNICEF organized a ‘lights off’ initiative in the capital, Paramaribo. This initiative involved 5,000 children and was highlighted by the media. UNICEF will build on the partnership with WWF in 2017 to continue activities in Suriname and expand the work to Guyana.

**Summary Notes and Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired immune deficiency syndrome</td>
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<td>BFHI</td>
<td>Baby-friendly hospital initiative</td>
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<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Civil Defence Commission</td>
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<td>C4D</td>
<td>Communication for development</td>
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<td>CFS</td>
<td>Child-friendly schools</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country programme document</td>
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<td>CPMP</td>
<td>Country programme management plan</td>
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<td>ECA</td>
<td>Eastern Caribbean Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECCE</td>
<td>Early childhood care and education</td>
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<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus group discussion</td>
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<td>GoG</td>
<td>Government of Guyana</td>
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<td>GRCS</td>
<td>Guyana Red Cross Society</td>
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<td>GRPA</td>
<td>Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCCH</td>
<td>Hague Conference on Private International Law</td>
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<td>HFLE</td>
<td>Health and family life education</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPDET</td>
<td>International programme for development evaluation training</td>
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<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
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<td>MCSF</td>
<td>Multi-country sustainable development framework</td>
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<td>MoSP</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Protection</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple indicator cluster survey</td>
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<td>MoE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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As part of the Zika response UNICEF focused – among other things – on developing the skills of health professionals based at ECD centres in Guyana’s hinterland area. This enabled them to give comfort and support to pregnant women diagnosed with Zika. The training also built their knowledge about possible risks to new-borns with the syndrome associated with congenital Zika infection. This enabled health workers to better provide support to women with a Zika diagnosis and their new-borns, raising the possibility for the country to revisit health professionals’ capacity for early detection of disability and provision of adequate support.

Considering Guyana’s very low capacity to provide psychological services, the UNICEF Country Office began a partnership with the University of Guyana to develop a ‘Master in Clinical Psychology’ programme of studies. The initial assessment and completion of the operational framework were finalized and will inform next years’ course. Additionally, in partnership with the University of Guyana and the University of York (UK) the Office supported the design of a ‘Social Work University’ programme. The course curriculum was submitted to the University for approval and roll-out in 2017. Both masters’ programmes will expand the range of services and expertise needed to contribute to prevention of and response to violence against children.

UNICEF, in partnership with Suriname’s General Bureau of Statistics and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), supported a workshop on
measuring multi-dimensional child poverty. This workshop was intended to inform the establishment of a ‘poverty line’ in the country, and to further strengthen understanding of child poverty from a multi-dimensional view point.

Evidence Generation, Policy Dialogue and Advocacy

In Guyana an analysis of the Sexual Offences Act 2010, combined with data provided by the MICS of 2014 spurred agreement to sign the protocols between sectors, as a means to increase accountability among line ministries to take action on preventing and responding to sexual violence. Substantial policy dialogue on juvenile justice legislation led to revision of the bill, agreement on legislative costing and agreement to support the development of a youth court. Further, recognizing the importance of faith-based partnerships and their role in violence prevention, dialogue contributed to UNICEF’s advocacy to develop partnerships with the main Government agency responsible for child protection and faith-based leaders (with support from the Rights of the Child Commission (RCC)).

During the reporting period a situation analysis on women and children (SitAn) was conducted and finalized in both countries. Both were conducted using the life cycle approach, with strong emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the key messages that emerged from this process was the importance of early and consistent investments across the lifecycle, since timely, culturally-relevant investments translate into positive outcomes for boys, girls and women.

In Suriname discussions around the SitAn, combined with advocacy at various levels and media attention, provided a favourable environment for UNICEF to gather all main governmental players in the area of child protection at a high-level meeting. The President of Suriname, the Parliament’s Chairwoman, and six ministers participated in the event. This laid the foundation for the creation of a coordination group and budget allocation from the line ministries to strengthen prevention and response to violence, as well as other concrete steps toward actions to improve child protection in a country with a very high prevalence of violence against children.

Partnerships

UNICEF organized a conference on child rights and business in Guyana in January and in Suriname in September. The conferences were planned with government counterparts and new partners from the private sector. In both countries, special emphasis was on the extractive industry. The events contributed to raising awareness among private sector and other partners on the main principles of child rights and business, on the impact private sector can have on children’s development, and possible ways for this sector to be actively engaged in improving children’s lives.

UNICEF in Guyana partnered with the Ministry of Legal Affairs and The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), in order to expand in-country and Caribbean knowledge on the conventions for which the HCCH is repository – with a special focus on conventions related to family law and abduction. In Guyana this partnership led to the appointment of local judges to The Hague Network, agreement by the ministry to review and prioritize the role of the Conventions in relation to emerging child protection challenges (e.g., on adoption and custody) and an agreement for a consultative process during which child protection and related conventions are prioritized. This meeting served as an important platform for cementing the legal agenda within child protection at the highest levels. The family court for Guyana became operational in 2016, providing key child protection services to families.
In Guyana UNICEF also began a partnership with religious leaders, sensitizing them about violence against children. This will be followed up in coming years, to help these leaders to play a role in changing social norms condoning violence against children.

**External Communication and Public Advocacy**

Key issues affecting children in Guyana and Suriname were documented through videos and human interest stories, including, for example, a documentary on ‘Children in Suriname’s Amazon’, which was presented to partners and sparked a debate on the country’s need to further focus on indigenous children’s access to their rights. Child-friendly booklets were produced on important legislation and disseminated in various formats, including indigenous languages.

**Support to Integration and Cross-Sectoral Linkages**

In Suriname, UNICEF supported the planning and execution of a retreat in which the President, the chairwoman of the Parliament, and six ministers (Interior, Social Affairs, Labour, Justice and Police, Health, and Foreign Affairs) discussed the way forward to increase coordination in prevention and response to violence against children. This led to the formation of a joint working group and an increase of each ministry’s planned budget for this area during next year.

In Guyana, the UNICEF Representative made a presentation at a ministerial cabinet meeting on the need for strengthening inter-sectorial cooperation among different branches of the government to improve ECD services. This led to further discussion and plans, which resulted in strengthening cooperation between social welfare, education and health service providers at the local level.

**Human Rights-Based Approach to Cooperation**

In Guyana, UNICEF supported the review and finalization of the initial state party reports on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (OPAC) and Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC). These reports were led and drafted by the Government and provided a basis for discussion and agreement on key priorities. While Guyana has not signed the third Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this will be on the radar of the Rights of the Child Commission, as part of its role in monitoring the rights of all children in Guyana.

