Executive Summary

In 2013, UNICEF Honduras moved consistently from a project approach to an up-stream policy focus, with the rights-based approach and equity as two principal pillars. Using a mix of advocacy, capacity building, knowledge management, partnership and communications for development strategies, UNICEF contributed to the following achievements during the year:

a) The National Congress approved a series of new and revised laws, harmonizing them with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Those laws provide stronger protection and rights fulfilment measures, strengthen and empower families, and introduce stiffer sanctions against abuse and exploitation.

b) A number of inter-related efforts enabled the Ministry of Education to move decisively toward improving the governance and functioning of the education system, with the aim of reducing the number of out-of-school children, rates of over-age enrolment and drop-out. Consolidated education statistics systems now provide detailed information on the system’s performance; critical studies coupled with a pilot monitoring system in 18 municipalities are providing information on bottlenecks and causes of non-enrolment and drop-out; and a study on the technical and financial implications of universal pre-school education paved the way for its potential nation-wide introduction.

c) The Ministries of Finance and Social Development institutionalised measures for identifying and measuring spending in three key policy areas which were prioritized in the transition strategy for the incoming Government: the National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Policy, the Social Protection policy, and the Policy on Human Rights.

d) A pioneering community-based Model for Prevention of Violence reached out to more than 68,000 children and adolescents, 1,200 families and 200 schools and health units in five Municipalities with the highest rates of violence against children.

Despite concerted efforts to mobilise additional funds during the year, the Country Programme continues to suffer from major funding gaps, principally in the areas of health and nutrition. This has affected support to the Health sector, which faced serious problems of governance, stability and institutional capacity, and has also undermined efforts to advance on commitments made in relation to "A Promise Renewed."

The most important collaborative partnerships were:

a) The Televicentro Corporation and the United Radio Broadcasters Circuit, the most influential media consortium in the country (with 85 per cent of the national audience for television and radio), provided invaluable media support for advocacy and awareness generation activities, which helped achieve goals in education and child protection. The partnership has progressed from one of supporting communications campaigns to one where the consortium is playing a much more pro-active role as a development partner and public policy watchdog.

b) The Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON), a long-standing UNICEF partner, continued its vital support for the flagship Municipal Programmes for Children, Adolescents and Youth. During this election year, AMHON also provided opportunities for UNICEF to reach out with key advocacy messages and training to all 1,800 candidates for mayor from all municipalities and parties, emphasizing education and the need for continuity in key policies.

Country Situation as Affecting Children & Women

On the economic front, in mid-2013 the Central Bank of Honduras estimated GDP growth for the year at between 2.6 per cent and 3.6 per cent, and a fiscal deficit of at least 6 per cent of GDP. A recent study carried out by UNICEF (yet to be published) concluded that if the current fiscal trends continue, the country will not have enough of its own resources to cover expenditure on key social sectors, including on children.

The general elections held at the end of November resulted in the break-up of the traditional two-party political structure. Seats in the National Congress were distributed among four major political forces. The ruling party candidate was declared President-elect by the Election Tribunal, with 36 per cent of the vote. That means the new Government will have to work hard to create alliances and consensus.
Data from the National Institute of Statistics (INE) household survey showed that poverty increased from 65.5 per cent of the population in 2008 to 71.1 per cent in 2012. During the same period, the number of people considered to be living in poverty grew by 4 per cent annually, while the population grew by only by 2 per cent a year. The Gini coefficient went from 0.525 in 2009 to 0.574 in 2012, indicating that inequality has been increasing.

The system achieved the annual requirement of 200 days of schooling, after more than a decade of failing to meet this basic target. An internal report by the Ministry of Education (MOE) showed that net enrolment rates have not improved between 2010 and 2013. The figure for pre-basic has stayed at 34.5 per cent, in primary it actually fell from 87.7 per cent to 80 per cent, and for junior-high it stayed at around 42 per cent. There was some good news in terms of learning achievement. Test results showed that between 2010 and 2012, the average score for mathematics for children in the sixth grade (the end of the Primary cycle) improved from 37 per cent to 53 per cent; in language it improved from 60 per cent to 69 per cent. This can be attributed to the policy decisions and changes in governance and management of the Education sector implemented during 2012. The study on inclusion and exclusion in education estimates that in 2012 there were almost 261,000 children out of school, and almost 795,000 children from first to ninth grade were considered to be at risk of dropping out (almost 47.5 per cent of those enrolled in that year). The study concludes that the main bottlenecks in the education system are: inequities in access to the pre-school cycle and the first year of primary school; high rates of failure and repetition in the first years of primary and at junior-high high level; and the high rates of dropout seen from the age of 12 onward.

The findings of the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) for 2011/2012 showed that 23 per cent of children under five suffer from stunting (down from 30 per cent in 2006). The worst figures for malnutrition were for the Departments of Intibucá, Lempira and La Paz.

DHS data also showed that infant mortality fell very slightly from 25 to 24 per 1,000 between 2006 and 2012. Child mortality fell from 32 to 29 per 1,000 during the same period. The Departments with the worst mortality rates were Islas de la Bahía y Gracias a Dios.

A study on the determinants of infant mortality in Honduras showed that the factors contributing to higher mortality rates before children turn one year of age are:
(i) low-socio economic level of the household;
(ii) lack of health services in the community and limited access to utilities and roads;
(iii) limited or non-existent breast-feeding (when maintained for longer than 6 months, breast-feeding reduces the risk of death by a factor of 14);
(iv) the sex of the newborn – boys have a 1.3 times higher probability of death;
(v) multiple births -- children born in multiple births have a three times higher chance of dying; and
(vi) birth at home – children born at home have a 1.3 times higher probability of death compared to births in public health centres.

The early childhood development module of the DHS revealed that the majority of children between the ages of three and five have adequate levels of physical and socio-emotional development. However only 10.7 per cent are doing well with regard to reading/writing skills and mathematical reasoning.

A study published in 2013 by the Ministry of Health (MOH) estimated maternal mortality to be 73 per 100,000 live births compared to 182 per 100,000 in 1990. Between 1997 and 2010, maternal mortality fell in 15 out of 18 Departments. Women at the highest risk of dying are those over the age of 31, women in the home in rural areas, single mothers, and those with low levels of education. The main direct causes of preventable maternal deaths, for which specific interventions have to be developed are: haemorrhaging during pregnancy, birth and shortly after birth; hypertension; and puerperal sepsis. Indirect causes were found to have increased significantly, primarily as a result of respiratory illnesses that cause complications during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as problems arising from outbreaks of haemorrhagic dengue. The fact that 20 per cent of maternal deaths were adolescent girls (10-19 years) indicates that there is work to be done with that age group. According to DHS, those are worsening problems. In 2012, 24 per cent of adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 reported having been pregnant, compared to 21.6 per cent in 2006.
It is expected that Honduras will achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for water and sanitation. Significant funding was available for that sector from international cooperation partners. The improved drinking water targets of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy may not be achieved (coverage in 2013 is 87 per cent according to National Institute of Statistics, and the target for 2015 is 95 per cent).

The country's main cities continue to face high levels of insecurity and violence due to organized crime and drug trafficking, which has an especially negative effect on the lives of children and young people. Security continues to be a major issue in the country and the homicide rate has shown no signs of improving. Honduras continued to have the highest homicide rate in the world: 85.5 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants in 2012, according to the Observatory of Violence. The Bulletins on violence against children, which the Observatory published in 2012 with UNICEF's support, showed that the murder rates among adolescent males are all higher than the overall national rate – 97.1 for 16 year olds, 150.2 for 17 year-olds, and a staggering 192.7 for 18 year-olds.

### Country Programme Analytical Overview

In spite of concerted resource mobilisation efforts, in 2013 there was a gap in required resources of some US$5.5 million. The resources that were raised were mostly for protection and education programme areas. The Survival and ECD Programme was most affected by the lack of Other Resources (OR) funding, which threatens to stall or undermine the policy advances achieved over the past two years by the Country Office (CO). Special emphasis will be given to this area in the Office's resource mobilisation plans for 2014.

The Country Programme has had a strong focus on upstream policy work, primarily through advocacy, knowledge management, technical assistance and capacity development initiatives. This mix of strategies enabled the Office to use available resources very effectively in order to achieve a number of key results.

Work with the Ministry of Education was particularly intense, resulting in decisions to focus on reducing inequity and exclusion, and with initial efforts made to introduce a Monitoring of Results for Equity System (MoRES)-based approach for the sector, based on the findings of a study of exclusion and bottlenecks in education. Toward the end of the year, the first survey was carried out on community knowledge of education norms related to the appropriate age of pre-school and first grade enrolment and the issue of over-age children in schools. Those factors are considered to be the main causes of drop-out from the system. Other studies carried out in 2013, mainly related to social protection, provided valuable information for determinant and bottleneck analysis on the deprivation suffered by children and adolescents. In 2014, further work on consolidating MoRES in the education sector will be done and efforts will be made to introduce the approach to other sectors so as to strengthen and guide implementation of the Country Programme in a more equity-focused direction.

In 2013, the Regional Office helped the CO to revise the Country Programme's (CP's) Results Matrix. All indicators were reviewed and an adjusted list of more relevant indicators was proposed, more specifically focused on UNICEF's actual role and contributions and clarity on the sources of verification.

One of the major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Country Programme stems from the initial earmarking of 138 priority municipalities for action (out of 298 in the country). This proved difficult to manage, both programmatically as well as in terms of monitoring. Insufficient human and financial resources have meant that the CO has been unable to work in all priority municipalities in a meaningful way. The target municipalities are located all over the country, which makes coordination difficult. Upstream policy work meant that key interventions could still be directed at those municipalities, primarily in education and nutrition.

During the Mid-Term Review (MTR) planned for 2014, strategic and programmatic adjustments will probably need to be made with regard to the programme's interface and work at the municipal level. Strategic revisions of IRs, mainly those related to health and nutrition, will also likely be necessary.

### Humanitarian Assistance

During 2013, no humanitarian or emergency assistance was needed in Honduras. There were some small
A national dengue fever emergency was declared in July. As of the end of November, 36,147 cases had been reported, of which 4,161 were haemorrhagic fever, with 21 deaths. The national response was coordinated by the Ministry of Health with technical assistance from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)/World Health Organisation (WHO). UNICEF provided serum solution and catheters for the care of patients.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, UNICEF is assisting in the preparation of a response plan for potential re-occurrence of cholera in the country. During 2013, the CO worked with the National Water Authority (SANAA) in supporting the WASH Emergency Group, and also participated in the Emergency Group for the education sector led by the MoE.

Effective Advocacy

Fully met benchmarks

The National Congress approved important new laws for which UNICEF had advocated and provided technical assistance. Those included:

(a) Integral legislative reform that harmonises relevant national laws (Code on Children and Adolescents, Family Code, Civil Code, Penal Code, Penal and Due Process Code and the Law on Domestic Violence) with the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC);
(b) the Law on Responsible Parenthood, which guarantees key rights of children and adolescents - in particular the formal recognition of paternal surnames, the right to a food allowance and protection from abuse and neglect - and contributes to universal birth registration; and
(c) the Law on Breastfeeding.

