UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT for Iran

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The past year yielded substantive programmatic and advocacy results for children in Iran, partly offset by lack of progress in implementation due to the late approval of several Annual Work plans. Those related to gender empowerment, early childhood development, violence against children, CRC district monitoring and partnerships with religious authorities remained unsigned. The impact of a deteriorating donor environment was partly mitigated by a reduced need for OR relative to initial estimates. The outcome of the 2010 audit was partly satisfactory due to the identification of two high level risks in Programme. Operations and Governance were assessed as satisfactory. In 2010 the development of the new UNDAF saw the successful inclusion of child rights and programme priority areas for children, buttressed by an explicit focus on inequities. Ongoing political developments and the impact of renewed sanctions required the introduction of several adaptation and mitigating measures. Key results achieved include:

- Development and adoption of new national guidelines/standards in the areas of community based prevention and rehabilitation of child malnutrition, anthropometric surveys, standards for care and protection of children in emergencies and Iran's 3rd national strategic plan for HIV/AIDS.
- Aided by UNICEF Iran, a new National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child was established, headed by the Ministry of Justice. The NBCRC formally agreed to act as UNICEF's main partner and coordinating body. With the NBCRCs endorsement, Iran signed the CRC 2nd Optional Protocol.
- After a three-year period of hiatus, joint collaboration resumed with the Ministry of Education on the implementation of the Girl's Education programme. Basic education services were also provided to Afghan children and women through NGO's. NGO partnerships were extended from two to six.
- UNICEF Iran's partnership with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security on the joint child poverty project saw substantial progress with the establishment of a pilot databank on socio-economic and disparity indicators of children, the publication of a child poverty resource book and a study, first of its kind, on the impact of social and macro-economic variables on the social well-being of children in Iran.

2. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. MDGs: Iran is on track to achieve most MDGs. As for MDG1, prevalence of U5 underweight children decreased from 15.8% in 1991 to 11% in 1998. With the primary education net intake rate reported at 0.94 and almost full gender parity, MDG2 seems achievable. Progress in the area of MDG3 is mainly in education of girls and women; the ratio of literate women to men (15-24 age group) rose from 96.1 in 2000 to 99.2 in 2008, and women constitute the larger part of students in higher education. Regarding MDG4, U5MR estimate was reported as 31 per 1000 live births in 2009 down from 73 in 1990. Maternal mortality rate has decreased from 150 per 100,000 in 1990 to 30 in 2008, showing considerable progress in MDG5. The main indicator for MDG6, the prevalence of HIV in the general population, is 0.1-0.2 percent. The reported number of people living with HIV in Iran is 21,890 (92.2% of reported cases are men and 7.8% are women) but the estimated number is close to 76,000.

2. Equity: More work is needed to eradicate disparities in the area of MDGs 1, 2, and 4 in particular. Significant challenges remain with regard to increasing women's political and socio-economic participation (gender inequality index of 0.674). As for MDG6, the government is still facing numerous challenges in providing full access to services by
population groups with high risk behaviour including male and female sex workers, and at risk groups such as street children.

3. Child Poverty: As the country is fast urbanizing (68% of population urbanized with an annual growth rate of 2%), children in urban areas, especially migrant children, are in special need of care and protection. There are indications that the estimates may need further validation and revision. In disparity areas such as Sistan and Baluchistan province where the poverty rate is estimated at 70% (national rate 30%) the situation requires immediate action. The apparent trend of increasing poverty among rural and urban children over the past decade is cause of concern. Special attention is also required for the situation of migrant children, mostly Afghans, estimated at approximately 420,000.

4. Protection Issues: In January 2010, the National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NBCRC) was established under the Ministry of Justice. Furthermore, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (OPAC) was signed by the government in September. Both constitute important steps in improving the child rights situation in Iran. In area of juvenile justice, specific provisions for under-aged offenders are included in some articles of the Islamic Penal Code (IPC) and the Penal Procedure Code (PPC) bill. The "Law on Addressing Children and Adolescents' Crimes" is pending Parliament's review and decision. The ongoing practice of extreme punishment meted out to young people remains an area of grave concern and will require continued UNICEF involvement (UNICEF records show two such cases in 2010 compared to five in 2009. Street and working children comprise another at-risk group. Juvenile crime is significantly more prevalent among boys who constitute 90.6% of the total street and working child population, with 82.9% of them illiterate or with an education lower than high school level. Inconsistency in the age of maturity and responsibility—fluctuating from 9 for girls and 15 for boys in criminal law, respectively 13 and 15 in marriage, and 18 for both in financial issues—is another challenge in full implementation of the CRC. The right to identity of migrant children, physical punishments such as flogging for under-aged offenders, and protection of gender-based violence victims are important issues to address.

5. Human Rights at Large: The Human Rights Council raised concern over Iran’s “broad and imprecise” reservation over the CRC. Iran is also recommended to ratify more international instruments, chief among them the CEDAW, ICRMW and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children.

3. CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

3.1 CP Analysis

3.1.1 CP Overview:
1. The current Country Programme, expected to end in December 2009, was extended to 2010. A second extension of the Program of Cooperation was requested by the Government of Iran and now the Program will end in December 2011. This has been mainly due to the delays in the finalization of the Fifth National Development Plan of the country and the contingent delay in preparation of the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) on which UNICEF cooperation with the government is based.

2. Project implementation in 2010 faced difficulties and delays. Some of the work plans either were not signed (e.g. annual work plans with the State Welfare Organization) or signed very late in the reporting period. These delays were mainly due to changes in senior management of the government counterparts or structural changes in the partner organizations.
3. Late in 2010, the government resumed negotiations with the UN system regarding the upcoming UNDAF (2012-2016). Priority areas for the next UNDAF cycle were specified as i) poverty alleviation, ii) health, iii) drug use and control, iv) environmental sustainability, and v) disaster management by the government. From the outset, UNICEF Iran was actively engaged in negotiations to ensure children’s issues are properly addressed in the UNDAF document. The negotiations are still ongoing and an agreed UNDAF document is expected to be ready early 2011.

4. Promoting children’s rights has been one of the main focuses of the year. Apart from advocacy for removal of general reservations on CRC, the Children’s Day event and the CRC Anniversary have been the highlight of communication activities in the reporting period.

5. Cooperation with NGOs in the area of provision of basic services to migrant Afghan children continued successfully in 2010.

6. In the absence of an agreement with the government to conduct a formal analysis of the situation of children and women, UNICEF continued monitoring the situation through available sources of information to ensure necessary data are available for proper planning and implementation of current projects as well as the future Country Program.

**3.1.2 Programme Strategy**

**3.1.2.1 Capacity Development:**

Capacity building being a cornerstone strategy in this country programme, in 2010, a range of training programmes was offered to various stakeholders across the five programme areas. These included in the area of Education, training of teachers and volunteer rural girls on participatory teaching/learning, training of NGO and Government partners on gender-responsive planning and implementation; in the area of Child Protection, training of law students and lawyers on Child Rights in Islam and national and international law. In the HIV and AIDS programme, UNICEF continued to mobilize stakeholders across fields of influence ranging from religious leaders to media partners to become aware of HIV and AIDS issues and to effectively advocate for it.

