1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The inclusion of Early Child Development (ECD) into the National Vision and National Plan and the progress made and toward the development of a National ECD Policy, through advocacy with the highest authority, were the most important breakthroughs in 2010. UNICEF also contributed, through the promotion of South-South cooperation, to greater national focus on malnutrition, especially chronic malnutrition, which affects one in three children in Honduras, indicating a move from the traditional approach focused solely on food security. An important increase in HIV test coverage (from 24% to 65%) in five UNICEF-supported departments will contribute toward universal PMTCT coverage.

Exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life is in decline, from 34.9% in 2001 to 24.5% in 2010, according to PAHO/WHO. Considering the extent of chronic malnutrition among children in Honduras, increased efforts to achieve universal exclusive breastfeeding should be made in the coming years.

A considerable leap was made in increased HIV testing, but coverage still falls short of achieving universal PMTCT services, one of the results outlined in the CPAP. In order to achieve the results, decentralisation of testing services needs to be extended to all departments and other remaining structural problems, such as understaffed rural health centres and logistical problems affecting timely delivery of drugs to health centres, need to be addressed.

The inter-institutional ECD Committee was crucial in placing ECD on the national agenda and implementing the participatory consultation process to receive inputs for the development of National ECD Policy. Participation by the Secretary of Planning in the Committee greatly influenced the process of including ECD in the National Vision and National Plan. Municipalities continue to be strategic partners to ensure Child Rights, particularly in HIV prevention, the Child Journalists network, and municipal Child Rights Defenders project. Collaboration with UN agencies was fundamental to concluding the Third MDG Country report, UNDAF evaluation, and elaboration of the new UNDAF.

2 COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Formal cooperation between the Government of Honduras and UN system, suspended since June 2009, was re-established in early 2010 with the new Government. The Government has launched the National Vision (Vision del Pais) 2010-2038, which contains a National Plan 2010-2022, and Government Plan 2010-2014, establishing clear benchmarks for the country. The new Government has shown keen interest in promoting Early Childhood Development; the National Plan was revised to include specific objectives and indicators for ECD-based care submitted by UNICEF and the ECD alliance.

GDP, which demonstrated negative growth in 2009 as a consequence of the global economic crisis and Honduras’ political crisis, has moderately recovered, according to the Central Bank. However, the high unemployment rate and persisting poverty represent serious challenges to be overcome, especially with the increasing volume of external debt and large fiscal deficit. Based on a UNICEF calculation using data from INE, 42.3% of children in Honduras live in extreme poverty, while 22.1% live in relative poverty. Households in rural areas are considerably poorer than those in urban areas. More than half (52%) of rural households in Honduras are in a situation of extreme poverty. The indigenous population represents approximately 12% of the total population of the country. Although in Honduras they live in a dispersed geographical area, most live in rural areas.
The third country report on MDG progress, issued in 2010, demonstrates important progress in some areas over the last two decades and also points to areas requiring special attention. Notably, Honduras made a significant advance in eliminating gender disparity, especially in secondary and tertiary education, for which school attendance is slightly higher among women than men. The report on MDG 1 indicates that inequality in Honduras, as measured by Gini co-efficiency rate, has had a minimal reduction – from 0.615 in 1990 to 0.58 in 2007 – placing Honduras among the four countries with the highest levels of inequality in Latin America. Important progress was made to reduce global malnutrition among children in the last two decades, from 21.4% to 12.6% in 2006, however, chronic malnutrition among children remains a significant challenge. It affects almost one in three children under five, with a substantial gap between rural and urban areas – for example, almost half (49.5%) of all children under five in the department of Lempira, where more than 40% of the population is indigenous, are chronically malnourished. With 89.5% of net enrolment rate to primary education, it is unlikely that Honduras will achieve MDG 2, the universalisation of primary education, although there was a significant advance in the net coverage of primary education, reaching 97.2% in 2008. There is an important gap in disaggregated information regarding access to education among indigenous and Afro-Honduran children. Although there is a legal framework to guarantee bilingual education, it is not fully implemented due to the lack of trained bilingual teachers. Despite some progress in reducing child and infant mortality (23 deaths per 1,000 live birth and 30 death per 1,000 live births, respectively), Honduras is unlikely to achieve MDG 4. Honduras has not carried out the Reproductive Age Mortality Studies (RAMOS) since 1997, when the MMR was 108 per 100,000 women of reproductive age. In 2011 RAMOS will be carried out to obtain more recent data, but significant progress was made in efforts to ensure that pregnant women have at least one prenatal visit, which reached 91.7% in 2006. In the area of HIV/AIDS, the overall prevalence rate demonstrated a downward trend during 2005 and 2007 of 0.7% but universal access to treatment for those who need it has not been achieved, reaching only 53%.

Honduran children continue to be vulnerable to violence. Out of 2,929 homicide victims in the first semester of 2010, children represent 12%, or 348 victims. More than half of young Hondurans consider that the poverty, social exclusion and “maras”/juvenile gangs are the main cause of this persistent violence among youth.

### 3 CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

#### 3.1 CP Analysis

##### 3.1.1 CP Overview

Significant progress was made in advocacy and capacity development to fulfill the rights of children and women. After continuous advocacy, the President of Honduras declared ECD as one of the top priorities and the first National ECD policy is currently being developed. The Government has already made budget commitments to support ECD activities.

Capacity development at the local level to manage WASH facilities has led to investment to improve the infrastructure from the Government and other donor. This ensures the continuous application of the capacity developed through UN joint programmes, leading to sustainability of the investment in these rural areas.

Honduras is the fourth most unequal country in Latin America. Nearly 60% of the population is poor, and more than 36% live in extreme poverty. Approximately 12% of the population belongs to indigenous or Afro-Honduran groups. Though these groups are certainly The CCT project, initiated under the current President, aims at reaching the most disadvantaged population, which will be an important mechanism to reach the poorest. UNICEF supported the Honduran government through the South-South
cooperation with the Peruvian government in the development of a beneficiary-identification mechanism to reduce chronic malnutrition and extreme poverty.

The country continues to face challenges in the generation of evidence, especially disaggregated data to make visible the situation of the most disadvantaged, such as indigenous and Afro-Honduran children. The Office needs to strengthen knowledge management, especially on these groups.

Significant progress was made in UN inter-agency collaboration. The third MDG report was developed through intensive collaboration among UN agencies and Government partners. The evaluation and preparation of the UNDAF helped to strengthen collaboration.

Although Honduras did not face a major emergency in 2010, important progress was made in developing a Humanitarian Network with governmental, non-governmental organisations and UN agencies. The contribution of the United Nations Emergency Technical Group (UNETE) in the creation of this Network was noteworthy.

3.1.2 Programme Strategy

3.1.2.1 Capacity Development

UN Joint Programme of Water and Sanitation began implementation in 2008, with a total budget of US$6.5 million for three years. Six UN agencies participate in the programme, under the coordination of UNICEF. The programme is to develop an integrated model for the management of WASH sector at the municipal level, including planning processes, training of community water boards, operation and maintenance, introduction of user fees, water disinfection, protection of water sources, and promotion of good hygiene practices. It requires capacity development at all levels – community, municipality and central government.

The programme supported 45 poor rural communities in 2010, benefiting nearly 9,000 persons, among them about 4,500 children. Municipalities are selected using the criteria of HDI, geographical zones identified as poorest by the Government and availability of interventions by the UN system (UNDP, UNICEF, FAO/PAHO/WHO). They are within the scope of the MDG Observatory (UNDP), which has municipal baselines and indicators of progress on key variables, including water and sanitation. Prior to the implementation of the project, a participatory consultation was held to confirm the willingness of the community people to receive capacity development to manage the water and sanitation services. The Joint Programme directly transfers funds to the municipalities, which also enhanced local capacity in planning and management.

