

### Executive Summary

Through Presidential Decree, at the end of the year, the government approved the National Policy on Early Childhood Development, based on the experience of the implementation of the *Programa Amor para los mas Chiquitos*. It establishes an inter-ministerial committee with health, education and family to ensure a comprehensive approach in family interventions, as well as coordination at local level with municipalities and community based organisations. It clearly prioritises vulnerable children. UNICEF provided support to systematise the local experience, the realisation of a national congress with international experts on ECH and technical assistance for the policy in coordination with other allies such as the IDB, OEI and WB. With UNICEF's support, the instruments for policy implementation are to be established in 2012. This policy will be one of the main areas of cooperation for UNICEF for years to follow.

According to the latest report on Universal Access, Nicaragua is among the selected group of countries that have achieved coverage of over 80% of Antiretroviral for people living with HIV. In six departments where UNICEF provides technical assistance, 91% of health services provide counseling and HIV testing to pregnant women, increasing coverage of testing from 25% in 2008 to 65% in 2011.

During the emergency situation created by Tropical Depression No.12, hundreds of communities were affected by flooding and many families required shelter. Despite UNICEF's advocacy, child protection issues were not included in the flash appeal. It took several weeks before the Ministry of Family concreted the need for UNICEF's support.

Nicaragua still lacks a national information system on children's rights. With UNICEF's technical assistance in 2011, efforts to establish the indicators for the system were led by MIFAN and INIDES. Unfortunately little progress has been made since access to latest data has been restricted.

Since the beginning of the year, UNICEF established an advocacy strategy to promote adolescent development; starting with a joint presentation of the SOW on adolescent with other UN agencies; securing the issue with Regional Director and adolescents during the mobilization of the Radio and TV Festival, and; ending with the presentation of the UNDP Human Development Report Nicaragua on Adolescents and Youth to which UNFPA, UNICEF and UNV contributed financially and conceptually.

A strong alliance with the civil society and University of Leon was done to promote a comprehensive review of the request to increase from 6 to 15 years of imprisonment for adolescents by modifying the Code for children and adolescents in Nicaragua. The advocacy strategy proved to be successful after the Special Commission from the National Assembly concluded that the increase of years was not recommended. During the Festivals mobilisation, positive messages on adolescent's development were promoted to counter fight the negative aspect that criminalised adolescence for a few that go against the law.

### Country Situation

Households living in general poverty dropped from 48.3% in 2005 to 42.5% (in ?); in extreme poverty from 17.2% to 14.6% in 2009 (EMNV 2009). Reduction in poverty is generally higher in rural areas (7%) compared to urban (4.1%); slightly lower incidence of poverty among women (41.9%) compared to men (43.2%) and, extreme poverty, 15.4% among men versus 13.9% among women. Nearly 50% of children and adolescents (under the age of 18) are living in poverty, with 19% living in extreme poverty.

The Education Strategic Plan document provides data for 2007-2010 net schooling rate (NSR) for initial and pre-school education for children between the ages of 3-5 showing an increase from 53% in 2007 to 55% in 2010, giving Nicaragua a positive tendency, but with a limited quality of service. In recent years a

relative stagnation has been observed in the NSR (87%) for primary education in children between ages of 6 and 11. Although the adjusted net enrolment rate shows the proportion of children of primary school age enrolled in both primary and secondary school, the rates for specific ages reveal a steady increase. As of 2009, 93 out of every 100 children between the ages of 6 and 11 were enrolled in primary or secondary school. The indicators for retention and pass rates in primary education reveal a positive tendency, increasing from 87.6% to 90.5% and from 86.4% to 90.3% between 2007 and 2009 respectively.

The school age population (3 -17 years) outside the education system corresponding to basic and middle education has not varied significantly between 2007 and 2010 (24.6% and 25%, respectively). One of the reasons for not attending school is child labour, which is the result of a combination of economic and cultural factors and the quality (relevance) of the education provided. As of 2009, the percentage of children that start first grade and complete sixth grade was 43.0% (of which only 28% of the children graduated without repeating a year), with significant differences between urban areas (63%) and rural areas (28%).

Maternal mortality ratio has dropped from 76.5 in 2007 to 67.0 in 2010, as a result of the timely capitation through prenatal care that identified risks and complications affecting pregnant women, the increased coverage of institutional childbirth, and the implementation of community strategies such as maternal houses for pregnant women in rural areas. However, a greater reduction of maternal mortality can be observed in urban areas, while the average number of annual deaths has remained constant in rural areas. This phenomenon is associated with inequalities in the population's living conditions and health status of women of reproductive age. Maternal mortality is particularly concentrated among women living in poverty with low educational levels, tend to have limited access to health services, receive low quality in the care they can access, and lack adequate prenatal and emergency obstetric care. The Nicaraguan departments with the highest maternal mortality are, in descending order: Río San Juan, Rivas, Jinotega and León.

Data of Demographic and Health Survey (ENDESA 2006/2007) show that infant mortality under the age of 1 dropped from 31 deaths for every 1,000 live births in 2001 to 29 in 2006/07. Based on administrative records, MINSA states that between 2005 and 2010 the number of deaths fell by 15% among under 5, 10.5% among under 1 and 14% among children less than 28 days old (neonatal). Neonatal mortality contributes to 73% of infant mortality and has shown little change in the last 15 years. It varies between 15 per 1,000 live births in the Pacific region and 22 in the Caribbean region. Child mortality rate for under 5 varies between 30 per 1,000 live births in the Pacific and 50 in the Caribbean

According to ENDESA, chronic malnutrition rate for children under 5 years fell from 25.8% in 2001 to 21.7% in 2006. In the period between 2006-2007, 94% of live-born children received breast milk, 54% were breastfed within an hour of being born, and 80.8% were breastfed on the first day.<sup>[1]</sup> The prevalence of anaemia among children of 5-59 months has dropped from 45.5% in 2007 to 10.9% in 2009,<sup>[2]</sup> although it is higher in rural areas (15.2%).

HIV prevalence remains unchanged at 0.2%. The last HIV sentinel site study conducted in July-September, 2009, in 16 of the country's departments with the participation of 2,758 pregnant women reported an HIV prevalence of 0.11% among that population, which is similar to the figure for 2004-2005.<sup>[3]</sup> The HIV epidemic is mainly concentrated among men who have sex with men (MSMs) and the transgender population. A 2009 study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported a prevalence of 7.5% among MSMs from the department of Managua and 3.1% among MSMs in Chinandega. There has been an accelerated increase in HIV incidence, from 4.1 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2003 to 16.3 in 2010. Adolescents between the ages of 15 and 19 account for 9% of new HIV cases.

National Police data reported that cases of domestic and sexual violence increased by 9% in 2010 compared to 2009. The most frequent kinds were against physical integrity (61%), domestic violence (11%), and sexual crimes (11%). Children and adolescents accounted for 24% of the victims of domestic and sexual violence, 88% being girls. In 79% of cases, violence against children occurred at home.

There is no recent data on water and sanitation coverage and no significant changes were observed on the national level. In municipalities intervened by UNICEF, access has increased to 10%. Regarding schools, at

national level only 51.17% has drinking water (less than 30% in Atlantic Region), while only 22.87% has sanitation facilities (less than 10% in Atlantic Region) [4], with clear consequences on the quality of education.

[1] INIDE. National Demographic and Health Survey (ENDESA 2006/2007).

[2] MINSA. Nutritional Surveillance System (SIVIN).

[3] MINSA. HIV Prevalence among Pregnant Women Attended at Health Units. HIV/AIDS sentinel site study. Nicaragua, 2009.

[4] MINED. School Infrastructure General Direction, 2010.