In IECD and Child Protection, efforts were made to develop training manuals in partnership with key counterparts in areas such as nutrition counselling and juvenile justice in order to ensure ownership and follow-up. A textbook on “Institutions and Mechanisms for Protecting Child Rights” was developed as a resource primarily for students of the recently-established university course on “Children’s Penal Law”.

Rosters of social workers trained in the area of psycho-social support to children in emergencies and child protection have been formed.

Participation of the Technical Head of the Iran Demographic and Health Survey Team of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) at a Regional MICS workshop led to the team revising their survey instruments to include a range of MICS modules and indicators hence addressing data gaps in Iran especially in the area of child protection.

Lengthy negotiations with decision-makers on adoption of Adolescent Friendly Services (AFS) enhanced by a South/South cooperation visit to counterparts in Ukraine led to MOHME taking a stronger leadership in this area and preparing the ground for a possible exit strategy in a couple of years.

The country office is in the process of finalizing documentation of lessons learned in the area of cascade training provision, capturing lessons from Child Protection in Emergency
initiatives. This documentation will be a source of guidance to the country office to enhance provision of capacity building through tested means.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy:
In 2010, extensive work was done on producing an evidence base through supporting studies, surveys and publications in the area of child poverty, a study on Afghan children, and advocacy for inclusion of child-focused indicators in the Iran Multiple Indicator Health and Demographic survey.

Leveraging strategic partnerships through the newly-formed National Body for CRC (NBCRC) and sustained advocacy led to the signature of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts. Moreover, NBCRC has taken on a lead role in exploring the possibility of replacing Iran’s general reservation on CRC with a more specific one. This has already been communicated to the Guardian Council, the highest legislation oversight body in the country.

Legal reform has also been on the advocacy agenda through monitoring progress made on the Child Protection Code Bill and the Law on Addressing Children and Adolescent Crimes.

UNICEF continued to support the development of the ECD national policy by sharing technical materials including the translation of the UNICEF-supported ECD Assessment Report (2009) that included many recommendations on ways to enhance this process.

The MDG summit in 2010 provided an opportunity for UNICEF to advocate for inclusion of an equity lens in the MDG strategy. UNICEF worked effectively with the UNCT and other UN working groups to adopt a common approach for and position on advocacy messages during press conferences and media interviews. MDGs became a key message for Children’s Day and a position paper on MDGs and Equity was developed and shared with the President’s Office.

UNICEF Iran continued to monitor situation of children to position its advocacy strategically including the issue of juvenile justice procedures and punishments to young people.

Regional office advocacy support, specifically through timely country visits, notably in the areas of HIV and AIDS, Child Protection and M&E (MICS coordination), has yielded concrete results.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships:
In 2010, in line with UNICEF global positioning and MDG 8, CO developed a strategy paper on public/private partnership focusing on potential areas of partnership. More concretely, UNICEF has targeted the private sector in its project on Basic Education for Afghan Children. A pilot project, in partnership with the Bureau for Aliens, Foreigners and Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA) was designed to promote child-focused corporate social responsibility targeting the private and informal sectors in the cities of Tehran and Karaj.

Another important partnership is related to the National Body for CRC (NBCRC) as described in section 2 above. NBCRC has agreed to implement an important child protection gap analysis study in 2011.

In the area of HIV and AIDS, two breakthrough partnerships have been forged: one with the IRI Broadcasting (IRIB), and the other with the National Youth Organization (NYO) an arm of the President’s Office. Given UNICEF’s interest in working on youth issues in the context of Middle Income Countries (MICS), this new contact is a strategic one. The NYO has already facilitated an introductory meeting between UNICEF and a number of youth NGOs.
UNICEF leveraged its partnership potential with other UN agencies to promote UN Coherence. In addition to its on-going work through UN Country Team (UNCT), Operations Management Team (OMT), HIV/AIDS Joint Programme of Support (JPSF), Gender Working Group (GWG) and the MDG Working Group (MDGWG), in 2010, UNICEF acted as the lead agency for the newly-established UN M&E Working Group (UNM&EWG). In September, the working group produced the first UNDAF progress report and has been providing ongoing technical support to the development of the new UNDAF. Furthermore, UNICEF has taken a lead role in establishing a task group to develop a joint programme on nutrition and food security as part of the next UNDAF.

UNICEF has also been an active member of task forces working on establishment of emergency clusters acting as the lead for the Education and Nutrition clusters and for Child Protection as sub-cluster lead.

In the reporting period, partnership with religious leaders in the context of child protection has also been documented.

**3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management:**

In 2010, the CO supported a number of strategic studies and research products aimed at collecting and identifying data on most disadvantaged children including Afghan refugee and undocumented children in relation to their access to education as well as on a broad range of poverty-related topics including child labour. A series of articles researched and written by a wide range of academics were produced and published in the Social Welfare Quarterly, a reputable Iranian scholarly journal with social workers, academics, students and policy makers as its audience. This was done in partnership with the Ministry of Welfare.

As part of the same work plan, another pilot project was conducted to identify a range of socio economic indicators on child poverty. The result from this pilot is expected to feed into a newly design national database.

Furthermore, in partnership with MOI’s BAFIA, foundation work on the creation of a data bank on available resources on the theme of child labour, refugee and migrant children started in 2010.

For the first time in ten years, in 2010, MOH in partnership with various organizations including the Statistics Centre of Iran, started implementation of a national survey to capture health and demographic data at national and provincial level. UNICEF CO provided timely technical support (with support from the RO and HQ MICS teams). The report from this important national survey (with a sample size of 31,000 households) is expected to be released in 2011.

Internally, to improve knowledge management, since 2009, CO has engaged in documenting good practices, lessons learned and innovations as a start to strengthen institutional memory and transform the CO into a learning organization. In 2010, four such brief documentations were completed on a range of issues: a) Bam CFC Project (shared with the Innocenti Research Center); b) District Child Rights Council capacity building (as part of CRC monitoring); c) Use of cascade training as a means for capacity enhancement, and d) South-South Cooperation. Furthermore, two documentations, one on AFS and one on Birth Registration completed in 2009, were widely disseminated in 2010.

**3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development:**

2010 was a busy year for C4D initiatives, a strong component of many UNICEF work plans in Iran. Media and auspices of the Goodwill Ambassador were used strategically for events highlighted below with timely press releases, opinion piece articles, interviews
and speeches. UNICEF strategy continued to mobilize inter-sectoral approaches to promoting child rights.

Inter-sectorality was a strong feature of this year’s Children’s Day event. During this process, important stakeholders concerned about child safety and well-being, including Ministries of Health, Education, Interior, and Justice as well as Tehran Municipality, the Judiciary, the State Welfare organization and the Center for Intellectual Development of Children and Adolescents actively participated in planning and advocacy initiatives. The coming together of this diverse range of stakeholders is a first step towards a national plan of action on promoting child safety and injury prevention.

On 20th of November 2010, in partnership with the Judiciary, National Body on the CRC, and HAMI NGO, UNICEF organized a one-day seminar on the occasion of 21st CRC Anniversary that focused on a report on Children’s Rights situation. This was an advocacy opportunity to promote removal of Iran’s general reservation on the CRC.