Twelve Municipal WASH Plans and 23 water supply systems designs were formulated (UNICEF), five micro-watershed protected with community participation (FAO) and ten Water Safety Plans were formulated (PAHO/WHO). The outcome of the Joint Programme catalysed funding from the Government and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), in which the BCIE and the Government match funds invested through the UN Joint Programme. The total amount to be provided by the BCIE and the Government will be US$4.75 million. This investment ensures sustainability of the local capacity supported through the UN Joint Programme. The project will benefit nearly 200 poor rural communities, reaching approximately 50,000 persons.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy

2010 saw unprecedented support and interest from the highest authorities regarding Early Childhood Development (ECD), which resulted in the: 1) modification of the National Vision (Vision del Pais) to include specific objectives, goals and indicators for the ECD; 2) development of the first ECD National Policy in Honduras; and 3) commitment of
financial investment from the Government to research and capacity development to start implementation of the Action Plan in 2011.

In July 2010, UNICEF organised an ECD seminar, inviting the President of the Republic, line Ministries (Ministry of Education, Health, Social Development Finance, and Planning) and IHNFA. The Inter-institutional Committee on ECD (CIPAI), established in 2006 to advocate for ECD under UNICEF leadership, played an important role in mobilising the highest authorities. The seminar presented international perspectives on the importance of an integrated ECD approach – including cognitive, socio-emotional, and physical, development – by ECD specialists from the World Bank Argentina, CINDE Colombia, RISE institute from Washington DC, and UNICEF Regional specialists. During the seminar, the President declared ECD to be a national priority and requested modification of the newly issued National Vision and National Plan to include ECD.

The proposal for the inclusion of ECD in these Plans was presented to the President and line Ministers in September, and newly revised documents with ECD components were officially issued in November. This ensured the commitment of the Government to ECD for the next 28 years, the period covered by the National Vision.

From September onward, UNICEF supported the participatory consultation process, receiving inputs for the National ECD Policy from various stakeholders and duty-bearers – from the Ministry level to parents in communities, as well as children themselves. The participatory process ensured the legitimacy of the draft policy, reflecting the opinions of Honduran society as a whole on ECD. The draft National Policy was presented to the Ministry of Planning in November, which led to the commitment by the Government for the investment to implement the national policy.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships

One of the most strategic partnerships leading to successful advocacy for children was the Inter-institutional Committee for the Early Childhood Development (CIPAI). The committee was developed in 2006, to place ECD on the national agenda, and to promote the integrated attention to children in their first six years. The committee consists of Governmental institutions, NGOs, and international partners. Though CIAPPI has maintained its function without formerly nominating a president, UNICEF has been leading and coordinating its overall operations. CIAPPI was arguably one of the most important alliances involved in placing ECD on the mainstream national agenda. Additionally, the incorporation of the Ministry of Planning, which is not a traditional partner for ECD issues, was critical to ensuring the inclusion of ECD in the National Plan, and in developing National ECD Policy.

UN Interagency collaboration was critical in a number of areas in 2010: the development of the Third MDG Country Report, the evaluation of UNDAF 2007-2011, the elaboration process of the UNDAF 2012-2016, as well as in implementation of the UN Joint Programmes, in which UNICEF participates in two areas. Additionally, specific collaboration with strategic UN agencies was fundamental in promoting critical areas, such as chronic malnutrition and sexual and reproductive health education at the government level.

Collaboration with NGOs is crucial for quality implementation at the local level. UNICEF worked with 12 NGOs under eight PCAs in 2010.

To advocate specific actions to address chronic malnutrition in the National Coordinating Mechanism of Food Security and Nutrition (COTISAN), the South - South cooperation promoted by UNICEF, leading to support from UNICEF Peru, was critical.

Through the ECD and WASH UN Joint Programme, UNICEF has increased interactions with the World Bank, Inter-American Banks and Central American Bank for Economic
Integration. The Office seeks to strengthen its ties with IFIs to leverage resources and mobilise political commitment to guarantee the rights of children and women, especially disadvantaged groups, in Honduras.

### 3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management

UNICEF developed an updated Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Honduras, the final draft of which was completed in December 2010. The document will be reviewed by select UN and Government partners in early 2011, before finalising for publication. The updated information on the situation of children and women provided an important foundation for the development of the Strategy Note of the CPD.

UNICEF contributed to the development of the third country MDG report, in collaboration with other UN agencies. The report demonstrates that despite the efforts made by the Honduran government, many of the goals related to children may not be achieved by 2015. Together with the SITAN, the MDG report will be an important tool for UNICEF to advocate on the main issues for children, especially for intensified efforts on chronic malnutrition, reduction of maternal and child mortality, and attention to children not in the school system.

The Child Rights Observatory, which started to operate with support of UNICEF and the Honduran Institute of Children and Family (IHNFA) in July 2008, has developed into an important body for generating knowledge on the situation of Child Rights both at the national and departmental levels. In 2010 it produced two studies, 'Index of Child Rights' and 'Analysis of Social Expenditure on Children', with technical support from UNICEF. The findings will be officially presented to the Government to call for actions for children in early 2011. Recognising its significance in evidence-based advocacy and policy analysis to promote the rights of children, IHNFA officially included the Observatory of Child Rights in the organisation chart this year.

One of the areas which requires intensified effort in 2011 is knowledge generation on the situation of indigenous children. Little research exists about the situation of nine indigenous and Afro-Honduran groups. Most of the administrative data on health and education does not disaggregate the information according to ethnicity. In order to ensure evidence-based policy advocacy and actions, it is imperative that systematic studies be conducted and statistics for the groups made available.

### 3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development

The communication strategy and materials developed in 2009 to prevent the outbreak of Influenza A H1N1, continued to be useful tools, especially to promote hand-washing in schools and at the community level. Approximately 16,000 children from 99 schools participated in activities to commemorate Global Hand-washing Day in October, 2010.

The Child Communication Network project continues to utilise radio and TV programmes to impart information on Child Rights, applying Peer-to-Peer methodology. Many of the videos can be viewed on YouTube.

The promotion video to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood produced by UNICEF, interviewing the First Lady and line Ministers, greatly contributed to the unprecedented interest from the highest authority in the Country to the early stage of life, especially the first six years.

As part of an important exercise for the final year of the current CPD, the Office will conduct a KAP survey in 2011 to identify the most effective communication approach to influence the positive behavioural change to develop C4D strategy, with specific attention to the social-cultural aspect of the different indigenous and Afro-Honduran groups. The strategy, which will be validated through pre-testing, will be an important part of the CPD 2012-2016.
The Office will also evaluate the HIV Prevention project, which has strong component of C4D aimed at children and adolescents, to validate the impact that the programme had on participating children and community members in relation to behaviour to protect themselves from HIV and teenage pregnancy.

### 3.1.3 Normative Principles

#### 3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

The Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) was integrated throughout the development of the priority areas of UNDAF 2012-2016. Through the new UNDAF, the UN system will support the Honduran government to translate its international obligations under various conventions and commitments, also reflected in the National Vision 2010-2038 and National Plan 2010-2022, in which special attention was paid to the persons in poverty and those living in vulnerable conditions. The UNDAF also emphasised empowerment of rights-holders through their active participations in achieving planned outcomes.

Specifically, the UNDAF works in three priority areas: one related to the right to access basic services for survival, development and protection; the second area is civil and political rights to demand and participate in the democratic society; the third priority area is work on economic and environmental rights.

