

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is visible progress in the decline in infant and child mortality as reported by the UN Statistics Division in 2010. Polio and measles is firmly under control. Myanmar achieved a maternal-neonatal tetanus eliminated status in 2010 as certified by WHO experts. Juvenile justice system is making a steady progress with training of judges and pro-bono lawyers resulting in release and reuniting children in conflict with law with families instead of keeping them in social training institutes. While the government continued to release minors from various military institutions after due screening, the SCR 1612 recommendations have yet to be fully implemented due to slow pace in finalisation of a joint action plan. An independent evaluation of a four-year assistance from a group of donors to the education sector showed improvement in retention and learning achievements in selected indicators. Assistance provided to monastic schools and out-of-school adolescents was found to be equally useful in improving literacy and life-skills among children and adolescents. Based on these findings, negotiations are underway for further multi-year assistance for the education sector. UNICEF in collaboration with Department of Planning established an inter-agency working group for Social Protection of Children as a platform for discussion and knowledge management at national level on critical social protection issues including cash transfers and social insurance to reduce vulnerabilities and risks to children and their families.

MICS and integrated household living condition surveys were conducted but results were not yet available for finalisation of results matrix for the next country programme. Although Myanmar has remained polio-free for almost a decade, it has not been declared polio free as yet. A number of programme activities that were expected to be expanded remained at their initial stage due to lack of adequate human and financial resources.

Partnership with a group of donors for education proved to be extremely important and productive. It helped form a common pool fund for the Education sector with common proposal and common reporting for five donors. Collaboration with local and international NGOs during relief and recovery activities helped build better understanding but more needs to be done.

2. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

While Myanmar is making a steady progress towards achieving MDGs, lack of adequate resources and geographic remoteness have remained as major constraints in extending basic services to the most needed and the most vulnerable groups of population. Internal security issues and inadequate social services infrastructure also hamper access to services in some areas of the country.

Nevertheless Myanmar's chances of achieving **MDG-2** are relatively good with continued improvement in net enrolment rates estimated at over 85% with gender parity. These rates have been achieved despite low levels of public expenditure on education, (estimated at just 1% of GDP for Education and Health combined) and of Overseas Development Assistance. A national policy for Early Childhood Development that encourages the establishment of pre-schools attached to primary schools exists, but because of scarce financial and human resources, it has not expanded to any significant level. In **Basic Education**, there is a concern about low school completion rates, with less than 55% of children actually completing the primary school cycle.

There is evidence of gradual decline in infant and child mortality as reported by the UN Statistics division, nevertheless attaining MDG-3 may remain a big challenge as it requires substantial financial inputs to reform the human resources, infrastructure and

the logistics in the health system. The investment and technical know-how needed for such reform most likely have to come from outside that currently are not accessible to Myanmar due to prevailing international economic and political sanctions. This further accentuates the need for the current government budget to be increased substantially in both education and health sector. There is a lack of data on **MDG- 5 & 6** with the only available statistics showing that 64 per cent of births are attended by a skilled professional. The maternal mortality rate remains high at an estimated 316 per 100,000 live births, according to a 2005 survey, with haemorrhage being the commonest cause of maternal death. The government has begun distributing *misoprostol* through basic health staff to reduce the number of haemorrhage cases amongst home deliveries. Its impact is yet to be assessed. Malaria continued to be a national priority disease with more than half a million cases reported annually. UNICEF has been assisting the government in expanding malaria risk-mapping through a micro-stratification exercise, thereby enabling the detection of high risk areas in endemic townships. Despite a countrywide malaria control programme many challenges remain, mostly from lack of sufficient funds to cover the need for early diagnosis and for expanding the effective treatment regime.

Progress towards **MDG-7** appears relatively good. Approximately 79 per cent of the population are estimated to have access to safe drinking water, and 76 per cent have access to improved sanitation. However, data shows significant disparities in access to safe water in selected parts of Myanmar, indicating large areas in which the population depends on surface water. The situation regarding access to safe drinking water is most acute in low lying areas due to significant damage and destruction of household water storage capacity during cyclone and annual floods. UNICEF is supporting the expansion of water networks in schools as part of the Child-Friendly School initiative, along with mitigation activities against arsenic contamination in selected communities by distributing household water filters.

3. CP ANALYSIS & RESULT

3.1 CP Analysis

3.1.1 CP Overview:

The UN Statistics office published new data indicating lower IMR (54) and CMR (84) for Myanmar. This year WHO certified Myanmar as having achieved maternal neonatal tetanus eliminated status. Myanmar has remained polio free for ten years and has managed to firmly control measles. The incidence of malaria is also on the decline. The net primary school enrolment has reached 85 percent for boys and girls. An independent assessment done for UNICEF also indicated improvement in primary school retention and improved learning achievement in selected subjects. Many children from social training institutes have been reunited with their families. Two juvenile courts in two largest cities are functioning to address legal problems of minors in contact with the law. Children affected by cyclone were provided basic relief assistance including school supplies.

There are, however, geographic disparities in these achievements attributable to poverty and lack of access. Further expansion of social infrastructure and services will require massive investment in the sector. The government's social sector budget such as in health and education is extremely low while Myanmar receives the lowest per capita overseas development assistance, estimated at just US\$ 3. Myanmar also does not have access for credit facilities from international financial institutes due to the prevailing international political and economic sanctions. Insecure operational conditions in conflict areas of the country hampers UN and NGO access to those areas adding to internal disparities in socio-economic progress.

UNICEF Myanmar completed CPD/CPMP for the new programme cycle, 2011-15 with equity agenda. During the next country programme UNICEF aspires to work much more

with the decentralised administration levels to access the most vulnerable, which will facilitate the promotion of equity and equality. The government completed MICS-3 and the integrated household living condition survey with UNICEF and UNDP+UNICEF assistance. The results of these national surveys will provide a wealth of geographic and disaggregated data, which will help us further refine our equity oriented intervention targets in coming years.

3.1.2 Programme Strategy

3.1.2.1 Capacity Development:

An independent review of the 'Improving Access to Quality Basic Education Programme' highlights the emphasis of the programme in addressing equity and quality improvement of services in 25 disadvantaged townships. The programme reached 614,000 children in 4,046 primary schools. The programme strengthened teacher's education through promotion of the child-centred approaches to teaching and learning through a cascade model of in-service training implemented at the national level and subsequently at the township level. The decision by the government based on this experience to introduce child-centred approach in teacher's training colleges is a step ahead for promoting a quality child-friendly education system.

UNICEF's Child Protection programme continued to provide technical and material assistance to strengthen social work and case management through the Yangon University Post-Graduate Diploma Course of Social Work. To date 517 students have graduated in four batches with an average 80% completion rate contributing to the establishment of social work as a recognized profession in Myanmar. Staff from Ministry of Social Welfare and local NGOs have benefited from the course. In order to support these graduates, review of job description of several positions in various sectors is necessary to open up job opportunities for this emerging profession.

The 'Legal aid to Children' project implemented by Myanmar Council of Churches has 465 (172 men, 293 women) pro bono lawyers trained by UNICEF on child rights and child protection and on providing child friendly legal assistance to children in contact with the law (victims, offenders and witnesses). Since 2008, a total of 936 children including 263 girls have received legal representation and social support. It complements other activities with key actors in the juvenile justice system such as police, prosecutors, judges, prison staff and social workers who also benefited from capacity development activities on juvenile justice organized by UNICEF in collaboration with the government. Since the start of this project, institutionalization of children-in-contact-with-the-law in Yangon has fallen from 50% in 2008 to 20% in 2010. Trained lawyers have also contributed to a more child friendly atmosphere in the court rooms.

3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy:

UNICEF initiated an inter-agency working group (WG) on social protection of children. With participation from almost 20 different government departments and ministries, the WG seeks to advocate among key partners the need to address multiple causes of child vulnerability by extending social protection, and promoting the development and adoption of a national social protection framework, legislation, and targeted strategies for effective social protection of the most vulnerable children and their families. All participants have expressed keen interest in this area leading to discussion with the Ministries of Health, Finance and Labour to create an alternative mechanism to improve coverage of health care services for poor children and children working in the informal economy at the township level. While detailed mechanisms are to be defined and approved, a consensus has been created to address the issue of child health insurance scheme as way forward.

Under the Security Council Resolution 1612, UNICEF and the UN Resident Coordinator co-chair the Country Task Force on monitoring and reporting on under-age recruitment

in armed forces. As the secretariat, UNICEF is responsible to monitor, consolidate the report of the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (CTFMRM) and respond in coordination with partners for reintegration of children released by the Armed Forces and non-state armed groups. In 2010, dialogue between the CTFMRM and the Ministries of Defence, Social Welfare and Foreign Affairs continued toward finalization of a Joint Country Action Plan for prevention of under-age recruitment. UNICEF in its capacity as co-chair of the CTFMRM plays a pivotal role in facilitating contacts and discussion with the government partners in reviewing the draft plan of action. This year, 377 children were released from the armed forces, which represent twice the number released in 2009. Some 295 of these released children have received reintegration support by UNICEF.