Moreover, a children’s rights agenda, with a focus on two key child protection challenges (violence against children and justice for children), was for the first time placed on the table as part of the substantive meeting of the National Toshaso’s Council (the gathering of the representatives of indigenous groups). The meeting was carried out in partnership with the RCC, as a means of ensuring that challenges faced by children, particularly those in the interior, are addressed by indigenous leaders. The meeting was intended to institutionalize a ‘children’s agenda’ in discussions traditionally discussed by the council, such as land and mining issues, and to ensure good governance and accountability for children at all levels.

In Suriname UNICEF supported development of the country’s report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Government presented its third and fourth reports; UNICEF supported the country to develop clear plans to respond to the Committee’s recommendations.
Gender Equality

Over 600 indigenous secondary school boys and girls benefitted from the menstrual hygiene programme at school dormitories in Guyana’s hinterland. The programme focused on menstrual hygiene for girls and sexual and reproductive health for boys, resulting in: girls’ willingness to ignore myths and cultural traditions that negatively affect their participation in school, for example, willingness to eat iron-rich foods to improve hemoglobin levels; and boys being more knowledgeable about and comfortable with themselves and showing greater respect for girls. Overall the programme was effective in promoting gender-responsive adolescent health.

In its efforts to address early pregnancy in Suriname, particularly among the Moroon population, UNICEF’s adolescent development programme supported Medical Mission (a non-governmental organization providing health service to rural interior areas) to develop an adolescent-friendly health service module that, among other things, promotes gender equality.

Environmental Sustainability

In Suriname UNICEF partnered with WWF to promote the ‘Earth Hour” initiative. This initiative involved children all over the country and attracted considerable media attention. It was useful to empower children to consider themselves as agents of change capable of limiting the effects of climate change and to sensitize adults on the impact that climate change might have on their children future.

Effective Leadership

A joint programme, operations and local staff association task force reviewed current practices and committee work to present the pros and cons of adopting the ‘eight opportunities to streamline’ shared by UNICEF Headquarters (HQ). The results were presented to the country management team (CMT), which decided to change current practices and ceilings, in adherence with HQ recommendations.

Management of funding also improved compared to previous years, maintaining a lower level of direct cash transfers (DCTs) over three and six months. However challenges still exist vis-a-vis certain partners; UNICEF will explore options for further improvement next year.

Business continuity planning was strengthened and tested, and it was decided to upgrade certain information technology equipment.

In the second half of the year the joint consultative committee (JCC) played a more prominent role in ensuring consultations throughout the process of developing the country programme management plan (CPMP) 2017-2021. This also provided an opportunity to rebuild team spirit and adjust to the change in leadership.

Financial Resources Management

The country management team closely monitored performance indicators and led strengthening of the system to ensure timely and concerted efforts related to efficient use of resources. As a result, in the second half of the year DCTs over six months decreased and the Office increased its capacity to fully spend regular and other resources in 2016 (98 per cent).

Fundraising and Donor Relations
The Office made concrete efforts to reach out to the private sector to increase cooperation and fundraise. While no increase in funding materialized, these efforts created the good basis for potential new funding opportunities in coming years.

As part of the multi-country sustainable development framework (MSDF), Caribbean United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) are developing a joint fundraising approach to reach out to donors at the regional level, rather than by country. Many donors operate regionally too.

**Evaluation and Research**

One consolidated integrated monitoring and evaluation plan for both countries was prepared for 2016, and reviewed quarterly by the country management team.

An evaluation of the UNICEF-supported teacher training programme in the interior was completed by an independent company in Suriname. The evaluation focused on the child-friendly school (CFS) approach ‘I Believe in You’. The results will serve a valuable input for the further implementation of CFS initiatives, as part of overall quality improvement of education in the country. Results were shared and discussed with Government counterparts, civil society and other actors involved in the education sector.

**Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings**

In 2016 a new contract was negotiated with the Internet service provider to upgrade services from 5 Mbps to 6 Mbps at a much lower cost, thereby gaining more efficiency at a lower cost (saving US$627 compared to 2015). To further benefit from technological efficiencies, a review was carried out of IT equipment compared with IT hardware standards and the lifecycle of laptops, which resulted in the Office taking steps to replace older IT equipment to improve effectiveness and efficiency and reduce costs, repairs and maintenance in the short- to medium-term.

Through joint UN procurement, the Office gained from a long-term agreement (LTA) for security services at a standard rate negotiated for UN agencies, compared to last year’s rate that charged for double-time on holidays and week-ends (saving $US6,306).

**Supply Management**

Programme supplies procured in 2016 were mainly items to enhance the implementation of activities and enable the conducting of workshops. However, of the total US$220,157 a significant amount (US$152,784) was spent on consultancies to conduct various studies and assessments. On the operational side, the single largest amount US$64,256.35 was for security services. The Office also traded in an old Toyota Land Cruiser station wagon for a new Prado Land Cruiser, at a cost of US$18,402.66. Replacement of damaged and obsolete IT equipment (laptops and cellular phones) cost US$52,667.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme supplies</th>
<th>US$ 67,373.50</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programme services</td>
<td>US$ 152,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations supplies</td>
<td>US$ 111,321.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations services</td>
<td>US$ 77,535.55</td>
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UNICEF Guyana and Suriname did not support any construction office.
Security for Staff and Premises

Both the Guyana and Suriname offices are MOSS-compliant, with ratings of 91 per cent and 94 per cent, respectively. In 2016, the Office routinely maintained its security apparatus, ensuring that CCTV cameras worked efficiently and compliance levels were maintained.

Management and security focal points monitored potential security risks and maintained a close relationship with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). Staff were informed in a timely manner of security situations, and security incidents involving staff were reported to UNDSS. There was a shooting incident involving UNDP staff in front the office building, which resulted in a visible police presence in front the UN agencies.

Travel in both countries to some locations remains difficult due to the terrain and poor accessibility, and is therefore susceptible to security threats.

UNDSS decided not to have an international security advisor based in Guyana (and covering also Suriname) any longer; instead these operations will be carried out directly by its Panama office. In-country there will be only a general services staff presence, but not a professional officer. The UNCT has expressed its concerns with UNDSS in New York and suggested upgrading the in-country post to a national officer post.