### **Who are the deprived children in your country context?**

The history of indigenous and afro-descendent populations and children has been characterised by exclusion of national development processes of those living in the autonomous regions and in the central northern area of the Pacific. Unequal power relations led to unequal access to social services in health, quality education, and water and sanitation systems. Higher levels of malnutrition are present in these populations given their reduced access to food. These disparities have grown given the pressure in the agricultural frontier as well as threats to the cultural knowledge and customs. There is low recognition of cultural diversity in the country and indigenous and afro-descendent people are absent on national statistics, as well as incipient participation mechanisms, which are being strengthened with the revision of autonomy law, a new law for indigenous groups and ratification of ILO 169 convention.

Children from rural communities in the northern part of the country as well as in urban marginal communities in the capital Managua have been invisible in national policies. This population lacks access to quality social services and also has high levels of malnutrition. In addition, early pregnancy in teenagers, child labor and violence are more frequent in cities, reducing their opportunities for development. Children with disabilities are widespread in the country. Many efforts are being made for them to enjoy inclusive education. Other areas such as access to information on HIV and violence prevention need to be addressed.

### **Data/Evidence**

The "Knowledge, research and advocacy" component has stressed the development of capacities and the generation of information in the National Statistics System (<?xml:namespace prefix = st1 ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:smarts" />SEN), the updating of sectoral statistics, and the generation of evidence based on specific studies, all of which aim at collecting information on and analysing disparities. These initiatives have been developed through strengthening capacities in INIDE, lead entity for statistics, ministries and other institutions members of the SEN (police, supreme court), the intersectoral definition of tracing indicators for social policies, and the design and implementation of an interagency statistics programme. UNICEF has initiated an analysis of the child and adolescent rights situation in 15 municipalities prioritised due to their high poverty indices to complement knowledge, research and advocacy.

UNICEF has supported the generation and analysis of information related to children excluded from education, particularly working children and children with disabilities. The analysis of MDG 2, conducted with other UN agencies, also addresses equity gaps. With civil society, support has been provided for studies on gender-based disparities and the causes of school non-attendance due to restrictions on

demand; a study on child-raising guidelines among the indigenous and Afro-descendant populations; and a situation analysis of disability in Nicaragua. Assessments of the families of children in the worst forms of child labour are being conducted with the Labour Ministry, while a child labour module has been included in the ongoing household survey.

UNICEF has directly developed studies on migration and children, poverty and children, and the analysis of public spending on education and health. It has also initiated a situation analysis of indigenous children with UNDP.

Household survey from 2009 was launched at the end of 2011. This will be used in in-depth studies on disparities in 2012.

### **Monitoring Mechanism**

UNICEF has used national surveys, such as the demographic and health survey (ENDESA 2007) and the living standard measurement survey (MECOVI 2005) to analyse the situation of children with an equity approach, based on indicators of access to and the coverage of health, education and protection. These surveys are conducted in the country every 5 years. MECOVI 2010 was published recently, but the data base was available for more in-depth analysis only at the end of the year. ENDESA is currently being conducted and its results will be available in 2012.

As an alternative, given the limitations in the availability of data from national surveys, the administrative records of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of the Family, and the National Police and other justice operators have been used, with the aim of assessing the effects of social policies in achieving equity of access to services for children and adolescents. However, such analysis only allows an assessment of equity according to geographical sphere, urban or rural location, gender, age group and ethnic group. Using the municipal poverty map, UNICEF has managed to analyse the differences in behaviour of the coverage and service access indicators in non-poor, poor and extremely poor municipalities.

The Child Rights Observatory contributes more in-depth analysis of the effect on children and adolescents of social policies in the areas of health, education and protection. In addition to systematically monitoring the situation of children's rights in over 100 of the country's 153 municipalities, it also conducts specific research with populations in conditions of greater social disadvantage.

UNICEF provides technical and financial assistance to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit to analyse the effectiveness of public spending, assessing whether public investment is being directed at groups at greater social disadvantage in the country, particularly in relation to children and adolescents.

### **Support to National Planning**

UNICEF carried out a Mid Term Evaluation in 2010. This process was done at a technical level with all counterparts (government and non-government organisations), where priorities were confirmed and result areas adjusted to new simplified program structure (PCR and IR). The conclusion of this exercise was presented to national authorities in early 2011. During this meeting, authorities requested that the new development model be made more visible in the presentation of the review. They recognised the support that UNICEF provided and the need to strengthen national leadership in defining the areas of cooperation. This was seen as a great step in the appropriation of the country program results and clarity of UNICEF's contribution to national development programs. Rolling Work Plans with complete IRs planning matrix were negotiated after the MTR and signed with Ministry of Foreign affairs after a thorough revision and discussion on non-governmental implementing partners done by Ministries of Health, Education and Family. Revisions made at the end of the year were focused more on the PCRs and IRs, with a greater understanding of

UNICEF programming process. As 2012 is the last year of CP, future workplans were agreed on UNICEF's contribution towards the reduction of disparities in national development programs.

Another important ongoing process is the definition of UNDAF outcomes for the next program cycle. There are high expectations from government and UN system for this to be the sole common framework to follow up on the contribution of UN agencies: replacing individual monitoring of country programs, and increasing effectiveness and reduction of transactional costs. National planning authorities have taken the lead as national priorities are being defined in the Human Development Plan of Nicaragua for the new government period. The challenge will be the definition of results and indicators with technical Ministries to be able to track progress. The UNDAF monitoring matrix and monitoring system with the government will be the key in building capacities at national level to follow up on the outcomes and contributions of each UN agency.

### **Any other relevant information related to data/evidence?**

## **Country Programme Analytical Overview**

All program components of Nicaragua CP targets indigenous and Afro-descendant children and adolescents and rural populations in prioritised municipalities in the country's autonomous northern and Caribbean Coast. Poverty is the common factor and the main selection criteria in these populations.

UNICEF collaborates with national institutions in the inclusion of strategies to reduce disparities in the formulation of public policies for the restitution of the rights of children and adolescents and supports its implementation at the local level in prioritised municipalities, and the Caribbean Coast autonomous regions.

With the backing of the Ministry of Education (MINED), the implementation of educational inclusion strategies for children with disabilities and design and employment of flexible educational modalities for children and adolescents outside the school system was supported. Ministry of Family (MIFAN) is provided support for the implementation of '*Programa Amor*' in charge of the restitution of the rights of children and adolescents in conditions of vulnerability: with disabilities, children and adolescents orphaned as a result of the HIV epidemic, children of migrant mothers or deprived of their liberty, street children, and victims of physical and sexual violence or of sexual exploitation and trafficking. With the Ministry of Health and Regional Government in the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Regions, a comprehensive model to reduce malnutrition in indigenous populations is being implemented with decentralised Local Health System.

The strategies for HIV prevention among adolescents have been focused on groups outside the school system in marginalised urban areas, on indigenous and Afro-descendant adolescents due to their high levels of social vulnerability to the epidemic. This strategy involves an important alliance with NGOs that have extensive experience working with these groups.

To improve effectiveness of social services for indigenous and Afro-descendant people, UNICEF supports cultural adjustment of national strategies through anthropological studies and intercultural dialogue with the communities themselves. Actions are currently being implemented on bilingual intercultural education and health, nutrition and WASH interventions in these communities, all of which is the result of the collective construction with this population.

In 15 prioritised municipalities, UNICEF is strengthening capacities on policies design and municipal planning for children and adolescents with participatory process, including situation analysis as well as monitoring and evaluation of children's rights on the most disadvantaged populations.

### Effective Advocacy

*Fully met benchmarks*

UNICEF CO engaged in strategic partnerships described in different sections of this annual report including UNDP in studies on indigenous populations, adolescents and migration along with the IMF in socio economic analysis, and with other UN agencies and civil society advocating for adolescent development.