Early in 2010 some lawmakers started to influence public opinion in favour of lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility, following the path taken by Panama. UNICEF, in alliance with the Family and Children’s Commission of National Congress, Public Attorney office, IHNFA, National Youth Institute, COIPRODEN, and the National Alliance for the children and youth, intensified its advocacy to block the adoption of such measures, which contravenes the CRC, which Honduras ratified in 1990, as well as the Children’s Code and the national Constitution. UNICEF and its allies presented the evidence, showing that lowering the minimum age will not guarantee the reduction of criminal activities, as the majority of the criminal activities are committed by adults, and the Public Attorney office estimates approximately 10% of crimes are committed by adolescents. UNICEF’s Communication section intensified awareness-raising in the mass media on Child Rights, so that they will correctly reflect the situation of young people and present a fair image of young people.

#### 3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming

In 2001 UNICEF carried out the evaluation of the gender mainstreaming in the framework of the water and sanitation project. The appraisal study carried out by a Gender Consultant found that: a) the partners do not have policies for equitable gender balance; b) despite the intention by partners to reflect gender in their planning, evaluation and monitoring, for example, through the disaggregated data by sex, application was not consistent, and there is no common criteria to effectively analyse and take corrective measures to ensure the gender equity. The invisibility of the existence of gender gaps is mainly detrimental of girls and women due to their social subordination; however, this aspect was not necessarily understood as a part of the project. Finally, there is evidence of low female participation in decision-making processes at the project sites. In 2009, for example only 15% of the members of community water committees supported by UNICEF were women.

The gender mainstreaming action plan was developed based on the findings from the study focusing three different actors. First, the project planners and social workers would be trained on gender mainstreaming; after completing the training, they would sensitize community members of the project sites to achieve synergy for developing the necessary actions to reduce the gender gaps. After the training at these levels, the actors agree on the affirmative action to be taken to pave a path to empower and promote leadership among women as well as to educate men about gender equity. The
specific instrument and gender-sensitive indicators were also developed to ensure the visibility of the existing gap.

Meetings in the field with beneficiaries show that actions towards gender equality must be a continuous and systematic process, in which we must consider not only the community level but also in the household level, to introduce changes in gender roles.

In 2011 the project seeks to implement the affirmative action agreed by all the actors, as well as the application of gender-sensitive indicators and instruments.

### 3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability

Honduras is extremely vulnerable to environmental hazards, such as heavy rainfall, tropical storms and hurricanes, which affect the major part of the country almost every year, causing floods and landslides. The drought affects the southern, mid-eastern, and western part of the country, generating food shortages. Traditionally, Honduras has not suffered from earthquakes, but since 2007, a number of incidents caused damage to infrastructure and heavy economic loss. In 2010 Honduras experienced an outbreak of classic and haemorrhagic dengue, provoked by the unprecedented amount of rainfall that the country has seen in the past decades. Some experts attribute this phenomenon to climate change.

The office collaborates with the National Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO), the Ministry of Education, Health, National Autonomous Aqueducts and Sewage Service (SANAA), Public Attorney office, Municipalities, NGOs and UN agencies to maintain emergency preparedness and ensure timely and adequate response to any emergency situations.

UNICEF is a member of the UN Emergency Group (UNETE), and the Humanitarian Network (Red-Hum) that includes NGOs and the roundtable of Development and Social Compensation for the Reduction of Vulnerability, organised by the National System of Risk Management (SINAGER).

The Office cooperated with the Environmental Education Project (Ministry of Health) for dengue prevention, involving 33 schools and 3,344 children in the preventive measures and proper management of waste and adequate use and care of water. The children also organised an awareness-raising public rally on environmental issues. Facing the dengue fever epidemic, these children also produced murals and banners and carried out cultural activities to call for the elimination of mosquito breeding grounds.

In the context of the WASH Joint Programme, Micro-watersheds Protection Committees were organised and trained in 45 poor, rural communities, following Healthy School and the Household (ESCASAL) methodology, to prevent water contamination through the degradation of micro-watersheds and inadequate solid waste management in these communities. FAO co-operated with the protection of five watersheds, applying Payments for Environmental Services, and PAHO co-operated through the formulation of 10 Water Safety Plans.

### 3.2 Programme Components

**Title:** Young child survival and development

**Purpose**

The main purpose of the Programme is to double the access to community-based maternal and child health services, to double the number of communities with nutritional monitoring mechanisms to identify and provide timely attention to malnourished children, and to strengthen institutional and social capacities for the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies by 2011. It also contributes to the implementation of participatory action plans for the provision, operation and maintenance of water and
sanitation systems, while at the same time promoting good hygiene practices at the national level, using the Healthy School and Household Model. In the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD), it aims to expand opportunities for children under five to participate in formal and/or community-based ECD programmes.

This programme contributes to MDGs 1, 4, and 5 to eradicate extreme poverty and reduce hunger, infant mortality, and to improve maternal health. It contributes to two of the priority areas of the UNDAF: 1) invest in human capital to ensure the equal and universal access to their rights to health, water, sanitation, education; and 2) rural development and sustainable food security.

In 2010 the programme focused on placing ECD and chronic malnutrition on the national Agenda, and continued to support improved access to safe water and sanitation, combined with the good hygiene practices, in impoverished rural areas and marginal urban areas in Honduras.

### Resources Used

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### Results Achieved

The Programme has made major progress in placing Early Childhood Development as a major national concern in 2010. The President of Honduras made a political commitment to place ECD as priority on his agenda at the ECD seminar organised by UNICEF in July. His keen interest in ensuring a good start for all Honduran children led to the modification of the National Vision, National Plan to include the goals, strategic objectives and indicators for early childhood care and development. UNICEF also has been playing a major role in developing the National Policy on Early Childhood Development, through participatory approaches in which approximately 2,200 persons, (including central, local government authorities, NGOs, donor communities, parents, children under 5, and teachers) were interviewed about their ideal ECD mechanism. Upon presentation of the report on the outcome of the participatory approach, the Honduran government pledged to finance research and national and local capacity development activities in 2011, while UNICEF continue to support the development of National ECD Policy.

Honduras has one of the highest chronic malnutrition rates in Latin America. According to the MDG report, 27.4% of children under five were chronically malnourished in 2005-2006 nationally. The Western region of Honduras, with high concentrations of indigenous people, has as high as 49.5% levels of chronic malnutrition. Traditionally, the nutrition issue has been dealt with under the food security working group in Honduras, whose approach is based on the availability of food in general, and not its nutritional value. In 2010 UNICEF approached the Food Security and Nutrition Technical Unit of the Presidential Ministry (UTSAN) and Food Security and Nutrition Coalition (COTISAN) to
shift the emphasis to nutrition issues. In November 2010 Honduras published its national strategy on food security and nutrition, which encompass not only food availability issues, but general principles related to the country’s nutritional policies for coming years. Although this strategic national document needs to be sharpened, in relation to actions and strategies aimed at combating chronic malnutrition and other nutritional problems within the country, it is a significant milestone in these areas.

UNICEF continued to contribute to the capacity development of municipalities and communities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and National Autonomous Aqueducts and Sewage Services. Twelve municipalities have developed municipal WatSan plans for the expansion of coverage of water and sanitation systems, and 65 communities, as well as 68 primary schools, have implemented the ESCASAL for the promotion of good hygiene practices, reaching more than 10,000 children. Upon the outbreak of dengue in the capital city, 3,344 school children in two major cities received dengue prevention education.