3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships:

In 2010, UNICEF Myanmar worked with 10 line ministries, 10 international NGOs, 17 local NGOs, 11 Community/Faith based organizations, 229 Parent teacher associations and a number of (sub-national) townships authorities to achieve results for children, particularly for children in hard-to-reach areas and peri-urban areas. UNICEF's engagement with the Government for policy advocacy at the national level and its direct contact with the communities at the implementation levels have helped to bring children's issues to the forefront both at the higher and ground levels. UNICEF will continue to play this role by providing operational and technical support at all levels to enhance capacities for scaling up key interventions while advocating for an enabling environment that support the progressive realization of children's rights.

UNICEF provided leadership to technical working groups in WASH, Education, Nutrition and Child Protection in which international and local NGOs and technical counterparts from relevant government departments participate. Through the WASH thematic group, UNICEF introduced the community-led total sanitation in the sector. In consultation with relevant partners, UNICEF also played a leadership role in developing WASH proposal for three States to be implemented by two international and a local NGO partner.

UNICEF assumed its cluster coordinator role in Education, Nutrition, and WASH, and actively participated in Health and 'Vulnerability' (Protection) clusters in the wake of Cyclone *Giri*. The immediate relief response was coordinated under informal arrangements, drawing on existing sector coordination structures. In response to Cyclone *Giri*, the clusters proved effective in quickly consolidating the findings of the initial rapid assessments and plan sector-level assessments to identify needs and priorities.

UNICEF is closely collaborating with a group of five donors since 2006 in support of basic education sector. The funding from this group of donors has been instrumental in providing necessary support to the three components of basic education: ECD, Quality basic education and non-formal education through life skills education and HIV prevention since 2007. Based on positive findings resulting from an independent review, a second phase for the education sector programme is being developed to cover the period 2011-15.

3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management:

The MCO recognizes knowledge management as a key strategy for disseminating new ideas and good practices for successful evidence-based programming and policy advocacy not only within the office but also among partners. The office has been strengthening national capacity through knowledge networks including several inter-agency working groups, which are concerned about issues related to the realization of children's rights, such as social protection and birth registration. Several seminars and workshops facilitated by researchers from neighbouring countries as well as experts from

international organizations were held focusing on key social protection issues such as health insurance and social transfer. Such inter-agency discussions on technical issues and knowledge exchanges related to children and women were seen as rare and important opportunities by all participants. Presentation materials, minutes, and digitalized key materials related to specific technical subjects were disseminated during as well as after the meetings, including among government departments and ministries.

UNICEF Myanmar is supporting two national surveys, MICS and Integrated household living condition survey, which will be the basis for analyzing disparities among different geographic, gender, and income groups. The final results will be available during the first quarter of 2011. The office has documented lessons learned through the MICS implementation to improve local capacity for data collection, processing and analysis. It is expected that the database of such national surveys will be shared with government partners for their understanding of children and women's situation at both national and sub-national levels.

To improve organizational performance as well as understanding of UNICEF staff members in the area of FA5, the office organized knowledge management seminars on child poverty, social policy, evaluation, and poverty assessments by inviting external speakers which were well received.

The monitoring and evaluation committee, which consists of representatives from all programme sections held regular monthly meetings to present and discuss research findings and lessons learnt from their programme practices and studies. In addition, the IT section initiated establishment of a better archive system for important documents by organizing files on shared drives in a systematic and user-friendly manner. All sections are trained for systematic archiving practices through periodic sessions.

3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development:

Exclusive breastfeeding has been promoted for several years, yet its practice remained unsatisfactory. A community-based 'Communication for Development' project to promote exclusive breastfeeding began implementation in 574 villages in two townships in 2010. A baseline study conducted in the same villages in 2009 helped in understanding the social-cultural norms and practices and the underlying barriers and enablers linked to exclusive breastfeeding practices. The study findings guided a C4D strategy with specific behavioural change objectives, identified primary and secondary participant groups, key messages, and methods of implementation.

A communication package was designed to aid interpersonal communication with different groups such as new and expectant mothers and grandmothers as the primary target and influencers in household decision making processes. Front line health workers and the communities were reached for this purpose. Use of mass media was reinforced to promote exclusive breastfeeding in the targeted communities. Extensive capacity building activities for print and broadcast media journalists resulted in improved quality and coverage of the issue. All communication materials were developed involving key partners, pre-tested with all participant groups at the initial story-board stage and before final production. Findings from pre-tests were incorporated in the final product.

The government department responsible for promotion of infant and young child feeding and the National Nutrition Centre were the main project partners while the Central Health Education Bureau took responsibility for approval of the communication materials produced.

Nearly 500 Basic Health Staff and Myanmar Mother and Child Welfare Association volunteers with a nationwide network were trained in communication skills and exclusive breastfeeding promotion. They took the messages house-to-house in the project area.

The project has systematically built in research, studies and documented evidence of change. The baseline is followed by process monitoring to test the effectiveness of implementation and outcome, conducted by external research firm. An evaluation to measure intermediate behavioural outcome is planned at the end of the current phase in 2011. The pilot project, with its lessons learned, is intended for scaling up into 25 townships in the next country programme cycle (2011-2015) subject to availability of funding.

3.1.3 Normative Principles

3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation:

The principle of the right of the child to survival and development is at the heart of the UNICEF country programme. Right to education, health and protection are the basis for development of programme interventions. The office organised training on human rights based approach to programming twice to ensure that all staff are fully conversant with the concept. A national workshop on child's right approach to programming was organized by UNICEF with the participation of 30 officials from 18 Ministries and departments. Many of the participants in the workshop are also the member of the task-force on situation analysis of children and women.

UNICEF and WHO assisted the government in developing national child health and development strategy (2010-2014) which took into consideration the rights of the child and the principle of equity to reach the most vulnerable and unreached children, women and families, who have little or limited access to quality, equitable and affordable health and nutrition services. The focus is on essential care of newborn, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and additional complementary feeding between 6 -9 months of age as well as extending treatment of diarrhea and pneumonia widely through the adoption of community-based approaches through basic health services. It recognizes the need to address variations in coverage across different part of the country. Townships with low to medium DPT-3 coverage would be prioritized in the next two years to address equity gaps. Key strategies includes building capacities of services providers at all levels, providing knowledge to children, women, families and communities, to make optimal choices, engage in practices and adapt behaviors that have a direct positive impact on their health, nutrition and well-being.

UNICEF is also addressing the issues of access and quality of education by targeting the most disadvantaged townships with complete package of assistance such as textbooks, stationery supplies, teacher training, sports kit, water & sanitation, etc. within the concept of child friendly school initiative. To complement the interventions in formal sector early childhood development and non-formal education is introduced targeting children of preschool age and out-of-school adolescents.

3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming:

Based on UNICEF Strategic Priority Action Plan for Gender Equality 2010-2012, UNICEF Myanmar focused on enhancing staff capacity including specialists from various programmes as well as general capacity among all staff. Two workshops, facilitated by an international expert on 'Gender Sensitization and Analysis' were organized to increase knowledge and understanding among all staff on the concept and systematic applications of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in each sector of the country programme. The workshops conducted for the staff may be considered as the initial stage in breaking many barriers that exists in the working environment surrounding UNICEF. The workshop focused the concept of gender, and related concepts such as division of labour by gender, gender relations, gender equity and equality; concept and reality of patriarchy, the root cause behind gender inequality; concept of masculinity; the role of culture, religion, media, law and education in perpetuating gender inequality in society.

The emphasis of the workshop was on drawing gender related issues and gaps from participants' own experience that may be applied while negotiating programmes with the government.

In total 86 programme and operations staff (45 women and 41 men) including field staff participated in the workshop. The workshop's evaluation highlighted that themes discussed in the work were relevant to UNICEF work and interesting to the participants. The workshop has increased staff interest, particularly among national staff on gender issues within Myanmar context. Further gender analysis in at least three programme areas will be undertaken in 2011.

The results of MICS and integrated household living condition surveys will provide gender and geographic disaggregated data for selected indicators. This will form the basis for discussion and identification of interventions for promotion of gender equality and CEDAW based principles in UNICEF programme interventions.

3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability:

Myanmar is located along the tropical storm-prone Bay of Bengal region. It possesses a seismically active mountain range. Crisscrossing throughout the length of the country from north to south are three major rivers - Thanlwin, Chindwin and Ayeyarwaddy and their tributaries that are prone to flooding. Lower Myanmar receives heavy rain for almost six months annually causing floods and landslides. The devastating cyclone *Nargis* in 2008 and cyclone *Giri* in 2010 are recent examples of Myanmar's vulnerability to natural disasters.