As a result of broad and concerted inter-institutional technical and financial support, two other policies were also approved:

(a) the National Policy on Prevention of Violence against Children and Youth – UNICEF provided technical assistance and supported consultations and workshops; and
(b) the National Water and Sanitation Policy - UNICEF advocated and provided technical assistance for the reform of the sector, emphasising a human rights-based approach, the need for decentralization, and access to water in terms of quality and equity.

UNICEF continued to provide support for the educational statistics system so that it can generate evidence and advocate for 100 per cent fulfilment of the requirements of the school calendar, an essential element in reducing failure rates, the number of over-age pupils and dropouts. Advocacy efforts and strategic consultations to make Education a priority were carried out with national deputies, mayors, national and international NGOs, the private sector, faith-based organizations, the media, the G16 group of donors and cooperation partners, as well as with children and adolescents.

UNICEF’s inter-action with the Ministries of Finance and Social Development in 2013 on the need for and importance of measuring public expenditure on children led to the Government’s decision to institutionalise measures for identifying and measuring spending in three policy areas that were prioritized in the transition strategy developed for the incoming Government: the National Early Childhood Development Policy (Política Integral de Atención a la Primera Infancia, PNIAPI), the Social Protection policy, and the Policy on Human Rights.

National elections took place in November. UNICEF carried out strategic advocacy with the eight presidential candidates and the 1,060 mayoral candidates in 298 municipalities, aimed at sustaining the achievements in
the education sector. Advocacy was carried out in alliance with the National Association of Mayors (where UNICEF's long-standing relationship facilitated good collaboration), Swiss Cooperation and USAID. A communication strategy for sensitizing voters on the importance of education was implemented. In 2014 the Office will need to advocate extensively and provide technical assistance to help ensure that all the laws and policies introduced in 2013 are effectively implemented.

**Capacity Development**

*Fully met benchmarks*

The 2012-2016 Country Programme has a strong public policy and human rights framework. This requires national capacity in planning and adequate budgeting, efficient implementation and expenditure, effective management, and technical expertise. UNICEF and the Government established capacity development as one of the priorities for the country programme. It is a crosscutting strategy to achieve most, if not all, Programme Component Results (PCRs) and Intermediate Results (IRs).

UNICEF provided training, technical assistance, methodologies, and tools, and worked directly with various Ministries and Government entities in developing capacities that resulted in the following achievements:

a) The Ministry for Social Development and the inter-institutional committee (composed of Government, NGOs and cooperation partners) completed the Strategic Plan and the Operational Plan for 2014 for the National Policy on Integrated Care in Early Childhood.

b) The National Early Childhood Register expanded registration of births and monitoring of the health and nutritional status of 74,000 children in five Departments with the highest rates of poverty. This was accomplished through partnerships involving the Ministry for Social Development, inter-municipal networks, municipalities and NGOs. The Health Regions provided information from their surveillance system for children to feed into the Register. The World Food Programme (WFP) joined this initiative and provided information on 10,000 additional children in 38 municipalities.

c) A Community-based Model for Prevention of Violence was developed in five Municipalities with the highest rates of violence against children. Public institutions, local governments and NGOs worked together on violence prevention initiatives at the community, school and family levels. The model includes working on rehabilitation and re-integration of adolescents and youth with addictions, including those who have abandoned gangs. In 2013, more than 68,000 children and adolescents, 1,200 families and more than 200 schools and health units were included in the programme. Training was provided to public officials and staff of NGOs on how to attend to this population in technical areas such as psychology, social work and health.

d) UNICEF was involved in the efforts of the Ministry of Finance to develop a methodology in support of the Government Financial Administration System to classify the budget so that it can measure and monitor actual public spending on the national policies for early childhood, social protection and human rights. e) Training was provided to staff of the National Institute of Statistics and the institutions that constitute the System of Social Indicators for Children, Adolescents, and Women (SISNAM) on the use of the on-line version of DevInfo.

f) UNICEF staff provided training and direct technical assistance to improve the system of administrative registers of the Ministry of Education to support better decision making and strategic planning. Information is available nationally and by municipality on enrolment, budgets, infrastructure, staffing and academic achievement. In response to the findings of the out-of-school and bottleneck studies, a system for monitoring bottlenecks (administrative, budgetary, community and family) in 18 municipalities with high rates of repetition/dropout was set up using MoRES analysis.

**Communication for Development**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

One of the main vehicles for Communication for Development (C4D) in the Country Programme over the last
few years has been the Municipal Programme for Children, Adolescents and Youth (described in PCR5 below). Over the past two years, UNICEF’s work with the education sector has increased awareness that education is a right that must not be denied to any child. Using the Ministry of Education’s (MoE's) information base and UNICEF's analytical work, a strategy was developed and implemented to raise levels of commitment of national and municipal authorities, the media, parents and NGOs. The following activities were carried out:

(a) Communications campaigns, including TV and radio spots, were conducted with differentiated messages for various audiences on the roles each should play in the education sector. One example was the "Do your Homework" campaign, which promoted behaviour expected of parents and teachers to support children's education.

(b) The Minister of Education, NGO representatives and the UNICEF Representative took part in public forums and discussion programmes on TV and radio.

(c) Public banners and signs with short messages to attract people's attention and stir-up ideas were used on a wide scale.

(d) Extensive work with the "young communicators" network (children and adolescents in 73 municipalities who received training and technical support to produce their own radio and TV programmes) encouraged them to include the theme of education in their weekly programmes.

(e) Disaggregated data on the status of education in different municipalities was presented at the Annual Assembly of AMHON.

(f) During the election campaign, UNICEF advocated using key evidence in six regional forums in which almost 1,700 mayoral candidates from all the municipalities in the country participated. The UNICEF Representative also had direct bilateral discussions with the candidates for President and Vice-president. This intense advocacy and communications effort aimed at politicians was designed to try and break the traditional lack of continuity in policies and programmes that occurs when governments change. The following points also provide evidence of changes in attitudes and practices over the past two years. In the past, whenever there was a disruptive teachers’ strike, a budget crisis or major administrative failures, the newspapers, TV and radio never mentioned how the situation amounted to a violation of children's rights. More recently, emphasis in the media has been on giving priority to children and publicly supporting the major changes that have been achieved in the governance and management of the education sector. Previously, parents' associations would rarely do anything when schools had to be closed during strikes or protests against proposed changes in the sector. Now, they accept that education is vital for their children and are participating and contributing more at the school and community level to ensure that the need changes are introduced to the system.

### Service Delivery

*Fully met benchmarks*

The country programme now has a small component of service delivery combined with capacity development, added after an in-depth analysis of the situation of indigenous children in the Mosquitia (Gracias a Dios) region. This isolated and excluded region is characterized by disperse communities/homes with difficult access and has one of the lowest Human Development Index scores in Honduras, the lowest life expectancy and lowest health index. Infant mortality rate (IMR) is more than twice the national average (51/1,000 vs. 23/1,000 newborn children, according to the National DHS Survey ENDESA 2012/2013 MoH).

National investment in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure was not significant in this region due to high service delivery costs, logistical difficulties, cultural and language barriers. Ministry of Health statistics show that access to improved water facilities is 40 per cent and for sanitation it is 24 per cent, far below the national average of 89 per cent for water and 81 per cent for sanitation, and lower than the national averages for water and sanitation in several least developed countries (LDCs).

In 2013, a WASH project in schools in indigenous communities in the Mosquitia area was developed with OR funding. The project is being implemented in partnership with the NGO Water for People and includes the active participation of teachers, parents and students.
Because of the difficulties in accessing sources of water in the area, wells and hand pumps were introduced along with rainwater-collection systems. Separate latrines were built for girls and for boys. Some 1,700 children from 16 schools in nine communities, out of the region's total of 253 schools and nearly 35,000 students, were provided with WASH facilities and hygiene education. On the basis of this experience, a project proposal for additional funding was prepared for scaling-up the initiative and influencing national authorities to invest in universal coverage of WASH in schools in that region.

### Strategic Partnerships

*Mostly met benchmarks*

Moving from a project approach in water and sanitation to more up-stream work that contributes to the implementation of sector policies and expansion of coverage is a challenge for the Country Programme. UNICEF is an active member of the Round Table that provides technical and financial support for the sector. Other members include European Union (EU), World Bank (WB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and Central-American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), WHO/PAHO and the Swiss, Japanese and Spanish cooperation agencies. During 2013 a continuous working relationship with the Government authorities resulted in an updated situation analysis of water and sanitation; a proposal for sectoral reforms, necessary for implementation of the new policy; and a transition strategy for the new Government. The Round Table partnership helped to influence sectoral policy and to leverage funding (UNICEF's contribution for the period 2012-2016 amounts to US$515,000, and the members of the Round Table have allocated nearly US$89 million).

Another successful partnership was the Round Table for Education involving the WB, IDB, BCIE, the Ibero-American Organization for Education, the Swiss, Canadian, German, Japanese, US and Spanish cooperation agencies, the EU, WFP, UNFPA, WHO/PAHO and UNICEF. During 2013 the following results were achieved through this partnership:

- A survey of school infrastructure and facilities and resources for actual investment in infrastructure funded by the German Bank for Reconstruction (KFW), WB and the Swiss Cooperation Agency.
- Implementation of the Basic Law on Education was strengthened through the elaboration of a strategy for promoting better understanding and acceptance of the Law and its implications by teachers and parents. The first step was the publication of a more user-friendly version of the Law in coordination with the Ad-hoc Commission for Education Reform and the Ministry of Education.

The private sector was a key player in the economic, political and social developments in the country and its commitment is indispensable if exclusion and inequity are to be reduced. The Televicentro Corporation and the United Radio Broadcasters Circuit is one of the most influential consortiums in the country, with 85 per cent of the national audience for television and radio. During 2013 a partnership was established with the consortium to ensure that activities in health, education, child protection and violence prevention all have communication components directed at decision makers and society in general. The main achievements of this partnership have been to instil in the public the notion that education is a right of all children and counter political and public pressure to lower the age of criminal responsibility to below 18. The Consortium was encouraged to assume a public oversight function on social investment for children in Tegucigalpa; and to assume an internal self-regulating role for ensuring that radio and television programming is appropriate for children and adolescents. This partnership has progressed from one of supporting communications campaigns to one where the consortium is playing a much more pro-active role as a development partner.

### Knowledge Management

*Fully met benchmarks*

Two PCRs are oriented to generate information and knowledge management in the Country Programme for 2012-2016. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for carrying out and disseminating studies with practical application in areas of public policy related to children. Work was coordinated with Government officials to create capacity, systems and tools for generating and managing knowledge.
Budgeting and Investing in Children: This study on fiscal possibilities and opportunities for financing social protection proposes a package of measures in the context of the country’s fiscal crisis. The study provided evidence for UNICEF advocacy on protecting social expenditure on children for a group of notable Honduran economists who are promoting a fiscal reform process based on a national accord.