Main advocacy process was on adolescent's judicial system after a college student was attacked by 3 adolescents, provoking his death. College students started public demonstrations to increase the sentence from 7 to 15 years imprisonment for adolescents, reforming the Children and Adolescents Code CNNA. A strategic group to defend the CNNA was convoked by UNICEF with regular meetings to establish an advocacy and communication strategy to reach different levels of the society on the need to have a specialised system in accordance with the CRC ratified by Nicaragua at a constitutional level. The issue was presented to the UNCT. and The RC arranged a meeting with the President of the National Assembly to present UN's concern on this proposal. A special commission was formed by National Assembly to analyse this demand and UNICEF was the first institution to be consulted. Regional Office provided support as requested by CO and two protection officers from Uruguay and Guatemala were deployed to Nicaragua to support argumentation in the presentation. The HHR advisor for the RC office was also part of the preparation process. During the appearance, UNICEF presented arguments that were highly appreciated by the committee, establishing grounds in the way the discussion was to be held with other organisations. After the presentation, UNICEF declared in national media that the judicial system was a country's decision, but it had the obligation to thoroughly analyse this decision based on evidence. Statistics showed that crimes perpetrated by adolescents were very low and that increasing the years of imprisonment did not reduced criminality in other countries.

The National University Committee (NUC) took part in national discussion responding to students' demands and organised events to prepare a position of the National University System. UNICEF approached its President, inclined in favour of students' position, and advocated for a balanced analysis based on CRC principles. The University of Leon requested UNICEF's support to promote an academic analysis and provide an academic position of the university within the University System discussion. The NUC concluded that the problem was in the implementation of the code, not only in judicial system but also in the need to increase investment in social policies to ensure the rights established in the CNNA.

The Special Commission continued interviewing organisations and institutions that work with children and for children rights. They also included the NUC and student organisations and, with UNICEF's support, visited and interviewed adolescents in jail and police stations. At the end of the year it concluded that an increase in the number of years of indictment was not a solution and that a revision of the implementation of the Special Judicial System for adolescents should be done in 2012. UNICEF will continue coordinating and promoting the alliance to advocate for improved employment of the system.

### Changes in Public Policy

The main priority of the National Human Development Plan is the restitution of rights, especially to the poorest and most vulnerable population, with an equity approach and strengthening of a welfare state. Several policies are being developed to reach this goal in social sectors where UNICEF is currently involved. These policies need to translate in specific models and instruments to reduce disparities.

The National Welfare System includes programs to fight hunger providing cattle and seeds to women or provide loans for small entrepreneurial activities. It also includes the special protection program "Amor", and the recently approved early childhood development policy. All of them are important spaces for UNICEF technical assistance to increase focus on the most vulnerable population, reduce disparities and provide protection for all children through social protection schemes and a solid social policy framework that

promotes human development. Ministry of Family is responsible for many of the results of this system and needs to coordinate with other involved institutions.

The national development plan is under revision to make adjustments for the new governmental period starting in 2013. This will be an important opportunity for UNICEF to continue advocating for disparity reduction and protection of vulnerable population.

Legal reforms are also underway regarding the protection and rights of people living with HIV, with an important consideration for children. The revision of the new registration law will be completed in 2012, with important modifications that will benefit indigenous populations.

### **Leveraging Resources**

As a liaison between Ministry of Education and donor group, UNICEF accompanied the preparation process of the Education Strategic Plan which is the main reference for investing in education. This plan includes strategic lines to increase quality and reduce disparities in the country. Advocacy from all donors resulted in a prioritisation of most disadvantaged municipalities. As result, an US\$ 80 million investment program for preschool, primary education and early secondary (ninth grade) in most disadvantaged regions will be supported by WB and European Union, including an application to the global alliance for education. Monitoring and evaluation systems will be built to follow up on the impact of these contributions to reduce disparities.

World Bank and IDB committed approximately US\$ 45 million to invest in early childhood development program through the Ministry of Family in prioritised regions, following a social protection scheme that supports actions in most vulnerable populations. The new national policy will encourage the universality of early childhood services with a comprehensive approach in different modalities, based in the family and community. Resources from WB and IDB will ensure specialised services to rapidly reduce disadvantages, while supporting the creation of national policy. An exit strategy needs to be developed to make an adequate transition towards sustainable national services modalities after funding is completed. UNICEF has been asked to lead donor coordination for the new national policy. Although no formal space of dialogue for this policy has yet been established, UNICEF has a major advantage to establish close cooperation between sectors to ensure that funding responds to the implementation of a comprehensive approach among the ministries concerned, namely Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Family.

Joint program on WASH governance has continued creating capacities in regional authorities to develop the WASH sector. Communication with donors to leverage resources is a pending issue. Several attempts to establish meetings with donors were cancelled by regional government authorities mainly due to delays in the definition of the regional WASH strategy.

### **Capacity Development**

*Mostly met benchmarks*

The main area for capacity development prioritised in 2011 was with regional autonomous governments, agreed in a strategic meeting with regional authorities and the UNCT. After investing in different joint programs with the MDG-F funds in the Caribbean coast, local authorities identified the need to build a monitoring and evaluation system and strategic communication (C4D) for the implementation of the Development Plan for the Caribbean Coast, to which the Joint programs contribute. UNICEF and UNDP are leading this process, with little participation of other UN agencies for the moment. Priority areas for

capacity development are being identified in a C4D plan with short term objectives for 2012 and long term objective to be included in the UNDAF outcomes. Capacities to be developed in result based planning with a human right perspective will allow children right to be addressed more specifically. Focus on disparity reduction will be included.

Capacity is also being developed with the Ministry of Family to lead the Information System on Children (SINA) with other ministries supported by National Institute for Development (INIDES) in charge of national statistics. A set of indicators have been agreed upon based on areas of the recommendations of the CRC committee. Capacity needed to maintain the system will be established with MIFAMILIA and INIDES.

Emergency response is a permanent area for capacity building in UNICEF country program. Recent efforts have been unsuccessful given changes in mandates among ministries regarding child protection. Previously it was only part of the education response since shelters were mainly established in schools. Now Ministry of Family is in charge of this response and is starting identification capacities to be developed with UNICEF's support. Proficiency is also being developed with municipal and regional governments.

### Communication For Development

*Fully met benchmarks*

Upon completing behavior prioritisation and gathering base line data, the process of designing 25 communication strategies for programmatic components was concluded. A validation process of the communication materials and products is under review with community participants, including the country's main ethnic groups. This is to be concluded during the first quarter of 2012. As C4D is a crosscutting strategies for all components of the country program, during the preparation process national counterparts of government institutions, community leaders, municipal governments and NGOs we work with in the field have been part of the process and received training on C4D strategies.

Technical support was also provided to the Inter-institutional Commission by Ministry of Health, Education and Family in charge of developing an Early Childhood Development Policy. As result of this effort, the C4D component was included into the recently approved policy. Alongside this process, a C4D strategy was worked on to accompany the Policy's implementation in addition to the strategies mentioned before. An integration of several strategies was tailored to respond to this new national priority. This last comprehensive strategy will be part of the validation process with the government and the target participants.

In the Children, Food Security and Nutrition (CFSN) Joint Programme which FAO, PAHO/WHO, WFP, UNDP and UNICEF funded by the MDG-F from Spain, UNICEF is responsible for supporting the authorities of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region in implementing the C4D Nutrition strategy. This strategy includes findings of UNICEF C4D strategy and is ready to be corroborated so it can start being implemented in 2012. Thematically, the strategy stresses the development of new behaviours to increase exclusive breastfeeding for infants under 6 months of age and complementary feeding from the age of six months, as well as the introduction of good agricultural practices in the communities.

In the Joint Programme on Culture, 300 indigenous adolescents were trained to develop communication products and radio programs to promote their own culture and recognise their rights. This constitutes a strong platform to implement the C4D strategies in 2012.

Strategies for hygiene promotion, access to safe water and protection of water fountain in schools and communities were promoted in the WASH joint program using alternative communication channels such as

theatre, music, dance and puppet shows for indigenous rural communities.

The work of the Communication Interagency Group is being strengthened with a closer relationship with the UNCT. Greater interagency participation has been achieved in support of UNICEF activities.

### Service Delivery

*Mostly met benchmarks*

Service delivery actions are conducted prior to the analysis of needs of the most vulnerable population, in agreement with regional and national institutions avoiding any kind of substitution with respect to the responsibilities of duty bearers and acting to create models and successful experiences. This is done by involving sector's institutions in the entire process in order to strengthen their capacities.