UNICEF and other partners supported communities affected by the cyclone to build disaster resilient infrastructure, including schools and health centre buildings. UNICEF constructed 49 schools that can be used as storm shelter in Ayeyarwaddy delta. These school buildings are designed to withstand the impact of severe cyclone, flooding (elevated plinth) and seismic activity to a certain extent. As part of *building back better*, UNICEF applied environmentally friendly techniques, such as avoiding the extraction of firewood in the production of building material, using hollow compressed bricks for insulation, large well ventilated and well lit windows so that artificial lights would not be required, etc. These standards and techniques are being used for advocacy with the Ministry of Education for wider application in all school construction across the country in the future.

In making children agents for climate friendly behavior, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education in integrating environmental awareness into the national life skills curriculum, in which children are taught essential life skills related to safe water, waste management, and sustainable environment. Since 2008, school children also receive disaster preparedness education from early primary grades, where they learn how to reduce the risks of some man-made hazards (like fire), and respond to minimize the risk to them and their families' lives in the event of a disaster. This programme covers all primary schools.

UNICEF has strengthened its partnership with the Myanmar Red Cross to provide disaster risk reduction mobilization at the community level. In 2010 UNICEF increased its engagement with Myanmar Red Cross Society in both disaster preparedness and response, due to its proven capacity and outreach.

3.2 Programme Components:

Title: *Health and nutrition*

Purpose:

The Health and Nutrition programme is aimed at strengthening the coverage and capacity of the basic health services to address high levels of morbidity and mortality in children and women. Expected key results by 2010 are: (a) Mortality associated with severe acute malnutrition is reduced by 20% by 2010 and iodine-deficiency disorders and vitamin-A deficiency eliminated; (b) Maternal, peri-natal and neonatal mortality is reduced by one-fourth from the 1999/2003 levels in selected townships; (c) Infant and under-five mortality due to diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections and malaria is reduced by one quarter from the 1999/2003 estimate in selected townships; (d) Half of new HIV/AIDS infections in infants are prevented in 130 high prevalence townships and (e) As agreed in the MTR 60% of mothers identified as HIV positive through PMCT and their babies have access to continual care and support in 30 townships. The above results will be achieved through the implementation of five projects; namely, *Universal Child Immunization (UCI)*; *Women and Child Health and Development (WCHD)*; *Malaria; Nutrition*; and *HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care*.

Resources Used: US \$ in thousands

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: RR US\$1,779; ORR US \$ 13,841; Total US \$ 15,620

Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR US \$ 7,551.44; ORR US \$ 2,821.10; ORE US \$ 2,205.02, Trust & Global Funds US \$ 130,25 Total: US \$ 12,707.81

Any special allocations (list):

List of donors: Australia AusAID, Japan, SIDA-Sweden, Denmark, Germany Permanent Mission of Germany, United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF, United States Fund for UNICEF, Italian National Committee for UNICEF, Australian Committee for UNICEF Ltd, Japan Committee for UNICEF, Swiss Committee for UNICEF, Netherlands Committee for UNICEF, Consolidated Funds from NatComs, The GAVI Fund, Micronutrient Initiative Formerly IDRC, HIV-AIDS and Children, Thematic Humanitarian Response Funds, UNCOHA (CERF)

Result Achieved:

Health & Nutrition

WHO experts validated maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination status of Myanmar in 2010. Two sub-national immunization days to interrupt polio transmission were conducted covering 2,186,990 (98%) and 2,223,160 (99%) children under five in 81 townships respectively. Routine immunization coverage was sustained at 90% with DPT3, BCG, OPV3 and HepB; and 87% with Measles. UNICEF supported special outreach programme in 55 hard-to-reach townships to improve immunization coverage.

The nationwide biannual vitamin-A supplementation and deworming campaign reached around 6 million (90%) 5-59 months old children and 6.4 million (80%) of 2-9 years old children respectively. The Potassium-iodate revolving fund became self-sustaining this year; 91% of salt samples at factory level were adequately iodized. Survey on infantile beriberi was completed and nationwide vitamin B₁ supplementation was continued.

To reduce mortality associated with severe acute malnutrition, nutrition units in 16 hospitals were strengthened, with support to nutrition surveillance in 7 high risk townships and therapeutic feeding reaching around 3,500 under-fives. An exclusive breastfeeding pilot was implemented in two townships.

Monitoring reports confirmed near universal availability of rapid diagnostic kits and required drugs for treatment of malarial patients. More than 100,000 cases were examined and 85,000 treated during first six months in 80 UNICEF supported townships.

Quality of maternal and child health services at community level was improved through training and life-saving supplies to about 5,000 health facilities. Field monitoring showed ORS availability at sub-centers was 93% in project townships against 45% in non-project townships. In 2009, according to the national health information management system, 78% of pregnant women received at least one ante-natal clinic visit, 42% had deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants while 60% received emergency obstetric care.

UNICEF's PMCT programme support expanded to 140 townships, which provided pre-test counselling services to 233,000 pregnant women of whom 54% were tested and 68% of positive pregnant women received prophylactic ARV.

The present health service delivery is characterized by fragmentation, difficulties of reaching all those who need services due to geographical remoteness, low utilization due to low demand and inadequate resources. 'Reaching Every Community Strategy' was developed to improve equity and expand service delivery package efficiently.

Malaria micro-stratification in villages in 80 most endemic townships to identify the most at risk continued for third year. This method was evaluated in 2010 and with some adaptations has been accepted as national strategy for targeting Global Fund resources allocation. A community based survey in 2010 in malaria project townships showed 58% of under-fives slept under ITN during the previous night against reported 52% in 2009.

Evaluation of life-skills based peer education and community home-based care led to strategic change to focus on young couples for HIV prevention. Efficacy and effectiveness studies for micronutrient sprinkles were completed with positive results showing reduction in childhood anaemia, which led to micronutrient sprinkles supplementation in ECD programme.

In 2010 the upstream work in partnership with WHO and UNFPA led to development of the national child health five-year strategic plan, national implementation plan and assessment of emergency obstetric care.

Future Workplan:

The new Country Programme will advocate for co-financing, introducing new vaccines, more equitable service delivery to reach hard-to-reach population, focus on HIV prevention strategies for women with high-risk sexual partners and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Maintenance of MNTE status, sustaining vitamin-A distribution, attaining IDD elimination, improving infant & young child feeding, capacity development for local HIV risk assessment and VCCT will be crucial as well as provision of continuum of care at community level including newborn care and community case management.

Title: Water and environmental sanitation and hygiene

Purpose:

Improve household water security and sustainable family hygiene behaviour patterns to contribute to a reduction in mortality and morbidity rates of children and women due to diarrhoeal diseases, parasitic infections and malaria. The main results planned for 2010 were (a) reduce disparities in access to improved water and sanitation facilities in 1,200 poor communities; (b) health promotion and child friendly environment establishment in 1,000 schools and 400 health centres; and (c) improved hygiene practices and

significant risk reduction of people drinking water contaminated by pathogenic micro-organisms and other harmful substances, such as arsenic.

Resources Used: US \$ in thousands?

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: RR US \$1,430; ORR US \$ 2,400; Total US \$ 3,830
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR US \$ 1,874.20; ORR US \$ 422.12; ORE US \$ 3,545.73 Total: US \$ 5,842.05

Any special allocations (list):

List of donors: Australia AusAid, Denmark, United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF, Japan Committee for UNICEF, Canadian UNICEF Committee, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF China, Young Child Survival & Development, Thematic Humanitarian Response Funds, UNCOHA (CERF)

Result Achieved:

Rural water systems were constructed for 72 communities, 25 schools and 5 health centres benefiting a population of 23,500 including 7,900 children and 8,100 women. Many of the target villages are located in remote areas benefiting very disadvantaged communities with clean water.

Arsenic testing, in collaboration with government partners, was conducted on over 15,000 samples in 4 townships, and arsenic database and maps were produced for 7 townships and 24 villages in Kyaunggon township. Population in those localities were made aware of the dangers of arsenic in groundwater.

A total of 150 town water sources were constantly monitored in 10 states and divisions, and 10 parameters of river water quality were monitored in Ayeyarwaddy and Chindwin rivers; 30 communities in high risk areas were provided with safe water options by digging 30 deep wells in Hinthada and Kyonpyaw townships. Over 65,000 primary school students were provided access to WASH facilities in 639 child-friendly schools in 10 townships.

The plan to make people aware about the importance of safe water, conservation of environment and appropriate technologies on household level water treatment in 180 communities with a total population of 90,000 including 23,000 children and 34,000 women, was initiated in December 2010, with an NGO.