The “Citizens’ Budget” bulletin is an instructional document that aims to ensure that the public understands the key role the National Budget plays in development based on equity and the fulfilment of human rights. It is hoped that this knowledge will also enable citizens to exercise public scrutiny and lead the way to greater transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in Government institutions.

UNICEF helped to improve the reporting system of the Ministry of Finance for budget implementation through the standardisation and integration of management tools. UNICEF also helped to introduce a tool into the Government's Integrated Financial Management System that helps eliminate duplication of budgetary allocations.

Prevention of Violence: Special bulletins reporting on violence against children (in five municipalities with the highest homicide rate) provided concrete evidence of the violence children suffer, supported advocacy in favour of anti-violence work among children from an early age, and helped design locally relevant interventions. A survey was also implemented in the Central District on people's perceptions of insecurity and violence.

Education: UNICEF contributed to transforming and re-organising information on education and the resulting products were used for strategic decision-making and planning. Management tools were standardised and institutionalized for the analysis of educational data at central/national level, as well as by municipality, on enrolment, budgets, facilities, staffing and manpower, and academic achievement. A unique coding system was created for schools that enables data and information from the various reporting mechanisms listed above to be correlated. A monitoring system was created for 18 priority municipalities.

Early Childhood Development: The 2011-12 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) report included a specific chapter on Early Childhood Development. UNICEF contributed to preparation of the report by providing technical assistance for data sorting, tabulation and analysis. The work was carried out with the National Statistics Institute so as to establish capacity for this type of analysis.

**Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation**

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF supported actions that helped Honduras make significant progress in terms of legal reform, the introduction of public policies and establishment of institutions to monitor children’s rights. UNICEF also supported the Government in defining more precisely the mechanisms and procedures for ensuring that those instruments have an actual impact and the most vulnerable children see their rights fulfilled.

Within this programmatic framework, and with a focus on equity, universality and the best interests of the child, the following actions were undertaken by UNICEF and its partners:

a) knowledge generation to orient Government decisions and actions in education (inclusiveness and access to pre-basic and basic education), nutrition (BFHI) among others;

b) establishment of a formal institutional basis for the measurement and monitoring of public investment in children;

c) clear identification and planning of institutions' budgetary allocations for the implementation of public policies; and

d) regulation of the investments and expenditures made by local governments, ensuring that within the framework of central Government transfers to the Municipal level, mandatory expenditure on children increases from 1 per cent to at least 5 per cent of total transfers.

Children's and adolescents' participation as rights-holders in local decision-making bodies was promoted through work with the Municipal Programmes for Children, Adolescents and Youth. (See PCR 5 for more
Taken together, these initiatives are helping the State to establish the basis for systematically monitoring the implementation of public policies and social sector programmes in favour of children. At the same time they are helping national authorities to be able to report periodically on the extent to which their internationally-agreed upon commitments in favour of children’s rights are being met, and to systematically identify areas where they may be falling short.

**Gender Equality**

*Partially met benchmarks*

In 2013, UNICEF carried out an assessment to determine whether gender equality is adequately reflected in the Country Programme. The analysis was done jointly with UN-Women and UNFPA, and tried to determine whether the strategy is being applied in a crosscutting manner in the programmes and workplans of all the agencies of the UN system in Honduras. In UNICEF’s case, the assessment concluded that the gender equality focus needs to be strengthened, and was only visible in those areas related to adolescent pregnancy, HIV-AIDS and gender-based violence. The assessment also noted that for several future programme work plan activities, family-level interventions were being planned without taking into account the gender perspective of different roles played by men and women, boys and girls.

A knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) survey was conducted among UN staff. The results of that inter-agency initiative are being used to develop training plans for all staff for the remaining years of the country programme (2014-2016).

The rights-based elements of the Country Programme give priority to ensuring that reliable, gender-disaggregated information is available, contributing to the establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring system for child rights. Translating the conclusions gleaned from data into specific actions within the programme is a continuing challenge.

Generating knowledge on gender issues is also important for ensuring a gender equality focus in the various areas of the Country Programme. For this reason UNICEF continued to cooperate with the Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University on the publication of a series of Bulletins with data on violent deaths among women and femicides. A gender-focused survey on perceptions of violence among children, adolescents and women was carried out in Tegucigalpa. The survey’s final report contains nine specific recommendations on insecurity and violence against women that will help guide the work being done in this area.

Within the framework of the Joint UNICEF and UN-Women Project on Safe and Friendly Cities for All, the candidates for Mayor of the Central District (of which the national capital is a part) agreed to maintain the "Commitment to a Safe and Secure City for Women."

Through advocacy and technical support, UNICEF worked to ensure that the Law on Promotion and Protection of Breastfeeding was passed by the National Congress. The law constitutes an important step in reducing gender inequality, particularly in the labour market, by guaranteeing working mothers the right to breastfeed their babies and by providing follow-up support through child-care centres or other modalities.

**Environmental Sustainability**

*Partially met benchmarks*

Honduras is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly hurricanes, floods and drought – risks which are exacerbated by climate change. It is therefore vital that UNICEF’s programme work includes attention to disaster prevention, preparedness and response to mitigate the impact of these natural phenomena on the lives of vulnerable groups, especially children.
Toward the end of 2013, a regional multi-country project on Strengthening Community Resilience through Municipal Technical Teams was launched by the Regional Office. The project aims to ensure that families in rural areas are able to attain higher levels of sustainable livelihood security and, with the support of community, municipal and departmental authorities, are better prepared to cope with emergencies. The project covers approximately 41,000 people, including almost 19,000 children and some 20,000 women, in six adjacent municipalities in the south of the country. All the members of the technical teams covering the six municipalities have been trained. They will be responsible for following through on activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of the local and municipal Emergency Committees to deal with emergencies based on the standards of UNICEF’s Core Corporate Commitments.

Environmental sustainability is a key consideration in the WASH project in schools for indigenous children in the ecologically fragile Mosquitia region. Alternative technology has been used to address contamination of water sources (mainly rivers), through the installation of hand pumps, systems for rain water collection and latrines. The project has a strong component of hygiene education for children and parents, including appropriate waste disposal.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

The UNICEF Offices in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras launched a multi-country project to support the development of integrated social protection systems. The three Offices identified common issues in terms of child poverty, institutional weaknesses, weak policy development frameworks and poorly-developed social welfare systems. This underlined the relevance of analysing and strengthening the systems so as to ensure the effective inclusion and coverage of children from the most vulnerable socio-economic groups. In the case of Honduras, a political opportunity presented itself in the form of the recent approval by Congress of two inter-related social policies: the Social Protection Policy and the Early Childhood Development Policy. The Honduras CO provided technical support for the elaboration of both policies' strategic plans.

During the course of 2013, UNICEF worked with the relevant institutions in each country to design and carry out studies on social protection for children – one study of each country and a consolidated multi-country component that summarises the findings on each country and contains common recommendations that can also be applied to other countries.

The "Analysis of social and economic vulnerabilities affecting children and families" and the "Analysis of fiscal space to finance Social Protection systems" are scheduled to be completed in 2014. (The latter study has already been completed for Honduras and Guatemala). The third study on capacity gap analysis will be carried out and a proposal and costing for an integrated system of social protection for children will be designed. Various national and regional forums on social protection will be organized to strengthen political support. A number of organisations, including the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) have expressed interest in the project. The multi-country study will be published jointly with ECLAC.

In coordination with the Latin American Network of Breastmilk Banks (LANBB) and PAHO/INCAP (Central American and Panama institute for Nutrition), the Baby-Friendly Hospitals Initiative (BFHI) was re-launched in Honduras. This contributed to the re-activation of the South-South Cooperation Agreement between Honduras and Brazil. For 2014, the Government of Brazil will continue providing financial and technical assistance to establish breast milk banks in other hospitals in Honduras. UNICEF-Honduras will also contribute technical assistance as well as communications support. (More details on the project in Honduras can be found under PCR 2).
Narrative Analysis by Programme Component Results and Intermediate Results
Honduras – 1860

PC 1 - Young child survival and development

- **On-track**

**PCR 1860/A0/05/001** By 2016, a national policy on ECD is consolidated and operating in a coordinated manner with other child related policies such as health, nutrition and social protection.

**Progress:** The National ECD Policy Strategic Plan 2014-2025 and Plan of Operations for 2014 were finalized. UNICEF provided technical and financial support and the plans were developed by the Inter-Agency ECD Committee (consisting of Government, NGOs and cooperation partners) led by the Social Development Ministry.

The Ministry of Social Development (SDS) and the Planning Ministry (SEPLAN) developed a plan to ensure the sustainability of the seven social policies approved by the current Government. These include the National ECD Policy (PAIPI) and the Social Protection Policy. UNICEF advocated for and served in an advisory capacity in the preparation of this transition agenda for the new Government.

The Government and UNICEF gave priority to the implementation of the "A Promise Renewed” initiative, the "Baby-friendly Hospitals Initiative,” and the introduction of the "Nutritional Surveillance Norms for Under-Fives."

In the effort to cut vertical HIV transmission, the Ministry of Health (MoH) gave priority to the application of rapid testing for pregnant women coupled with pre- and post-test counselling, and the strengthening of information systems in three Health Regions.

Constraints and risks encountered included:
(a) Lack of resources meant that the CO could not provide adequate technical and financial assistance to implementing partners. Technical support was only available up to March. Six funding proposals were prepared for donors but none of them were funded.

(b) The Institutional crisis affecting the National Institute for the Child and the Family left a leadership void in the coordination of issues related to children and families. The SDS, which coordinates national social policies, was in a position to ably assume leadership.

(c) Instability in the MoH (there were three Ministers between 2010 and 2013), and lack of coordination between the different programmes for care of the under-fives affected the achievement of results.

- **On-track**

**IR 1860/A0/05/001/001** By 2016, children at 138 priority municipalities reduce the prevalence of chronic malnutrition and achieve sound development through the implementation of National Nutrition Plan (0-5 years old) and National ECD Plan (0-6 years old).

**Progress:** UNICEF’s advocacy, technical and financial support and communications strategies contributed to:

A Promise Renewed (APR): Nomination of a focal point in the MoH; presentation of APR to the cooperation Round Table; Government participation in the regional APR for the Americas meeting, and manifesting the full support of the President of Honduras.

Breastfeeding: The breast-milk banks operating in two main public hospitals contributed to the successful attention of 1,001 newborns by intensive and intermediary care services. A monitoring system was set up with information on the number of women donating milk, quantities of pasteurized milk available and on the babies who have benefited. With the support of the Latin American Network of Breastmilk Banks (LANBB) and PAHO/INCAP the Baby-Friendly Hospitals Initiative (BFHI) was re-launched, incorporating 23 out of 25 hospitals and 3 Health Centres. This contributed to the renewal of the South-South Cooperation Agreement between Honduras and Brazil. Brazil provided training on operating the banks. UNICEF Honduras was officially recognised by the LANBB for its contribution in breastfeeding. The Law on Promotion and Protection of Breastfeeding was approved.