Important investments in water and sanitation works were done in vulnerable communities and schools in prioritised municipalities with NGOs (ACRA) and government institutions (Nuevo FISE and municipal and regional governments). Significant reduction in water and sanitation coverage gaps has been achieved in those municipalities, while contributing to the creation of models and innovative technologies that can be scaled up at the national level or shared with municipal governments as part of the strengthening of capacities. As a result of this on-the-job training, municipalities are increasing their budget for water and sanitation projects.

Medical supplies and non-medical equipment, periodic replacement of supplies, medicines and micronutrients were provided to the health centres in indigenous communities prioritised in the Joint Programme on Children, Food Security and Nutrition, to increase capacity - 5,400 families benefitting from the programme. These centres receive funding from central that needs to be increased in the future years to take over new running costs that the model requires.

In rural and indigenous communities, UNICEF continues to provide birth registration certificates for children through local NGOs in agreement with municipal governments since they don't have the capacity to register children from isolated communities through massive registration campaigns. This strategy is oriented to reduce the gap of the number of children with no registration and to create a registration culture in these communities with the support of indigenous leaders. Capacity is developed in municipal registration offices to follow up on these processes and registration material and training provided to officers on children's rights. Sustainability depends on the capability of municipal governments to reach out to these communities frequently. Other innovative mechanisms are being scrutinised to reduce gaps with birth registrations.

### Strategic Partnerships

*Fully met benchmarks*

To confront the demands to increase years of sentence for adolescents, main civil society organisations that work for children's rights and key professional experts were identified to build a strategic group with a common advocacy strategy. Weekly meetings to follow up on the strategy and to agree on each step of the process were led by UNICEF, providing feedback on results achieved in each step. This group will continue working together in 2012 to continue advocating for a comprehensive review of the challenges in the implementation of the code CNNA.

A strategic alliance with over 30 organisations and UN agencies to mobilise public opinion in favour of children and adolescents participation and rights with national and international media with correspondents in Nicaragua was evident in the six-month of social mobilisation and advocacy campaign "Adolescence: An Era of Opportunities". This experience is presented as a good practice at the end of this report.

In the area of knowledge generation, the Central American University (UCA) is an important ally in the development of post graduate courses like Communication and Health with an emphasis on HIV, Communication and Children Rights, and Master's in Public Policies and Adolescent Leadership which UNICEF cofounded with Save the Children, Plan International and UNFPA.

UNICEF continues working with IMF on preserving social spending and having an adequate framework to analyse its effectiveness. To intensify collaboration, analyses of studies developed with Ministry of Finance are shared. A new proposal is being prepared to follow up on the recent study on Effectiveness of social expenditure to become an annual study that tracks the impact of a battery of social programs. The program with the Ministry of Finance is a joint strategy agreed upon by UNDP, UNICEF and Swiss cooperation.

With UNDP, alliance to build knowledge on children continues. This year the National Human Development Report on Youth was launched. The elaboration of the report started in 2010 with UNFPA and UNV. A situation analysis of adolescents and indigenous children will be prepared in 2012. UNICEF has several memoranda of understanding (MoU) with various UN agencies for approximately US\$ 400.000.(is this 400,000?). These MoU support knowledge generation with UNDP, WHO, and UNFPA, and UNCT work plan/RC office, coordination of Joint program with FAO and emergency coordination with WFP.

UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA continue to work together in a joint strategy for adolescents. Proposal to accelerate MDG 4 and 5 is under elaboration. A joint proposal on indigenous people's rights is being presented to UNIPP with UNFPA, UNDP and ILO. A proposal on violence against women is also being prepared. UNICEF continues its work in four MDG-F funds, leading in WASH governance.

As cluster lead, UNICEF is creating a strong alliance with the Humanitarian Network in WASH and is re-establishing coordination with Save the Children in education and protection. UNICEF also leads the education and WASH donor groups and actively participates in the health donor group and is participating in the recently reactivated local development group.

### **Mobilising Partners**

The Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region ranks first in terms of domestic violence in the country and second with respect to all causes of violence. Since churches have a strong influence in their communities, UNICEF, in association with Accion Medica Cristiana and the Association of Pastors from the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region has organised Protestant pastors to advocate for the reduction of violence against children in indigenous communities.

Pastors in 29 churches reached over 1,000 of their members to bring the situation of violence experienced by the region's children, particularly indigenous and Afro-descendant children, on the local and national agendas. During the campaign, religious leaders reflected on the need for violence-free education in schools and the development of a protective environment in the family and community.

Meanwhile, in Managua, the Theological and Social Research Centre organised the first inter-religious campaign in favour of children, which started on November 19 with the establishment of a "prayer for children" kiosk. In addition, informational and reflection sessions were held at the Evangelical University during the week of November 20-25.

Finally, the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua committed to a special prayer for children during the celebration of Sunday mass in all of the country's Catholic churches in the first week of December.

### Knowledge Management

*Partially met benchmarks*

UNICEF-Nicaragua supports the area of knowledge generation within the National Statistics System, by updating sectorial statistics and generating evidence based on specific studies aimed at analysing disparities. UNICEF's support goes both at central and municipal levels to develop capacities on systems and activities aiming at collecting information on the situation of children. In particular, UNICEF has advanced its efforts to build and expand the National Observatory of Child Rights in the Autonomous Regions, home of several indigenous and Afro-descendent population. In collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF has also provided support to the Master's program of the "Universidad Centroamericana" (UCA) in Social Policy for Children.

As part of the research component of the Country Program, in 2011 UNICEF-Nicaragua started working with UNDP to strengthen an inter institutional research team led by Finance Ministry (MHCP). This collaboration will contribute to elaborate the social accounting matrix and run child focused policy simulations using the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model. Furthermore UNICEF-Nicaragua started its pilot year of partnership with the Office of Economic Studies (OES) at the Ministry of Finance, where researches on social budgeting and targeting of macroeconomic policy are being developed. Within the framework of this alliance, and as member of the advisory team, the IMF plays an important role. Collaboration with the National Assembly is also focused on improving partner's institutional culture of transparency and knowledge sharing on social budgeting.

Recommendations of 2010 MTR still require the consolidation of internal M&E systems, as well as strengthened systematisation. Improving the flows of information and use of new technologies in specific strategic areas, such as gender based and other types of violence, water and sanitation, nutrition are also areas in which UNICEF has to consolidate its role as a leading partner in the interagency collaborations.

### Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

*Fully met benchmarks*

UN staff involved in the preparation of common country assessment CCA and UNDAF preparation went through training on HRBA to ensure a common understanding among agencies during the exercise done in the course of the year. UN agencies worked together to review recommendation reports of international committees done for the state of Nicaragua (CEDAW, CRC, UPR, among others) to identify future areas of cooperation. A joint analysis was expected to be done with the government. The analysis done by the UN system will guide the content of the UNDAF outcomes.

The UN system has established a consultation mechanism on UN programs with women movement groups and indigenous representatives to exchange information regarding their main concerns, review implementing strategies with indigenous and Afro-descendent populations and receive inputs on program proposals. This mechanism was used for the country assessment. The process led by UNICEF with adolescents in the mobilisation campaign is also included as part of this consultation process.

During discussions with the government, UN permanently reinforces the human right based approach to cooperation as a mandate for UN agencies and the need to respond to recommendations done by international committees, not only by increasing duty bearer's capacities to fulfill rights, but also by right holders capacity to claim them. New participation model will be part of this discussion during the UNDAF

preparation process to be completed in early 2012, as well as in CPDs discussions for UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and UNICEF.

Currently in UNICEF's cooperation program, intermediate results to increase participation in education process, enhance community capacities on health determinants and local development to increase awareness of duty bearer's roles in protecting children's rights is worked with NGOs networks.