The principle constraints encountered were funding gaps, capacity of partners and major emergencies necessitating a refocus of resources and staff time.

The WASH in schools baseline survey was completed in mid December and data will be used for developing school WASH intervention in the selected areas and in development of school sanitation guideline for implementation in the 2011-2015 country programme cycle.

World Water Day was observed on March 17th in Yangon, with a photo competition in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. An advocacy meeting on climate change and watershed management was conducted on 23-24 March, 2010 at Nay Pyi Taw with participation by 7 Government Departments and 6 NGOs.

A 'Global Hand washing Day' celebration was organised with the Department of Basic Education with involvement of over 2,300 primary school students in 16 primary schools. UNICEF also supported six local and international NGOs in a nationwide hand washing day celebration in which 13,000 students in 65 schools in seven townships participated.

UNICEF continued recovery activities in cyclone affected areas with both temporary and permanent solutions for safe water supply. The most significant of these interventions were: 60,000 people including 15,600 children and 22,620 women in 112 villages were provided with 6.35 million liters of water during critical water shortage period; 124 ponds, 61 dug-wells, 31 tube-wells and 6 reticulation systems were constructed for community usage and 9,000 earthen glazed jars and 85,000 plastic buckets distributed benefiting a population of 73,000 including 20,000 children and 28,000 women. Two piped systems were installed and 407 fiberglass tanks with gutters are provided in schools benefiting 40,000 school children in accessing improved water systems. Hygiene promotion through edutainment programme on 4 cleans (*clean water, clean hand, clean latrine and clean food*) was conducted in 148 villages with a total population of 45,000 including 11,700 children and 17,000 women. 18,000 households were also assisted to build sanitation facilities and school children in 67 schools were provided with sanitation and hand washing facilities.

In response to the floods in July 2010, 110 ponds and wells were renovated, and 6,000 families were provided with household water storage facilities. Similarly 1,140 communities were provided with rainwater harvesting systems, 600 households were provided access to emergency latrines, and hygiene promotion kits in 40 villages and 30 schools were provided benefiting 35,000 including 11,700 children and 12,200 women in the flooded area.

Chlorine for household water treatment was provided to 31,000 families and water storage containers to 1,600 families following another cyclone in October.

Future Workplan:

The WASH section will change its approach to sanitation with the introduction of Community Led Total Sanitation in 2011. The principle objective will be to change from encouraging people to build and use toilets to creating an understanding of the dangers of defecating in the open. Arsenic awareness campaigns will continue, and will be broadened to include more elements which create a risk to water safety. A review of the whole WASH sector will be initiated in 2011. The last such review was in 1993.

Title: *Comprehensive quality education*

Purpose:

The programme aims to increase equitable access to and improve target results in quality early childhood development and basic education by providing extended learning opportunities to all children. The programme has three interlinked projects: Early Childhood Development (ECD), Quality Basic Education (QBE) and Life Skills and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education. The ECD project aims to increase young children's access to quality ECD services and to provide support to their families. The Quality Basic Education project supports the implementation of the EFA National Action Plan, focusing on improving access to and quality of primary education for children through expansion of Child Friendly Schools (CFS), research and monitoring, and promotion of equity in education. The Life Skills and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education project aims to provide life skills based learning opportunities for children and young people in and out of school. The projects are grounded in the 30-year national education plans and strategies, the Millennium Development Goals relating to education, gender equality and HIV/AIDS, and the World Fit for Children declaration. The key partners under the 2010 AWP were the Ministry of Education, Department of Social Welfare, Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, Ministry of Information, WFP, UNODC and NGOs (mainly for ECD and Life Skills Education).

Resources Used: US \$ in thousands

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: RR US \$1,820; ORR US \$ 2,552; Total US \$ 4,372
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR US \$ 2,998.37; ORR US \$ 10,456.63; ORE
US \$ 1,369.61 Total: US \$ 14,824.61

Any special allocations (list):

List of donors: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia AusAid, European Commission/EC, Denmark, Netherlands, Swiss Committee for UNICEF, United States Funds for UNICEF, Global-Girls Education Thematic Funds, Basic Education and Gender Equality, Thematic Humanitarian Response Funds, UNCOHA (CERF)

Result Achieved:

ECD activities reached 140,000 young children in 2,195 communities through community-based and school-based programme. The technical capacity was strengthened for 1,380 ECD management committee members, 3,300 ECD teachers and 400 government officials through seminars and workshops. Transitions Curriculum supported a smooth transition from ECD to schools for 6,000+ children.

Child Friendly School initiatives reached 614,000 children in 4,046 government and monastic schools. Capacity building efforts were undertaken for implementation of Child-centered approach with Teachers' guides developed by Ministry of Education and Japan International Cooperation Agency for 2,620 teachers, CFS training for 2,200 teachers, and school management and leadership development for 620 head-teachers. Community participation was increased in 1,184 schools by undertaking School self-assessment and School improvement planning. These initiatives were supported with the provision of basic school supplies and textbooks. As part of CFS intervention water, sanitation and hygiene education was promoted in all schools.

Construction of 30 out of the 49 CFS schools in cyclone affected areas was completed in 2010. School maintenance manuals were produced and members of parent-teacher association were trained on school management.

Language enrichment programme (LEP) for children who do not speak Myanmar as first language now covers all grades in primary schools in selected townships, benefiting 50,250 children. The government has agreed to expand LEP to other non-Myanmar speaking areas.

Some 21% of 3,370 out-of-school children continued studying in the formal secondary schools after participating in Non-formal primary education (NFPE) programme. The programme was expanded in 134 poor urban and peri-urban communities.

Primary Education Life-skills national curriculum was expanded to 1,116 monastic schools, reaching 172,700 children and 2,570 teachers; 143,000 teachers' guides and students' books were distributed. Secondary education level Life-skills textbooks are being printed, and MOE central trainers and secondary teachers were trained on this subject.

A total of 36,800 out-of-school adolescents (54% girls) in 33 townships were reached through Extended and Continuous Education and Learning non-formal education project, with a drop-out rate of just 2.8%. Commonly observed behaviour changes include: improved hygiene practices, family relationship and social behaviour; less fighting, stopped or reduced smoking, drinking, chewing betel, lying, stealing, and gambling.

Community-based ECD activities (Mother Circles) faced sustainability challenges when the blended food mix and honorarium for caregivers were withdrawn.

Applying new skills learnt during CFS trainings in classrooms is a slow process, requiring continued support to consolidate it.

Two programme review exercises were undertaken to assess the Comprehensive Quality Education: i) comparative analysis of CFS baseline data collected in 2007 and evaluation data collected in 2009; and ii) external project evaluation of Comprehensive Quality Education. The findings were overall positive with recommendations to make adjustments. The findings of these were used to prepare multi-year funding proposal for the education sector.

UNICEF continued to co-lead Education Thematic Working Group with Save Children. Positive changes in group dynamics opened the invitation to MOE and donors.

Disaster Risk Reduction in school workshop was jointly organized with UNESCO inviting all partners involved. A partnership with WFP continued in hard-to-reach areas where 16,000 children received food ration from WFP's Food for Education project in Northern Shan State and Northern Rakhine State (NRS). Terre des Homme Italy conducted Education needs assessment in Wa Region. UNICEF is covering all components of quality basic education in all schools covered by UNHCR operation in NRS.

EXCEL is replicated by 14 NGO partners, including World Vision, as an effective model to reach out-of-school adolescents. UNICEF provided training of trainers for 89 NGO staff, who then reached to 9

Future Workplan:

The second phase of Multi-donor education fund project will be developed in close coordination with donors and partners. A Design mission is planned during the first quarter of 2011. Findings from studies and evaluations will be incorporated in relevant components of programme interventions.

Title: Child protection

Purpose:

The Child Protection programme aims to strengthen the protective environment for vulnerable children through advocacy, improved policies and legislation, capacity-building, and care and support, focusing especially on children who are exploited, without parental care, and in conflict with the law. By 2010, the end of the five-year Country Programme, expected key results are:

- Operational data on children without parental care available;
- A national strategy on the protection of children without parental care and children affected by HIV/AIDS developed;
- Strengthened knowledge and skills on child protection, child rights, social work, psychosocial care and support;
- National standards, policies, alternative measures and training programmes on juvenile justice in place to protect children in conflict with the law;
- Community-based child protection networks piloted in selected communities;
- A Plan of Action to prevent recruitment of children operationalised;
- Improved law enforcement and reintegration measures for exploited and trafficked children.

In 2007, an additional key result was added:

- Prevention of recruitment of minors into armed forces mandated by Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1612.