Nutritional Surveillance: Technical capacity was established in 29 municipalities of two of the country’s Health Regions with the highest under-5 mortality rates so that over 14,500 children could have their nutritional status monitored. Some 330 health workers and members of facilitation teams were trained.

The following activities were deferred to 2014: updating the National Nutrition Plan and development of a Communication strategy for breastfeeding promotion. This was due primarily to time constraints, limited funding, and limited institutional response during a period of electioneering and political transition.

The result related to complementary food items will be reviewed during the Mid-Term Review, as it does not appear to be feasible.

- **On-track**

**IR 1860/A0/05/001/002** By 2015, pregnant women and their children have access to adequate PMTCT services and integrated attention for the HIV.

**Progress:** UNICEF’s advocacy, technical and financial support and communications strategies contributed to expansion of the capacity of 18 health establishments in three Health Regions with HIV prevalence levels of 0.4 per cent to 0.1 per cent among pregnant women. Some 14,092 women were tested during their first ante-natal consultation, of which 13 tested positive for HIV and were incorporated into the programme for prevention of vertical transmission.
Further efforts are needed to strengthen the flow of adequate and timely information to pregnant women on ante-natal care to motivate them to be tested for HIV and to improve the management of supply, storage and distribution of rapid testing kits in order to meet the demand.

Discussions with UNAIDS and the Global Fund on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMCT) are strategically important during 2014 in order to align efforts in specific areas with high rates of HIV prevalence.

Lessons learned in 2013 included: culturally-relevant education on prevention facilitates work with pregnant women during their ante-natal check-ups and the carrying out of rapid testing; and continuous training of staff involved in the supply chain has a positive impact on the application of rapid tests.

**On-track**

**IR 1860/A0/05/001/003 1.3 Project support costs for National Policy on ECD.**

**Progress:** UNICEF provided human resource support and the funds utilized contributed to the achievement of other IRs within the programme component, or across Programme components in the country programme of cooperation.

**Constrained**

**PCR 1860/A0/05/002 By 2016, 80 per cent of girls and boys in their first 1000 days have access to integrated ECD which guarantees the survival and development to their maximum potential, with specific focus on the priority municipalities.**

**Progress:** The Regional Office helped the Office to re-define its strategic priorities for WASH, which include sector monitoring, policy dialogue on coverage for excluded populations and areas, WASH in schools, and emergency preparedness and response.

UNICEF’s high-level advocacy efforts helped ensure the approval of the National Water and Sanitation Policy. With support from the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) the Emergency Preparedness and Response group/table was strengthened. The structural and technical weaknesses of national and municipal institutions responsible for the sector continue to pose challenges. UNICEF participated in the partners’ Round Table, which includes the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), IDB, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), the EU, PAHO/WHO and the Swiss, Spanish and Japanese cooperation entities.

UNICEF supported the National Registration System (RNP) in its efforts to ensure universal birth registration of all children before they reach the age of one. In 2012 the percentage of unregistered children went down slightly, from 8 per cent to 7 per cent. In 2013 the RNP’s implementation capacity for birth registration was limited due to its concentration on issuing ID cards for voters in the November elections. UNICEF and PAHO have agreed to help establish birth registration offices in 4 hospitals in 2014.

With support from UNICEF, the Ministry for Social Development (SDS) demonstrated significant gains in the geographic coverage of the National Early Childhood Register (REMPI) and in the number of children included in the system. Through REMPI, a child's access to health care, nutrition, education, protection and recreation can be monitored directly, using their birth registration number. The SDS set up working partnerships at the municipal level with the Ministry of Health, WFP and local and regional social protection boards that resulted in additional resources and access to data to feed into the registration system. The biggest challenge facing REMPI is how to strengthen those local alliances to ensure sustainability.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in implementing a model for analysing infant and child mortality and for monitoring the implementation of the Integrated Care Strategy for Childhood Illnesses in Lempira, one of the Departments with the highest infant mortality rates (IMR) in the country (31 per 1,000). UNICEF also helped ensure supplies of the PCV 13 vaccine.

**On-track**

**IR 1860/A0/05/002/001 2.1. By 2015, women and newborn infants of 138 priority municipalities have access to adequate services, including minimum four prenatal controls and skilled birth attendance.**

**Progress:** The CO was not able to achieve the anticipated results in 2013. The main reasons for the lack of progress were slow progress in the preparation of the Annual Plan with the Lempira Health Region; and bureaucratic delays in the opening of a bank account by the Lempira Health Region.

UNICEF continued to support three health service networks in the Lempira Health Region in developing the workplan for 2014. The workplan includes the following key elements: identifying the bottlenecks in the provision of ante-natal care; training of health personnel for effective service delivery; control of outbreaks of pneumonia and other childhood illnesses that are common in the region; promoting an inter-cultural dialogue between traditional and institutional service providers; and setting up a forum on child survival at the Departmental level.

The following opportunities emerged and will be explored further: selection of six decentralised health networks with high infant mortality to promote the Promise Renewed Initiative; and more profound analysis of barriers to the realisation of the health rights of children, adolescents and pregnant women in the municipalities with indigenous and Afro-Honduran populations, seeking evidence of exclusion and the best way to tackle the problems identified.

**Constrained**

**IR 1860/A0/05/002/002 2.2. By 2016, governmental institutions both at central and local level (with special focus on the 138 priority municipalities) implement policies, regulations and instruments to WASH sector management, including emergency preparedness and response plan.**
**Progress:** UNICEF cooperation contributed to approval of the National Water and Sanitation Policy and to a Water and Sanitation sector reform proposal incorporating the rights-based approach, decentralisation, and universal access to clean drinking water. UNICEF also supported the design of a financial information system for Water and Sanitation that identifies municipal level investment by Government, donors and NGOs and covers infrastructure, system operation, maintenance, training, institutional capacity building and protection of water sources, consolidating dispersed data. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, NGOs and cooperation partners, a proposal for establishing norms for WASH in schools was completed. The study on hygiene and sanitation infrastructure in schools was updated to cover 21,000 schools (100 per cent) in the country and will be used for the Master Plan for School Infrastructure. A pilot WASH project for schools was implemented in indigenous communities in the Mosquita region (a poor, excluded and remote/isolated part of the country). The project covers some 1,700 children in 16 schools of 9 communities of Puerto Lempira.

The National Water and Sewerage Service and UNICEF led the WASH emergency group in preparing a contingency plan, an inventory and mapping of institutional capacity, and training of personnel in treatment plants.

Under the leadership of the Regional Office, a project to promote resilience and emergency preparedness was initiated in six municipalities in the south of Honduras.

**Progress:** UNICEF's advocacy, communications work, technical and financial assistance contributed to the growth of the National Early Childhood Registration System (RENPI) piloted in 2012. The Ministry for Social Development created partnerships with the Social Protection Boards (MPS), municipal leaders and the private sector to be able to enter data into the system in five new Departments. Coverage of RENPI expanded from 8 to 29 Municipalities in one year, with 74,000 children under six years of age being registered, in predominantly indigenous and high-risk population areas. The World Food Programme also became a partner in the initiative, - data on an additional 10,000 children from another 38 municipalities was added to the system. The main constraints in this area were: a) insecurity, violence, difficult access and lack of transportation facilities for staff, limited the possibilities of work in certain areas; b) information is not yet fully digitised/computerised so is processed slowly; c) limited hours of service in Health Units; d) decline in birth registrations, especially in locations affected by natural calamities (flooding etc.); e) poor Internet access in priority areas; f) entering data into RENPI is still regarded by staff as additional work rather than part of their normal routine; and h) the Ministry of Health has yet to “fully own” RENPI.

**Progress:** UNICEF provided human resource support and funds utilized mainly helped contribute to the achievement other IRs within the programme component, or across Programme components in the country programme of cooperation.

### PC 2 - Access to quality education and protection of children’s and adolescents’ rights

**Progress:** The legislative reform harmonising national laws on children and the family with the CRC was approved by Congress, ratified by the President and published in September 2013. In May, the Law on Responsible Parenthood was approved and ratified. This law promotes and facilitates children's rights and helps ensure universal birth registration. UNICEF advocated for and provided technical assistance for the development and approval of both laws.

As a result of a major advocacy effort with multiple institutions, in March the Cabinet approved the National Policy on Prevention of Violence Against Children and Young People. The policy, which is presided over by the Commission on the Prevention of Violence (COPREV), became the primary state instrument for combating violence against children and youth.

To fulfil the Basic Law on Education, the new Regulations governing its implementation were completed and distributed. There were also major advances in the process for the decentralization, to Department level, of technical, administrative, and financial responsibilities. The process was supported by UNICEF and members of the Round Table for Education (MERECE). A more user-friendly version of the document "Understanding the basic law on Education" was developed and validated. It is intended for use by pupils, teachers, parents and the community.

The lack of resources in the state budget and the need to improve management results and impact has led to the Government consider alternatives for combining public entities working in the same area and with the same population groups, especially in the social sector.

**Progress:** UNICEF's advocacy, communications work, technical and financial assistance contributed to approval of the National Water and Sanitation Policy and to a Water and Sanitation sector reform proposal incorporating the rights-based approach, decentralisation, and universal access to clean drinking water. UNICEF also supported the design of a financial information system for Water and Sanitation that identifies municipal level investment by Government, donors and NGOs and covers infrastructure, system operation, maintenance, training, institutional capacity building and protection of water sources, consolidating dispersed data. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, NGOs and cooperation partners, a proposal for establishing norms for WASH in schools was completed. The study on hygiene and sanitation infrastructure in schools was updated to cover 21,000 schools (100 per cent) in the country and will be used for the Master Plan for School Infrastructure. A pilot WASH project for schools was implemented in indigenous communities in the Mosquita region (a poor, excluded and remote/isolated part of the country). The project covers some 1,700 children in 16 schools of 9 communities of Puerto Lempira.

The National Water and Sewerage Service and UNICEF led the WASH emergency group in preparing a contingency plan, an inventory and mapping of institutional capacity, and training of personnel in treatment plants.

Under the leadership of the Regional Office, a project to promote resilience and emergency preparedness was initiated in six municipalities in the south of Honduras.

**Progress:** UNICEF's advocacy, communications work, technical and financial assistance contributed to the growth of the National Early Childhood Registration System (RENPI) piloted in 2012. The Ministry for Social Development created partnerships with the Social Protection Boards (MPS), municipal leaders and the private sector to be able to enter data into the system in five new Departments. Coverage of RENPI expanded from 8 to 29 Municipalities in one year, with 74,000 children under six years of age being registered, in predominantly indigenous and high-risk population areas. The World Food Programme also became a partner in the initiative, - data on an additional 10,000 children from another 38 municipalities was added to the system. The main constraints in this area were: a) insecurity, violence, difficult access and lack of transportation facilities for staff, limited the possibilities of work in certain areas; b) information is not yet fully digitised/computerised so is processed slowly; c) limited hours of service in Health Units; d) decline in birth registrations, especially in locations affected by natural calamities (flooding etc.); e) poor Internet access in priority areas; f) entering data into RENPI is still regarded by staff as additional work rather than part of their normal routine; and h) the Ministry of Health has yet to "fully own" RENPI.