### Gender

*Mostly met benchmarks*

UNICEF Nicaragua continued its work towards analysing the disparities and inequalities based on gender differences. In health, sharing of responsibilities between mothers, fathers and family is being included during pregnancy, for the child birth, breastfeeding and upbringing as part of the early childhood development approach. In education, gender equality is part of the quality education model, curriculum and teachers training. In the WASH component, women's participation in all facets of the Project cycle and in WASH commission, and gender based differences are addressed in the area of hygiene at school and community level.

A strategy addressing violence against children and gender based violence including actions in spaces such as community maternal houses, schools, and communities has been developed. Empowerment and leadership of policewomen of the *Comisaria de la Mujer* in two district in Managua was an initial activity to start working with National Police to implement its model on gender based violence. The Secretary General's strategy to eliminate violence against women is being implemented in Nicaragua as part of the UNCT work plan, led from the gender interagency group, which UNICEF is part of and a proposal for a joint program for violence against women is being prepared.

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Education to develop the Curriculum on transformative education in sexuality and HIV. Gender equality is evaluated in the educational materials. The inclusion of gender in the curriculum allows the access to scientific information although there are still challenges in the implementation. These approaches have proved to be particularly efficient in risk areas such as the north and southern Caribbean coast, and to capture adolescents out of school. UNICEF is implementing innovative educational and communication approaches which promote a new vision of masculinity and life skills with a gender focus where adolescents learn to interact as equals.

In terms of measurement of progress and program priority, the country program has 15 immediate results out of which the majority has their gender marker in 2nd category with a significant potential result in reducing a gender based disparity and where gender equality is a secondary objective. The introduction of the gender marker tool has resulted in increased awareness and visibility of the gender component and its mainstreaming in the planning process. Nevertheless, there is significant room for improvement in terms of progress measurements. It has also been the first year where the IR owners rated their results according to the GEM, and there is a good level of appropriation of this tool.

### Environmental Sustainability

*Mostly met benchmarks*

UNICEF-Nicaragua has constantly been consolidating environmental issues in WASH, Health, Education, local development planning and emergency preparedness and response, analysing the risks and vulnerabilities and planning actions aimed at minimising environmental impact and sensitising population, including children and adolescents, fostering a culture of environmental sustainability. Issues related to adapting to climate change and risk management or reduction are included as central matters in addressing health and nutrition matters and emergency preparedness in the results-based planning of the above-mentioned sectors.

Good practices in the WASH sector include: (i) building water and sanitation facilities aimed at reducing the environmental impact and employing alternative, environmentally-friendly technologies (rainwater harvesting, ecological toilets, etc.); (ii) fostering hygiene promotion actions in the communities to accompany the building of the water and sanitation facilities, stressing contents related to environmental sustainability and risk reduction; (iii) the introduction and emphasis of issues related to caring for the environment, climate change and risk management in the training sessions for technicians from institutions and social organisations at the different levels (local, municipal, regional and national) in coordination with local development strategy and national education curricula.

In the emergency response interventions UNICEF-Nicaragua ensures the introduction of the environmental and risk reduction approach through the application of environmentally friendly and risk reduction methodologies and technologies, and the dissemination of key messages and good practices in community-level promotion and sensitization activities.

In the health and nutrition sector, based on the results of the study on "Climate change and its impact on Nicaraguan children" (carried out during 2010 in municipalities in the "dry corridor" of Nicaragua's central-northern region and in places prone to flooding in Prinzapolka), some aspects related to climate change started to be incorporated into the work plans in intervention areas of the Caribbean coast. The idea is to define the mechanisms for such contents to be systematically incorporated into future local planning.

### South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The South-South cooperation facilitated by UNICEF in coordination with other donors has been crucial for the formulation of the "Love for the Smallest Ones" National Early Childhood Policy, and for strengthening national capacities on the issue. TACRO provided valuable support facilitating contacts, information and exchange arenas. The most relevant element has been that the said cooperation gradually adapted to the milestones of the policy formulation process, resulting in the generation of new knowledge, technical support at key moments, exchanges, and study visits that allowed national teams and decision makers to take ownership of a rights-based, inter-sectoral, comprehensive conceptual framework with models based on the family and the community, which was incorporated into the Policy.

The regional workshop to systematise the experiences of "Educate your Child" (a Cuban model adapted to various Latin American countries) was the start of a positive experience of collaboration among countries in the region. As a result, the country committed itself to expand from a National Campaign to a National Policy.

UNICEF supported the holding of a National Forum, with the participation of international experts from the region, several of whom were identified in the above-mentioned workshop, who contributed experiences, knowledge and critical reflection on the national policy. One immediate result of the Forum was UNICEF's

extension of technical support through an Ecuadorian expert for the conceptualisation of both the policy itself and the family and community attention models. UNICEF team also benefitted from the updating of concepts and from its participation in the technical review of the policy.

Simultaneously, several key officials from UNICEF, MINED, MINSA, and MIFAN participated in regional events on early childhood policies and monitoring systems in Mexico and Paraguay and in a study visit to Chile to learn about the "Chile grows with you" policy. The latter was both a South-South cooperation initiative and a triangular initiative as it was organised between UNICEF and the World Bank with Honduras, Nicaragua and Chile. The successes of this experience included: a) the participation of inter-sectoral teams with a good political decision-making level, b) building the agenda based on the participants' expectations and the host's strengths, c) UNICEF's direct relationship with the national institutions, which allowed it to influence the designation of suitable people and the follow up of the agreements to implement the ideas that emerged from the visit.

Consequently, a follow up group was formed for possible multi-country collaboration aimed at the training of human resources, among other things, as part of the Central American Integration System's (SICA) Regional Plan. The guidelines were established for continuing technical cooperation between the Central American sub-region and the government of Chile, which was identified as a strategic partner for social policies, particularly early childhood ones. UNICEF has an opportunity here to accompany the formulation of a more systematic South-South cooperation proposal between the sub-region and Chile, in conjunction with the World Bank and possibly the Inter-American Development Bank.

### Country Programme Component: Knowledge, research and advocacy

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
By 2012, the social policies for children and adolescents and public budgeting are oriented towards the reduction of disparities, are evidence-based, incorporate a rights-based approach, are managed in a participatory way and are coordinated in the territory, including emergency preparedness and response.		2 FA5OT8, FA5OT9, FA5OT1, FA5OT2, FA5OT3, FA5OT5, FA5OT6, FA5OT7

#### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling )	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	\$925,000.00	\$980,000.00	\$978,300.00	99.83%
RR	\$145,000.00	\$231,000.00	\$198,200.00	85.80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$1,070,000.00</b>	<b>US\$1,211,000.00</b>	<b>US\$1,176,500.00</b>	

#### Results Achieved

MIFAN is developing Children and Adolescents Information System (SINA), indicators that are being installed on DevInfo. UNICEF provided training to technicians of Social Welfare System institutions, who will feed information into SINA. Capacities of 24 municipal governments to monitor child rights situation and municipal management and investment in favour of children were developed. UNICEF and UNDO agreed upon a research agenda on socioeconomic policies with Finance Ministry to produce evidence for greater social investment in children. The information will be available to legislators and government officials in the process of formulating and approving the national budget.

With UNICEF's technical assistance in cooperation with World Bank and IDB, the country formulated an Early Childhood Development Policy. UNICEF collaborated in the conceptual framework of early childhood development with HHRR and gender perspective, supported the systematisation of the country's experiences of *Programa Amor para los mas chiquitos* to document good practices, and accompanied the policy's collective construction in departments within the municipalities responsible for finalising a national event.

UNICEF designed a communication strategy (C4D) for early childhood development as a contribution to the implementation strategy of the new policy. Support to Health, Education and Family Ministry for inter-institutional coordination in the policy's implementation is being provided.