On thematic issues, such as HIV and AIDS, the World AIDS day for HIV and AIDS was focused to raise policy issues, mobilize diverse stakeholders, including the arts community and the national broadcasting corporation to promote awareness on HIV and AIDS prevention with a special focus on the younger population.

Multi-media tools were actively used to promote integration of Afghan migrant and refugees in the education system. This was complemented with a strategy to train influential movie directors on the same issue.

In addition to reviewing and testing its C4D tools through conducting focus group discussions (with parents), in partnership with the MOHME, Child Protection prepared a plan of action to pilot and evaluate its package of C4D in 2011.

One of 2010 highlights was Iran’s participation is the International Children’s Day of Broadcasting competition, which was promptly rewarded as Radio Tejarat won the MENA regional prize and was nominated for the Global Award.

3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation:

UNICEF Country Programme in Iran, consistent with the approach to issues in middle income countries, is focusing on capacity development of duty bearers in a wide range of sectors.

In 2010, UNICEF promoted involvement and participation of children in some key activities such as the Children’s Day events where children from the Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centre (JCRC) performed a theatre on their take on the MDGs. In other fields, a group of Afghan children held an exhibit of their photos depicting their views on the host community and their integration into it. Through Child Protection programme, a group of children and adolescents from the JCRC received training as trainers on prevention and management of violence against children.

UNICEF has continuously advocated for removal of Iran’s general reservation to the CRC, or its replacement with a more specific one, in meetings with government officials and key events i.e. Children’s Day events, CRC Anniversary, etc. In recent months, a new partner for UNICEF, the National Body on the CRC (NBCRC) has communicated with the Guardian Council, requesting identification of those provisions of the CRC that are in contradiction with Shari’a. Furthermore, NBCRC has undertaken to prepare the national report in advance of the exchange visit and CRC reporting planned for 2011.
The 2010 UPR reporting process was closely monitored in order to identify areas for further advocacy and action.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming:
In 2010, a Gender Mainstreaming Workshop was conducted by consultants assigned by the regional office for the staff of Iran CO, introducing gender concepts, analytical methods and ways of applying the analysis into programming.

UNICEF, as a member of the UN Gender Working Group (GWG), also contributed to the objectives of the Group’s annual work plan throughout the year by providing required inputs assisting the group to design the modalities of and implement the activities of the GWP Work Plan.

To complement the above training, an initial assessment of the level and extent of gender mainstreaming across UNICEF programming was conducted. This assessment introduced gender indicators determining the access level of, control on, and enjoyment of men, women, boys and girls of the resources and benefits of the projects. It is expected that the report of this assessment will be available early 2011.

As the Chair of the UN M&E WG, UNICEF, supported by other members of the WG, made a concerted effort to apply the gender lens in developing the UNDAF progress review report (2005-2010). In collaboration with the Gender WG, an annex of achievements was included with the report. Furthermore, lessons learned and recommendations were provided with the view to promote a stronger approach to gender mainstreaming in UNDAF design.

In the Basic Education for Afghan Children Project, UNICEF attempted to increase the enrolment and retention of the out-of-school refugee girls through provision of informal education services. This has been achieved through a strategy of involving Afghan families, in particular the male decision makers of the family, in discussions relating to their girls and through the provision of transportation for girls. Moreover, within the framework of the Rural Girls’ Education Project, training programmes were held on participatory teaching/learning methods for volunteer rural girls.

3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability:
Environmental sustainability is not an agreed area of cooperation in the current Country Program Action Plan, though this has been identified by the Government of Iran as a priority for the upcoming UNDAF (2012-2016) and UNICEF Iran CO is an active member of the designated working group on this issue.

3.2 Programme Components:
Title:
Integrated Early Childhood Development
Purpose:

There are three complementary projects in the Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) Programme namely a) Child Health and Nutrition, b) Early Childhood Development (ECD) and c) Birth Registration. The overall strategy has been set to reduce disparities in these areas between regions and specific groups, with focus on improved care at household and community levels through integrated programmes. The main project activities are concentrated in the 12 districts of three disparity provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormozgan and West Azerbaijan.

In line with the Government of Iran’s 4th National Development Plan and the MDGs, this component has focused on reducing the prevalence of malnutrition/hunger, and marginal
and moderate failure to thrive. This investment is also geared to contribute to the prevention and reduction of child morbidity and mortality.

Within the overall goals of the Focus Area 4 of the UNICEF Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP), the Birth Registration project is designed to support the government in its efforts to achieve universal timely birth registration in the country.

More specifically, the IECD Programme tries to achieve the following intermediate results:
1. MOHME and other partners develop a national integrated draft ECD Policy.
2. An ECD model for quality programming at community level is effectively planned, implemented and evaluated.
3. A standardised model of Community-Based Management of Child Malnutrition is planned, piloted and evaluated.
4. A country-wide cold chain gap analysis is conducted and utilized for strategy planning for EPI in Iran.
5. The Integrated Community-Based Birth Registration Model designed to improve coverage in the disparity areas of the focus provinces is implemented.
6. An integrated data/information management system is established at the sub-national level.

**Resources Used:**
Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: USD 580,000
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR USD 378,900; OR USD 205,434; Total USD 584,334
Any special allocations (list): None
List of donors:
1. UNICEF Iran Local Fund Raising (SC/05/0606-01) : USD 115,434
2. UNICEF PSD Product Sales (GC/09/0005): USD 90,000
3. UNICEF Regular Resources (SC/04/621-01): USD 378,900

**Result Achieved:**
**Child Health and Nutrition**
• National guideline on community based prevention and rehabilitation of child malnutrition, including management of severe, moderate, acute and chronic malnutrition, was developed. This model is based on the Healthy Baby and IMCI (Integrated Management of Child Illnesses) strategies, which are already implemented in Iran. A technical working group (TWG), comprising of MOHME and academic experts, was established to provide technical expertise and advice in this process.

• National standard guidelines on nutritional anthropometric surveys in Iran were developed. In line with the strategy to harmonize Nutritional Counselling Centres’ (NCCs) reporting systems, support was provided for development of national standard guidelines for nutritional anthropometric surveys in Iran. A TWG comprised of academic and government experts reviewed and provided advice in this process.

• A national-level gap analysis on cold chain at all levels of health system was conducted. In line with enhancing the capacity of the MOHME in its efforts to maintain its achievements in the area of vaccination for preventable diseases, the analysis was supported by UNICEF. In 2010, a questionnaire was designed, field tested and validated and several medical universities were selected to monitor data collection and provide quality check.

• 45 cold chain experts at provincial and national levels have improved knowledge in the areas of immunization and cold chain management.
• Since the beginning of 2010, a multi-sectoral national rotational secretary, endorsed by key stakeholders through signing of a Terms of Reference, has been established with technical support and advice from UNICEF to develop a strategy for ECD implementation and piloting at national level. In the context where inter-sectoral collaboration is weak, the formalization of this body is considered an important breakthrough.