**Progress:** UNICEF provided human resource support and funds utilized mainly helped contribute to the achievement other IRs within the programme component, or across Programme components in the country programme of cooperation.
Ensuring adequate resources for the consolidation and expansion of the achievements to date constitutes a major challenge for the State, civil society and the education community. Continued strict and full adherence to the school calendar (after the many years of serious shortfalls), expansion of pre-primary education, improving quality at all levels and bringing all excluded children into the system will all require strong political, technical as well as financial support.
On-track

**IR 1860/A0/05/004/001 4.1** By 2016, the Ministry of Education validates, approves and implement the plan to gradually universalize the preschool education and basic education with specific focus to 138 priority municipalities.

**Progress:** Under the Basic Law on Education, the State is obliged to gradually and progressively ensure at least one year of compulsory pre-basic (pre-primary) education for all children. UNICEF supported a major study entitled “Analysis of the technical and financial implications of universalisation of pre-basic education and the National Plan for Universalisation,” which was carried out in collaboration with the National Pedagogic University (UPN). The study took into account geographic and population-related priorities that will be implemented in 2014 by the Ministry of Education in partnership with the UPN and the NGO sector.

The study identified the following key implications for the policy’s implementation: the need for gradual implementation, starting with a pilot phase followed by expansion to some 360 new centres over two years and then gradual universalisation to reach the 65,000 under-5s thought to be currently excluded from the system; and an investment of approximately US$130 million over 7 years, approximately 13 per cent of the annual MoE budget.

To further support implementation of the policy, the Pre-basic Education Unit of the MoE, in collaboration with national universities and other Government and civil society partners and UNICEF, developed a proposed set of basic standards for a Pre-basic Quality Education model.

On-track

**IR 1860/A0/05/004/002 4.2.** By 2015, Honduras applies decentralized Plans and Strategies to identify and enrol out of school children and improve education quality with gender focus, integrating at least 50 per cent of the excluded children in basic education system.

**Progress:** The “Everyone Can Learn” project was implemented in the western part of the country. It aims to ensure that children who have been excluded from the system are able to enter the first cycle of basic education (ages 6 to 14). The project increased its coverage from 4 Departments to 6, from 5 municipalities to 20, and from 13 schools to 180, helping approximately 7,200 children enter and stay in the first cycle of basic education. The Project will be expanded to 100 additional schools. Strategic partnerships will be established so that expanded coverage can be sustained and to ensure timely monitoring and technical support.

Three plans and departmental-level strategies were developed to ensure enrolment and retention of excluded children among indigenous and afro-descendant groups. These covered 26 Lenca municipalities in Lempira Department, 10 predominantly Maya-Chortí municipalities in Copán, and 6 Miskita municipalities in Gracias a Dios. Those are municipalities with the lowest levels of academic achievement, low initial age-appropriate enrolment, and high rates of repetition. The plans will be implemented over the period 2014-2018 using Government resources and other sources of funding.

The technical and administrative capacity of the Ministry of Education needs to be strengthened at central, regional and local levels to ensure an effective decentralization process. An alliance for education is needed, one that promotes quality education as public policy and that fully involves civil society and the education community.

On-track

**IR 1860/A0/05/004/003 4.3** Project support costs for Access to pre-school primary completion.

**Progress:** UNICEF provided human resource support and the funds utilized contributed to the achievement other IRs within the programme component, or across Programme components in the country programme of cooperation.

PCR 1860/A0/05/005 By 2016, adolescents, especially those exposed to vulnerable conditions, such as urban marginalized areas, indigenous and afro-Honduran groups, are empowered and participate to fulfil their rights to achieve their full potential through increased learning opportunities.

**Progress:** Through the school and student governments that are part of the Municipal Programmes for Children, Adolescents and Youth (PMIAJ), training in schools on HIV-AIDS and prevention of adolescent pregnancy was expanded from 36 to 50 municipalities. This was made possible by better coordination between the municipal bodies and the school district structures, which was facilitated by greater stability and better governance of the education sector as a whole in 2013.

The role that children and adolescents from the PMIAJ have played in the annual national Assemblies of the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AMHON) helped convince the National Congress to approve an increase (from 1 per cent to 5 per cent) in the amount that must be allocated to investments in children and adolescents within the central level transfers to municipal governments.

During its 2013 annual assembly, in which all the mayors in the country participated, AMHON, one of UNICEF’s strategic partners, provided opportunities for advocacy on the importance of education in the lives of children and adolescents. Similar advocacy efforts were made during the run-up to national and local elections, when orientation was provided for approximately 1,700 mayoral candidates (68 per cent of all candidates for mayor), representing all nine political parties. In 2014, the newly elected mayors will receive training to encourage them to prioritise investments in children and adolescents in their local plans and budgets.

In 2013 the programme operation was affected by several factors, including the election process; the growing insecurity and violence in some municipalities, which limited possibilities for mobilization and participation of children and adolescents; and delays in the transfer of central Government resources to the municipalities.
**IR 1860/A0/05/005/001 5.1** By 2015, the adolescents in 80 per cent of the education centres of the priority 138 municipalities have access to adequate and relevant life skill information, with gender focus, contributing to the prevention of HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy, and various forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Progress:** The Municipal Programmes for Children, Adolescents and Youth implemented in 50 municipalities with high rates of HIV prevalence covered almost 4,000 urban and rural schools and reached a total of 325,000 adolescents. The specially developed guide “Taking care of My Health and My Life” was the focus of activities, which were implemented with the leadership and full support of the Ministry of Education. The technical staff of the municipalities worked with school teachers in all the educational workshops. The municipal programmes were financed by Canadian Cooperation funds, with technical support and guidance from UNICEF and UNFPA.

The municipalities worked directly with schools and emphasised the use of peer-to-peer counselling methodologies, as well as other opportunities such as. Theatre performances during local public festivities, the "Football for Life" activities, and the activities of student governments aimed at adolescents and young people who are not in school.

**IR 1860/A0/05/005/002 5.2** By 2016, children and adolescents at priority municipalities participate in the process of policy formulation and programmes relevant to their wellbeing, and strengthen their life skills, which include the HIV prevention, early pregnancy, and various forms of discrimination, violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Progress:** The Municipal Programmes for Children, Adolescents and Youth programme included activities of young communicators, school governments, and theatre for young people, municipal defenders and volunteers. The evaluation of the programme completed in 2013 demonstrated that:

a) 100 per cent of the participating municipalities put into practice and/or are open to the participation of children, adolescents and youth in the decision-making processes of the Municipal Councils;
b) there has been an increase in the funds coming from the Central Government to the Municipalities for investment in children, adolescents and youth – from 1 per cent of total transfers in 2010 to 5 per cent in 2013 – which can be attributed to the impact of the programme;
c) the programmes have been formally absorbed into the municipal structures;
d) some municipalities are investing more than the statutory 5 per cent, primarily in education and health; and

e) 85 per cent of the personnel supporting the municipal programmes are young volunteers, which strengthens the work with peer groups.

In 2013, 43 per cent of the municipalities implementing the programme were financially self-sustaining, with UNICEF providing only technical support and guidance. An agreement was signed with the Federation of Private Development Organisations of Honduras to help increase coverage to 35 additional municipalities.

The Municipal Programme has been recognised locally, nationally and within the sub-region for its methodology for HIV-AIDS prevention, its sustainability, and the way it promotes active participation of children and adolescents through its various networks.

The structures and methodologies that have been developed for the Programme will be used to develop a more integrated approach for dealing with adolescent issues within the country programme, with a view to getting stronger linkages between the various aspects of the work of the Country Office.

---

### PC 3 - Monitoring of children's rights and social policies

**On-track**

**PCR 1860/A0/05/006** By 2016, the country has the system, at national and municipality level to follow up the fulfilment of the rights of children and adolescents.

**Progress:** Honduras has made significant advances in improving the quality and disaggregation of data on children and adolescents by gender and by geographical area. The country now has much more municipal-level data, especially on education. In 2014 it is hoped that a cooperation agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Honduras (AHMON) can be negotiated to strengthen their information system.

During 2013, the mechanisms for reporting on the CRC and its two facultative protocols were strengthened. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights is now responsible for monitoring all international treaties and conventions to which Honduras is a party. UNICEF provided advice, training, and consultancy services to the Ministry to assist the staff responsible for monitoring the CRC and preparing the Reports. The National Report on the CRC and its Optional Protocols were consolidated and presented by the Government to the Child Rights Committee in Geneva. The Alternative Report was also completed and will be reviewed with a view to its formal submission in 2014.

The programme of cooperation continued work on improving the efficiency and quality of education in the country by strengthening the sector’s information system and its sub-systems, thus contributing to better evidence-based decision-making and strategic planning choices in the sector, especially with regard to excluded groups.

The System of Social Indicators on Children, Adolescents and Women (SISNAM) administered by the National Institute of Statistics was strengthened. The Institutional Committee responsible for maintaining the integrity and legitimacy of SISNAM was reactivated and its members committed to providing timely and accurate information to ensure its effective functioning. DHS data has been incorporated...
into the platform of SISNAM.
UNICEF contributed to the improvements achieved in the reporting system on budget execution in the Ministry of Finance through the standardization and incorporation of management models based on COGNOS, a web based reporting tool. This was done in order to move toward a better system of accountability on the part of the Government and to get a more accurate idea of the levels of investment in children and adolescents. The accuracy of budgetary information was improved through the introduction of a tool into the Government's Integrated System of Financial Administration that helps eliminate duplication of budgetary allocations.

**On-track**

**IR 1860/A0/05/006/001 6.1 By 2016, the country has a monitoring and surveillance system of the situation of children with gender focus which facilitates the analysis of disaggregated data, the planning, monitoring, evaluation and accountability of social policies and national (and sub national) budget, in the framework of national and international instruments of human rights.**

**Progress:** In 2013 there were important gains in the availability of relevant and disaggregated data at national, Departmental and municipalities. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for the National DHS 2011-2012 report, which was officially released in 2013. The report included for the first time a specific module on early childhood development. UNICEF strongly advocated for that element to be included in the report and supported technical work in data sorting/tabulation/analysis.

UNICEF also provided support for the System of Social Indicators on Children, Adolescents and Women, to incorporate a national version of DevInfo 7.1, which improved the system’s functionality. The system contains updated and accurate data now accessible to the public online.

The administrative registers providing information at national and municipal levels on enrolment, budgets, infrastructure, staffing and learning achievement were improved. The registers were harmonised and standardised by introducing a system of unique codes for every school. Work on updating data on staffing and learning achievement was delayed by a shortage of human resources, which is a potential risk for sustainability.

UNICEF strongly advocated with the outgoing Government and the advisers to the President-elect to ensure continuity of the important policies for the governance and management of the education sector that have been introduced in the last two years.