For the purpose of this report, results 6 and 8 are put together

Resources Used: US \$ in thousands

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: RR US \$ 906; ORR US \$ 3,200; Total US \$ 4,106
Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR US \$ 2,496.55; ORR US \$ 919.35; ORE US \$ 793.17, Total: US \$ 4,209.07

Any special allocations (list):

List of donors: Australia AusAID, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Global-Child Protection Thematic Fund, Child Protection Thematic Fund, Thematic Humanitarian Response Fund

Result Achieved:

A nation-wide review of children in residential care facilities is underway; database for children in institutions has been developed; family tracing was completed for 180 children; 120 children from nine government residential facilities were reunited and 4,685 children benefited from life-skills training and recreational activities. Child protection training was conducted for 342 caregivers. A 'group-home' project completed its second year with 8 girls and 8 boys supported to live semi-independently.

In all, 3,336 girls and 3,364 boys (total 6,700 children) affected/infected by HIV/AIDS benefited from regular home-visits with educational, nutrition, psychosocial and income generation support; 83 Awareness-raising/ peer information exchange activities were conducted benefiting 2,812 persons. Recommendations from national child consultation on HIV/AIDS were included in the National HIV/AIDS work-plan, 2011-15.

A total of 27,716 Community members (16,700 women/11,016 men) benefited from child protection awareness raising workshops. Community-based child protection training resources were strengthened to include components on children affected by armed conflict, trafficking and HIV/AIDS. Some 162 Persons graduated from the UNICEF supported post graduate diploma course in Social Work.

Myanmar Police Force (MPF) introduced a directive on 'standard operating procedures' for child friendly police interactions which includes training of 2,729 police officers. An international Juvenile Justice expert provided technical support and training on child friendly court procedures to Supreme Court, including on-site mentoring of using new CCTV equipment at two Juvenile Courts. Pro-bono lawyers of a national NGO, provided legal aid support to 946 children (263 girls and 673 boys) in contact with the law (offenders, witnesses and victims). Results indicate 30% decline in institutionalisation of children in contact with the law since 2008. 'Child friendly practices training' was held for 80 legal aid workers and lawyers, first of its kind in Myanmar.

A total of 480 Community Support Groups (CSGs) in 45 townships became operational to prevent and respond to child protection issues. CSGs registered 15,285 vulnerable children (7,283 girls and 8,002 boys), including the most disadvantaged and living in hard to reach areas, and provided medical, educational, life skills support to them; 206 complicated child protection cases in 9 townships were referred to Township CRC Committees.

Recruitment of children and youth under-18 years may have reduced as a result of training and advocacy on prevention of child soldiers. UNICEF, Myanmar armed forces and Department of Social Welfare conducted regular training on International Humanitarian Law, CRC, UN Security Council Resolution 1612, and Myanmar child law to soldiers and government officials. UNICEF continued to co-chair the country task force on monitoring and reporting mechanism, submitting mandated regular reports on grave violations; and conducting several visits to armed forces recruitment units. Reintegration support was provided to 174 out of 226 boys (or young adults recruited as children, discharged by the armed forces. Progress is being made to finalise an 'Action Plan' for prevention of recruitment and release of children in the armed forces.

Guidelines for repatriation and reintegration (RR) of trafficked victims have been approved. Thailand-Myanmar Standard Operating Procedures on RR approved has also been approved by Myanmar Government. Meanwhile 670 girls and 1,027 boys were provided with educational and recreational support at 10 drop-in centres. Out of 1,030 children (770 boys/260 girls), temporarily detained at Yangon City Development Committee shelter, 413 children (89 girls/327 boys) were reunified with their families.

The limited professional capacity of DSW in social work and child protection at the township level remains a challenge. Various Minimum Standards/child friendly guidelines have been completed but are yet to be endorsed and turned into directives by the government as agreed.

Key partners include the Department of Social Welfare, Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department; Supreme Court; Office of the Attorney General; Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Yangon City Development Committee. In addition, UNICEF has programme cooperation agreements with 15 international or national (I/N) NGO partners. Collaboration exists also with IOM, UNIAP, UNHCR, UNAIDS, National AIDS Programme, and with several technical working groups.

Future Workplan:

In 2011 review of laws relating to children will be undertaken; advocacy for implementation of policies and minimum standards will be strengthened; continued advocacy for activation of CRC committees at all levels will continue; capacity gap analysis of government/non-government partners will be undertaken; situation analysis of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and children affected by HIV/AIDS will be conducted; collection of data on children and their analysis will be intensified; finalise Monitoring and reporting mechanism action plan for children affected by armed conflict.

Title: Social sector analysis, planning and monitoring

Purpose:

This programme component aimed to produce the following key results by 2010: a) increased availability and utilization of disaggregated data on child survival, development and protection of vulnerable groups for improved planning, implementation and monitoring; b) Country programme partner capacity for establishing and managing user-friendly data systems to assess, plan, monitor and report on the situation of children and women is strengthened; c) improved social sector management information systems at national and sub-national levels; d) improved capacity, knowledge, and support of governmental partners and UNICEF staff regarding social policy/protection to improve well-being of children and women.

Resources Used: US \$ in thousands

Total approved for 2010 as per CPD: RR \$ 500; ORR \$ 250; Total \$ 750

Total available for 2010 from all sources: RR \$ 876.42; ORR \$ 7.20; ORE \$ 2.33, Trust Fund 87.62 Total: \$ 973.57

Any special allocations (list):

List of donors: Norway, Policy Advocacy and Partnership Thematic Fund, Thematic Humanitarian Response Fund.

Result Achieved:

Two large national surveys: the MICS-III and the Integrated Household Living Condition Assessment (IHLCA-2) jointly funded by UNDP were completed. The government has taken full ownership of MICS. UNICEF provided technical assistance at all stages of MCS

implementation. Official release of data by government is expected during the first quarter of 2011. A particular contribution of MICS is that most indicators are disaggregated by sex, geographic location and wealth quintiles, which will assist in targeting interventions with equity in mind. However, there are certain geographic gaps for which such data would not be available due to their exclusion from survey because of security reasons. The MICS findings are being further analysed through an ongoing 'child-poverty study,' with further thematic studies planned for 2011.

UNICEF actively participated in the design and conduct of the newest IHLCA-2 to assess living standards and household poverty status in collaboration with the Department of Planning, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and UNDP. As of this writing, data analysis is complete and drafting of the final report is under way. Together, these surveys will contribute to a better understanding of disparities and vulnerabilities of children and women in Myanmar.

As part of capacity enhancement for planning and decision making, utilization of user-friendly data systems was promoted at both the national and sub-national levels. The core constraint in scaling up of this activity lies in high turnover of government staff and limited availability and the use of electronic media and connectivity. This was also compounded by availability of reliable local-level data. In coming years the strategy will be shifted toward a greater emphasis on building institutional capacity of partner organisations.

In terms of improved social sector information management as a precondition to greater utilization, the programme supported the Department of Health Planning in modifying the data dictionary of Health Management Information System. A three-level review process was organised with counterparts at different levels of government and a concrete action plan was agreed to improve existing data collection tools and data flow mechanisms. The actual revision of the data dictionary, based on the findings of this review, is now under way for field testing, dissemination and trainings of the revised tool in 2011.

For birth registration, there was a strategic shift in our efforts away from a purely data management approach to a broader child rights-based approach. Recognizing the lack of reliable information on birth registration and the existence of local variant systems, UNICEF negotiated with Ministry of Health approval for a qualitative assessment, the findings of which will provided the base for ongoing advocacy efforts to streamline birth registration system. In collaboration with Office of the Attorney General, Central Statistical Office is reviewing the legal frameworks for birth registration.

For social policy and social protection advocacy, UNICEF established the Inter-Agency Working Group for Social Protection of Children as a platform for discussion and knowledge management throughout the year on critical social protection issues including social transfers and social insurance to reduce vulnerabilities and risks to children and their families. While successfully raising government interest and inter-ministerial coordination in terms of priority areas and issues, bringing about actual changes and concrete actions on the ground in this area has not been that easy. In coming years UNICEF will seek new opportunities to engage with higher authorities on social protection issues and strategies and their ground-level application.

The planned social policy workshop had to be rescheduled to January 2011 because of administrative reasons. Additional efforts for social policy advocacy strategies will be developed according to the priorities of the new administration at both national and local levels.

With respect to emergency preparedness, SPME provided the basis for the country office's emergency assessment procedures/tools and established a standby contract with

a local research agency to organise an initial rapid assessment (IRA) within 72 hours after the onset of a large-scale emergency. In addition, a workshop on IRA methodology was conducted for local NGOs in collaboration with the UNICEF Field Coordination Unit and OCHA. Technical assistance was provided for data collection, compilation, data analysis and report writing for IRA following cyclone *Giri* in late 2010.