• In 2010, two important events were supported: a) World Breastfeeding Week events during which 800 policy makers and academics with Medical universities actively participating in planning and implementation; b) Children’s Day event was celebrated with the theme of “Children at the heart of MDGs, together let’s try for equal promotion of child safety”.

**Birth Registration**

• Sistan and Balouchestan inter-sectoral coordinating council held meetings in several districts where the new technologies, such as use of SMS network to promote timely birth registration were introduced to participants from diverse stakeholder groups. New community awareness raising tools were made available with UNICEF support. Similar public awareness campaigns were held in Hormozgan province.

• In 2010 compared to the previous year, birth registration within the required deadline (15 days after birth) had a 5.31% increase and 112% increase in marriage registration in Sistan and Balouchestan province. This considerable improvement in marriage registration rate is unprecedented in the history of the Civil Registration Organization of this disparity province.

**Early Childhood Development**

No result can be reported for this project as the AWP was not signed in 2010.

**Constraints and challenges**

• Security concerns in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan has hampered field visits for monitoring and capacity building
• Participatory development of national guidelines requires extensive coordination hence in planning more time has to be factored in.
• Considerable delay in signing of the Birth Registration AWP by national counterpart affected the pace of progress in this activity.

**Future Workplan:**

**Child Health and Nutrition**

• Conduct a pilot anthropometric survey based on newly developed guidelines;
• Develop capacity of nutrition counsellors/experts on provision of nutrition services in emergencies;
• Provide support to MOHME to develop a mid-term strategic plan of action for integration of nutrition services into national health system;
• Support implementation of recommendations from the cold chain gap analysis;
• Continue advocacy for finalization of ECD policy including through a national health congress to be held early 2011.

**Birth Registration**

• Support development of a phase-out/repositioning of the Birth Registration project and finalize the process to support implementation of information system for improved local and national monitoring of birth registration data
Title:

Girls’ Education and Women’s Empowerment

Purpose:
The overall objective of the Girls’ Education Project is to increase the primary school completion rate among girls in rural disparity areas by forty percent. This objective is in line with the efforts to realize the rights of the most vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk girls, boys and women in 12 selected districts in three disparity provinces.

There are four AWPs under this Programme Component: 1) with the Ministry of Education that focuses on Rural Girl Education, 2) with State Welfare Organization (SWO) – Emergency preparedness component of expected results – 3) with the Ministry of Interior, the Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigrants (BAFIA) to advocate for and support Basic Education for Refugee Children and Women. This AWP also includes partnership with six local NGOs, 4) For the Women’s Empowerment Project – in 2010 the AWP for this project remained unsigned.

More specifically, the Girls’ Education and Women’s Empowerment Programme tries to achieve the following intermediate results:
1. Ministry of Education develops the Iranian Rural Girls’ Education Strategy
2. Child-friendly schools model is piloted in three focus provinces
3. A replicable model for provision of basic education to Afghan children based on existing pilots is developed and made available to policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders
4. Relevant departments within the Ministry of Education and State Welfare Organization have increased knowledge in provision of psychosocial support to children after emergencies based on international standards
5. Local governments in focus provinces have the capacity to support communities of female-headed households to develop and implement community development plans.

Resources Used:
Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: USD 1,040,200
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR USD 83,100; OR USD 1,546,238; Total USD 1,629,338
Any Special Allocations: None
List of Donors:
Australian Aus AID (SC/09/984): USD 294,164
Swiss Committee for UNICEF (SC/07/0606): USD 128,000
Basic Education and Gender Equality: (SC/06/9901-77): USD 1,124,009
UNICEF Regular Resources: (SC/04/6021-01: USD 83,100

Result Achieved:
Girls’ Education
• Rural Girls Education Project’s activities were resumed in October 2010.

• 130 rural primary schools in 12 focus disparity districts have been identified for project implementation, development of resource materials for the re-training of teachers, as well as capacity development for local education authorities on participatory child-friendly education. The project focuses on the most disadvantaged rural girls in three provinces with the lowest social indicators.

• Constraints: The temporary suspension of the project together with structural changes in the organization of Ministry of Education, necessitated considerable efforts to brief the new authorities prior to resumption of activities, which contributed to delayed implementation.
**Basic Education for Refugee Children and Women**
- Basic education services were provided to 1800 Afghan children (58% of whom are boys and 42% are girls) and 400 women to help develop replicable models for such services. These services were offered in 9 centres in cities of Tehran, Mashad and Karaj, in close collaboration with MOI and six local NGOs. The process of service delivery with all its details, as well as lessons learnt are documented by NGO partners with the view to develop models of informal basic education provision for replication in 2011.

- The capacity of government and NGO partners to analyse, devise and monitor gender responsive projects has been increased. Following an initial needs assessment exercise a training workshop was held for 30 participants from NGOs and government partner as a result of which tailor-made gender mainstreaming action plans were developed for each of the 6 NGO partners.

- As an advocacy strategy to remove socio-cultural barriers to inclusion of refugee populations in the host communities, a multimedia/video package was prepared and distributed among 300 civil society organizations as well as government officials. This package showcased the positive effect of the inclusion of the refugee and migrant population in the public education system.

- Corporate informal sector in the country is one of the main employers of refugee and migrant working children. To ensure the right to education of these children, in 2010 efforts were made to sensitize this sector of the economy to take more responsibility for the impact of their activities on the rights of children. So far, 77 such employers that have been identified by the partner NGO in Tehran Province are briefed on issues such as child rights and social responsibility and have agreed to cooperate with the project as a result of which 29 children have been included in the education program provided by the partner.

- The strong partnership with local NGOs is growing both in quantity and in quality and exit strategies are being developed for each partner to continue their operation with minimum financial support from UNICEF.

**Psychosocial Support in Emergencies**
- Preparedness capacity of the State Welfare Organization (SWO) was strengthened to provide psychosocial support in emergencies through a series of six training programs. At present, a roster of trained SWO social workers is in place in all 31 provinces of the country using internationally accepted standards of mental health and psychosocial support (IASC-MH/PSS).

- Constraints: In the reporting period, the State Welfare Organization underwent drastic changes at the senior management level, as a result of which pace of implementation was considerably slowed down.

**Women’s Empowerment**
No results are achieved in this area as there is no signed AWP with the government.

**Future Workplan:**
**Girls’ Education:** Work Plan for 2011: In view of the relatively slow implementation of activities in 2010, it is agreed with MOE that the 2010 project will be rolled over to the year 2011 with minimum modification.
**Basic Education for Refugee Children and Women:** Work plan for 2011: The project will focus on three main areas of service delivery for Afghan children and women, information and knowledge management, as well as drafting strategies for inclusion of Afghan children in the basic service system.

**Psychosocial Support in Emergencies:** Work plan for 2011: Expanding the preparedness capacity of the partner through implementation of emergency drills and development of preparedness plans, as well as supporting knowledge management initiatives in the area of mental health are the main priorities of the next program year.

**Title:**

**HIV/AIDS**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the programme component is to ensure that duty bearers have the knowledge to develop behavioural change communication programmes addressing young girls and boys and their families. The programme also aims to develop workable models for providing effective HIV prevention interventions. UNICEF and the Ministry of Health are supporting a set of common approaches in different settings to identify the core components that will be needed to provide AFS at scale.