Human Resources

The human resources function is supported by the MCSF at the UNICEF Regional Office; in 2016 there was no on-site human resources presence. Two new hiring processes took place in 2016 (administrative assistant Guyana and ICT assistant). The Office experienced challenges in recruiting national officers in Suriname, as many residents of the country don’t have Surinamese nationality and hence cannot be recruited as national officers.

The shift to a new management performance system and the need for continuous feedback between supervisors and supervisees were highlighted to all staff on various occasions throughout the year. All staff was encouraged to take the performance planning training on Agora to better understand the new dynamic performance management culture, which values dialogue.

Following-up the results of the staff assessment the Office proactively encouraged measures to improve career development (e.g., two staff took on stretch assignments and all staff benefitted from learning opportunities) and work-life balance (e.g., use of the working from home option increased in 2016). In the second part of the year the staff association and management increased the frequency of their meetings to develop mitigation plans to support changes in the staffing structure foreseen in the CPMP.

Regarding UN Cares, the UNCT organized two sessions to inform staff about HIV, as well as to sensitize them against discrimination and stigmatization. UNICEF provides male and female condoms in all bathrooms at the Guyana office.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

The Suriname office migrated to LIGHT and no longer use LAN. An assessment was conducted to determine whether the IT equipment met IT hardware standards and the laptops were in keeping with the IT life cycle for laptops.

The Office uses SharePoint, but not consistently. In 2017, the Office will explore using SharePoint more consistently. Considering that UNICEF has offices in both Guyana and Suriname, this will ensure better access to relevant documents by all staff members at both offices.
Programme Components from RAM

ANALYSIS BY OUTCOME AND OUTPUT RESULTS

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To increase access to data for decision-making, the MICS was finalized and launched for the first time in Guyana, and plans to conduct MICS 6 in Suriname were well underway. Both countries also conducted a situation analysis on children and women (SitAn). These information-rich studies allowed UNICEF to reflect on achievements over the last five years and were used to inform the priorities of the CPD 2017-2021. The SitAn also called the attention of Governments and the general population to certain topics that were previously not on the radar.

National monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity in performance monitoring was significantly improved in Guyana, following a five-day workshop in Guyana, led by Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with UNICEF. The workshop was based on the graduate curriculum of the international program for development evaluation training (IPDET), held each summer at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. About 50 persons from over 20 partner organizations participated.

The Governments of Guyana and Suriname expressed interest in measuring multidimensional poverty and deprivation of children. UNICEF, in partnership with UN ECLA supported a three-day workshop in Suriname, which will inform a similar exercise in Guyana in 2017.

Owners/operators of childcare services can now be legally sanctioned if they do not meet minimum service standards, since the legal regulations for child care services made under the Childcare and Development Services Act in Guyana was passed by the National Assembly on May 4, 2016. In Suriname, implementation of the teacher training programme on the CFS approach (‘I Believe in You’) in 2013-2015, covering over 800 teachers working in 90 hinterland schools, was evaluated this year. The findings will be used to inform policies and programmes to further integrate CFS into the education system and improve the quality of education in the country's interior.

To provide a clearer understanding of existing capacity, a mapping of traditional birth attendants (TBAs) was conducted in Guyana. The findings were used by UNICEF and the MoPH to inform plans for strengthening collaboration and provide training to TBAs on safe motherhood. In Suriname, UNICEF supported the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as the lead UN agency, in the development of the health policy and health management information system. As a result, in 2016 Suriname became the first pilot country of PAHO’s global ‘Health in All Policies’ initiative.

To improve child protection, reforms in the national task force for domestic violence and sexual offense protection for Guyana’s children were undertaken. The report on a review of the Sexual Offences Act was completed; state party reports on the Optional Protocols were revised and consultations on the draft Juvenile Justice Bill were held in three regions. In
Suriname, agreement was reached with the Government to develop an Ombudsbureau for children. The bureau was launched with the support of the UNDP by the Ministry of Justice and Police (MoJP) on December 9, 2016. Further, in Guyana, The Hague Convention Conference, gathering all Caribbean countries, took place successfully. In the Guyana conference will influence discussions on reforms around the draft alternative care policy (among other things), as Guyana seeks to strengthen its international legal framework for children. Also in Guyana, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of the Presidency, MoE, UNFPA and UNDP to provide support for finalizing the Guyana Youth Policy, which was subsequently approved by the Parliament of Guyana.

In Suriname more than 50 Government officials and staff of civil society organizations were trained on 11 topics crucial to developing and implementing the adolescent development policy: project design and management, youth-friendly and culturally sensitive services, gender-sensitive services, lobbying and advocacy, communications and dialogue techniques, networking, community mapping, monitoring & evaluation and reporting. UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoPH, PAHO and UNFPA in Guyana, provided support for a situation analysis on adolescent pregnancy. This SitAn will provide the Government with solid analysis for the development and implementation of a programme to address teenage pregnancy. The full report on the findings will be available in 2017.

**OUTPUT 1** Policy makers have increased access to disaggregated data available periodically and enact equity based national policies and legislations in fulfilment of Guyana's child rights obligations

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
The MICS was finalized and launched in Guyana for the first time, constituting a key source of information in a country where data are not always available, and seldom disaggregated. In partnership with the Ministry of Communities, regional profiles were developed for all 10 administrative regions. This will especially inform the development of programmes and projects at the regional level for the most disadvantaged children. A SitAn was conducted and finalized in Guyana, and for the first time was launched with evident leadership and ownership by Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Social Protection (MoSP). This study provides the Government with perspective on advances made by the country during the past five years, and served as the basis for setting up priorities of the CPD 2017-2021. Both the MICS and SitAn were widely used and quoted by Government and other partners.