UNICEF is developing capacities in 15 municipal governments in favour of children. Technical capacities have been strengthened in the Associations of Municipalities of 3 departments for the promotion and protection of children's rights. As a result, 10 of the 15 prioritized municipalities have Municipal Child and Adolescent Commissions coordination actions for children between State institutions and social and community organisations; 10 municipalities have an analysis of the child and adolescent rights situation in the municipality, and 7 have formulated municipal policies to guarantee those rights. Municipal governments were sensitised in the importance of investment in children and adolescents for human development and have committed to gradually increase it. As result, municipal investment in children increased from 8.5% in 2008 to 18% in 2011 in 7 of the prioritised municipalities. On average, investment for children reaches 12.9% of the 2011 Municipal Investment Plan in the 15 municipalities.

UNICEF presented recommendations to the UN Consultative Council of Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples made by Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples' for the compliance with the rights of indigenous children in its last ordinary work session. It was agreed that a subgroup will accompany the process of building situation analysis of indigenous children in the country. A communication strategy has been produced to promote their rights and the State's responsibility to protect them. To reduce disparity gaps among indigenous populations, programmes are being implemented on intercultural bilingual education, health and nutrition, and water and sanitation presented in each program component.

### **Most Critical Factors and Constraints**

- The National Institute for Development Information (INIDE) as lead institution in charge of production of statistics has been strengthening its technical capacities to conduct, process and analyse surveys. Latest data bases have not been available for public use, therefore limiting the analysis of disparities among rights holders, the identification of children in conditions of greater social disadvantage, and processes for evidence-based socioeconomic policies.

- Municipal governments have shown sensitivity to coordinate local efforts for children. However, national institutions have different levels of decentralisation and local development strategy has yet to be established in the country. An opportunity to increase coordination at municipal level is the implementation of the National Early Childhood Development Policy that establishes responsibilities at national and municipal level with municipal governments.

Indigenous peoples have achieved important advances in terms of their political rights (the freedom to name their own autonomous government and forms of organisation in recognised territories). Efforts are still needed to ensure their social rights (health, education, social protection). While there is a close relationship between the individual rights of indigenous children and the collective rights of indigenous peoples, there is a need to overcome the subordination of individual rights to collective ones.

### **Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration**

The alliance with the World Bank and the IDB to accompany the country's formulation of a national early childhood policy involved the mobilisation of national and international experts from the three institutions to provide technical assistance to the Interinstitutional Early Childhood Policy Commission. The government considers this to be a mechanism that could be replicated for harmonising international cooperation in the policy's implementation.

UNICEF, together with UNDP supports the Finance Ministry and the National Assembly Economic Commission on an analysis of social spending on health, education and protection and to open an arena for dialogue on greater investment in children. This alliance includes the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the IMF, mentioned in the Country Program Analytical overview section of this report.

UNICEF has established an alliance with Save the Children to support the National Child and Adolescent Rights Observatory which is under the responsibility of the CODENI, an umbrella institution that groups 50 civil society organizations, support the Network of Child- and Adolescent-friendly Governments, which includes of 52 of the country's municipal governments, and support for the Central American University for the implementation of a Master's Degree on Child Policies and Rights.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

No action was included in humanitarian response

### Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

1. *"Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Public Spending for Poverty Reduction: The case of health and education."* Finance Ministry's Office of Economic Studies (OEE).

The study analyses the effectiveness and efficiency of social spending in Nicaragua. It is intended to be the first of several such studies produced regularly with updated figures. The study has two levels, the first of which examines Nicaraguan spending, goals and indicators, while the second constructs efficiency indexes using standardised data. The macro analysis reveals that Nicaragua's public spending on social services has been increasing, being notable that it has not led to an increase in public spending in general.

2. *Study: "Redistributive Effect of the Fiscal Policy".* The Finance Ministry's Office of Economic Studies (OEE).

This study analyses 34 social programmes and their effects on the populations distributed by quintiles. It provides inputs for the formulation of policies considering the redistributive effect of the government's social spending policy. It will conduct an in-depth analysis of whether the programmes are well focused, have an adequate level of coverage, benefit the target population and have an impact on reducing disparities.

3. *Study "Nicaragua: The fiscal margins for financing a recovery and development with equity".* Central American Institute of Fiscal Studies

This analyses some of the possible sources of fiscal space for financing development with equity in Nicaragua. The first part analyses the specific investment requirements of the demographic transition the country is going through. The second part describes the main restrictions the State faces in financing such investments and evaluates alternatives for expanding the margins of action in fiscal matters. In particular, it analyzes the transformation of the tax system, the need to regulate excess tax collection, and the re-evaluation of prevailing notions on the public debt's sustainability threshold.

4. *Compilation and Summary of the Results of Gender Studies Conducted in Nicaragua in 2008-2011.*

With the aim of mainstreaming the gender approach in the framework of the Common Country Assessment, UNICEF made a compilation of the main studies on gender with the aim of performing a more in-depth analysis of the gender equality gaps with respect to economic, social, civil and political rights. The technical report was analysed by UN Women and the United Nations Interagency Group on Gender, and discussed with the interagency thematic groups that produced the CCA.

### Future Work Plan

UNICEF will assist the MIFAN-led Interinstitutional Technical Commission for Early Childhood Development in the formulation and implementation of the National Early Childhood Development Policy. This consists of supporting inter-institutional coordination and the harmonisation of national cooperation for the policy; the development of the monitoring and evaluation system; the development of the methodological framework and tools for educating families and communities (in coordination with education component), including cultural adjustment for implementation with indigenous peoples; including in municipal plans and local development strategies.

UNICEF will also implement three studies to generate evidence on social protection policies for children and adolescents: a) Mapping social vulnerability of children and adolescents, b) Multidimensional analysis of child poverty in Nicaragua, c) Analysis of the social protection policies aimed at children and adolescents.

UNICEF will continue enhancing INIDE's capacities for analysing disparities and generating evidence on the impact of social policies on children and adolescents in conditions of greater disadvantage. It will also

continue strengthening the SINA; the municipal information systems in 24 prioritised municipalities; the capacities of the Caribbean Coast autonomous governments for generating, analysing and disseminating information on children's rights, with an emphasis on indigenous and Afro-descendant people; and the Child Rights Observatory for monitoring the situation of children's rights and following up on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF's support in 15 prioritised municipalities will focus on strengthening capacities for a municipal administration that favours children by planning and formulation of budgets with a rights-based approach, strategic leadership and coordination with public sector institutions with a presence in the municipality, promotion of child and adolescent participation in municipal administration, and monitoring and evaluation of municipal administration in favour of children using DevInfo platform. It will also strengthen the capacities of the associations of municipalities and the Network of Child- and Adolescent-friendly Governments to build consensus and generate political will in favour of children in the municipalities, as well systematising good practices that can be scaled up.

UNICEF's cooperation with indigenous peoples will support the Analysis of the Situation of the Rights of Indigenous Children, the implementation of the Regional Child Rights Observatory and the Regional Information System with a rights-based approach.

UNICEF will support the Caribbean Coast's regional councils and governments in updating the Regional Human Development Plan and the policies derived from it, with participation of indigenous and Afro-descendant adolescent leaders. With Regional Governments, UNICEF will implement a communication strategy (C4D) for the promotion of indigenous and Afro-descendant children's rights with a leading role of the Child and Adolescent Communicators network.

### Country Programme Component: Health and healthy environment

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Children, adolescents and pregnant women in prioritized municipalities access quality health, nutrition, water and sanitation services and actively participate in the management of their health and the environment.		2 FA1OT3, FA1OT4, FA1OT6, FA1OT7, FA1OT8, FA1OT10, FA1OT12, FA1OT13 (c)

#### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling )	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	\$0.00	\$190,700.00	\$190,600.00	99.95%
OR-R	\$1,640,000.00	\$2,559,700.00	\$2,509,500.00	98.04%
RR	\$130,000.00	\$86,300.00	\$84,200.00	97.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$1,770,000.00</b>	<b>US\$2,836,700.00</b>	<b>US\$2,784,300.00</b>	

#### Results Achieved

Monitoring the compliance of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes compliance has been enforced by MINSA. Trained health workers from 5 regional hospitals have been implementing the

“Women and Child-Friendly Units Initiative” along with evidence-based medical interventions and humanized childbirth care.