Future Workplan:

UNICEF will work with the Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning to further analyse MICS and integrated household living condition assessment (IHLCA) data to produce disaggregated information for various geographic regions. Further steps will be taken to analyse child focused data in the MICS and IHLCA.

Data from above analysis will be discussed in the inter-departmental working group to raise issues of concern affecting children.

4. OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT

4.1 Governance & Systems

4.1.1 Governance Structure:

Programme and Management priorities for 2010 as part of Annual Management Plan (AMP) were prepared with extensive consultation with all programme and operations section/unit chiefs, who also consulted the staff in their respective sections/units. These priorities were derived from individual/section work-plans and observations from audit where applicable. Emergency preparedness and response to flood and cyclone *Giri* were added in the work-plans during mid-year. Almost 90 per cent of management priorities have been addressed and significant progress was made in all 12 key programme results.

Mandatory management oversight committees such as CMT, JCC, CRC, PCARC, PSB and CRB continued to function smoothly and effectively and updated where necessary with new memberships. CRC reviewed 40 cases in 39 meetings with a total value of US\$18.2 million while PCARC reviewed 57 Project Cooperation Agreements with a total value of US\$ 7.8 million including SSFAs. The local Central Review Board reviewed 44 recruitment cases of national staff in 2010. The CMT met 4 times during 2010 while JCC met twice. The review processes undertaken by these committees further strengthened the oversight functions as well as processes and procedures in the overall management of the office. The emergency risk management was part of programme and operations meetings. The office was able to provide rapid and effective response to two emergencies this year.

The main focus of the CMT during 2010 was to review 2010 AMP, CPD/CPAP and CPMP for 2011-2015, Enterprise Risk Management, IPSAS and VISION implementation emergency response, audit recommendations, staff learning and development plan; and periodic review of performance management indicators. The CMT also used the forum of team building and PPP workshops to identify the areas that need improvement and efforts were made to address them accordingly e.g. routine Monday morning informal gatherings for sharing information, orientation on critical subjects/procedures and open door policy enabling staff to freely approach senior managers. This area received satisfactory rating in 2009 audit and all the recommendations have been fully implemented. In addition to Programme, Operations and Section Meetings, quarterly meeting of field officers provide a good coordination mechanism between field offices and Yangon.

4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management:

The office used structured approach to identify and manage risks. The early warning early action (EWEA) was updated incorporating identified risks and preparedness for response including mitigating measures. All elements of emergency preparedness and response plan are reflected in EWEA, based on consultation with all concerned staff including field-based staff. The security risk assessment (SRA) was updated by UNOSSC in consultation with all UN agencies, which includes identified risks and mitigating measures. During 2010 the office prepared risk profile and risk and control library with action-plan. This exercise was completed through a consultative process in a two-day workshop, sharing the draft with all staff and finally reviewed and endorsed by the CMT. The CMT will monitor the action plan against identified risks and progress will be reported to OIA on annual basis.

The delegation of authorities (including segregation of duties) at various levels of staff is reflected in the Table of Authority and its effective implementation is consistently monitored. Majority of staff members were provided with orientation on financial controls and associated accountabilities with delegation of authorities. The work processes in various areas of operations were reviewed and revised. These will be further reviewed in line with Risk and Control Library.

The EWEA, Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and SRA are some of the tools that are used to ensure minimum level of readiness for any emergency/crisis situations. As a result the office has successfully responded to two emergencies in 2010 (flood and cyclone). The BCP was updated in 2010 with some parts tested to ensure its effectiveness during emergencies. Key staff members are provided with some basic tools such as remote access to enable them to continue business during any crisis; however, connectivity outside office remained a problem.

The programme results in annual work plans were prepared with due consideration to related risks.

The CPD/CPAP and CPMP for the next country programme were prepared keeping in mind expected internal and external changes. During 2010, a number of training/orientation sessions were conducted to ensure that the staff members have updated skills to effectively implement country programme with necessary operations support.

4.1.3 Evaluation:

The integrated monitoring and evaluation plan (IMEP) is used as an important tool for tracking progress of monitoring and evaluation activities of the annual work-plan. The IMEP was compiled at the beginning of the year and updated routinely through discussions in the office M&E committee, composed of M&E focal points from each programme section. In 2010 two evaluations were completed, one each on the malaria micro-stratification strategy and the UNICEF basic education programme.

The objectivity and impartiality of evaluations are ensured with terms-of-reference being discussed in the M&E Committee prior to approval to ensure that a rigorous design is adopted, and that all relevant issues are addressed. Furthermore objectivity is strengthened by involving external consultants and government officials when needed in conducting evaluations.

All programme sections in the office have good technical capacity and experience in M&E, who regularly come together in the M&E committee to exchange research experiences and knowledge. Research capacity exists in most government departments but evaluation is traditionally less emphasized, and not routinely carried out. Conducting

proper evaluations requires hiring of local consultancy firms. There are only few firms with relevant experience available and they tend to compete for contracts for research work. There is a need to build capacity in this area in both private and public sector.

Findings and recommendations from evaluations and researches are used by the office for adjusting the programme's focus and as a baseline for new initiatives including the new country programme. Stronger knowledge management among staff is desirable to maintain quality assurance at all levels at all times.

The office is developing in-country capacity for quality evaluations by involving government staff in its evaluation work. It is anticipated that in the next country programme work in this area will be more systematic, with the development of a key curriculum on analysis and utilisation of data, as well as the forming of a group of young researchers whose research skills will be strengthened through training courses and involvement in UNICEF studies.

Evaluation findings are disseminated in a timely manner by summarizing all findings in a table and submitted to management.

4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication:

ICT section continued to provide excellent technical support and services throughout the year to help in achieving the results for children. ICT priorities in 2010 focused on preparation for the implementation of new global initiatives and system upgrades including Vision, SAP-HR, MS Office 2010, Outlook/Exchange, Windows 7, etc. Orientation sessions were conducted for staff.

A comprehensive review of the ICT infrastructure in the office was conducted to ensure the readiness for new systems and to provide effective and secure ICT services and solutions to all users. Desktops and laptops were replaced or upgraded as required; internet bandwidth for the secure data connection with New York was upgraded to meet the minimum requirement of new systems. A new project to redesign WAN connectivity in zone offices to provide better ICT solutions was commenced. Several other global ICT projects i.e. upgrade to SEP 11 MR4, UniTrack 2.1, ProMS 9.1, were successfully implemented.

The senior management team and other key staff were provided with remote connectivity at their residence to ensure continuous availability for ProMS or for any emergencies but connectivity continued to be a challenge. Key staff members have also been provided with necessary communication equipment especially during field travels.

A joint initiative with UNDP was established to provide business continuity support in critical ICT functions during any crisis in line with the principle of Delivering as One. UNICEF continues to provide internet and telephone services to five other UN agencies residing in the same premises to promote the usage of inter-agency common services on a cost-share basis.

The office made use of established LTAs to procure computers and laptops that helped cost effective procurement in the shortest possible lead-time. The obsolete IT equipment was disposed of following rules and regulations on disposal of electronics items.

The office continued to maintain data backup in a remote location, regular password change, security patches, antivirus updates, monitoring the validity of user accounts, and use of log books for tracking any changes in the ICT are done routinely to maintain ITC security. Orientation on ICT policy and electronic code of conduct was provided to staff.

4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship

4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations:

All the donor reports i.e. 43 out of 43 were submitted on time ensuring quality standards. The donor reports were prepared by the respective programme officers and were further reviewed by the Section Chief as well as Deputy Representative and finalized by the Representative using the quality assurance checklist.

In 2010 Myanmar received US\$ 18.4 in RR. The office was able to mobilize US\$18.7 million programmable amount in Other Resources, which represents 83% of OR ceiling for 2010 according to the CPD. In 2010 the office received US\$ 4.8 million programmable amount in ORE (HAR). The office also had a carryover of US\$ 4.6 million in emergency fund (ORE-HAR) from 2009. In addition, the office also received 0.2 million (cost of two JPOs) and US\$ 16,000 miscellaneous contribution.

A total of US\$ 46.7 million were allocated in 2010 of which 82% were utilized against allocation. Hundred per cent of funds against PBAs expiring as of 31 December 2010 were fully utilized. The status of PBAs and full utilization of funds against expiring PBAs was regularly monitored in programme meetings as well as in CMT as part of performance indicators review.

The country office participated in resource mobilization for joint programmes, e.g. European Commission funding for Prevention of Child Soldier Programmes jointly implemented by a number of UN agencies and NGO partners where UNICEF took the lead in preparing the proposal and acted as administrative agent.