To increase the capacity of implementing partners in performance monitoring and evaluation, the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with UNICEF, held a five-day workshop in Guyana. The curriculum was based on the graduate curriculum of Carleton University's IPDET programme. About 50 persons from over 20 partner organizations attended the workshop, where they gained better understanding of the evaluation context and programme theory of change, choosing sampling strategies and presenting results. UNICEF provided technical support for the development and operationalization of the youth monitoring framework for CARICOM. This framework was presented at and approved by the 29th Council for Human and Social Development. It will be used to track progress on goals for youth development in 15 CARICOM member states, who began to populate the platform with reports. UNICEF provided further technical support for the development of an M&E manual, to guide monitoring and evaluation efforts in youth organisations in CARICOM member states, which will be completed in 2017.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The legal framework for Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes was developed in the reporting period. This Code is currently being reviewed by a technical working group. Indicators for case management of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and young children and adolescents programme priorities were drafted and circulated for feedback.
A mapping of TBAs was conducted to provide information on human resources capacity in this area. UNICEF and the MoPH developed plans for strengthening collaboration and provided training to TBAs on safe motherhood. This proved to be successful in enhancing TBAs’ capacity, and making community health workers aware of the need to respect traditional practices and customs.
The major constraint was that the development of a cross-sectoral policy for intermittent iron supplementation was not completed in the reporting period; this will be further pursued in 2017.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Legal regulations governing child care services were included in the Childcare and Development Services Act passed by the National Assembly on May 4, 2016. This was the result of two years of high-level advocacy and technical support for the Ministry and the Attorney General’s team. Owners/operators of child care services can be legally sanctioned if they do not meet minimum service standards.
A comprehensive adapted curriculum and programme support for special needs education is ready for implementation in 2017, giving boys and girls more opportunities for active participation and improved performance in school.
Ownership of and commitment by the Government to research on out-of-school children progressed as scheduled, with completion expected in March 2017. All data was collected and preliminary analysis was progressing. Findings will be used to influence changes in policy or methodologies for promoting higher enrolment and school completion.
Phase one of the review of policies and programme strategies and standards at dormitory schools was complete, and will foster an enabling environment that allows children to learn in clean, friendly and protective surroundings

A few constraints were encountered during 2016. For the second year, institutional capacity building at the child protection agency aimed at coordination and management of ECD nationally did not begin, due to competing priorities at the lead ministry. In addition, policy development and strategies for mother tongue education from nursery school to Grade 2 got underway, but was not finalized in 2016. Finally, evaluation of Guyana’s nursery education programme was postponed to 2017.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Jointly with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing, UNICEF conducted a SitAn, with involvement by key national stakeholders. The SitAn, developed using the life cycle approach and linking to the new SDGs, highlights the main deprivations hampering fulfilment of the rights of children and women in the country, especially those that are the most disadvantaged.
Measuring poverty and deprivation of children is becoming a key focus of the Government of Suriname, with the instalment of a national commission to propose poverty lines for Suriname. UNICEF, in partnership with ECLAC, supported a three-day workshop on measurement of multi-dimensional child poverty. Officials and professionals who are working with data from all ministries, the University of Suriname and the National Planning Institute benefitted from the workshop through hands-on training on calculating multi-dimensional child poverty.

At the request of the National Parliament, and in partnership with the University of Suriname, a study on violence against children was undertaken to fill the knowledge gap in this area. The research is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2017. To address increasing concerns about high rates of repetition and school drop-out among children in Suriname, a study on out-of-school children began in 2016, and will provide more information on the causes of drop-out, as well as inputs for policy recommendations.

UNICEF’s advocacy and awareness-raising regarding the rights of persons with a disability led to speedy approval on September 25th, 2015 in the National Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition, and related to this support, the Office also supported the Parliament in research on the status of persons with disability, specifically from the accessibility perspective. This study included a desk review of existing data and information on persons with a disability, policies related to their wellbeing and an assessment of their current living conditions. The report will be finalized in 2017. Despite initial plans, MICS 5 was not implemented; instead, a decision was made to wait for the new MICS 6 modules and implement in 2017. UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Social Affairs in this regard.

**OUTPUT 5** Education sector plans and policies are evidence based, incorporating child friendly principles and innovative strategies, and supported by strengthened monitoring systems to track progress

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF supported a teacher training programme on the CFS approach in 2013-2015, covering over 800 teachers working in 90 hinterland schools. A final evaluation was conducted jointly with the MoE, providing evidence and clear recommendations for future training initiatives, policies and programmes on further integration of CFS in education, and for improving the quality of education in the interior. Based on the evaluation’s key findings, a follow-up initiative for developing national CFS standards and a pilot were implemented in 2016. More than 20 MoE officials and trainers from the national teaching institute completed the UNICEF CFS online course with certificates.

Low learning achievement and high repetition and drop-out rates have long posed a serious challenge in Suriname. Working with the MoE, a national study on out-of-school children, following the global OOSCA approach, was carried out in 2016, through collaboration with UNESCO and Argentina’s Association for Education for All and support from the UNICEF Regional Office. The research provided a good opportunity for on-the-job capacity building for qualitative data collection and analysis for MoE staff at the department of research and planning, who are taking the lead in implementing the research. The process encountered some delays due to an adjusted timeline, but it is expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2017. The study is expected to provide clear recommendation for interventions and policies to address one of the main issues that is hampering performance and attendance in Suriname’s education sector.
OUTPUT 6 Priority issues in child protection are addressed through the development of evidence based plans, legislations, guidelines and M&E systems

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
State party reports on the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child were revised. Drafts of this protocol will be reviewed by the Government and submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2017. Consultations on the draft Juvenile Justices bill were held in three regions. The bill was expected to be presented to Parliament by end-2016, but was postponed to 2017. A report on the review of the Sexual Offences Act was completed and is expected to support further reforms – including implementation of the programme of the national task force for domestic violence and sexual offenses.

The Hague Convention Conference, gathering all Caribbean countries took place successfully. In Guyana the results will influence discussions around reforms of the draft alternative care policy (among other things), as Guyana seeks to strengthen its international legal framework for children.

Major constraints encountered included; failure to complete the rapid assessment for the New Opportunity Corps; consultations on and ministerial approval of the alternative care policy did not take place, despite expressed interest; and approval of protocols for the Sexual Offense Act and plans for ensuring universal birth registration were still pending at year-end.

**OUTPUT 7** An evidence based national adolescent strategy is developed, implemented and evaluated

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of the Presidency, MoE, UNFPA and UNDP, participated in and provided support for the finalization of the Guyana Youth Policy, which was subsequently approved by the Parliament.

UNICEF collaborated with the MoPH, PAHO and UNFPA to provide support for a situation analysis of adolescent pregnancy. This SitAn will provide the Government with solid analysis facilitating the development and implementation of a programme to address teenage pregnancy. MoPH internal processes for recruitment delayed the start of this activity; however, a full report of the findings and the development of a national multi-sector programme to address adolescent pregnancy will take place in 2017.

Major constraints involved the length of time required to agree to a specific methodology and modality related to the policy for reintegrating teen mothers into school. After some delays, the MoE engaged a consultant to develop the national policy on reintegrating teen mothers into school, which is expected to be finalised in 2017.