512 primary school teachers from 5 Departments have been trained to teach nutritional habits and food security as part of the school curriculum. Moreover, leaders and health workers from 11 municipalities have received reinforcement on how to implement community based surveillance of nutritional status of children and pregnant women (PROCOSAN).

A new comprehensive approach to food and nutritional security is being developed with other UN agencies in 47 indigenous communities of RAAN. This approach empowers families and communities to care for their own health and nutrition. In support to this, the community oriented PROCOSAN has been culturally adjusted and translated into Miskito and Mayagna indigenous languages.

Health workers from 5 SILAIS implement community strategies decreasing mother and child mortality such as the safe delivery plans, managerial census of pregnant women, integrated care for prevalent childhood diseases and early stimulation and disabilities prevention. All health community leaders have been trained in the new immunisation guidelines, including PB 13 vaccine.

The Maternal houses strategy has contributed to increase institutional childbirth and to reduce maternal mortality. The Maternal houses network has earned an international award and the commitment of MINSAs and municipal governments to increase investment.

A new compendium of construction standards for water and sanitation infrastructures in primary and secondary schools was developed with UNICEF assistance with MINED and the manual on water quality surveillance was updated and improved with MINSAs.

With UNICEF’s assistance, the new Law of the Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS) was finalised in 2010 and has been widely disseminated in 39 municipalities. The Healthy Families, Schools and Communities methodology (FECSA), which has been developed with UNICEF support in previous years, was widely applied country wide by all sector partners and is now recognised as the standard national methodology for hygiene promotion. Within the UNICEF-led MDG-F programme, WASH governance was enhanced in the two Autonomous Atlantic Regions through the strengthening of the two Regional and eight municipal WASH Units and the establishment of a new Regional Investment Fund (FIAS).

In 2011, a total of 3,791 people, living in 6 municipalities of Northern Nicaragua, have gained sustainable access to water facilities which represents an 8.5% increase in coverage. In addition, in the same municipalities, some 1,565 people have access to improved sanitation in public places and at home. In 9 municipalities of the Autonomous Atlantic Regions, a total of 29,343 people (13,053 adults and 16,290 children) have gained access to water and sanitation facilities.

Emergency preparedness system was strengthened for WASH response at national level, with the reactivation of the WASH Sectorial Work Commission and the improvement of the emergency need assessment tool.

### **Most Critical Factors and Constraints**

Extensive discussions with national counterparts over the contribution of nongovernmental counterparts delayed the signing of work plans. MINSAs is still analysing the participation of community partners that could generate synergy. In addition, staff rotation continues at all levels (regulatory, SILAIS, community agents, etc.) and the lack of training of personnel (particularly at the community level) hinders adequate health and nutrition strategies. This has resulted in delays in both the process of re-certification of health units in the IUAMN and the implementation of the Joint Programme in the RAAN.

Persistence of organisational barriers in the health services in some of the country’s SILAISs, which limits

access to comprehensive services. There is limited coordination between MINSAs personnel and the community networks.

There is a greater need for equipment and supplies than coverage available, particularly for implementing community strategies such as PROCOSAN in new communities with vulnerable populations. There is still a notable lack of communication materials for promotion activities.

Developing capacities on hygiene and sanitation promotion requires a much broader dissemination of innovative methodologies among institutions and other actors. There is also a need to coordinate efforts with the private sector to consolidate a national hand washing strategy. The recent creation of the National Authority for Water (ANA) and the number of institutions involved in the WASH sector makes the analysis of the sectors capacities more complex which hinders the leadership required for defining policies and strategies.

Moreover, there is no information system on financial investments made in water and sanitation infrastructures for communities and schools which makes it impossible to identify funding gaps and the prioritisation of resources allocation.

### **Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration**

Alliance with National Network of Maternal Houses was strengthened by including other agencies and organisations such as UNFPA, JICA, the US Peace Corps, NicaSalud Network, ANESVAD, FUNDECI, AECID, the Nicaraguan Community Movement and IPAS. New alliances have been established with NGOs and agencies implementing nutrition programs (FamiSalud, Save the Children, CARE, Padre Fabretto, WFP).

UNICEF led inter-agency coordination of UNDP, WFP, PAHO and FAO of the MDG F Nutrition Joint program, has increased the capacity of the Atlantic Coast Autonomous Region in reducing chronic malnutrition in 47 indigenous communities. This coordination needs to be further strengthened at local level.

Important partners for the development of WASH sector are members of the Drinking Water and Sanitation donor group, particularly the World Bank, SDC, GIZ, AECID, and PAHO. With these partners, synergy has been generated on issues related to public policies and the development of the sector's strategic plan.

NGOs active in WASH emergency preparedness and response (OXFAM, Save the Children, CARE, World Vision, BUSF, Nicaraguan Red Cross, CCFC) have been important allies for coordination of the WASH cluster in support of the Government's national system of disaster prevention and response (SINAPRED).

### **Humanitarian Situations**

During the last quarter of 2011, Nicaragua experienced the impact of Tropical Depression 12E. According to official data, 133,858 people from 80 communities of 13 departments of the Pacific and Central-Northern areas were affected by flooding and isolation due to intense rains. A total of 7.58% (10,146) of these were classified as flood victims and moved into 102 shelters, including 5,462 (54%) children in Estelí, Managua, León, Chinandega, Madriz, Matagalpa and Nueva Segovia. According to preliminary SINAPRED reports (October 21 2011).

In response to the emergency, a CERF proposal for US\$ 60,990.00 was prepared and approved to "Monitoring Nutrition among Children and Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women in Shelters during the Floods of October 2011." This program is being implemented by MINSAs. To this end, trained health officials were to visit the shelters to conduct systematic and periodic evaluation of the nutritional status of children and pregnant and breastfeeding women for the early identification of cases that required medical assistance and to act as counselors in matters related to breastfeeding and nutrition for children and pregnant women,

as well as food handling and hygiene. Educational and communication materials were proposed for dissemination to the target population (flood victims) and the affected population in general. At this time, only 8 shelters are still operating. Funds were reallocated to guarantee the activities defined at the shelter level, while increasing the communication actions. These actions are still being implemented and are scheduled to finish in January 2012.

WASH sector's response was in coordination with all of the actors involved: SINAPRED (including FISE, ENACAL, MINSA, INAA, and MINED), OCHA and local and international NGOs active in the sector (OXFAM, Save the Children, World Vision, CARE, BUSF, Nicaraguan Red Cross). Despite the difficulties in obtaining detailed information about impacts, UNICEF as coordinator of the WASH cluster maintained constant support for SINAPRED's leadership of the sector, contributing to effective coordination and to the planning of the response among all of the actors involved, avoiding duplicating efforts and maximizing the impact under the concept of comprehensive and complementary interventions. UNICEF led the drafting of the Flash Appeal's WASH component, with the participation of various international and local NGOs, and to the CERF proposal. UNICEF received funding of US\$ 300.000 for the response, being implemented in 82 of the most affected communities, reaching 22.000 people with water sources rehabilitation (cleaning of wells), water filters and hygiene promotion, to be concluded at the beginning of 2012.

### **Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations**

*"3rd Evaluation of Compliance with the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes in Nicaragua", November 2011.*

Purpose: Evaluate compliance with International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (ICMBS), sample of 27 health facilities, private clinics and hospitals and 19 sales outlets commercial facilities in Managua, Masaya, León and the RAAN; 95 mothers and 39 health professionals interviewed.

Main findings: Noncompliance with some of the code's stipulations by medical health personnel who prescribe infant formulas to children under the age of 2, and by companies through marketing techniques of infant formulas.

Use: Elaborate new regulations which MINSA, capacity needs identified to enforce and monitor implementation.

*"Baseline of the Integrated Child, Food Security and Nutrition (CFSN) Joint Programme"*

Purpose: Explore determinants and nutritional status in the 25 communities of the RAAN and 11 reference communities through a survey applied to 2,057 households.