On the basis of the above-mentioned analysis, The MOE created a specific budget allocation from 2014 onward for measures to reduce inequities in access to education. UNICEF’s technical support and close collaboration with the Ministry's higher echelons led to the establishment of a system for monitoring the coverage of education in 18 municipalities with significant levels of drop-out and repetition. Progress in overcoming the main bottlenecks to increased coverage will also be monitored.

**On-track**

**PCR 1860/A0/05/007 By 2016, The country has the knowledge/systems to design/analyse and evaluate social policies and programmes, which have high impact on children and adolescents.**

**Progress:** UNICEF has made a significant contribution to the generation of knowledge for strengthening social policies for children and adolescents. UNICEF's advocacy and technical assistance were instrumental in persuading the Government to carry out an exercise to identify all expenditures in the national budget related to the implementation of the Early Childhood Development policy and the Social Protection and Human Rights policies. This was a crucial step toward identifying the budgetary gaps for those policies, with a view to guaranteeing their sustainability through the period of transition to the new Government and beyond.

UNICEF contributed to the elaboration and dissemination of thematic and budgetary analyses in various areas of public policy for children. Those studies are intended to orient the practical measures taken by the Government or civil society in high-priority spheres of public policy for children, including the design of a system of social protection focused on children, the protection of social expenditure in times of crisis and fiscal reform, programmes on the prevention of violence, and the definition of priorities in the area of education.

The studies on social protection derive from a collaborative project between the UNICEF Offices for Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. That collaboration also provided multi-country outputs, including a comparative analysis of social protection in the three countries, and the identification of new strategic allies and the definition of mechanisms for expanding the application of the results of the project to other countries in the region.

UNICEF provided significant technical and financial support in the area of social protection in 2013, thus contributing to the following results:
(a) Completion of the strategic plan for social protection;
(b) An analysis of the situation of social protection for children was completed and an analysis on vulnerabilities of children within UNICEF’s Social Protection Framework is underway. Both analyses seek to orient the design of a system of social protection that prioritises children; and
(c) Completion of a study on the fiscal possibilities and opportunities for financing social protection programmes -- The study made it possible for UNICEF to advocate for the protection of social expenditure and to take part in forums led by a group of notable Honduran economists whose objective is to promote a national accord in the face of the tough fiscal reforms that must be carried out in 2014.

**On-track**

**IR 1860/A0/05/007/001 7.1 By 2016, the Government and civil society apply mechanisms to follow up and evaluate public and social protection policies (at national and municipal level) relevant to children and adolescents with gender focus.**

**Progress:** UNICEF’s advocacy and technical support contributed to the Government’s decision to identify all the costs in the national budget directly related to the implementation of policies on early childhood development, social protection and human rights, through a
UNICEF Annual Report 2013 – Honduras

budget code added to the national System of Financial Administration. Technical and analytical tools were developed to help advocate for and support the formal introduction of the measurement and monitoring of expenditure in favour of children. Institutional capacities in planning and budgeting need to be strengthened in order to achieve this IR.

UNICEF contributed to the implementation of the new Basic Law on Education with regard to the obligatory nature of pre-basic education. A cost study of the Plan for Universalisation of the pre-basic level was conducted.

UNICEF contributed to generating knowledge and disseminating information through a series of communications products presented to different sectors of society. These included:

a) four editions of the "Bulletin on Violence" highlighting data on violence against children and women, and the Survey of Perceptions on Violence and Victimization report, produced in collaboration with the Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University -- The bulletins are being used by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ombudsman Office and NGOs working with children and adolescents;

b) the first edition of the "Citizens' Budget," published with the Ministry of Finance, intends to make the budget more accessible and easily understood by the public, and was disseminated at forums and through mass media; and

c) the Study on Indigenous and Afro-Honduran children -- this was the first study in the country to provide specific data on health, nutrition, education and protection situation of indigenous children. In 2014 a plan will be created to ensure the use of this study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**PCR 1860/A0/05/008 Social Policy and Child Rights follow up programme achieves expected results.**

**Progress:** Upstream policy work during 2013 required highly specialised technical support through deployment of specific consultancies, without which the important results achieved in PCR 6 and PCR 7 would simply not have been possible.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) function was strengthened through the recruitment of a Specialist whose functions and activities are contributing to generating capacities within the Office and in national institutions, not only with regard to specific M&E tasks, but also for more effective management and use of data and evidence-based information as well as technical work on public policy. Strengthening this M&E function contributed to results across the Country Programme, and helped the CO to largely overcome a long-standing shortcoming with regard to M&E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**IR 1860/A0/05/008/001 8.1 The Programme has the adequate human resources to conduct necessary follow up.**

**Progress:** The CO ensured effective support for the implementation of PCR 6 and PCR 7 by covering miscellaneous costs. Essential domestic or international travel was supported to ensure the sound implementation of activities related to Programme Component “Monitoring of children’s rights and social policies” and to participate in workshops/meetings to enhance and/or monitor the capacity and quality of programme interventions.

UNICEF provided human resource support and funds utilized contributed to the achievement other IRs within the programme component, or across Programme Components in the country programme of cooperation.

**PC 800 - Cross-sectoral and operational costs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**PCR 1860/A0/05/009 The CPD between the Government of Honduras and UNICEF 2012-2016 has support and adequate capacity for the efficient and effective process of planning, implementation, follow-up, social mobilization and advocacy with special focus on gender, equity and emergency response management.**

**Progress:** The Cross-sectoral component of work allowed the country programme to provide the necessary support for overall programme implementation, covering selected staff, equipment and travel costs.

The cross-sectoral effort also included support for communications and advocacy activities and contributed key elements of the up-stream policy and human rights work of the Country Office. Throughout 2013 the Office actively engaged with the media for advocacy, information sharing and social mobilization, and for a significant increase in their role of social mediator in favour of children. The media played an important role with regard to the right to education and violence prevention. The decision to focus UNICEF’s communications on specific priorities (education, breastfeeding, violence prevention) and to better coordinate with the programmatic areas helped improve effectiveness of the country programme. The Office’s knowledge generation efforts provided data and analysis that supported the communication, advocacy and upstream policy work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**IR 1860/A0/05/009/001 Technical and financial capacity guaranteed to carry out the planning, implementation and follow up of the programme to support children and women in Honduras with appropriate incorporation of gender perspective and equity focus, and efficient coordination with the UN agencies.**

**Progress:** Staff, administrative, operating and some telecommunications costs were provided.

Human resources, equipment and vehicle costs for transportation were also provided. The CO closely monitored project implementation, followed-up with implementing partners and visited project implementation sites. Supply procurement was conducted...
efficiently.

Information Communications and Technology (ICT) support helped guarantee effective implementation of the programme as a whole throughout 2013.

On-track

IR 1860/A0/05/009/002 The Country Programme highlights and raises awareness of general public, authorities, mass medias, and children, on Child Rights, through efficient and innovative advocacy and public relations.

Progress: Six communications campaigns were implemented through national and local media, using various modalities. The "Vote for Children" campaign inserted the subject of children and adolescents into the political campaigning at national and local levels. This included training and raising awareness on child rights for the majority of the candidates for mayor of the nine political parties standing for election in the country's 298 municipalities. Evidence-based advocacy was also carried out with the eight candidates for President.

The Campaign on "Friendly Cities" to promote prevention of violence at family and community level was carried out in 25 barrios of Tegucigalpa. The "Do your Homework" campaign promoted children's right to education and the active role of parents and teachers in ensuring the mandatory 200 days of class during the school year. The Breastfeeding Campaign, in partnership with the National Breastfeeding Commission, promoted breastfeeding codes and practices and helped ensure the approval by Congress of the new law on the subject.

Other efforts included: support for the regional "Let's Play" initiative of the Regional Office, promoting development through sport; the joint initiative of the UN System in "A brave man is not a violent man" campaign, promoting the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence; and publication of the periodic review "Challenges," on the work of the UN System in Honduras.

Technical support was also provided for the production of the children’s programmes by the "Young Communicators" network and for a document on self-regulation of media programming for children by the Televisentro Corporation and United Broadcasters.

On-track

PCR 1860/A0/05/800 Programme Support

Progress: A total of US$622,533 (100 per cent) was implemented at the local level from the BMA budget, mostly to cover staff salaries (US$429,469 - post category) and Operating Expenses (US$193,064 – non post category). CO was able to cover all its expenses (with BMA and RR funds) and did not require additional funds from the UNICEF Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office Contingency funds.

On-track

IR 1860/A0/05/800/001 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Progress: During 2013, the Country Office faced several challenges and changes, some of which strengthened the Office’s organizational structure. As a result of the Programme Budget Review (PBR), Honduras CO will join the Regional Hub in June, 2014. The CO has started to change the way it does business in order to prepare for that change. Senior management in the CO made sure that all relevant information shared by the Regional Office (RO) and Headquarters (HQ) was immediately transmitted to and explained to all staff members. JCT meetings were of critical importance in reviewing, analysing and agreeing on the best ways to work on the changes associated with joining the Regional Hub.

The Country Management Team (CMT) held monthly meetings, and when necessary called for extraordinary sessions. Monthly meetings were also held with all staff to share information and to give all staff the opportunity to share their achievements, concerns and challenges of the month.

In July, the Deputy Representative was transferred on rotation, the post was abolished and the recruitment for a PR03 Programme Specialist post began in August. This created an additional burden for the Representative in terms of programme work and management for several months.

The lack of funding, which affected availability of human resources in particular, led the management and programme teams to concentrate on the most strategic areas and actions where UNICEF has a comparative advantage.

Performance indicators were monitored through the Managers’ Dashboard and were periodically analysed at CMT and Programme Meetings and followed up with appropriate actions. Two of the three remaining Recommendations from the 2012 Internal Audit were able to be closed during the year. All internal committees were integrated and worked smoothly.

On-track

IR 1860/A0/05/800/002 Financial Resources and Stewardship

Progress: The overall implementation rate in 2013 was 91 per cent of available resources (US$2,909,583). As of the end of the year, there were no outstanding DCTs over nine months.

Bank accounts were managed according to bank optimization guidelines. Replenishments were made once or twice a month depending...
on the cash forecast. Bank reconciliations were delivered to Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) on time. Control systems and internal procedures to ensure efficient management of funds functioned effectively.

The CO established an action plan to resolve the issues behind the audit recommendations. Two out of the three recommendations have now been resolved. The third recommendation is on the availability of financial and human resources. A fundraising strategy was developed and during the course of the year a total of $972,000 in OR funding was received, with approximately $600,000 received in the last quarter. An implementation report will be presented to OIAI with evidence on progress made, requesting approval and clearance.

Support Budget funds were insufficient to cover all operating costs for UNICEF and the UN House (including Security and Communication costs). Regular Resources funds had to be used to cover UN House costs as well as some UN Interagency activities. UNICEF's portion of the UN House budget for 2013 was US$141,000.

Measures were implemented to reduce costs, mainly in electricity, as this represents 70 per cent of total utility costs. As a result, the reduction of costs on common services for UNICEF was 15.6 per cent, equivalent to US$22,397.00. By September of 2013, the Office had spent only 50 per cent (US$16,000) of the Budget for the year.