Specifically, the Girls’ Education and Women’s Empowerment Programme tries to achieve the following intermediate results:

1. HIV and AIDS youth programme model for participatory community-based service delivery is developed, piloted in selected districts, and evaluated.
2. Capacities of targeted relevant duty bearers to design and implement HIV and AIDS behavioural change communication and information interventions are enhanced.

**Resources Used:**

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**Result Achieved:**

- Iran’s 3rd National Strategic Plan (NSP) to Control HIV and AIDS was drafted with input from UNICEF and other partners. Amongst its 10 key strategies, the policy document, for the first time, introduces “Promotion of Sexual Health”. The 3rd NSP has been submitted to the Council of Promotion of Health and Food Security for approval.

- Iran UNGASS 2010 report, for the first time, includes reported data on indicators (12, 13, 15, 16 & 17). A KAP/B (Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behaviour) study, supported by UNICEF in 2009, has been a reference for both the National Strategic Plan and for UNGASS.
• HIV and AIDS animation PSAs were produced and aired: The production and airing of 4 out of 24 episodes in November 2010 (further 8 are in pre-production phase) is considered as a breakthrough in partnering with and using major mass media for public education on HIV and AIDS. These series that target the younger population have received national coverage through 5 IRIB TV channels reaching between 20 to 30 million Iranians during the campaign week. This achievement has resulted from years of extensive advocacy with IRIB. This is also an example of pool funding across UN agencies (UNDP Global Fund) as well as good collaboration with NGO experts who provided input in the design phase of these series.

• Children and young people were exposed to HIV messages: As part of the World AIDS Campaign, UNICEF in its capacity as the National AIDS Programme Partner, managed to have a 30-second HIV-prevention message included in one of the most widely viewed home video programmes. The programme, very popular with the youth, is watched by at least 2 million viewers every week. This advocacy was appreciated by the partner and H.E. Minister of Health who endorsed it.

• Four provincial events were held reaching 4000 children and youth along with their families. These one-day cultural infotainment/edutainment events focused on HIV and AIDS awareness raising; 25 mid-level managers and key programme producers of IRIB (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting) participated in a training on HIV and AIDS education and communication; 64 religious leaders from Kerman province participated in a one day workshop on HIV and AIDS which recommended for such training to be integrated into routine curricula of religious scholars.

• New Mode of Partnership with Government partners under AFS AWP was adopted: The delayed process of AWP signature this year (due to negotiations on AFS project sustainability) turned into an opportunity for advocacy. The lengthy negotiations between UNICEF and MOHME CDC clarified CDC’s role. CDC agreed to conduct all reporting, coordination and management of this project. CDC agreed to work on a roadmap for future sustainability of this pilot. It led a brainstorming session with the health deputies, project managers and provincial HIV focal points of all the implementing medical universities, which resulted in renewed expressed commitment from local partners. A visit to Ukraine (as a South-South Cooperation strategy) served to promote AFS highlighting potential benefits of a national programme. (See section on South-South Cooperation.)

• Although AFS annual work plan was signed quite late in the year, three AFS centre action plans (running through until the end of the current Country Programme in 2011) were finalized. The data reveals that 18,158 young people have benefited from centre-based activities (8,646 females and 9,512 males) out of whom, 3,523 belong to most at risk group. The number of peer educators has reached 12,505 (7,332 females and 5,173 males) including 4,553 who are considered as most at risk.

Constraints: 2010 HIV work plans signature was delayed until September 2010.

Joint Programme of Support 2010-2011: Led by UNAIDS, through a participatory process, the Joint Programme of Support was developed with the outlook of the next 5 years (in line with the NSP3). UNICEF has been an active member of this JPS and its programmes and expected results have been harmonized with the above.

**Future Workplan:**
A rolling work plan has been agreed upon with the counterpart an important component of which is the evaluation of the AFS pilot project.
Title:
Child protection

Purpose:
In line with Section VI of the Millennium Declaration, the Child Protection Programme is designed to protect girls and boys of all age groups from abuse, exploitation and violence, within the household, school system and community, and strengthen the protective environment for children.

In order to achieve these aims, the Child Protection Programme in Iran strives to:
1. Ensure that national legislation and policies with direct impact on the opportunities to realize the rights of children are developed and enforced;
2. Strengthen capacities and services for detection and management of child abuse, including child helpline services and related referral systems;
3. Develop and implement Codes of Conduct on child protection, including protection against corporal punishment, for teachers, health, welfare and relief workers;
4. Prevent child abuse through behavioural communication i.e. development and implementation of a national communication strategy to address child abuse;
5. Promote juvenile justice standards and best practices, and improve the knowledge and attitude of professionals dealing with children in conflict/contact with the law.

There are two main AWPs under this component: “Legal Reform and Policy Development” (in partnership with the Judiciary and Police), and “Prevention of Child Abuse” (in partnership with the Ministry of Health).

Resources Used:

Resources used:
Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: 646,000
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR 222,900 ; OR 557,115 ; Total: 780,015

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<td>335,112</td>
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<tr>
<td>RR SC/04/6021-01</td>
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Result Achieved:
• The national “Standards for Care and Protection of Children in Emergencies”, developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security’s (MOWSS) Bureau for Protection and Relief Affairs Planning, with technical support of UNICEF, and the active participation of other key organizations, was finalized in 2010. This document was subsequently approved by the Institute for Standards and Industrial Research of Iran, the sole national official authority for standards, and was registered as a national standard.

• MOWSS has circulated this document with a view to make the standards operational. In addition, MOWSS has proposed a plan of action and budget for implementation of capacity-building activities based on the Standards. The State Welfare Organization has also initiated development of internal guidelines for implementation of the Standards within that organization.
• In the absence of a signed cooperation agreement with the Judiciary, UNICEF Iran continued its efforts to advocate for the rights of children. In this respect, extensive negotiations were made with authorities as a result of which i) an exchange visit between the Iranian Judiciary and the Committee on the Rights of the Child was agreed upon to be held in 2011, and ii) the First Inter-Religious Conference on Violence Against Children for religious leaders was planned with the Judiciary and Mofid University.

• Following establishment of the National Body on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NBCRC) under the Ministry of Justice in January 2010, UNICEF initiated discussions with this body with a view to establish an effective partnership for child rights promotion in Iran. The NBCRC has officially agreed to act as UNICEF’s main partner and coordinating body for two major Child Protection activities.

• To strengthen national capacity regarding juvenile justice, over 20 managers and deputy managers of Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centres (JCRCs) and 5 social workers were trained on juvenile justice standards and best practices. Moreover, 22 police officers from various provinces of Iran received the required training to become certified juvenile justice trainers. They are expected to conduct cascade trainings in their respective provinces in 2011.

• In partnership with the Judiciary and the Tehran Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centre (JCRC) three sets of Training of trainer workshops on VAC were held. The workshops targeted 15 girls and 20 boys deprived of their liberty (from Tehran and selected provinces) and 20 of their trainers/social workers. The trainees will form a roster who will conduct similar trainings for their peers in 2011 and beyond.