As for water quality control, with UNICEF support, 12 departments started to implement the National Protocol on surveillance and control of water quality. This guarantees access to safe drinking water to 880,000 persons. UNICEF supported the implementation of alternative methodology to disinfect the water, such as bio-filters and solar disinfection systems, reaching 1,000 families in impoverished rural areas.

The UN Joint Programme on Water and Sanitation made important progress toward the implementation of total Fund of US$6.5million planned for the duration of three years. The successful implementation of the programme led to securing additional investment for infrastructure from the Government and the Central American Economic Integration Bank, to benefit approximately 50,000 persons in nearly 200 communities.

**Future Workplan**

In relation to ECD, the programme will finalise the National ECD Policy in the first quarter of 2011, based on which an Action Plan will be developed and implemented beginning in September. ECD studies and capacity development of ECD personnel will also be carried out before the implementation. The Programme will intensify advocacy for the commitment by the high authorities to the development of national complementary feeding programmes. It will also reactivate the Baby-Friendly initiative to promote exclusive breastfeeding. In the area of WASH, the project will complete on-going activities, ensuring the sustainability of the actions carried out at the local level. The project was able to cover an important portion of geographical area in the country, thanks to the generous support from CIDA, MDG Funds-UNDP/Spain and the local government of Andalucia. A joint evaluation of project activities, with implementing partners and communities, will be conducted in 2011.

**Title Education and gender equality**

**Purpose:**

The Programme aims to ensure access to quality, multi-cultural pre-basic and basic education for at least 90% of children by 2011, allowing children to acquire skills for a healthier life in a caring environment. It contributes to ensuring that more adolescent, young and adult women, with a specific focus on vulnerable population such as indigenous, Afro-Honduran, rural and urban marginal communities, have access to non-formal literacy programmes.

The programme intends to develop the Ministerial Decree for application of the Child-Friendly School methodology for all rural, multi-grade schools in Honduras. The
programme also aims to raise greater awareness on universal access to pre-school. The non-formal education project was to phase out by the end of this CPD period; the programme focused on a smooth handover process of existing project activities.

**Resources Used**

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**Results Achieved**

The programme collaborated with the Ministry of Education to develop a Ministerial Decree to officially apply the Child-Friendly School pedagogical model in multi-grade rural schools in Honduras from July 2011 onward. The methodology includes child-centred learning models to improve the quality learning. The decree also allows the private sector to finance implementation of the methodology, which will contribute to sustainability.

The same decree also aims to strengthen the existing School Parliament so that it will become an instrument through which children can learn democracy, equity, participation. This will allow children to participate in decision-making processes associated with their rights and to negotiate with PTAs and local authorities.

The National Campaign for Universal Access to Preschool Education promoted by the President of Honduras, Education authorities, NGOs and UNICEF, identified that 56% of children do not receive preschool education, and noted the geographical areas where it is not available. The campaign aimed at raising awareness about one year of compulsory preschool education in Honduras among authorities, and about the responsibility of the state to assign sufficient budget funds to cover the costs. In 2010 an increase in preschool enrolment of approximately 15% was reported, compared to 2009.

In the areas of Emergency Preparedness and Response, technical assistance provided by UNICEF to the Ministry of Education resulted in stronger cooperation between the National Permanent Commission of Contingencies (COPECO) and the Ministry of Education. This is an important step forward to ensure the smooth coordination of education sector with the National Emergency body, COPECO. Under this arrangement, the Ministry of Education will conduct a rapid assessment after the emergency and report to COPECO, whereas previously COPECO had to carry out assessment of the situation at education facilities.

The Programme supported the development of Communication and Environmental Education Law approved in 2010 by the National Congress, which seeks to include environmental education with a specific focus on emergency preparedness and environmental protection in the curriculum.

To generate evidence of the impact of art education, the first study on the ‘The situation of Art Education in Honduras, and its impact to the development of the children and youth’ was carried out. The draft outcome demonstrates the positive impact that Art Education has on children to develop social skills, creativity, and discipline. It proved that children who received the Art Programme improved their academic performance by
approximately 15%. The outcome will be used to mobilise policymakers to improve the quality of Art Education at schools.

The Popular Arts Development Centres (CDAP), supported by the UN Joint Programme, trained 164 promoters at 19 municipalities where Art Education is not available due to low budgets, directly reaching 820 children through art training on seven different themes, while events organised by the centre reached some 8,200 children.

There is a perception in Honduras that art activities are for entertainment and are not an important part of human development. The UN Joint Programme on Culture and Development aimed at changing this perception by providing greater opportunities for children and youth to be exposed to cultural and artistic activities. In 2010, it supported 72 initiatives reaching approximately 11,000 children and youth.

**Future Workplan**

In 2011 the programme will work with the Ministry of Education to ensure the approval of the Ministerial Decree and that the CFS methodology is applied at all multi-grade rural schools. UNICEF will support the capacity development process to ensure the quality of its application.

At the same time, since this is the final year of the current CPD, the CFS project will be evaluated to measure its impact and make recommendation for its further application, beyond rural schools.

2011 will also be the final year of the UN Joint Programme, which will focus on ensuring sustainability for the initiative.

As indicated in the MTR, the programme has started to phase out from the non-formal Education for Women activity. The programme supported the coordination of two major Governmental literary/education programmes to avoid duplication among beneficiaries.

**Title: Protection of children against violence, abuse and exploitation**

**Purpose**

The programme aims to reduce violence, abuse and exploitation against children, strengthen national capacity to comply with international human rights and child rights commitments, and promote equity access to basic services for indigenous children.

The programme continued its efforts in 2010 to advocate in favour of legislative reform to achieve full harmonisation of national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties. It also reinforced support to national capacity development, especially aimed at law enforcement officers responsible for protecting children and women from abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, as well as those responsible for overseeing juvenile justice.

**Resources Used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of funds</th>
<th>Description/Donor</th>
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**Results Achieved**

During 2010 the National Congress obtained a favourable opinion from the Supreme Court for the approval of legislative reform seeking to harmonise national legislation with the CRC and other international treaties. It is expected that Honduras will finally achieve the harmonisation in 2011.

With Support of UNICEF, Gessel domes were installed at the Special Offices of the public prosecutor for children in two major cities in Honduras. This pilot project seeks to encourage the Government to invest in this technology to avoid the re-victimization of children who were the victims of abuse and exploitation during police investigations and to protect the identities of children in conflict with law.

In order to guarantee the quality of the services, 253 law enforcement officers were trained as trainers, on how to deal with the investigations on child abuse, trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents with special emphasis on the protection of human rights. These officers duplicated the training, reaching approximately 2,000 lower-ranking police officers. In addition, 76 police officers were trained on how to deal with juvenile violence, with special focus on the protection of human rights.

In 2010 the independent ombudsperson system for children was expanded to 126 municipalities, including the communities of three major indigenous groups of Honduras. The system monitors the situation of children and promotes/safeguards children’s rights in the communities. This independent system has the legitimacy to carry out its work independently under the municipality law. In the case of indigenous communities, the ombudspersons initially faced resistance to the concept of child rights, which in some cases contradicts to their “custom”. Community-wide promotion of child rights were carried out – including parents, teachers, and community leaders, as well as children themselves – to promote better understanding of child rights in these communities.

Approximately 5,000 children and adolescents participated in activities to prevent violence and promote the peace in 56 *barrios* of the Capital city, through continuing collaboration with local NGOs.

As a follow-up to the CRC committee recommendation, UNICEF supported the institutional capacity development of IHNFA, especially at the regional levels, through training of personnel on their tasks related to social re-integration and special protection of children, and family welfare and community development.