- On-track

**IR 1860/A0/05/800/003 Human Capacity**

**Progress:** In 2013 the CO held monthly staff meetings to share and analyse progress in the country programme and country context, in order to strengthen all staff in their knowledge of UNICEF cooperation, irrespective of their area of work.

The Office supported the development and strengthening of staff technical skills through workshops at local and international levels on issues such Programme, Policy and Procedures (PPP), Monitoring of Results for Equity System (MoRES), Competency Based Interview Training for Trainers, Peer Support Volunteers Programme, Senior Leadership Development Programme and Fund-raising workshops. The Interagency Conference on issues related to HIV / AIDS planning and the human rights approach also contributed to capacity building of the staff.

Two workshops were held with all staff to strengthen work climate and teamwork. Individual and group commitments in areas such as teamwork, interdisciplinary collaboration, recognition and appreciation of work contributed to the formation of a collective commitment to meet the challenges of the Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016.
Effective Governance Structure

In 2013 the Country Office faced several challenges and changes, some of which strengthened the office organizational structure and climate whilst others have been more challenging to deal with. As a result of the PBR, Honduras CO will join the Regional Hub in June, 2014. The CO has started to change the way it does business in order to prepare for this change, which obviously has an impact on staff. Information sharing was very important during the year to help ensure that staff continued to work effectively on their normal tasks.

In view of the review of UNICEF’s organizational structure in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region and its implications for staff, senior management in the CO made sure that all relevant information shared by the RO and HQs was immediately transmitted to all staff members. The CMT and JCT meetings were of critical importance in reviewing and analysing the impact of the restructuring exercise on the CO and in preparing CO responses to the inquiries from the Regional Office on various issues.

In July, the Deputy Representative was transferred on rotation, the post was abolished, and an L3 Programme Specialist post was established. Recruitment for the new post was initiated in October. This created an additional burden for the Representative in terms of programme work and management for several months. A seasoned professional was recruited on a temporary contract to help alleviate that situation and provide much-needed support.

The funding situation improved somewhat during the year but the shortage of OR remains a critical concern, especially for programme components 1 and 2 (health and nutrition). The lack of funding, which affected availability of human resources in particular, led the management and programme teams to concentrate on the most strategic areas and actions where UNICEF has a comparative advantage in generating impact and results for children within a limited resource scenario.

In the face of limited availability of longer-term staff for supporting key programme areas, the CO made extensive but strategic use of consultants. Finding enough qualified consultants at the right time was at times challenging.

Performance indicators were monitored through the Managers’ Dashboard and were periodically analysed at CMT and Programme Meetings and followed up with appropriate actions. Two of the three remaining Recommendations from the 2012 Internal Audit were closed during the year.

The UNICEF Representative also was required to function as the Acting Resident Coordinator (RC) for 11 months of 2013. Despite the extra workload, this was a good opportunity to introduce a few changes in the dynamics of the UN Country Team (UNCT). The results will be reported and assessed by the UNCT members in their evaluations of the core RC functions in January 2014.

Strategic Risk Management

The CO carried out an Enterprise Risk Management review in 2013. The updated Risk Profile takes into account the limited financial and human resources in the CO, the political situation, and increasing incidences of violence and insecurity.

Violence and insecurity continued to affect programme implementation as well as the level of risk faced staff and their families. There was also an increase in clashes between opposing groups and with law enforcement agencies, which contributed to a climate of insecurity and tension during the election cycle.

The UNICEF Representative served as Acting Resident Coordinator for eleven months of 2013. Issues related to security risks and violence were discussed frequently in the monthly UNCT meetings. Security Management Team (SMT) meetings were also held on a monthly basis, and Security Focal Point meetings took place prior to each SMT meeting. Staff members were informed of relevant decisions taken by those two committees, particularly as they applied to staff security and safety. Regulations regarding field travel were strictly observed and access to certain areas of the country continued to be restricted.
The risk management assessment was updated at the beginning of the year and reviewed at the end of June. The end-of-year review was not conducted the Deputy Representative had been re-assigned to another CO several months earlier and the Operations Manager was completing work activities before being transferred to the Regional Office. The Representative had to concentrate additional efforts on programme implementation and office management.

**Evaluation**

In September the CO filled the post of Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, which strengthened the Office’s technical capacity in statistics, data analysis, definition of indicators and M&E methodology and practice. The M&E function is vitally important for the CO, as two out of the seven PCRs in the CP are directly related to information and knowledge management and the strengthening of information and data systems required for monitoring public policies. The M&E function also impacts other PCRs, all of which rely on key data and knowledge management inputs and on capacity building efforts throughout the Country Programme.

The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was monitored and updated throughout the year to follow up on planned evaluation activities and monitor achievement of results and application of strategies in programme and management areas. Approximately 75 per cent of the studies, surveys and publications planned in the IMEP were carried out. These included: a mapping assessment of social protection programmes, a survey on perceptions of violence in marginalised neighbourhoods of Tegucigalpa, an update of the Out-of-School Children Study on Barriers to Education, special reports (Bulletins) on violence against children and women, and a study on the technical and budgetary implications of universalisation of pre-school education in the country.

The publication of the DHS 2011-2012 results was also completed, and for the first time included a module on ECD. The National Population and Housing census was also carried out in 2013. UNICEF provided technical support for the design of the census questionnaire in 2012 The data collection process suffered delays and by the end of the year the processing of data had barely begun.

The Office published the report of the evaluation of the Municipal Programmes on Children, Adolescents and Youth (PMIAJ-COMVIDA), which was carried out in 2012. The evaluation was designed to assess the results of the implementation of the Programme over the past several years, as well as its sustainability, and to identify lessons learned, thus providing evidence-based information for decision-making on the design and implementation of the Programme for the new programming cycle. The evaluation was rated by UNICEF’s Global Evaluation Reports Oversight System as one of 48 best evaluations globally, the only one from the Latin America and Caribbean Region given such a rating. The CO has developed a follow-up plan for implementing the recommendations of the evaluation.

Strengthening the capacity of counterpart institutions is also a key objective of UNICEF's M&E work. One of the most significant M&E activities in 2013 was cooperation with the Ministry of Education in the reorganisation of its information systems and development of data analysis capacity. Similarly, the CO also worked with the Ministry of Finance on developing capacity for budgetary analysis and more systematic identification of spending on children. Efforts with the National Institute of Statistics focused on better adaptation of Dev Info to SISNAM, updating and cleansing data and making it available online.

**Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology**

As part of a major integrated advocacy and capacity development effort, the Country Office continued to provide extensive support to key programme implementing partners on the use of ICT tools. Those tools were used for the management and analysis of information for better decision making and resource allocation. Staff of the Ministry of Social Development were trained in the use of DevInfo and other monitoring tools. Training on the use of Cubes, Cognos Transformer and PowerPlay software was provided to the staff of the Ministries of Finance and Education. Those tools are now available for the Ministries to undertake analysis of the information received and gathered and are transforming the way policy dialogue and budgeting are
carried out. This has been a ground-breaking experience in the use of ICT solutions for planning and implementing actions affecting women and children in Honduras. UNICEF's ICT Assistant played a key role in the training.

Remote access to the Office systems was improved by replacing the former firewall with the new Mission Control Appliance, which also reinforced system safety. Software for remote access Cisco VPN Client was replaced by the new Cisco AnyConnect VPN Client, which provides safety as well as better performance and reliability in the execution of different applications.

The Office continued with the process of disposing of obsolete or damaged IT equipment. Donations of usable equipment were made to implementing partners. Damaged IT equipment was donated to a local NGO that recycles all types of equipment in order to obtain funds to support their social projects.

All Office systems and interfaces have been kept working and/or updated in accordance with the standards defined by ITSS Division. All servers have been virtualized, thus reinforcing the Disaster Recovery Plan. The CO began migrating the equipment used by staff members who are part of the skeleton staff team, replacing desktop computers with portable computers, as required for business continuity.

### Fund-raising and Donor Relations

As of the end of the second year of the Country Programme (CP), OR funds received or committed amounted to 41 per cent of the OR required for the full CP cycle. This represents a significant shortfall, which has already impacted on the scope of activities in the Country Programme during its first two years, particularly in terms of the availability of technical and specialist staff.

A fund-raising strategy is in place to try and reduce funding gaps. Training was provided for all members of the programme team on preparation of proposals and report writing. A number of potential new donors were identified. However, obtaining additional resources is not proving to be easy in Honduras.

In 2012, 14 funding proposals were prepared and submitted, including applications for Thematic and Set-Aside funding as well as project proposals to the UK and Spanish National Committees.

The Office also was pro-active in trying to leverage funds, seeking partners and encouraging them to invest in sectors where UNICEF is active. This effort was successful in WASH and Education (See also sections on Partnerships and South-South Collaboration). However, this did not result in funds being made available to UNICEF for direct use within the Country Programme.

Approaches were also made to the Central-American Bank for Economic Integration to explore possibilities for a partnership to develop social development projects through the Special Fund for Social Transformation, a non-reimbursable financing instrument of the Bank.

Reporting requirements were met fully and on time. Five donor reports were submitted in 2013 to the US Fund, MDG Funds-Spain and the UN Joint Programme funded through Canadian Cooperation.

Four Programme Budget Allotments (PBAs) due to expire before the end of the year were extended to end-2014 based on HQ recommendations, since funds were still being received and could not be fully and effectively utilised in the original time available.

### Management of Financial and Other Assets

Given the levels of funding available for the new programme cycle and a shortfall in OR at the beginning of the year, the CO had to prioritize the allocation of funds. During the course of the year a total of US$972,000 in OR funding was received, with approximately US$600,000 being received in the last quarter only.

The overall implementation rate in 2013 was 91 per cent of available resources (US$2,909,583). As of the
end of the year, there were no outstanding DCTs over nine months.

Bank accounts were managed correctly according to bank optimization guidelines. Replenishments were made once or twice a month depending on the cash forecast. Bank reconciliations were delivered to DFAM on time. Control systems and internal procedures to ensure efficient management of funds functioned effectively.

The draft report on the Internal Audit that took place during October 2012 was received in April 2013. The report made three recommendations: one high-priority related to financial and human resources capacity for programme implementation and monitoring; and two medium-priority related to business continuity and disaster recovery plan and completeness of inventory of equipment. The CO established an action plan to resolve the issues behind the recommendations and two out of the three recommendations have now been resolved. The CO presented an action plan on the high priority recommendation related to financial and human resources capacity, which included a fundraising strategy (Results are reported in the fundraising section). An implementation report will be presented to OIAI with evidence on progress made, requesting approval and clearance.

Support Budget funds were insufficient to cover all operating costs for UNICEF and the UN House. RR funds had to be used to cover UN House costs as well as some UN Interagency activities. UNICEF’s portion of the UN House budget for 2013 amounted to US$141,000.

Transactions management is affected by the changes in the exchange rate mechanism introduced by the Government in September 2011 allowing the exchange rate to float and fluctuate daily. As of December 2013, the official rate was L20.59 per US$1 (UN rate – L20.56). Fortunately the fluctuations have been small and the Country Office tries to complete financial transactions in the same month and reduce the risk associated with changes in the exchange rate.