• UNICEF Child Protection: a) Supported the adaptation of communications tools for enhancing parent-child relationships to the context of Afghan refugee and migrant communities in close collaboration with the Education Programme; b) In partnership with the Centre for Human Rights Studies of Mofid University, conducted a summer course on “Child Rights in Islam and National and International Laws” for over 100 law students and lawyers; c) Developed a textbook on “Institutions and Mechanisms for Protecting Child Rights” as a resource primarily for students of the recently-established university course on “Children’s Penal Law”.

Challenges/Constraints
• Considerable delay in signing of the Child Protection annual work plans hampered achieving more results for children.
• Violence against children and especially juvenile justice issues remain important and sensitive issues which require a great deal of advocacy work to achieve tangible results for children in these areas.

Future Workplan:
Legal Reform and Policy Development:
• Strengthening capacities of relevant national institutions for provision of effective aftercare and psychosocial support services to children released from jail
• Promotion of juvenile restorative justice programmes
• Evaluating the effectiveness of juvenile justice workshops for police and judges
• Exchange of experiences and dialogue on juvenile justice issues including juvenile executions.

• Prevention of Child Abuse:
• Improving the knowledge base on priority child protection gaps in Iran, in preparation for the next Country Programme
• Up-scaling of successful pilot projects (including, most notably, the Code of Conduct for health workers) and integrating them into other related systems
• Continued advocacy and follow-up on Violence against Children
• Promoting participation of children in raising awareness on and preventing VAC
• Strengthening child protection in emergencies through support to adoption and implementation of the Standards on Care and Protection of Children in Emergencies by key stakeholders.

**Title:**
Planning, coordination, communication and monitoring and evaluation

**Purpose:**
IR2: New national knowledge network mechanisms are established to support evidence-based advocacy and policy making on child welfare, child poverty reduction and child rights.

The purpose of the Child Poverty project with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security (MOWSS) is to enhance a harmonized system for data collection, research and networking in social policy concerning children with a focus on child poverty. The 2005-2011 Iran Country Programme of UNICEF supports social development programmes that strengthen national mechanisms for monitoring of the CRC under the framework of Focus Area 5. UNICEF engages with national partners to promote formulation of cross-sectoral policies, undertake legal reforms and practice social budgeting. In line with FA5 strategic priorities, in order to strengthen Middle Income Countries’ focus on reducing disparities for universal achievement of the MDGs, UNICEF Iran has been promoting dialogue and activities in the area of social policy at both the national and sub-national level.

**Resources Used:**

**Resources used:**
Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: 821,900
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR 271,900 ; OR 257,044 ; Total: 528,944

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</table>

**Result Achieved:**

**Child Poverty Project**

- A databank on socio-economic status of children, including disaggregated data on disparity indicators for children was designed and piloted in one district. This result is a step towards forming a national system for systemic data collection on children with a focus on disparities. A general template for an integrated survey is now available. The survey was structured in such a manner as to make it compatible with the national household’s survey.

- A resource book for development of child-related policies was produced. This comprehensive resource book has been produced in two separate volumes that include all laws and regulations concerning children in the Islamic Republic of
Iran. Furthermore, it includes an assessment of existing legal challenges and the effect of major variables on the socio-economic status of children as well as a comparative review of children’s issues in three other countries including France, USA and Malaysia.

- A special issue of the Social Welfare Quarterly was dedicated to Child Poverty (Volume 9, Issue 35, Winter 2010). This special issue, sponsored by UNICEF, contains twelve articles on various social and economic topics on child poverty issues in Iran. They are written by a group of well-known national economists, psychiatrists, as well as experts in the areas of law, criminology, social medicine, social science, statistics, and social welfare. In these articles, various dimensions of child poverty in the country are elaborated and can serve as a reference for policy makers, researchers and decision-makers. The key strategy is to bring on board academics and generate broader interest and engagement in the initiative.

- A study on the impact of social and macroeconomic variables on children social well-being was completed. This research focuses on macro- and micro-socioeconomic factors that affect children’s social wellbeing. It also seeks the linkage of government policies, demographic and economic factors and child poverty. Although seemingly academic, considering recent macro policy shifts in Iran such as the implementation of targeted subsidies and the new economic transformation plan, the effect of price changes on real expenditures for health, education and food in poorer households is crucial for our understanding of potential impact on child poverty.

**CRC Monitoring: The District Approach**

- This project that had achieved significant results in its first year of implementation (under the new format) with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) came to a halt in 2010, as the AWP remained unsigned, despite continuous negotiations and advocacy.

**Future Work plan:**

An important focus of UNICEF related to this area is reduction of disparities and inequities. This project provides an opportunity to promote national knowledge on child poverty, to establish systems for closer monitoring of child poverty nationally, and to consider alternatives to existing socio-economic policies to address root causes of poverty. In 2011, UNICEF plans to continue to advocate for the above while advocating for more studies and research and action related to other disadvantaged populations such as female-headed households (which is also an expressed priority for the Ministry of Welfare), as well as families living below the poverty line, refugees and undocumented migrants among others).

**Cooperation with Universities**

- The cooperation with Imam Sadiq, Mofid and Kharazzmi universities on advocacy for child rights could not yield results in the reporting period due to inadequate institutional capacity and management changes in the main signatory of the annual work plan, i.e. the Judiciary.

- Even in the absence of a signed agreement for cooperation, one of the most important activities in the project, namely finalization of the original text and translation of “Child Rights in Islam”, a scholarly study reviewing the interface between the Islamic Shariah and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, was accomplished and the book is now ready for publication.
4. OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure:
The office governance structure remained largely unchanged compared to 2009 and was audited in 2010 as satisfactory. The Annual Management Plan was substantially revised with the identification of three new categories of management priorities and results: i. Managing for Results, ii. Streamlining Operations Performance, and iii. Improving Office Environment. The Management Committee’s terms of reference were updated and commensurate accountabilities and tasks integrally included in staff PER’s. The functioning and membership of the CMT was revised to render it more effective and suitable to newly emerging office and programme priorities and changes in the operating environment. The office maintained the functionality of two staff peer support volunteers and added a second focal point for prevention of sexual harassment and abuse of authority and to improve gender balance. The office established a new ICT Governance Committee, which also feeds into a newly initiated inter-agency ICT Working Group chaired by UNICEF. The office manages a high turnover of staff, resulting in significant number of vacancies throughout the year. A skills-gap analysis of staff was initiated (to be completed in 2011) in order to identify areas that need to be strengthened to empower current staff to meet the challenges of a fluid operating environment and to optimally prepare the office for the next country programme of cooperation and the transformation agenda in Iran as a middle income country.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management:
The office has appointed the Dep. Representative / Head of Programme as the new ERM focal point and has undergone the ERM Risk Control Self Assessment Training. Subsequently the office developed its risk profile that was endorsed by the CMT and shared with all staff. The risk control library and action plan are presently in draft form, to be finalized with the arrival of the new ERM focal point. Identified high-risk areas include inter alia; aid and country environments, partner relations, programme strategy and natural hazards. All risk areas, and identified high risks in particular, have and will continue to be monitored on a continuous basis by senior management to ensure effective preparedness and mitigation measures are taken in a timely fashion. The 4th round of UN and bilateral sanctions prompted the office to review existing arrangements for financial transfers and procurement and institute several contingency measures, including an increase in cash on hand. The office Early Warning/Early Action, Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and Business Continuity Plan are current and regularly updated. Strategic Risk management will be further integrated as a standard practice in all office operations and serve as a guiding practice in the development of the new country programme of cooperation.