UNICEF as cluster lead in WASH, Education and Nutrition developed proposals and received US\$ 1.04 from CERF. Necessary field visits were arranged for several donors and diplomats throughout the year. At the moment the scope for Public-Private partnership is limited but has tremendous potential. UNICEF will make every effort to avail such opportunities. Due to prevailing political reasons, the South-South Cooperation initiative is less developed. Comprehensive resource mobilization strategy is being prepared to ensure timely mobilization of resources required for the implementation of the next country programme.

4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets:

All the audit recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented and closed by OIA. Planned results were carefully matched with financial resources, staff and operating expenses for efficiency gain. The CMT regularly reviewed the performance management indicators that included contributions management, financial procedures and cash assistance to ensure that effective controls are in place and implemented. Financial controls were strictly implemented and delegation of authorities was reviewed regularly. The staff members were provided necessary orientation on financial controls.

All the bank reconciliations were prepared, reviewed and electronically submitted to DFAM/NYHQ latest by the 10th of the following month. Liquidation of cash assistance was regularly monitored.

After rephrasing of USD 4.7 million OR/ORE including trust fund to 2011, the total amount of US\$ 42.0 million (RR 18.4 million, OR 14.9 million and ORE 8.5 million and trust fund and GAVI 0.2 million) were fully committed in 2010. The budget utilization including achievement of results was regularly monitored in programme/operations meetings and in CMT as part of performance indicators review. Where necessary, the programmed funds were reallocated within allowable flexibilities to avoid under-utilization especially keeping in mind that 2010 is the last year of the current country programme and RR funds cannot be rolled over to 2011.

Direct cash transfer outstanding for more than 9 months remained 0 per cent in all months except April when the outstanding amount reached 1%. The office introduced simplified procedures to NGO partners on cash transfers in line with revised PCA guidelines and harmonized approach to cash transfers. Micro-assessment was conducted on 46 NGOs on their financial management capacity, and orientation on the new procedures was provided to these NGOs. Finance and programme staff visited partner offices to review their accounts as part of random checks and where necessary guidance was provided to strengthen the systems.

Efforts were made to reduce staff and operating costs by rationalizing staff distribution and responsibilities. With the winding down of emergency relief/recovery operation the number of temporary staff was reduced from 92 to 35 in 2010.

4.2.3 Supply:

Myanmar Country programme continued to have a large supply component. This includes institutional contracts for the recovery and reconstruction works in areas affected by the cyclone. The supply section was fully involved in the planning processes to identify supply requirements for the programme. A sum total US\$ 18.2 million (43.4% of the total country programme budget) was requisitioned during 2010 for supplies. Out of this, US\$ 4.9 million (27%) was spent on local procurement. US\$ 1.3 million were requisitioned for institutional contracts. In addition, US\$ 1.79 million worth of supplies were handled through procurement services. A comprehensive market survey is ongoing (December 2010) as per audit recommendation to further improve sourcing of supplies. As part of in-kind assistance, US\$ 0.18 million worth of supplies were received for the nutrition project.

UNICEF actively participated in Logistics Cluster together with other UN agencies and NGO partners during emergency responses in 2010. Long term agreements for transportation of supplies were shared with other UN agencies for common use.

The office maintained a warehouse for emergency pre-positioned supplies worth about US\$ 0.5 million in Yangon. The government counterpart warehouses inventory levels were brought down by strengthening planned distribution, from US\$ 8.6 million to US\$ 4.2 million. UNITRACK was introduced in 4 government warehouses and training provided to selected counterpart staff for systematic inventory management.

Distribution of pre-positioned supplies from UNICEF warehouse was managed through long term agreements with local transporters. Distribution of supplies from Government managed warehouses is handled by Department of Health for health/nutrition supplies. UNICEF also provided occasional support for distribution of supplies up to township level when required. UNICEF provided support for the distribution of education, WASH, Child protection and other programme supplies from the government managed warehouses on an exceptional basis.

Key supply and logistics staff participated in a number of learning and development activities through participation in workshops or on line courses.

The support from the Regional Office and Supply Division, Copenhagen remained excellent. The severe local climatic condition, adverse market conditions due to frequent exchange rate fluctuation, limited supplier network and in-country distribution logistics remain a challenge.

4.3 Human Resource Capacity:

Myanmar office adopted a results-based approach to design its human resource needs with due consideration to national and international staffing mix and staff profile. Despite many challenges and limitations, the office continued its efforts to recruit well qualified and competent national/international staff while ensuring a geographical and gender mix. The current women/men ratio is 51: 49. During 2010, six international, national professionals and 11 General Service staff were recruited using competency based techniques. The CPMP for 2011-2015 was developed to ensure that proposed human resources fully match the requirements for achievement of programme results.

The competencies of the existing staff were further strengthened through a number of learning and development activities to ensure that they are fully equipped with necessary skills for the tasks to be performed. Several group trainings were organized such as PPP, Team-building, Presentation skills, PCR/IR, English language training, Code of conduct, Ethics, Abuse of authority, Harassment, etc. Performance management was closely monitored to ensure that PER objectives clearly reflect achievement of results from work plans, performance discussions were held during the year and evaluation is conducted at the end of the year. A total of 79 per cent of 2009 PERs and 52 per cent of 2010 PER key objectives were completed by the first quarter of 2010.

Emergency preparedness and response training was also organised for relevant teams. A two-day workshop on Risk and Control Self-Assessment was organised with nearly 50 professional staff participating to identify risks and prepare action plan that also strengthened staff skills on all aspect of UNICEF's work.

The Office has six Peer Support Volunteers, trained in regional workshop. Their roles and responsibilities were widely circulated to all staff encouraging them to avail their services when needed. The Office participates in UN Cares Committee and has already implemented the 10 minimum standards on HIV in workplace. HIV related awareness orientation sessions were conducted and staff also participated in the HIV/AIDS day. PEP kits and condoms are available in UNICEF Offices throughout the country.

The Office migrated from ProMS PnP to SAP-HR as part of VISION and payroll was successfully implemented for December 2010.

4.4 Other Issues

4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement:

Efforts are being continued to optimize efficiency and minimize the costs. The office is providing common services to five UN agencies including main security desk, communication facilities, and internet and pouch services for all UN agencies. It is sharing common services with UNDP e.g. UN dispensary, courier services and common security (UNDSS). At least 4 zone offices were shared with other UN agencies. These arrangements result in considerable cost savings of about 30% as compared to managing such services individually. UN OMT meets regularly to promote common services and benefit from each other's best practices.

4.4.2 Changes in AMP:

The Office submitted a comprehensive CPMP for 2011-2015 and does not foresee any major changes in 2011. However, decisions on a number of positions submitted as part of CPMP were deferred for review as part of Biennium Support Budget Submission for re-submission in 2011 BSB. The annual management plan for 2011 will include priorities for the implementation and/or readiness for new change initiatives including

training/orientation of staff. The office started implementation of SAP-HR payroll and IPSAS on line training. Another priority will be the preparation for external audit in 2011.

5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:

1. *Qualitative study of child friendly school in Myanmar*
2. *Evaluation of malaria risk micro-stratification strategy*
3. *Post-intervention assessment of the livelihood cash grant programme*
4. *Progress in implementation of the child friendly school programme in Myanmar over the three year period, 2007-09*
5. *Randomized controlled trial for efficacy of multiple micronutrient sprinkles*
6. *Independent evaluation on 'Improving access to quality basic education in Myanmar'*
7. *Baseline survey for the livelihood cash grant programme*
8. *Assessment of emergency obstetric care in Myanmar*
9. *Elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus validation survey*
10. *WASH in school survey in Myanmar*

5.2 List of Other Publications

1. *Grade 8: National Secondary Life-skills curriculum teacher's guide*
2. *Grade 8 National Secondary Life-skills Curriculum for Students*
3. *Language enrichment programme*
4. *Five year strategic plan for child health development for MDG goal 4*
5. *Community case management of diarrhoea and pneumonia for community volunteers*
6. *Exclusive breastfeeding animation and radio spots*
7. *Salt manual: Compilation of law and regulations on production, distribution, storage and selling of iodized salt*
8. *School maintenance manual*
9. *Assessment of emergency obstetric care in Myanmar*
10. *Standard Operating Procedure on Drug and Supply Management for National Malaria Control Programme*
11. *Teacher's guide*
12. *Facts for Life 4th Edition*
13. *Building back better: Child friendly model schools in Myanmar*

6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED:

Title: *Progress in Implementation of Child Friendly Schools Programme in Myanmar Over Three Year Period 2007 and 2009*

Contact Person: Ramesh Shrestha, rshrestha@unicef.org

Abstract:

A comparative analysis of the Child Friendly School (CFS) initiative baseline data in 2007 with a follow-up assessment in 2009 demonstrates that the CFS initiative, supported by the Multi-Donor Education Fund, contributed to improvements in the quality of education. The study, led by a senior international expert, compares data sets from two different time periods to measure and demonstrate progress of the CFS initiative. Progress against each of the CFS's five dimensions is analysed using both qualitative and quantitative data. The findings demonstrated an overall progress of child-friendliness and signs of improvements in the quality of education as measured by the following indicators: more children are staying in school, and more children demonstrate learning achievement in selected subjects. The study suggests that the implementation of CFS

has a positive effect in gradually making the primary school system more focused on children's learning and completion of primary education.