UNICEF continues to collaborate with the Childrens and Adolescents Committee of the National Congress, IHNFA, the Office of Attorney General, National Programme of Prevention and Rehabilitation of *Maras*, and NGOs such as COPIRODEN and Casa Alianza. The creation in 2010 of a new Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Indigenous and Afro-Hondurans poses an excellent opportunity to make progress in the formation of a National Child Rights Protection system, with special attention to the excluded population, such as indigenous and Afro-Honduran children. UNICEF will establish working relations with these two new ministries, while at the same time focusing on the achievement of full harmonisation of the legal system to the CRC.

**Future Workplan**

UNICEF will continue collaboration with IHNFA to strengthen this institution as a technical body specialised in the promotion and protection of the rights of children and women. UNICEF will develop close alliance with the newly established Ministries, through technical support. The Ministry of Human Rights is expected to present the periodic report on the implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2012, and
the programme will provide technical advice and inputs for developing the report throughout 2011 to ensure timely, quality reporting. The programme will increase its advocacy to ensure that the National Congress approves the harmonisation of legislation in accordance with CRC in 2011. The programme will conclude the SITAN on indigenous children that began in 2010. This will allow the entire Country Programme to gain a better overview of the situation of indigenous children in relation to the fulfilment of the Child Rights; the findings will be reflected in the new CPD.

**Title: HIV/AIDS and children**

**Purpose**

The programme component seeks to reduce new infections among young people by 75%, and to achieve universal access to PMTCT, to ensure that the transmission rate from HIV-positive mothers to their infants declines to less than 1%. It also aims at supporting HIV orphans and vulnerable children to access integrated support programmes.

The programme aimed to: 1) document the successful peer-to-peer municipal prevention project among youth and adolescents, 2) expand the coverage and improve quality of PMTCT services, and 3) develop a phase-out plan from HIV orphan project activities to more inclusive, integrated protection services for OVC.

**Resources Used:**

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<th>Description/Donor</th>
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**Results Achieved**

The programme successfully mobilised 52 (17%) municipalities in Honduras to assign 1% of the municipal budget to support activities related to HIV/AIDS prevention activities led by adolescents and youth. By setting up eight regional clusters to follow up project management, it eased the administrative burden of dealing with each municipality individually. Sixty-three facilitators were trained in the communication strategy to prevent HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy; they in turn trained 7,000 adolescents and youth in their respective areas. The project also implemented gender mainstreaming activities and promoted reflection on masculinity issues at the community level, and trained 366 technical staff as well as 350 adolescent and youth to duplicate training on HIV/AIDS prevention and prevention of teen pregnancy at the community level as well as in schools.

The National PMTCT evaluation in 2007 found that lack of access to HIV testing services at Health Centres was one of the major bottlenecks to increasing PMTCT coverage. After three years of joint advocacy by UNICEF, National PMTCT programme, PAHO and CDC to the Ministry of Health, the decentralisation of testing services was approved, and UNICEF supported the training of 30 technical staff of health centres located in rural areas of five selected departments (including the most remote department in Honduras) on HIV testing services. This resulted in expanded access to HIV testing, which in turn led to a sharp increase in the number of pregnant women receiving the test in these departments (on average, from 24% to 65%). The most significant increase was
observed in the department of La Paz, where coverage increased from 8% to 72% in one year.

In the areas of OVC, greater attention was paid to promoting community participation and inter-institutional coordination to fulfil the rights of the HIV orphans. As agreed in Mid-Term Review, UNICEF Honduras is in the process of phasing out the project, which is only for HIV/AIDS orphans, and shifting attention to the all OVC, under the Protection programme.

Reproductive health, including the prevention of teenage pregnancy, continues to be a very sensitive issue particularly among religious groups. The approval of the textbook for the sexual and reproductive health aimed at the primary and secondary school children, supported by UNFPA and UNICEF, was a major 2010 breakthrough in this context.

The significantly increased coverage of HIV testing has not been accompanied by improvements in the overall quality of health services. There are structural problems in health services, with many health centres in rural areas dependent on one or two staff members, making them more prone to closure. Patients who find the health centres closed on several occasions no longer bother to come for antenatal care, especially when a visit requires walking long distances, and ignoring income generating activities. Approximately 36% of pregnant women do not receive any type of antenatal care. Those who do receive antenatal care often receive low quality health services. The joint analysis and action led to the successful outcome of increasing the coverage of HIV testing. In order to address the structural issues described, continued joint efforts are necessary.

For the Prevention programme, municipalities continue to be the main implementing partners, and UNFPA is the major UN partner. The National Forum of HIV/AIDS (FOROSIDA) continues to work with OVC projects, whereas for PMTCT, the Ministry of Health is a major Government partner. The project maintains alliance with the PAHO/WHO and CDC, among others.

**Future Workplan**

In 2011 the Programme will advocate for private hospitals to carry out HIV testing and follow the PMTCT protocol, including ARV treatment for C-sections and nutritional counselling. The HIV Prevention project, which has been on-going for more than five years, continues to be one of the most visible UNICEF projects in Honduras, especially at the municipal level. As 2011 will be the final year of current CPD, the impact of the project will be evaluated, and the experience will be documented.

**Title: Social investment, public policies and alliances**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the programme is to enhance the opportunities and develop capacities for children and adolescents to participate in social, economic and political forums, and to advocate for increased and efficient budgeting for children. The programme aims to ensure the participatory monitoring of the implementation of the Pact for Childhood, Adolescence and Youth. The programme will work both with central and local government partners. UNICEF supports the municipal partners with capacity development to design, manage and implement projects and policies in favour of children, within the framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

In 2010 the Programme continued its efforts to promote the participation of children and adolescents to follow up MDG goals at the municipal level, including the mobilisation of
budgetary allocation (1% of the municipal budget) to issues affecting children and adolescents, such as HIV/AIDS prevention. The Child Rights Observatory was to be strengthened, including technical capacity to carry out research on the main issues related to children throughout 2010. As part of the preparation process for the new CPD 2012-2016, the Programme planned to carry out a Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Honduras.

**Resources Used**

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<td>Grand Total</td>
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**Results Achieved**

In the area of participation, the Programme continued to strengthen and expand the Child Journalist Network in municipalities. Nearly 3,800 girls and 1,600 boys participated in the production of radio and television programmes as a part of peer-to-peer approach to raise awareness on Child Rights as well as on MDGs. The videos produced by children can be accessed via [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

After a four-year gap, Children’s Parliament was held in October in collaboration with the National Congress, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, with the participation of 128 children representing the School Parliament from all the departments in Honduras. The Children’s Parliament provided an important opportunity for children and legislators to discuss the issues that they are facing at their schools and communities. Many of the representatives expressed their concern at the frequent disruption of school days caused by the teachers’ strike. The Child Journalists Network covered the event, together with the national media.

With UNICEF support, the National Information System on the Children, Adolescents and Women (SISNAM) was re-structured to facilitate access to the information through the Internet. Another important step in 2010 was the coordination and harmonisation of the statistics related to Child Protection among the Public Attorney’s office, National Police, and Supreme Court, which allows for bridging to some extent the existing data gaps associated to the Child Protection.

The Observatory of Child Rights continued to strengthen its function as a monitor of situation of Child Rights and budget allocation, and fulfilment of the recommendations of the International Committee on Child Rights. IHNFA, recognising the significance of the products from the Observatory, has incorporated the entity on its organisational chart.