4.1.3 Evaluation:
• CO has a comprehensive IMEP that is updated regularly and reviewed in the CMT at least twice a year. In 2010, although 4 evaluations, assessments and reviews were planned, due to significant delays in AWP signatures with concerned counterparts, the evaluations have been postponed to 2011.

• A National Cold Chain Assessment/Gap Analysis was conducted in collaboration with the MOHME and Medical Universities across the country. The report from this analysis is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2011.

• Through the UNDAF M&E WG in which UNICEF is a major player and chair, a progress review of UNDAF (2005-2010) was conducted and its report produced and presented to the UNCT. This report provided an opportunity for UNICEF also to reflect on results achieved to date as well as capture important lessons learned.
As a follow-up to two evaluations conducted in 2009, one internal and one external, two management responses were developed, both with the IECD Programme. One management response was related to the ECD assessment and the other an internal evaluation of the Nutrition Counselling Centres conducted by UNICEF Iran Nutrition Officer. Recommendations from the latter have been incorporated and followed-up on through the Health and Nutrition work plan. Recommendations on the ECD assessment have been only partly followed up as one of the AWPs related to this project was not signed in 2010. However, through the newly established ECD Secretariat, the report and recommendations were disseminated and development of a national policy and its implementation mechanism has been pursued.

Evaluation, assessment and in general access to data and information in the country is a significant challenge for the UN system and the recently formed UN M&E Working Group provides a forum for joint UN collaboration on promoting improved monitoring and evaluation. Through concerted efforts and identification of allies who share the concern for need to strengthen M&E systems, in on-going UNDAF discussions, the draft results matrix already includes a number of outcomes and outputs across thematic areas focusing on M&E system establishment and capacity building.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication:

The ICT Governance Committee of UNICEF has held quarterly meetings. ICT Service Level Agreement & catalogue were introduced to all staff and SLA was signed by Management and distributed to staff. Office established an Inter-Agency Information and Communications Technology Working Group (IAICTWG) with a TOR to review and identify country specific information systems initiatives and guide their successful implementation.

With the support and visit of the Regional Chief of ICT and NHYQ office managed to migrate from VSAT to EMC this year. It is important that this support be continued beyond 2010. The primary link is dedicated to replication of corporate applications. An Internet link with 128/256 kbps 1/10 shared through iDirect satellite dish, which is provided by local service provider (ISP) is kept as a primary backup in case of emergency. Web browsing and Citrix are done through wireless connection through country Fiber back-bone. In case the primary backup fails, a backup solution is offered through the wireless link between UNICEF and UNDP offices. On-net and Off-net VoIP is active on 8 channels on the primary Internet link (EMC). The Audio & Video Conferencing System through Wireless connectivity in the main office meeting room is active and is available to all staff.

Office is fully MOSS compliant. Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans are in place and the Citrix server is installed. The office has adequate Satellite Communications systems. Using the available equipment, Office can easily establish Voice and Data connectivity within one hour if required. The office is regularly exercising Full-Data-Backup process on DLT tapes and external USB hard disks. In addition, the office uploads ProMS live data onto UNICEF FTP site on a daily basis. The latest ProMS data can be downloaded by MENARO server within few hours and make it available to staff remotely through mobility solutions. The command centre is well equipped with and can be used as an alternate office.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship

4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations:

Country Office submitted 60% of the donor reports on time and the other 40% were sent within 2 weeks after the deadline. The MENARO survey of the region’s donor reports identified the selected reports of Iran CO as satisfactory, and has made recommendations for the improvement of the reporting, which are being considered by the CO. All donor reports met the required quality standards.
• In the beginning of the year, the office faced shortfalls in its 2010 budget, though due to delays in implementation of many projects additional funding was not required.
• The PSD sales in the reporting period amounted to USD 330,000. This was achieved through distribution of goods in 60 active chain outlets, and 15 new outlets, which are offering UNICEF products. In addition, UNICEF products were also sold to more than 146 corporate companies.
• Country Office also performed an internal survey of its budget expenditure to draw lessons for more optimal resource mobilization and utilization in future. Utilization of funds and the financial status of projects have been regularly reviewed throughout the year in forums like Programme Meetings and Country Management Team (CMT).

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets:
• CO Audit was performed during August 2010 and Iran Office received “satisfactory” rating for operations.
• CMT closely monitors management indicators, which includes status of office budget (programme and operations), financial procedures, bank reconciliations as well as liquidation of cash assistance to government. These reports are also shared on a quarterly basis with the region and the HQ.
• Latest reported status of utilized Regular and Other Resources (RR and OR) is as follows:
  • CO has utilized 89.5% RR during determined life time and is rephrasing 10.5% to 2011.
  • CO has utilized 61% OR during determined life time and is rolling over 39% to 2011.

4.2.3 Supply:
• Local procurement has been a particular challenge due to limited quality assurance, timely delivery and adequate legal protection. Normal market conditions include 100% advance payment for almost all services and supplies, which limits the number of suppliers/contractors in competition for UNICEF contracts. The office manages this risk by improving its networks and knowledge of the market and using an inspection company for quality assurance.
• As a regular yearly practice, market research was conducted through visiting suppliers at different exhibitions to find new, potential and professional suppliers. The Supply Unit has also in hand a list of potential suppliers who can provide essential needs for emergency purposes.
• Inter-agency Procurement Task Force, which was established last year, exchanged experiences to improve effectiveness of procurement for best value. The table of recommended suppliers has been provided by this Task Force for common service and equipment areas.
• Due to some local capacity gaps in warehousing and stockpiling, UNICEF had to establish an LTA with a transportation company that also offers storage places in order to speed up the delivery process. This process has reduced the delivery time and the cost of logistics.
• Majority of procurements in 2010 were of the local type. In 2010, UNICEF Iran mostly contacted the supply division for procurement of particular supplies such as IT equipment for office use, special publications and resource materials as well as MICS anthropometric survey tools.
4.3 Human Resource Capacity:

- The new selection process has been in place since the beginning of 2010. Office started application of Competency-Based Interviewing (CBI) in 2010, with 16 staff trained in the first round.
- High turnover of staff has required active recruitment throughout the year. Some of the recruitments have been put on hold due to delays in signing of the AWPs.
- Office gender parity table was regularly updated and shared with RO.
- The Training Committee, in anticipation of finalization of the new country programme, developed a plan to conduct a “Learning Capacity Gap Analysis”. In addition guidelines on “Procedures for Individual Training” and “staff exchange” were developed.
- In 2010, UNICEF Iran seconded one of its National Officers to Iraq Support Centre in Amman to assist their Education Program. A second staff member was seconded to the Pakistan Office to assist in the flood emergency response. A number of staff have been identified for potential deployment to support the Sudan Office if needed.
- Office staff received training on Gender Mainstreaming (facilitated by MENARO and inter-agency), “Risk & Control Self Assessment” and “Security Level System”. Three staff attended the face to face supervisory skills training.
- A centralized Warden System among all UN agencies was instituted in 2010 and Wardens/Deputy Wardens were trained.
- In 2010, the International staff started the e-PAS system for their performance evaluation. Office has conducted formal performance reviews in the beginning and middle of the year for all staff.
- UN Cares worked on implementation of 10 minimum standards on HIV/AIDS in the workplace. HIV/AIDS training/orientation sessions were held for children of staff in three age groups. The PEP Kit protocol was adjusted based on new guidelines.
- As a follow-up to the Global Staff survey of 2009, an “Office Improvement Plan” was developed with participation of all staff, and supported by a consultant, coordinated by the Staff Association.
- A UN Stress Counsellor, contracted by UNDSS, provided regular visits and support to staff.
- In 2010, two PSVs were elected by staff.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement:

UNICEF Iran worked together with other UN agencies to optimize resource utilization. In 2010, the cost of hiring a Social Policy Advisor was shared with UNDP. All UN agencies in the country entered an agreement with a single travel agent to decrease travel costs. In addition to these, Long-Term Agreements with suppliers and service providers in most of the areas were signed to fix the prices of goods and services in a market where prices fluctuate a lot. The office has also been able to fix the price of rent for three years, which has resulted in considerable gain.
4.4.2 Changes in AMP:

The office will maintain the current three categories of management priority areas for 2011, i.e. Managing for Results, Streamlining Operations Performance and Improving Office Environment. Additional emphasis will be placed on the integral inclusion of Enterprise Risk Management in all office operations, as well as the roll-out of, and/or preparation for, the various improvement initiatives for 2011, incl. IPSAS, IRs and CPRs and VISION. The 2010 audit findings and recommendations will be integrally included to ensure their continuous monitoring and to maintain sustainability of measures taken.

5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:

1. A regional report on Millennium Development Health related Goals in Economic Cooperation Organizations (ECO) countries (Goals 4, 5 and 6)

2. Child related policy resource book

3. Analytical Study to identify "status of afghan children in Iran"

4. Design and Implementation of field monitoring – Pilot project: development and testing of socio-economic indicators related to child poverty in Saveh District

5. Research on the impact of social and macroeconomic variation on children social well-being

5.2 List of Other Publications


2. Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Centre Communication Package

3. A Movie on successful Afghan individuals who have lived part or all of their life in Iran

4. Production of a Short Movie on successful Afghan individuals (educated in Iran)

5. Prevention of Child Injury

6. Innocenti Digest: Ombudsman for Children (re-printed)

7. Nutrition Guideline for Different Age Group (Educational package including 1 book and 2 CDs)

8. Educational Package on Prevention of Pandemic Influenzas

9. Communication Materials for World’s Breast-feeding week (Poster)

10. Programme Progress Report

11. Communication Materials for World’s Breast-feeding week (Educational Pamphlet )

12. Communication Materials for World’s Breast-feeding week (Folder with advocacy materials)

13. Child Protection Posters
14. Communication Materials for Children’s Day

15. CRC booklet on child

16. Biweekly Press Digests (in editions)

17. Story books on child rights (2 booklets)

18. CRC Brochure in child friendly language


6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED:

**Title:** UNICEF as convener for Child Rights

**Contact Person:** Mr. Seyed E. Asaei

**Abstract:**
The lesson learned and shared below provide practical examples of how UNICEF can effectively advocate for child rights in a Middle Income Country characterized by increasing self-sufficiency, national ownership of its development agenda, and certain socially and culturally specific reservations against prevailing international human and child rights norms and standards.

**Innovation or Lessons Learned:**
The main lesson learned entails the leverage UNICEF can exercise to successfully overcome certain advocacy barriers by acting as a convener and bringing together different stakeholders around a key child-centered objective who would otherwise be less inclined to do so. As a distinct departure from the past, in the organization of Iran National Children's Day celebrations, UNICEF encouraged its national Government counterpart to assume the lead role while retaining the convener role for itself. By reducing its own profile in the events, UNICEF was able to more effectively advocate for, and convince, other important national stakeholders and duty-bearers for children to participate who had not done so in the past. Through a process of intensive consultations and with full sensitivity to social and cultural norms, consensus could be reached on the Children's Day theme, scope and programme content.

**Potential Application:**
The potential application reaches well beyond Iran and could be relevant to any other Middle Income Country with similar characteristics and/or other countries with reservations against international human or child rights standards or practices. Issues to be considered include; the trade-offs between UNICEF visibility versus achieving results for children; acting in a lead versus a convener role; the potential of and incentives for new multi-stakeholder initiatives; the depth of understanding of prevailing in-country social, cultural, political or religious sensitivities; and the extent to which these can be successfully overcome by leveraging the child rights agenda.

**Strategy and Implementation:**
To effectively assist national counterparts in their efforts to decrease child injuries and accidents, including in the increasingly high number of child victims of road accidents, the theme chosen for the 2010 Iran National Children’s Day was: "Children at the heart
of the MDGs - working together toward child safety”. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, an unprecedented number of partners was brought together to jointly organize the national programme, including high-level officials from Tehran municipality, the Police, Judiciary, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, State Welfare Organization, National Body for Monitoring of the CRC and NGOs.

**Progress and Results:**

- Key messages on child safety widely covered in national media, including their link to reaching the MDGs;
- Agreed theme allowed for extensive focus on inequities as child injuries and accidents predominantly occur among the most disadvantaged and marginalized children;
- Broad ownership established for follow-up action among the most relevant and influential duty-bearers;
- Participating national NGO's enabled to organize nationwide events at community level, with broad child participation.

**Next Steps:**

Next steps include; i. Identification of a national lead counterpart and seeking the inclusion and approval of specific Children's Day events in 2011 AWPs; ii. Increased participation by religious authorities and institutions; iii. Expanded participation by children.

**7. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION:**

Iran and Ukraine - Adolescent Friendly Services

After a few years of implementing Adolescent Friendly Services (AFS) in Iran, in 2010 UNICEF's national counterpart, Ministry of Health (MoH) requested an international visit with the view to share experiences on AFS with a country that has a successful track record in this area. UNICEF Iran Country Office contacted different regional and country offices to review possible options. Finally Ukraine CO was selected because of similarities between HIV epidemics, socio-economic status and their achievement in HIV control. In this study visit conducted in October 2010, eleven experts from different parts of the MOH, participated in a 5-day visit to the YFS (Youth Friendly Project) of Ukraine and met with different stakeholders of their national AIDS programme.

The components considered most significant for the Iranian delegation included strategies and approaches for scaling up of successful models, capacity building and the mechanisms for standardization and promotion of quality of services, systems and tools for monitoring and evaluation of the services addressing MARA and EVA as well as surveillance and protection of street children. Another component that was found instructive was Ukraine’s community-based service delivery facilities for male and female Sex Workers.