**OUTPUT 8** Strengthened evidence based health policies, strategies and improved Health M&E systems

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
In partnership with PAHO (leading agency on this initiative), UNICEF supported the development of the health policy and health management information system. In 2016, Suriname, with technical support from PAHO, became the first pilot country of PAHO’s global HiAP initiative, which brought all relevant sectors and stakeholders together to discuss and prioritize health issues involving multi-sectoral policies and programmes. UNICEF actively participated in the discussions and contributed to working groups on health, education and social protection. UNICEF supported the MoPH in the development of the national action plan for suicide prevention and national food-based dietary guidelines, jointly with PAHO.
**OUTPUT 9** Policies and plans for Youth and Adolescent Development and Participation are formulated, implemented and monitored

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** Discussions on support of the Kon na Wahn department of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which is to provide integrated youth development programs, are ongoing. At the national level over 50 government officials and members of civil society were trained on 11 topics crucial to develop and implement adolescent development policy: project design and management, youth-friendly and culturally sensitive services, gender-sensitive services, lobbying and advocacy, communications and dialogue techniques, networking, community mapping, M&E and reporting. The training material was compiled into a reader for future reference. Adolescent focal persons from eight key ministries were appointed and the programme coordination group was established for future monitoring and coordination of initiatives for adolescents.

**OUTPUT 10** 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.]

**Analytical Statement of Progress:** UNICEF supported development of the report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Government presented the combined third and fourth state reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, and received a final list of concluding observations from the Committee.

UNICEF also contributed to the review of the 2016 Universal Periodic Review on Human Rights, in the areas of updating national legislation related to children, rights to health, rights to education, rights of people with disabilities and rights of minorities and indigenous people.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
At the downstream level, UNICEF deliberately focused on a set of strategic approaches, including capacity development, communication for development, and strengthening the capacity of rights-holders to claim their rights from duty-bearers. In both countries specific activities were developed and implemented to maintain high child survival standards. In Guyana, health facilities were reoriented to also provide sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services to adolescents and men. This is part of a greater movement to rebrand SRH services as family health services, and to increase uptake, especially of boys and men.

To promote and support breastfeeding in both countries, technical and financial support were provided to key initiatives and partners. In Guyana, under the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) five hospitals were assessed using global criteria, and all five were accredited and certified. This brings the total to 11 certified baby-friendly hospitals in two
years. In Suriname UNICEF continued to support the MoPH to ensure safer breastfeeding practices among young mothers. Health care facilities are equipped to provide messages on the importance of breastfeeding.

Targeted ECD and education initiatives were implemented in both countries. In Guyana, child care providers are expected to achieve and maintain minimum standards following a high-level training on the revised early childhood education registration and licensing processes. In addition, increased sensitization and advocacy efforts have led to more owners/administrators of ECD services requesting technical guidance in preparation for their licensure. In Suriname, rapid assessments of schools identified as part of a 10-school pilot was conducted, following the development of CFS standards. This CFS pilot is expected to begin in 2017.

UNICEF provided considerable support to the Government of Guyana for the establishment of a family court, which became operational this year. Further, consensus was achieved among key stakeholders for the establishment of the Masters in Clinical Psychology. Significant consultations and exchange took place with York University for the design of this programme, which will be presented to the academic board of the University of Guyana for approval.

With respect to violence against children, strategic initiatives were implemented in both countries. Efforts in Guyana saw the building of partnerships with faith-based organizations (for example through institutionalization of a Day of Prayer and Action and agreement by at least three religious leaders to prevent and respond to issues of violence in their communities) and the use of key national activities, such as child protection week, to increase awareness and focus on the need for preventing and responding to violence against children. In response to increased reports of child abuse from some communities in Suriname UNICEF provided support to the Government to ensure that the necessary capacity and services for children are available and accessible. To raise awareness on child rights, especially among children, short videos were developed, with and for children, tailored to community needs and experience. The MoJP and the University of Suriname were key partners in this initiative. Child protection referral centres in two other communities were also been established.

To increase participation by adolescents and youth, UNICEF and the MoE expanded the sports and culture for development programme (SCDP) in Guyana to include two separate institutions: one that caters to children who are detained because they are in conflict with the law and another that cares for children who are in a state home as a consequence of violence and abuse. The SCDP complements the HFLE programme, which is a comprehensive, life skills-based programme focusing on the holistic development of the resilient child. The HFLE Policy was developed and, the curricula for grades 1-10 reviewed, including components of comprehensive sex education.

In Suriname, the capacity of staff of the youth detention centre (Opa Doelie) was enhanced through the development of a short awareness video on issues of violence, bullying, teen pregnancy and suicide among adolescents. The video was prepared by a group of young adolescents and is now available on UNICEF’s Facebook page. Further, as part of the adolescent development programme and as part of collaboration with Medical Mission, an estimated 64 health care workers from Guyaba (the largest interior community) and from surrounding areas of the district of Brokopondo, were trained to provide adolescent-friendly health services.

Building on the progress supported by UNICEF in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) earlier in the programme cycle, a water system was built in the school in Apetina, an Indigenous village in the far South of Suriname. This initiative was implemented in collaboration with the Rotary Club and UNDP’s small grants programme. UNICEF’s efforts to
support this indigenous community to access clean water supplies for around 200 children, teachers and villagers (total population around 300), will extend in 2017 to other communities with similar deprivations.

OUTPUT 1 Evidence based programmes for child and maternal health and nutrition are developed and implemented in rural, hinterland and low performing areas.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The PMTCT policy was revised in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and 30 health workers in Region 4 were trained. Twenty TBAs (male and female) from Regions 1 and 9 were trained. The best practices presented included: clean/safe delivery, clean and sterile equipment, hand-washing, cord care and follow-up visits in the post-natal period to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths. Three health facilities were upgrade to facilitate delivery of SRH services to adolescents and men, as part of the effort to provide family health services. Five baby-friendly hospitals were assessed and accredited, using global criteria. The BFHI seeks to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding. Evidenced by Guyana’s MICS 5 report, there was a 6.2 per cent increase from the previous MICS of mothers who started breastfeeding within one hour of birth. In 2015-2016, 11 hospitals have been certified. Menstrual Hygiene Management, WASH, and nutrition in dormitory schools: A multi-disciplinary team visited three dormitory schools located in Regions 2, 7, and 9. SRH education sessions for indigenous adolescent girls and boys were conducted; Aishalton village has samples of home-made, re-useable sanitary pads available.

OUTPUT 2 Enhanced national capacity in the implementation of quality culturally appropriate ECD services and basic education programmes in rural, hinterland and low performing areas.