As a part of the capacity development of local government, 77 local governments, 12 *mancommunidades* (a governmental body consisting of a group of neighbouring municipal governments) were supported on strategic planning and prioritisation of investments, with special focus on children. Coverage did not reach the planned level, due to the lack of financial resources at local and central government level. It also is
noted that human resource development requires a much longer timeframe and more intensified, continuous trainings to ensure the quality of follow-up at the local level.

The alliance with the Honduran Municipality Association (AHMON) was critical in facilitate political dialogue and the local capacity development process. This alliance also ensured the continuation of the commitment by local governments to keep child rights on the agenda, despite the change of authorities in early 2010.

In monitoring the situation of children and their rights, the National Statistics Institute (INE) and the Observatory of Child Rights under IHNFA have been the most important partners. In 2011, further collaboration between these two entities will be sought. Equally, the Observatory of Child Rights will strengthen collaboration, coordination and information-sharing with the MDG Observatory led by UNDP.

Overall Programme progress was affected by the delay in re-initiating the cooperation with partners in early 2010, due to the effect of the 2009 political crisis, and the drastic decrease of in Programme funding. Although overall funding for the programme exceeds the budget planned in the CPAP, 85% of the OR for the programme was linked exclusively to the participation project.

**Future Workplan**
For 2011 the participation project will expand to cover children from 75% of the municipalities in Honduras, to enhance the opportunity for participation among children. The project will continue working to make children more visible in the National Vision and National Plan. The programme will also work with 40 municipalities to strengthen their technical capacity to develop and implement municipal strategic development plans and budget planning to ensure the rights of children is reflected. Using the publications developed by ODN in 2010, UNICEF will advocate for the national policy and a pro-child investment policy. It will also focus on supporting partners to correct disaggregated information and facilitate analysis of the disadvantaged children.

**Title: Cross-sectoral costs**

**Purpose**
In 2010, the cross-sectoral programme covered 10 local staff salaries, including the project assistant, programme assistant, drivers, supply assistants, and receptionist. The international staff salary for the replacement of the Deputy Representative was covered under this Programme. In addition, it covered administrative costs necessary to ensure smooth programme coordination and implementation, and the cost of the annual retreat (under TA). It also covered part of the expenses associated with UN House and Common services, which showed a considerable increase in 2010, mainly due to the investments made to comply with MOSS.

**Resources Used:**

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<th>Description/Donor</th>
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<td></td>
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**Result Achieved**
The results of this Programme were reflected in the results achieved in the five programme areas reported earlier, as it covers expenses for supply and logistical support to ensure the smooth operation of programme activities. As the political situation normalised during this year, the average days spent in the field to monitor project activities by professional staff members in 2010 reached 13 days.
The Annual Retreat was carried out in February with 95% staff participation. During the retreat, the report from the Global Staff Survey was discussed, and a 360° evaluation was conducted.

This component was not utilised to cover activity costs for the entire office, such as PCRs/IRs development, programme retreat, operations meeting, elaboration of SITAN, or for UNDAF-related costs. All these expenses were charged to the most relevant programme areas. Communication costs and M+E cost are also allocated under the Public Policy Programme.

Expenditures under cross-sectoral reached 164% of the budget approved under CPD. This is mainly due to increases in staff salary with the increased number of support staff (one of the TA post will be discontinued in 2011), and the deployment of an International Professional to the office to replace the Deputy Representative. In addition, partial costs to cover the drastic increase of UN Common Services, due to the adjustment to the UN House in compliance to MOSS, was also reflected in the Cross-sectoral budget, as it exceeded the Support Budget limit.

The CPD has not defined any OR allocation to support the cross-sectoral programme, which resulted in the increased burden to the RR. The allocation of RR to the Honduras Office has been reduced, like many other TACRO offices, due to the fact that the Country is now considered as middle-income countries. Under current conditions, the sole dependency on RR to cover cross-sectoral costs is not sustainable. This should be reconsidered for 2011 as we start to include some activities currently covered under other Programme areas.

**Future Workplan**

In 2011, the PCR and IRs to cover programme activities related to all areas, such as Communication, Planning and Evaluation will be created and its expenses will be reflected under this PCR.

### 4 OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

#### 4.1 Governance & Systems

##### 4.1.1 Governance Structure

In 2010, the office has organized various workshops in order to prepare all the relevant staff members for the introduction of ERM, PCRs/IRs, VISION, and ProMS 9.1. For the introduction and elaboration of ERM, all the staff members were mobilised for two days workshop.

The entire office, but most specifically the Programme staff, Communication manager and Operations manager, engaged in the development of the CPD 2012-2016, reviewing and discussing the findings from the recently developed SITAN, the Third MDG report, and other inputs.

As laid out in the Office Annual Management Plan, relevant Office committees, such as PCA committee, Emergency Committee, and CRC committee, have been operating in accordance with the UNICEF procedures. Some of the functions of the committees, such as editorial committee and fundraising committee, need to be reviewed and revitalised in 2011.

The CMT provided appropriate follow-up on Office management indicators, and quality assurance. In addition to the CMT, the Programme Management Meeting (PMM), held on a monthly basis, was used to discuss issues related to programme implementation,
especially on obstacles to achieving quality programme outcomes. An appropriate follow-up was provided to the issues brought up to both the CMT and PMM.

The Representative of UNICEF Honduras has been acting as the interim Resident Coordinator since July 2009 to present, which had an impact on Office management, especially due to the limited time that he was able to allocate for these issues. However, the office quickly adjusted to the situation to avoid negative consequences.

UNICEF Honduras has not had an audit since 2005.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management

The Office carried out the two-day workshop to replicate the Enterprise Risk Management workshop at the Regional Office with the participation of all staff members. The development of Risk Control Library and the Risk Profile provided us an opportunity to reflect and analyse the existing risks in all the areas of the Office, and how best the Office can manage the identified risks. The participation of all staff to discuss risks at various areas was crucial, allowing us to capture a wider range of perspectives, while enhancing the sense of ownership of the ERM documents. For the Management, the outcome of the ERM exercise provided a great opportunity not only to have a systematic risk management plan, but also to understand in which areas staff members perceive risks in the Strategic, Operational, and Financial and Hazard areas.

The Business Continuity Plan, updated in 2009, continues to be valid. In the ICT area, UNICEF Honduras will be able to have CITRIX in 2011, the absence of which was identified as one of the areas that require attention in the BC plan, as a result of the installation of the new server at the UN House.

Honduras is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The country is still living the lingering effect of the political conflict in 2009, with frequent demonstrations blocking traffic and normal functions in the capital city. In addition, criminal activity is on the rise; 25 UN staff members were the victims of petty crimes in 2010. Valuable Office assets, such as laptops, mobiles and vehicles are covered by insurance as of 2010.

The Office maintains a list of core staff and the telephone warning chain was updated. With support from UNDSS, training on the use of VHF Radio and satellite telephone was carried out with staff members in 2010.

4.1.3 Evaluation

During the CPD preparation process, the Office identified several programme areas where external evaluation needs to be carried out in 2011, such as Municipal Programme for Children, Adolescents, and Youth, and Child-Friendly School programme.

The Office has updated its Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan. The only systematic evaluation planned for 2010 in IMEP was UNDAF evaluation.

The UNDAF evaluation was carried out during the last quarter of 2010. The evaluation pointed out that the large number of outcomes, outputs and indicators made it difficult to focus, and UN agencies were not yet working in a meaningfully integrated fashion, making joint work an ‘additional activity’ rather than easing burdens through a common approach. These findings will be reflected in the preparation of the new UNDAF 2012-2016.