Innovation or Lessons Learned:

While three years constitutes a short time to see changes in education sector in the form of improvements in educational outcome, the analysis of two sets of data from 2006 baseline and 2009 after three years of intervention nevertheless demonstrated an overall progress of CFS approach and signs of improved quality of education with more children staying in school and demonstrating greater learning achievements. Statistically valid improvement may be modest, but should be interpreted against the background of a primary school system that is chronically under-funded.

Given these circumstances it is laudable that there have been improvements in 10 CFS indicators and two CFS dimensions. Moreover, enrolment rates have remained steady, although the measuring of enrolment is a challenge in the absence of reliable denominator data. The progress made is an encouraging sign demonstrating that the implementation of the CFS approach contributes to the primary school system in gradually becoming more focused on children's learning and completion of primary education.

Potential Application:

The findings are convincing enough to expand the approach nationally. A national basic education investment plan can be drafted with specific time line subject to commitment from international financial institutes for medium to short term funding through credit and grant in aid.

Issue/Background:

Myanmar adopted the CFS initiative at the national level many years ago but due to resource constraint, all principles of CFS have not been fully realised. The 2007 baseline study assessed the degree of Child Friendliness and tried to relate the outcomes to learning achievement, enrolment and survival rate. The 2009 follow-up study was designed to measure progress in implementation of the CFS programme at the school and township levels after three years of intensive inputs to promote CFS concept. The comparative study used 33 indicators of 'CFS-ness' in five dimensions to measure changes in access, participation and learning achievement.

Strategy and Implementation:

The objective was to show how child friendly initiative has impacted on the learning achievements of pupil and overall performance of the school. The baseline and follow-up assessment employed the same methodology in terms of administrative procedures, study instruments, data analysis and quality control processes. The data analysis focused on comparing performance against baseline, calculating and assessing differences in scores for CFS indicators and dimensions.

Selection: The CFS project covered 4,046 schools of which 1,000 primary schools located in 20 townships were selected randomly for the baseline study. The number of schools selected was proportionate to the total number of primary schools in each township. For the follow-up study, 500 schools were randomly drawn from the original 1,000 schools again proportionate to the number of schools in the townships.

Survey Instruments: The questionnaire included more than 2,000 questions spread over five checklists. The Myanmar language test assessed children's performance on vocabulary, spelling, grammar, comprehension and production, containing multiple choices and open ended questions. The mathematics test assessed children's performance on competencies specified for grade 5 curriculum covering a number of

operations, time, distance, length, weight, shape and problem solving, also containing multiple choice questions. The instruments have proven validity, reliability and consistency.

Progress and Results:

The main findings of the five qualitative dimensions are included below:

- Inclusive: 60% of schools reported positive change while 40% reported negative change, primarily due to lack of regular school enrolment campaigns.
- Gender: 80% of schools reported improvement in ensuring an equal access and participation of boys and girls.
- Effectiveness: 40% of schools reported positive change while 40% reported negative change, possibly due to difficulties in implementing active-learning methodologies in over-crowded classrooms.
- Healthy and Protective Environment: 90% of schools registered positive change in the two indicators of school policies enforced against abuse, physical punishment, violence, and application of Life Skills. No significant improvements were noted in the other eight indicators. Substantial investment may be required for further improvement.
- Community: 60% of schools reported negative change, and 25% positive change. A possible explanation may be that most schools and townships do not give a high priority to the community aspects of CFS-ness.

The quantitative analysis found no statistically significant difference in Gross Enrolment Ratio and Repetition Rate. Significant improvement were found, however, in the Grade 5 Survival Rate (from 62% to 76%), Apparent Intake Rate (from 62% to 76%), and Myanmar language learning achievement (from 24% to 59%).

Next Steps:

UNICEF will continue to promote CFS approach as a key strategy in the education programme during the next country programme targeting the most disadvantaged communities.

Title: *Livelihood Cash Transfer to vulnerable families in Nargis Affected Areas*

Contact Person: Yoshimi Nishino, ynishino@unicef.org

Abstract:

Child Protection and Social Policy & PME sections worked with partners to provide cash grants to a select group of vulnerable families affected by Cyclone *Nargis*. The intervention was initiated to restore the means of livelihood of the affected households in order to mitigate vulnerability of their children. This represents the very first time UNICEF Myanmar attempted to integrate direct cash transfers for protection purposes in a post-disaster context. The overall implementation took eight months comprising of one-time cash grant combined with a training of participants in business skills. It was delivered in coordination with multiple partners including local authorities and already functioning Community Support Groups (CSGs) to ensure that the assistance reached those most in need and that funds were utilised as intended. The intervention achieved its expected objectives at different levels and generated rich lessons for designing and implementing similar initiatives in the future.

Innovation or Lessons Learned:

- Involving local community support groups in selection of target groups, trainings, and supervision of business activities, promoted ownership and sustainability;
- The project time frame should be flexible and long enough to allow for effective planning and coordination;

- Selection criteria should be specific and sensitive and must be tested to effectively target the vulnerable families and avoid overlaps;
- The selection process should be organized in a transparent, participatory and inclusive manner making all villagers aware of objectives and selection criteria;
- The business trainings in rural villages should be designed and tailored to language, literacy and education status of the beneficiaries. In addition, the training content should also be adapted towards prevailing livelihood opportunities of the target population;
- Tracking of grant utilization, supervision of business development and monitoring and evaluation of the project at different implementation level were crucial;
- In providing support in preparing business plans, it is important to conduct a market analysis to determine potential demand and purchasing power of the community to avoid over-concentration of some businesses in small villages;
- Target beneficiary could include vulnerable adolescents as a means to help them set up a small business after completing their training;

Potential Application:

The lessons learned and good practices identified can be applied in designing and conducting similar social transfer programmes either in post-disaster or in development context to mitigate vulnerability of children and families.

Issue/Background:

In the cyclone affected areas, many households lost both primary breadwinners and economic assets. In absence of social safety nets, vulnerable households, particularly those with many children, landless, and/or those headed by the elderly or young people, had limited capacity to re-establish sustainable livelihood activities. This often forced families to rely on unfavourable coping mechanisms which had a gradual negative effect on the wellbeing and protection of children, e.g. children dropping out of school to work; migrating to towns in search of work and not being cared for by family members, making them more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Strategy and Implementation:

Project implementation was coordinated with PACT Myanmar, five partner agencies, CSGs and local authorities. The vulnerable families were identified using pre-determined selection criteria. It was made sure that livelihood cash grants, one time payment of Myanmar Kyats equivalent to US\$150, were targeted only to eligible families. The project reached 4,515 direct beneficiary families in 79 villages in Laputta and Bogalay Townships.

The grant process was organized through partner agencies and small business development trainings were conducted for grant recipients, CSG members and staff of partner agencies. Participants learned business planning skills and basic bookkeeping skills to develop plans to start up small businesses. After establishing the businesses, progress was tracked through close monitoring and supervision. In order to ensure sustainability, business skills trainings were integrated into cash grant provision, involving CSGs members as training participants as well as in supervising the business activities.

Monitoring and evaluation have been incorporated from the project design stage as integral elements comprising of baseline survey, indicator framework, and evaluation to assess achievements at different result levels and to document lessons learned and good practices.

Progress and Results:

The project implementation took eight months from August 2009 through March 2010. Post-intervention assessment was conducted four months after the project ended.

All expected outputs were achieved among 4,515 households in respect of their business skills with improved knowledge scores at the end-training assessments. Beneficiary families had increased ownership of livelihood assets: livestock from 29% to 49%, fishing nets from 19% to 48%, and fishing boat from 25% to 42%.

The outcomes can be seen at different levels. Some 68% reported improvement in socio-economic conditions allowing them to provide more care and support to their children than before, while 62% reported improved monthly income which enabled them to expand the current business (33%), food (30%), schooling of children (14%), and for investing in new business (14%). Food security situation also improved with household with no food stocks dropping from 70% to 52%. Migration for work by household members was reduced by half from 16% to 8% while families with debt reduced from 87% to 74%. It was also found that attitude and practice towards family violence and physical abuse had significantly reduced; hitting children reduced from 44% to 24 % and hitting wife from 6.4% to 3.6%.

Next Steps:

The project partners and UNICEF are looking for funds to replicate this experience.