Analytical Statement of Progress:
ECD: Registration and licensing officers were trained on the newly revised licensing processes and owners/administrators of child care services received guidance on maintaining minimum standards. ECD sensitization and advocacy reached parents, and 600 owners and operators of day care centres and play groups in urban and coastal and rural locations. More owners/administrators of ECD services are approaching technical persons/agencies for guidance on preparing their facilities to be licenced. UNICEF continued to provide major support to the central and regional education departments to better identify inequities in the secondary school system. Rigorous training for the out-of-school children’s survey and analysis of examination results, and linkages to reports from schools welfare departments were critical to the success obtained this year.

Education: In relation to the strategic intervention for live-in guidance and counsellors at dormitory schools in the hinterland, more than 700 adolescent boys and girls at these schools accessed guidance and counselling interventions. This resulted in improved class participation and performance, due to structured study times in the dormitories, and improved interactions between boys and girls. The successful one-year advocacy campaign on positive discipline for children led to a 3 per cent increase in the use of positive discipline in each education district. The capacity of three target groups was strengthened in evidence-based planning and review at the sub-national and departmental levels: (1) all regional education officers and their deputies have skills to identify and track inequities in the school system against indicators listed in their regional plans of action; (2) district education officers and Health teachers in all regions at 33 per cent of schools trained welfare officers and guidance counsellors, using holistic approaches and utilizing art, music and nature therapy to encourage positive behaviour and better participation and performance in school.
The major setback was that the planned support for culturally appropriate ECD facilities was not completed.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:

An important achievement in 2016 was that the family court became operational. Capacity building centred around the agreement for and design of an operational framework for the Masters in Clinical Psychology and support provided to the Master's Degree in Social Work (e.g., consultations and exchange with York University to design the programme and submission to academic board of the University of Guyana). Approval of the latter by the academic board is expected in early 2017.

With respect to community-based action on violence against children, UNICEF focused on three main areas: (1) partnerships with faith-based organisations (e.g., through institutionalisation of a Day of Prayer and Action and agreement by at least three religious leaders to prevent and respond to issues of violence in their communities), (2) steps toward operationalisation of child advocacy centres in three areas (Bartica, Berbice and Georgetown), principally to provide forensic interviewing (3) the use of key national activities (such as child protection weeks) to raise awareness and focus on the need to prevent and respond to violence against children. Follow-up was ongoing to ensure that the draft national plans of action on the Sexual Offences Act and the Domestic Violence Act are adopted by the national task force led by the MoSP.

OUTPUT 4 Expand and strengthen key national programmes for adolescent development

Analytical Statement of Progress:

UNICEF and MoE expanded the SCDP to include two separate institutions that cater to (1) children who are detained because they are in conflict with the law, and (2) to children who are in a state home as a consequence of violence and abuse. SCDP complements the HFLE programme, which is a comprehensive, life skills-based programme focused on developing the whole, resilient person. Over 120 teachers, community members and sports personnel have benefitted from this; the programme is being implemented in all dormitory schools located in the hinterland.

The Sports and Culture for Development Programme complements the HFLE programme as they use different methodology to focus on holistic development. UNICEF, in partnership with the MoE, finalized the development of a comprehensive package for implementation of HFLE as a curricular subject. The package includes a multi-sectoral national programme document that outlines delivery standards, structures, rewards/incentives, and multi-sectoral coordination/collaboration mechanisms. A national integrated HFLE policy was also developed and the HFLE curricula were reviewed from grades one to 10, including components on comprehensive sex education.

Further, support was provided to the MoE for capacity building of 33 nursery school teachers, 95 primary school teachers and 271 secondary school teachers in rural and hinterland regions, to deliver quality HFLE programmes. Recognizing that some teachers are hesitant to teach components of the HFLE curricula addressing sex and sexuality, UNICEF, UNFPA, the MOE and the teacher training college collaborated to conduct capacity-building sessions with 180 student teachers to teach sexual health and comprehensive sex education. Additionally, 15 teachers were trained to train other teachers to deliver HFLE. Thus, Guyana now has a cadre of teachers who can train others to implement HFLE.
An in-service HFLE curriculum for teachers is under review; the final document will be available in 2017. This review is expected to strengthen the manner in which HFLE is taught at the training college and will expand to address the method in which comprehensive sex education should be taught. Jointly with the MoPH, UNICEF built the capacity of health care workers as part of the overall effort to deliver quality services to adolescent mothers at select health centres.

As an initial step to assist rights-holders to claim their rights, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Rights of the Child Commission and other stakeholders, supported the development of a children’s parliament handbook, which includes standards and guidelines to guide efficient and effective implementation.

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

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
UNICEF continued to support the MoPH in the training of trainers of health care workers, to provide support to young mothers in breastfeeding practices. All health care facilities will be provided with breastfeeding counselling cards to support the communication of messages on improved feeding practices.

As part of the adolescent development programme 64 health care workers in Guyaba (the largest interior community) and from surrounding areas of the district of Brokopondo were trained to provide adolescent-friendly health care services. The experience was shared with colleagues in the health sector, including the system for monitoring the application of the skills acquired through training.

**OUTPUT 6** Adolescent/Youth development and participation programmes, including Sports, are developed and implemented.

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Support to community youth participation: With technical support from Projekta, a local NGO for human rights promotion, local adolescents in the pilot communities of Moengo and Sophia were trained in participatory planning and monitoring of the community youth development action plans. The local, well-established Moengo network continued to develop and update its monthly activity calendar for adolescents after UNICEF’s direct support ended. Further, local youth groups continuously participated in projects to enhance creativity, physical (sports) activities, and basic life skills. In Sophia, actual project implementation was carried out by adolescents, through self-initiated activities.

Support for implementation of community action plans was provided by UNICEF in two pilot areas. The action plans were developed for Sophia’s and Guyaba, with active participation by adolescents and training provided on human rights, gender mainstreaming, monitoring, participation and dialogue, active citizenship, teenage pregnancy, sustainable environment (waste management) and rehabilitation of the sports centre. Projects were launched to manage waste in the local community in a very creative way and rehabilitate the sports centre. In the second pilot community, with close involvement by local youths, a Gujaba Facebook page was set up, as a monitoring tool for activities in the local community. Four teachers and six community members, including adolescents, were trained as youth club coaches to lead youth club activities. Twelve sample HFLE lessons from the regional curriculum framework for ages nine-14 were selected, based on the needs and interests of the youth, and adjusted to the specific context. Some 150 adolescents participated in leisure/youth club activities. About 100 adolescents participated in basic life skills workshops. Some 40 adolescents acquired basic knowledge on book-keeping and marketing. An estimated 350 adolescents in Gujaba benefitted from the activities.
OUTPUT 7 Targeted vulnerable communities have improved access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and national plans prioritize underserved communities

Analytical Statement of Progress:
The WASH in school initiative was planned as part of the CFS standards and pilots, however due to delays in implementation this aspect of the programme did not progress. In collaboration with the Rotary Club and the UNDP small grants programme, a water system was built in the school in Apetina, an Indigenous village in the far south of Suriname. The water system was built using as much as possible local labourers. With this project, UNICEF supported one of the most marginalized communities by providing access to clean water supplies for around 200 children, teachers and villagers (total population around 300).