UNICEF contributed to the development of Honduras’ third MDG report, which allowed us to evaluate the progress made so far and identify areas where accelerated efforts are required.
There is limited availability of high-quality academic or research centres in the country to conduct evaluation of programmes. Most major evaluation activities were carried out by international research centres/consultants, or through a combination of national and international consultants, as was the case for the UNDAF evaluation. In terms of the evaluation of the situation of children, the Observatory of Child Rights has developed its capacity considerably, and UNICEF will continue supporting capacity development, while at the same time beginning to utilise the Observatory to produce relevant information.

There are persistent issues related to the absence of timely and quality administrative data, such as Education, Health, among others. Information-sharing between Ministries and National Statistics Institute remains a challenge. The country is expected to carry out the National Household Survey in 2011, with funding from the government and the Inter-American Development Bank.

**4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication**

In order to ensure the remote support to the officers, specialists and administrative staff through access to PROMS and Lotus Notes, the Office has been working to introduce the CITRIX. As a result of the upgrade of the server at UN House, this will become possible, and the introduction of the CITRIX will be completed by the end of January 2011. Existing SITA link has been changed to IPSec as a preliminary step to the integration of the new VPN project.

It is necessary to raise LTA to procure ICT equipment. In order to do so, the Office needs to strengthen the internal office ICT upgrade plan on an annual basis. Since the Programme supports some partners with ICT equipment, the annual supply plan needs to be strengthened.

In relation to interagency activities, the UN in Honduras has an ICT subcommittee, which reports to the Operations Management Team. The subcommittee manages all ICT related interagency resources for common services. The subcommittee is working to develop a common BCP plan, to shift from the current practice of having individual agency BCPs.

Three out of four UN agencies at UN House use the Internet services of the National Telecommunication Company, owned by the Government. Quotations have been requested to private internet service companies as well to determine the better option for savings.

**4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship**

**4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations**

Despite the attention paid to punctual submission of the donor reports, two of 11 reports were sent late. Some of the reports were elaborated too close to the deadline, so that appropriate quality control was not able to be applied. This is the area where the CO team needs to put greater focus to improve.

The OR ceiling set in the current CPD was increased by 41% in 2009. In 2010, 101% of expected OR was raised. The amount of OR raised, however, did not reflect the real needs for the Programmes. Two projects, Water and Sanitation and HIV Prevention received more than 46% of OR for the entire Programme, whereas OVC, ECD, M&E as well as the Public Policy project depended heavily on RR. One of the issues identified as high-risk in the ERM exercise was the unpredictability of Programme Funding. Various factors affected negatively in this situation, including: the global economic crisis, Honduras being considered as a “middle-income country”, emergencies in the Region and lingering effects from the 2009 political crisis. As a part of CPD preparation, the internal Office fundraising committee will be strengthened in 2011.

After the peer learning mission to Peru in early 2010, a Programme Assistant has learned to function as a Budget Assistant. She provided close monitoring of the PBA
situation, which led to the 99% of utilisation mission to the Peru Office. Nearly all (99%) of the PBAs were utilised before the expiry date.

The office mobilised OCHA funds at the end December in 2009 for the amount of US$306,249, which was implemented in 2010 to support the southern areas of Honduras suffering from drought.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets
The last audit that Honduras Office has received was in 2005. The office conducted a self-audit exercise in 2008.

In 2010, US$5,238,478, or 95% of the planned amount, was implemented by the Programme areas, and 99% of the Support Budget was utilised, and 98% of RR was utilised. The CO had to request the extension of some of the PBAs, mainly as a consequence of the political crisis in 2009, which disrupted the development of the planned project activities in 2009 to early 2010. With the normalisation of official working relationships with the new Government partners, the delay generated during that time was mostly recovered in 2010.

As requested by NYHQ, the replenishment was implemented twice a month. The Office maintained up-to-date cash flows for monthly and quarterly periods to comply with the bank replenishment and ensure availability of funds for project implementation.

The Programme Assistant facilitated the follow up of the DCT liquidation with the Programme Officers/Specialists. By the end of December 2010, the Office had 4% of DCT without liquidation over six months, and 1% over nine months.

In November, an additional US$68,363 for Support Budget was requested to TACRO to cover the shortfall in non-local posts activities, mostly for UN Common Services/UN House. The contribution for the common services increased drastically during 2010 in order to comply with the MOSS requirements.

An extensive physical inventory of Office furniture and equipment was conducted, much of which was classified as obsolete and pending for PSB. The Property Survey Board met once this year, in September. A second meeting is scheduled for the end of January in order to proceed with the PSB recommendations and dispose of the furniture and equipment.

12 UNICEF partners that received more than US$100,000 in 2009, were evaluated (micro-assessment) by an external auditing consultancy firm, and none of the partners received high risk ratings. Additionally, 17 partners received spot-checks by UNICEF staff in 2010.

4.2.3 Supply
The Office continues working to strengthen supply planning and procurement services. The Supply Plan was submitted by the Programme section by end-March, in order to facilitate procurement services. This resulted in a significant reduction of the number of PGMs processed in the final quarter of 2010.

The number of PGMs for programme supplies was reduced by 24% in 2010 compared to 2009. As a result, the total programme funding allocated to supply procurement was reduced from US$2.1 million to US$899,302 in one year. There is a conscious effort by the Programme section to shift our focus from service delivery to technical assistance and policy dialogue with the partners, to have a major impact to children and women. The PCA between UNICEF and World Vision for improved emergency pre-positioning of supplies also contributed to the reduction of vast amount of PGMs in the Office.
In 2009 the CO had to hire one additional procurement staff to support procurement activities. This staff member’s contract (temporary appointment) ends on January 31, 2011, and will not be extended.

The local market, in terms of number of vendors and availability of products, remains limited, hence the need for early planning of programme yearly requirements. The update of prequalified suppliers is pending for 2011.

### 4.3 Human Resource Capacity

The Office implements PER Week to ensure timely elaboration, follow-up and completion of the PERs. In 2010, only 28% of 2009 PERs had been concluded by the end of February. More efforts should be placed on timely completion of PER review.

The Annual Retreat took place the second week of February, during which the report from the Global Staff Survey and staff issues were discussed among others. A 360° evaluation was also conducted. There was a decline in staff morale compared to the outcome of the survey carried out in 2008. The CO has concluded that these results are based on a tense work-place and country due to the political situation Honduras faced last year. Global Learning Funds were used to cover the part of the retreat costs. For 2010, our CO received US$3,000 in Global Learning Funds.

In 2010, a Driver/messenger and WES Officer were recruited.

The CO carries out monthly meetings with all staff, where all type of discussions take place in order to achieve better performance.

Our CO has maintained the psychodrama trainings on a monthly basis. Each Friday morning staff members have the opportunity to receive group training in different issues. During 2010 the weekly trainings focused on: Gender, Harassment, Security, Nutrition, Psychodrama, and ProMS.

On May, 2010 the CMT discussed and approved new working hours. Starting June 1st, the work-day schedule was established as 8.5 hours from Monday – Thursday and six hours on Fridays, for a total of 40 working hours per week.

Staff members have also received information on IPSAS. They have been informed of the IPSAS Zone webpage, newsletters and trainings on the web. On a monthly basis our CO reports to TACRO the number of staff members that have completed the IPSAS training. As of December 31, 15 of 40 staff members had started their IPSAS training.

### 4.4 Other Issues

#### 4.4.2 Changes in AMP

With the introduction of PCRs and IRs, there will be increased effort and attention paid to ensure that the programme will be more “results-oriented”, as opposed to “process oriented”. Refresher training will be carried out to strengthen the understanding and application of Result-Based Management for all Programme staff. The intensified efforts will be made to prepare staff members to the introduction of VISION and IPSAS.