There have been no new advances in the implementation of Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer (HAFT). At the beginning of 2013 an HACT Committee was formed, composed of UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP, with UNFPA acting as the coordinating agency. The Committee met once. Lists of implementing partners were shared but no common partners were identified. Agencies have been using the common HACT methodology and formats, but no joint activities as such have been implemented. The lists of partners will be reviewed again in 2014 to identify possible common partners.

### Supply Management

The supply component of the Country Programme represents only 10 per cent of the total funded amount for the year. The following goods and services were procured in 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>AMOUNT (in US$)</th>
<th>PER CENT OF TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Contracts</td>
<td>74,389</td>
<td>24 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Orders</td>
<td>178,712</td>
<td>58 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>33,382</td>
<td>11 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVPO</td>
<td>7,335</td>
<td>2 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Purchase Orders</td>
<td>14,665</td>
<td>5 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>308,483</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 per cent</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most procurement was done in the last quarter of the year and was intended for support to programme objectives of PCR 5 related to Empowerment and Participation of Adolescents.

No international procurement was carried out. All supplies were purchased locally.

The CO facilitated the procurement of commodities by CARE-Honduras through the Procurement Services Unit in the Supply Division. Vaccines were made available to the Ministry of Health through the established GAVI mechanism. No issues were reported in either of those situations.
Human Resources

All Performance Evaluation Reports (PAS) for 2013 were completed by March, some with a slight delay due mostly to workload. They were aligned with the IRs of the CP results matrix, although there is room for improvement in this regard. On the whole, no major problems emerged in the management of staff performance, despite the Office’s significant changes in staffing.

The abolition of several posts as a result of the 2013 PBR process and the uncertainty surrounding future change-management decisions in the organization, as well as the financial constraints faced by the Programme, have naturally created a high level of tension among staff members, making it difficult for management and the Staff Association to maintain team spirit and commitment. Most staff members affected by these changes are close to retirement. For them, it is not easy to accept the fact that their posts have been selected for abolition due to the organization’s overall effectiveness and efficiency policy, financial situation and entry of the Regional Hub.

Monthly meetings were held with all staff, nurturing team-building and information-sharing in order to maintain performance and morale, recognize staff efforts and contributions, and promote transparency about the changes affecting the Office. Information sent from HQ and the Regional Office was discussed widely and openly with staff members.

A request was submitted to abolish three posts before the date approved by the PBR (Deputy Representative, M&E Specialist L3 and Operations Manager) and to create three posts (Programme Specialist, M&E Specialist NOC and Operations Assistant). The M&E Specialist came on board in September. The candidate for Programme Specialist has been selected and should be appointed during the first quarter of 2014.

For 2014, the CO has six vacant posts. One of these vacancies is due to staff resignation and no recruitment process will take place for this post since it will be abolished in June 2014. The processes to fill the remaining posts will not begin until the second half of 2014, in line with the HQ decision to freeze posts associated with the move toward a Global Shared Services Centre.

Several individual contracts were issued during 2013 to provide essential support for programme and communication activities, since the Office has only two full-time Specialists to cover the wide range of activities in the Country Programme. The support provided was mainly of a specialised technical nature. The Programme had to increasingly seek technical expertise not available in-house to support up-stream policy work.

The Office will have to analyse how it can best cope with operational and programme requirements with the reduced staffing structure and programme funding shortfalls, and will need to be more adept than usual at adapting to changing circumstances and demands. The establishment of the Regional Hub is based on sound principles of efficiency and cost-saving, and it is hoped that the takeover of functions will occur smoothly, without disruption of essential tasks previously carried out by the Office.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Due to a lack of funds, the CO had to be even more careful than usual in ensuring the best use of funds during 2013. While this may not have resulted in efficiency gains and cost savings per se, the impact was felt in terms of reduction in programme throughput and in terms of extra workload for key staff. With two National Officers-A project posts having to remain vacant due to lack of OR funds, the CO used consultants covered by RR to carry out part of the functions of vacant posts. That helped lessen the workload burden of the two programme specialists, the communication specialist and the Deputy Representative, which had increased significantly as a result of the vacancies.

The Office obtained cost savings in the UN House budget of approximately 10 per cent during 2013. This was mostly the result of cost-saving measures the CO implemented to reduce the use of electricity. The premises was remodelled in the last quarter of the year, providing more natural light and reducing the use of
electricity. The expected return on investment time is three years.

The number of printers used in the Office has been reduced, with all printing, scanning and photocopying activities centralized in one multifunctional unit. The Operations Team negotiated the provision of photocopying equipment and support services with a local company. Apart The arrangement resulted in additional cost savings since the company provides lower rates for toner and maintenance. Having one centralised, multi-function copier/printer results in less photocopying and printing and less waste, since. Each staff member has a special code and use is easily monitored.

## Changes in AMP & CPMP

The AMP for 2014 will have to be carefully prepared and subsequently reviewed later in the year. There are two major reasons for this: the impact of the new Government coming into power in January for the period 2014-2018; and the Mid-Term Review of the Country Programme (with the latter having to take into account the impact of the former). The coincidence of the two events constitutes a key opportunity for UNICEF to align cooperation priorities with those of the new Government while ensuring continuation of the gains and progress made in key areas since 2012.

This timing will also provide an opportunity to adjust the CP to UNICEF’s new Medium Term Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, including any changes required by the new results terminology and coding structure. Those changes will require a review of performance indicators as well as in management and coordination mechanisms.

The AMP will also have to take into account the significant staff changes that have taken place in the past year and those due in 2014 in terms of abolition of posts in the area of operations and programme support and the start-up of the Regional Hub.

A review of progress in the UNDAF/UNDAP is scheduled for 2014. This also provides an opportunity to better align the UN system’s work as a whole with the priorities of the new Government and strengthen inter-agency collaboration. Both the UNDAF/UNDAP review and the MTR processes will have important implications for the AMP.

As mentioned in the Management of Financial Assets Section, the implementation of HACT has not advanced as expected. UNICEF will press within the UNCT for more concrete measures to be taken on HACT, which will also imply some adjustments in the AMP.

## Summary Notes and Acronyms

<p>| ACDI/CIDA: | Canadian International Development Agency |
| AIN-C: | Community Level Integrated Child Care Programme |
| AMHON: | National Association of Municipalities |
| AMP: | Annual Management Plan |
| APR: | A Promise Renewed |
| BCIE: | Central American Bank for Economic Integration |
| BFHI: | Baby Friendly Hospitals Initiate |
| C4D: | Communication for Development |
| CD: | Capacity Development |
| CMT: | Country Management Team |
| CO: | Country Office |
| COMVIDA: | Communication and Life Initiative |
| CONASIDA: | National Commission for AIDS |
| COPECO: | Standing Committee for Contingencies |
| COPREVE: | Commission on Prevention of Violence |
| CP: | Country Programme |
| CPD: | Country Programme Document |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPMP:</td>
<td>Country Programme Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC:</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCT:</td>
<td>Direct Cash Transfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DGIC:</td>
<td>General Directorate of Criminal Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS:</td>
<td>Demographic Health Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD:</td>
<td>Early Childhood Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECLAC:</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDESA:</td>
<td>Family Health Demographic Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU:</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACE:</td>
<td>Form used for miscellaneous payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-16:</td>
<td>Group of Donors and Cooperation Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP:</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HACT:</td>
<td>Harmonized Approach for Cash Transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ:</td>
<td>Headquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR:</td>
<td>Human Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRBAP:</td>
<td>Human Rights Based Approach Programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBRD:</td>
<td>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT:</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDB:</td>
<td>Interamerican Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFRC:</td>
<td>International Federation of Red Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMEP:</td>
<td>Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMR:</td>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCAP:</td>
<td>Central American and Panama Institute for Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INE:</td>
<td>National Institute of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR:</td>
<td>Intermediate Result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITSS:</td>
<td>Information Technology Support Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUDPAS:</td>
<td>College Institute for Democracy, Peace and Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCC:</td>
<td>Joint Consultative Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAP:</td>
<td>Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KFW:</td>
<td>German Bank for Reconstruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM:</td>
<td>Knowledge Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC:</td>
<td>Latin American and the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANBB:</td>
<td>Latin American Networks of Breast milk Banks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDCs:</td>
<td>Least Developed Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E:</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG:</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERECE:</td>
<td>Round Table for Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoE:</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoH:</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoRES:</td>
<td>Monitoring of Results for Equity System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTR:</td>
<td>Mid Term Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO:</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNA:</td>
<td>Children and Adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR:</td>
<td>Other Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAHO/WHO:</td>
<td>Pan-American Health Organization / World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAIPI:</td>
<td>National ECD Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAS:</td>
<td>Performance Evaluation Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBR:</td>
<td>Programme Budget Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCA:</td>
<td>Project Cooperation Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCR:</td>
<td>Programme Component Result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCV 13:</td>
<td>Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMIAJ:</td>
<td>Municipal Programs for Children, Adolescents and Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMTCT:</td>
<td>Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM:</td>
<td>Records and Archives Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMPI:</td>
<td>National Early Childhood Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RNP:</td>
<td>National Registration System</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sequence Number</th>
<th>Type of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal programmes for children, adolescents and youth. PMIAJ COMVIDA in Honduras</td>
<td>2013/002</td>
<td>Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical and budgetary implications for the universalization of pre-primary education in Honduras</td>
<td>2013/003</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study on fiscal space for social protection in Honduras</td>
<td>2013/004</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection in Honduras from the perspective of children and adolescents: progress and challenges for the construction of an integrated system of Social protection</td>
<td>2013/005</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey of perception and victimization on the insecurity and violence in the municipality of the Central District. The violence according to the boys, girls, adolescents and women.</td>
<td>2013/006</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria for prioritization of interventions in water and sanitation and its insertion in the processing of the school census of the Secretariat in the Office of education in Honduras.</td>
<td>2013/007</td>
<td>Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Other Publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 “Política Nacional del Sector Agua Potable y Saneamiento de Honduras”. Aprobada en 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Estudio sobre niñez indígena y afrohondureña en la República de Honduras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Special Bulletin on Violence Against Children (Distrito Central, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba) / Special bulletin on Violence Against Women, Distrito Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Citizen Budget (Presupuesto Ciudadano)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 “Entendiendo la Ley Fundamental de Educación”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 “Informe Nacional: La Situación de Inclusión y Exclusión Educativa, República de Honduras 2012-2013” (OOSC Initiative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Política Pública en Derechos Humanos y Plan Nacional de Acción en Derechos Humanos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Reforma Integral en Materia de Niñez y Familia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Campaña vota por la niñez.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Campaña Ciudades Amigas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Campaña Haz tu Tarea. – Matricula en Línea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Campaña Lactancia Materna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Campaña Vamos Jogar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Campaña El Valiente no es Violento.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Modelo Comunitario de Prevención de Violencia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Agua, Saneamiento y Promoción de la Higiene en la Moskitia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 TVC Infantil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>