OUTPUT 8 Child Protection and Gender Based Violence programmes are developed and implemented

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported violence against children awareness initiatives by the MoJP. Due to many reports of child abuse from certain communities, the Government decided to raise awareness about child rights, with a focus on services children can access and how to report cases of violence, through short awareness movies. The first movies were developed based on community assessments and participation. They have as a main objective to raise awareness on child rights, especially among children. The project was implemented in close collaboration with the MoJP and the University of Suriname, which was responsible for the pre-test in the local Indigenous community of Apoera. Based on the need indicated by the local community, the first child protection referral centre was established. The ministry also established a child protection referral centre in two other communities, based on significant number of reports of child abuse.

As part of UNICEF’s support to the youth detention centre (Opa Doelie), a few short awareness videos on issues such as violence, bullying and suicide among adolescents were produced by a group of young adolescents, containing messages on preventing violence, bullying and teenage pregnancy. The video was launched on December 16, 2016. The short movies were uploaded on UNICEF’s Facebook page; views will be monitored to assess reach and impact.

Assistance was provided to organize the first meeting to set up a referral system, with participation by several ministries and local institutions, such as the local police station, the district commissioner, school leaders, the local regional health clinic and officials from Paramaribo. The meeting concluded that a referral point for children dealing with abuse is critical in Moengo, one of the pilot communities for the adolescent programme, as data from the local health clinic shows that abuse is a serious issue in Moengo. Next steps include identification of a location/ building for the service providers’ network and development of a clear work plan for establishment of the referral centre.

OUTPUT 9 Improved implementation of evidence based programmes to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS in Most At Risk Populations and vulnerable groups

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF provided technical support for the development of the national validation report on PMTCT and elimination of mother-to-child transmission; however the report was not finalized in 2016.
OUTCOME 3 Cross-Sectoral

Analytical Statement of Progress:
To objectively assess progress towards the realization of outcomes and outputs in the country programme, both Guyana and Suriname developed annual work plans that were reviewed and adjusted at mid-year to assess the performance by programme and to determine, among other things, the expected accomplishments by the end of the reporting period. Both countries made significant progress in all areas of cross-sectoral work.

UNICEF played a leading role in the discussions, consultations and preparation of the MSDF 2017-2021, and in the preparation of country implementation plans. It provided continued support to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MSDF across the Caribbean.

To ensure greater awareness and involvement by the private sector in promoting child rights and corporate social responsibility among local businesses, a conference on children’s rights and business and child rights in the extractive sector was held in a partnership with the Government of Guyana. The forum brought together key stakeholders to discuss the impact of the extractive sector on children in Guyana, identify existing gaps and explore ways to address children’s rights within this industry. In Suriname, efforts were geared toward collaborating with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the MoJP to facilitate a Child Rights and Business seminar, also focusing on extractive industries.

To increase UNICEF’s visibility and understanding of its work for children in Guyana and Suriname, a strong partnership with the media was maintained throughout the year. Key issues affecting children in Guyana were documented through videos and human interest stories, with special focus on the SCDP. In Suriname key issues affecting children were documented through one minute (short) videos and human interest stories, including a documentary on Children in Suriname’s Amazon (which was also shown at a UN side event in NY). Child-friendly booklets on key legislation in Guyana and on child rights and the SDG’s were also produced in both countries.

To enhance UNICEF’s voice, reach and engagement communication tools were updated and maintained, including Facebook and Twitter. In Suriname, an Earth Hour event, was observed with WWF in support of energy savings and save the earth/ environmental initiatives.

Advocacy aimed at furthering the realization of rights for all children, especially the most disadvantaged, was a priority in both Guyana and Suriname. In Guyana, children expressed themselves through art activities at dormitory schools and a juvenile detention centre, and adolescent empowerment workshops engaged children from five regions. The ‘world’s largest lesson’ initiative and UNICEF 70th anniversary activities were other areas of focus. In Suriname, a C4D and Zika workshop was hosted by the MoPH, resulting in increased capacity of 45 health professionals from Guyana and Suriname. The workshop built on MoPH/UNICEF-supported communication outreach, covering 340,000 people in the first quarter of 2016, and furthered the development of Guyana/Suriname cross-border interventions using the C4D approach to prevent and manage Zika and related congenital microcephaly syndromes.

In an effort to manage and prevent the Zika epidemic in Guyana and Suriname more directly, with support from UNICEF’s Headquarters and Regional Office the Office provided technical and logistical support to the national Zika responses. Guyana – through the regionally declared Level 2 emergency coordination mechanism led by the Civil Defence Commission – provided technical and financial support for volunteer training in community outreach to eliminate vector breeding sites. This work covered 90,000 people in five
administrative regions, led by the vector control unit of the MoPH. In cooperation with the
GRCS, UNICEF supported psycho-social support training for clinic attendees, individuals,
families and communities to prevent and manage conditions associated with Zika,
addressing microcephaly and Guillain-Barre Syndrome in five administrative regions.
Medically approved and culturally appropriate vector repellents were distributed to 16,000
pregnant women and women of childbearing age, with a special focus on adolescents.

To strengthen its partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
and ensure the incorporation of a child lens in its community risk assessment tool, UNICEF
and the Government of Suriname’s lead emergency coordination agency (Nationaal
Coordinatie Centrum voor Rampenbeheersing, NCCR), provided technical and consultancy
support. In partnership with the Suriname Red Cross Society, UNICEF supported the school-
based component of an integrated community disaster risk management project in eight
communities at high risk for emergencies. In Guyana, a community-based disaster risk
management project linked to a WASH project funded by USAID in an indigenous
community on the border with Venezuela. Community members and stakeholders were
engaged to generate greater understanding of the local hazard and vulnerability landscape
and existing risk-management systems.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
A Children’s Rights and Business conference on child rights in the extractive sector was held
in partnership with the Government of Guyana, to promote child rights and corporate social
responsibility among local businesses. The forum brought together key stakeholders to
discuss the impact of the extractive sector on children in Guyana, identify existing gaps and
explore ways to address children’s rights within this industry.