As a part of the CPD preparation, the CPMP and CPAP will be developed during 2010.

### 5 STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

#### 5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations

1. Completion of the Rights of children in the national education system
2. Index of Children’s Rights
3. Studies on the excluded population from the access to water and sanitation with specific focus on the rural remote areas.
4. The living condition of the HIV orphans and children who are exposed to vulnerable condition by HIV/AIDS
5. Analysis of Social Expenditure on Children

5.2 List of Other Publications
1. Evaluation of education indicators among children of 3-17 years in Honduras 2010
2. Index of Children’s Rights
3. Analysis of Social Expenditure on Children
4. Newsletter of Children
5. Completion of the Rights of children in the National Education System
6. The living condition of the HIV orphans and children who are exposed to vulnerable condition by HIV/AIDS
7. III Latin American Convention "Inclusion in the Social Development, Facing the Challenge"
8. Children’s world - from the gender perspective
10. Orphaned children in Honduras 2010

6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED

Title: ECD Advocacy and National Policy Development

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Abstract
Honduras is one of the few countries without a national ECD Policy in Latin America. UNICEF, together with the Inter-institutional ECD Committee, has been promoting ECD since 2006. Through effective advocacy and strategic alliances, UNICEF and the Committee managed to gain support of the President of Honduras for ECD, resulting in the inclusion of the topic in the National Vision 2010-2038 and National Plan with specific objectives, goals and indicators.

UNICEF is leading the development of the first Honduran ECD Policy. The consultative process was applied, involving more than 2,000 persons from different sectors, from Governmental to households, and 500 children under five.

The experience of building this crucial alliance to mobilise the highest authority, and the consultation process to develop an inclusive National Policy, will be useful for those who seek to gain political commitment and develop inclusive national policy through participation from different sectors.

Innovation or Lessons Learned
Although the ECD issue emerged rapidly in the national agenda, the groundwork had been developed over a long time, with a strongly committed inter-institutional ECD committee. The Committee was fully prepared when the opportunity to get the political support from the President was presented. The democratic nature of the committee also helped to ensure harmonious collaboration among institutions from different sectors. It is important to mention the crucial role played by each committee member to carry out consultative workshops to develop National ECD Policy.

Its inter-institutional character was the greatest strength of the committee – none of the achievements could have been made by one NGO, government institution or by UN agency.
The wide consultation carried out to develop an ECD policy was new to the country. With the mobilisation of committee members, in merely three months approximately 2,000 persons from different sectors and different levels had been interviewed and consulted. It was also innovative to observe the fulfilment of child rights through the participation of children, who expressed their dreams and wishes for their own environment and for their future using pictures and games.

**Potential Application**

A similar approach could be applied to other pending/important areas, such as chronic malnutrition, out-of-school children, teen pregnancy, and birth registration. Policy development through consultation is a complex process, but it results in stronger ownership and commitment from the partners, and also allows us to gain knowledge on the reality of the children, family, and women in the communities. UNICEF is currently planning to develop a document describing the methodology used in the consultation process, which will facilitate replication of similar process not only nationally but also in other countries.

**Issue/Background**

Honduras is one of the few countries in Latin America without a National ECD Policy. UNICEF, together with the Inter-institutional ECD Committee, has been promoting ECD since 2006. The current CPD aims to establish the National ECD Policy and Action Plan during the CPD period.

Traditionally, actions for early childhood have been fragmented due to their sectoral approach. The absence of a leading governmental institution made ECD invisible on the national agenda. The support gained from the President of Honduras has changed this scene and attracted attentions from unconventional, but crucial, institutions such as the Secretary of Planning and Finance.

**Strategy and Implementation**

To raise awareness with the President of Honduras, UNICEF organised an ECD seminar, inviting panellists from major international institutions and participants from various sectors, as well as the highest authorities from various Ministries. The use of a promotion video, in which the Ministers as well as the First Lady recalled the first years of their life, turned out to be very effective in capturing attention regarding the importance of early childhood. During the event, the President spontaneously spoke of his own childhood.

UNICEF and the Inter-institutional ECD Committee continued collaboration to ensure that the National Vision and National Plan include ECD, as suggested by the President. The incorporation of the Secretary of Planning (SEPLAN) from the early stage of this work was crucial.

In developing the National Policy, the consultative approach was applied, inviting opinions on ECD from various sectors of the country, covering more than 60% of national territory. Personnel from IFIs, ministers, technical personnel, local government, indigenous groups, community leaders, teachers, health personnel and parents -- as well as children themselves -- participated. The inclusive policy reflecting the opinions of these sectors will assure national ownership of the policy in its implementation phase.

**Progress and Results**

The first important result of this process is that it succeeded in placing ECD on the national agenda. The inclusion of ECD in the *Vision del País*, which will be the basis for national policy and planning for the next 28 years, ensures that early childhood will remain in the mainstream of the national discussion. It also ensures that the
government has a legal commitment to achieving the planned results for the children under six.

A draft ECD Policy was concluded after the wide consultations. This has been shared with government authorities, and obtained financial commitment from SEPLAN to support the required baseline studies for the implementation. The Government is also committed to invest in the systematic capacity development of personnel, both at central and community levels, to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the ECD action plan.

The success in advocating ECD may also influence positively our next important issue: chronic malnutrition. Though a national problem, it has received little attention from the Government, but the Office will use the opportunity provided to ECD to insert the actions required to place chronic malnutrition on the national agenda.

**Next Steps**

In the first quarter of 2011, the National ECD Policy will be finalised and presented to the Government and civil society. The Action Plan to implement the policy will be developed from March to August 2011, and implementation at the pilot areas will begin in September. Various studies on the current situation of early childhood care practices and demand for ECD services will be conducted as of early 2011. Simultaneously, capacity development for ECD personnel at the central and community levels will be implemented.

**7 SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

Honduras continues its recovery from the political crisis of 2009. Diplomatic isolation is still a major concern for the Honduran government, and has impaired collaboration with other nations, such as Brazil, that in recent years had supported Honduras through the breast milk bank project. The introduction of the Brazilian *Sello Municipal* experience was halted for the same reason.

In order to enhance “South-South” cooperation to promote actions against chronic malnutrition, UNICEF Honduras has teamed up with the UNICEF Peru Office to facilitate peer support. This cooperation began when a staff member was sent to the Peru Office on a short mission to strengthen administrative and technical expertise. The initial exchange triggered peer information-sharing in programme areas, especially in nutrition.

In August 2010, UNICEF Honduras and Peru supported the participation of a high-level Honduran Government mission to attend an inter-ministerial meeting on chronic malnutrition sponsored by the Presidency in Lima, Peru. As a direct result of this meeting Peru’s Finance Ministry has deployed one of their most skilled experts in beneficiary identification for conditional cash transfers to alleviate poverty and chronic malnutrition to Honduras in November.

This peer-to-peer exchange has resulted in a review of Honduras’ cash transfer beneficiary selection process. It was also agreed that continuous technical support will take place in 2011 between two governments to strengthen Honduras’ national Strategy on Food and Nutritional Security, based on the Peruvian experience. The Peruvian experience has convinced the Honduran Government that the country can indeed reduce chronic malnutrition by 1% annually. It is expected that this goal will be reflected in the national strategy in 2011, ensuring acceleration and commitment of the Government to reducing chronic malnutrition.

Traditionally, Honduran authorities have paid greater attention to the food security issues, rather than chronic malnutrition issues. Peru’s experience has led to a shift of emphasis.