Advocacy events and activities for children were also received UNICEF support, including
children’s expressions through art activities at dormitory schools and a juvenile detention
centre and adolescent empowerment workshops engaging children from five regions. Other
activities – such as breastfeeding week, the world’s largest lesson, UNICEF 70th anniversary
– and presentation of the SitAn were supported in collaboration with national partners,
providing opportunities to highlight important issues related to children’s rights.
A strong partnership with the media was maintained throughout the year, increasing the
visibility and understanding of UNICEF and its work for children in Guyana. Key issues
affecting children were documented through videos and human interest stories, with a
special focus on the SCDP in the interior. Child-friendly booklets on key legislation were
produced and disseminated in various formats.

Communication tools at the Guyana office were updated and maintained, including
Facebook and Twitter, enhancing UNICEF’s voice, reach and engagement. Cross-cutting
consideration of children’s rights, gender, equity and human rights were incorporated into all
activities.

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

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Beginning in February 2016, UNICEF and partners provided technical and logistical support
to the national Zika response, under the regional Level 2 emergency coordination
mechanism led by the CDC. Through this coordination mechanism UNICEF provided
technical and financial (US$20,000) support for volunteer training in community outreach for
the elimination of vector breeding sites, covering 90,000 people in five administrative regions, under the leadership of the MoPH vector control unit. Through a project cooperation agreement (US$80,000) with the GRCS, psycho-social support training for clinic attendees, individuals, families and communities to prevent and manage conditions associated with Zika (microcephaly and Guillain-Barre Syndrome) were implemented in five administrative regions. Medically approved and culturally appropriate vector repellents were distributed to 16,000 pregnant women and those who may become pregnant, with a special focus on teenagers.

UNICEF and the CDC supported the MoSP to update the social protection sectoral emergency preparedness and response plan, with a specific focus on evacuation plans and first-aid training for all staff attached to care centres and institutions under their responsibility. Specialist training was sourced through this project from the Guyana Fire Brigade and the GRCS.

With UNICEF technical and financial support, the CDC continued to implement its community-based disaster risk management project, linked to a WASH project funded by USAID in an indigenous community on the border with Venezuela. Community members and stakeholders were engaged to generate greater understanding of the local hazard and vulnerability landscape and existing risk management systems. Attention was paid to the vulnerabilities of households with young children and individuals with disabilities, and the importance of incorporating indigenous and other local knowledge to reduce risks. UNICEF provided technical and funding support to the CDC for the national disaster risk management awareness campaign during 2017, including a children’s activity day and a programme to recognize outstanding contributions from Guyanese individuals and institutions in this field.

Advocacy for adherence to national WASH standards was facilitated through CDC platform meetings, as well as MoPH-led international health regulation meetings and pandemic preparedness committee meetings, as well as other WASH stakeholder forums. WASH was a key focus for vector control/Zika response actions during 2016.

OUTPUT 3 UNICEF/GoS Country Programme 2012-16 monitoring mechanisms and tools in place

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF supported the consultation process for the CPD, including consultation with youth. Further support was also provided for monitoring the UN Development Assistance Framework, through programme coordination groups and consultations with national stakeholders on the MSDF and development of the country implantation plan. Continuous support was provided to implementing partners in the preparation of terms of reference, project proposals and completion of programme financial management documents. Upon request of the Ministry of Finance, training for HACT and related processes was provided to focal persons from several ministries dealing with the financial aspect of project implementation. The treasury single account is now better understood, and financial processes tied to project implementation are taking less time.

OUTPUT 4 A coherent behaviour change communication and advocacy strategy is developed and implemented

Analytical Statement of Progress:
UNICEF worked to align its communications activities with other UN agencies, with a view to amplifying its reach and engagement.

Key issues affecting children in Suriname were documented through one-minute videos and
human interest stories, including a documentary on ‘Children in Suriname’s Amazon’. Child-friendly booklets on child rights and the SDGs were also produced, disseminated and presented by children and adolescents. Further, UNICEF facilitated a workshop on C4D and Zika, which was hosted by the MoPH for 40 health-sector responders, including five from Guyana.

Following significant advocacy, UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the MoJP to facilitate a ‘Child Rights and Business’ seminar, with a focus on extractive industries. The seminar was well received and stakeholders and partners emphasized that it represented the first effort to promote child rights in business, and should be continued. In addition, in collaboration with WWF, the Office organized an ‘Earth Hour’ event to support energy savings and save the earth/environmental initiatives.

**OUTPUT 5** Improved national emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
From February 2016, UNICEF and its partners provided technical and logistical support to the national Zika response, contributing to plans established by the emergency coordination mechanism led by the MoPH. UNICEF facilitated a C4D and Zika workshop hosted by the MoPH for 40 health sector responders, including five from Guyana. This work built upon the initial jointly supported communication outreach covering 340,000 people in the first quarter of 2016. Through the participation of five Guyanese health and C4D professionals, further progress was made to enhance the development of cross-border interventions using the C4D approach to prevent and manage Zika and related syndromes.

In partnership with Medical Mission, UNICEF supported the training of 73 health care workers based at health posts in the interior; by year-end the remaining workers will also be trained. Some 6,000 repellents, 12,500 m² of water barrel-capping material, 3,500 informational flyers and 200 posters for vector-control activities were distributed through community outreach activities.

ECD training for health care workers in the interior and pyscho-social support for families affected by Zika is currently being planned and developed by Medical Mission, with UNICEF support, covering one major interior district. The aim is to scale up in 2017 to cover all interior districts.

In partnership with the Suriname Red Cross Society, UNICEF supported the school-based component of an integrated community disaster risk management project in eight communities deemed to be at high risk for emergencies.

UNICEF developed a partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency to integrate a child lens into the strategic targeting methodology of the community risk assessment tool with the Government of Suriname’s emergency coordination leading agency, the NCCR. UNICEF provided technical and consultancy support to ensure integration of a child focus.

**OUTPUT 6** Human Resources for effective delivery of programmes

**Analytical Statement of Progress:**
Based on the annual review, this output was met, as all activities under the output were implemented as planned
OUTPUT 7 Human Resources for effective delivery of programmes

Analytical Statement of Progress:
Based on the annual review, this output was met, as all activities under the output were implemented as planned.

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Evaluation and research

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