Main findings: 1 of 4 children had an adolescent mother; 1 of 3 births was attended by the health services; 2 of 5 children had less than 3 check-ups to monitor their growth; 2 in every 5 households treat their drinking water; no capacity to identify actions to prevent health problems. Only 5% of the households referred to having received training on health and nutrition. One in every 5 children under 3 has chronic malnutrition, over 25% in Sauni. Very high rates of acute malnutrition reflects recent deteriorations in the food situation. Only 2 out of 5 children complete exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months and only half comply with the minimum intake frequency.

Use: Monitor progress of the implementation of the program and introduce adjustments to the strategy.

*"Scientific Advice on the Current National Policy on National Water Resources"*

Purpose: Carried out with Water National Authority and presented to the National Water Resources Council to provide inputs for the elaboration of the new National Water Resources Policy, in accordance with Law No. 620, including a special chapter on drinking water and sanitation.

Main findings: National Policy of Water Resources needs to be updated, according to the last scientific and technical standards and to Law 620.

Use: To provide inputs for the actual elaboration of the new National Water Resources Policy, including a special chapter about drinking water and sanitation (in process in the frame of Water National Authority / UNICEF 2011-2012 Work Plan).

### *Systematization of WASH experiences in indigenous communities*

Purpose: Sharing good practices and lessons learned on methodologies and technologies successfully used in indigenous communities of the Lower Coco River area in El Boom and Klampa in the municipality of Waspam. Two videos will be produced.

Main findings: Change in habits and costumes are possible when appropriate technology and more dignified solutions are proposed.

Use: advocacy purposes and didactic purposes on rainwater technology combined with a ceramic filter as a means for accessing potable water, and on water flushing sanitation units with washbasin that are installed in the house, to show how adequate sanitation dignifies people's lives.

### **Future Work Plan**

Strengthen the National Breastfeeding Commission's and the Micronutrients Commission's capacities for regulation, legislation, advocacy and monitoring nutrition interventions.

Strengthen MINSA on the regulatory level for the follow-up and periodic evaluation of nutrition programmes, the critical path for childbirth care, and community strategies for health promotion and reduction of maternal and perinatal mortality.

Enhance the management capacity of health and nutrition programmes in the context of indigenous people and guarantee 100% vaccination coverage in 47 communities of the RAAN. Enhance the strategic and health management programming of the RAAN and RAAS Intercultural Health Care Models (MASIRAAN and MASIRAAS).

Update IUAMN instruments and follow-up on re-certification of 5 prioritised regional hospitals. Help produce health care protocols for adolescents, train personnel and improve the quality of services. Support implementation of community-level growth and development stimulation and monitoring activities as part of *Amor para los mas chiquitos* Programme in prioritized SILAISs.

Conduct impact studies to measure KAP changes among populations in municipalities where the Maternal House Network and the Nicaraguan Community Movement work. Conduct an impact study to measure changes in the malnutrition situation and the state of anaemia among under-5s and pregnant and breastfeeding women in the 47 communities of the CFSN Joint Programme.

Conclude the National Water Resources Policy, working with ANA and other organizations involved. Hold the National Sanitation Forum (NICARAGUASAN 2012).

Produce a Manual for the operation and maintenance of WASH systems in primary schools.

Establish an accreditation system of trained WASH service providers with the National Council of Universities (CNU) and National Technological Institute (INATEC)

Ensure access to water for 10,500 people and improved sanitation for 1,150 people in seven municipalities and one indigenous territory. Improve water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructures in 36 primary schools.

In 8 prioritised municipalities of the Atlantic Coast Autonomous Regions (RAAS and RAAN) reach 30,000 people with improved access to Water, sanitation and hygiene.

### Country Programme Component: Quality education for all

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Children and adolescents, particularly excluded populations, improve their access to quality education and manage to complete primary school, participating with the community in school management		1 FA2OT1, FA2OT2, FA2OT3, FA2OT6, FA2OT7, FA2OT8, FA2OT9

#### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling )	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	\$1,260,000.00	\$796,400.00	\$796,000.00	99.95%
RR	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$1,360,000.00</b>	<b>US\$796,400.00</b>	<b>US\$796,000.00</b>	

#### Results Achieved

UNICEF contributed to the 2011-2015 Strategic Education Plan (PEE) in its formulation, both in the dialogue with donors and through technical proposals based on the Child Friendly and Healthy Schools Initiative (IEAS) to achieve greater education coverage, equity and quality. One of the most significant contributions has been the establishment of Local Education Councils in 100% of municipalities. These inter-institutional bodies lead the Battle for Sixth Grade and the Shared Responsibility Model with the participation of municipal governments, parents and teachers. Social organisations such as Los Pipitos and the Education and Human Development Forum contribute to the construction of this model.

UNICEF contributed to the definition of national policies, curricular tools and the strengthening of teaching competencies for excluded children. Achievements included approval of the Law on the Rights of People with Disabilities, institutionalisation of the Inclusive Education Roundtable, decreeing National Early Childhood Policy, and production of the new multigrade and overage curriculum for rural and working children to be implemented through a World Bank loan. Advances in the development of educational curricular support materials such as multilevel guides for community preschools, mathematics, early stimulation kits, and inclusive education modules, production of "talking books" for blind children, and a videoconference system to improve management and distance learning. The field visits revealed greater interest and commitment from teachers and students of 200 schools as a result of having improved means of learning.

In 15 prioritised municipalities, 210 rural teachers had access to professional courses with a 100% retention rate. A total of 2,034 formal and community based teachers, currently in service, improved their skills in sciences, in the curriculum's cross-cutting issues, and in the use of the new learning evaluation instruments. *The net enrolment in these municipalities is in average, 88% similar than the national average, with a pass rate of 90.5% and retention rate of 87%.*

Children between the ages of 0-6 from 2,406 families in 145 vulnerable communities benefited from the systematic care and training of their mothers and fathers on early stimulation, health care and hygiene through visits and meetings conducted by 150 community educators, in an effort linked with the *Amor para los mas chiquitos* Program.

Three important advances were achieved with indigenous and Afro-descendant children: i) 202 children from 17 indigenous and Afro-descendant communities produced 20 radio programmes to promote their culture in

6 languages based on UNESCO research, complementing inter-cultural curriculum; ii) curricular documents adjusted to the bilingual intercultural approach were completed for the 2 teacher training schools; and, iii) leaders and authorities of Miskito people that live on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua established a bi-national coordination mechanism backed by regional government authorities, which committed themselves to comply with the rights of Miskito children.

Evidence for advocacy on increased quality and greater investment in education, as well as the inclusion of children with disabilities was produced with civil society organisations such as Eduquemos, CIASES, the Education and Human Development Forum and Los Pipitos.

### **Most Critical Factors and Constraints**

Nicaraguan government's commitment to the Strategic Education Plan that establishes medium-term priorities have been critical in providing the sector with coherence and opportunities for harmonisation. National program also favour intersectoral work, as well as greater community involvement in educational actions. This requires new capacities in education planning and monitoring systems. Given the implementation difficulties of previous years, MINED established an AWP follow-up mechanism that was very effective throughout the year both in terms of its relationship with UNICEF and internally within MINED.

The resistance of teachers—partly due to their own experience—to changes their pedagogical practices aimed at creating more effective education is still a pending issue and a critical limitation when it comes to implementing the new curriculum.

While statistical information is available, its lack of use and weak quality is another critical factor that limits measuring successes objectively in education. This lack of an evidence-generating culture is accompanied by the homogenous vision of reality at central-level, which limits the visualisation of creative solutions.

UNICEF contributed to MINED's institutional strengthening in the areas of planning and educational statistics. A postgraduate course is currently being developed for all of the departmental and municipal heads of statistics on the management of the new software that will be used by the institution, and it has been agreed that these issues are among the goals to be addressed with financial support from the World Bank, European Union and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

While valuable information was generated with the CSO partners, the use of evidence has been limited given the change in government relations with civil society and the lack of formal arenas for promoting dialogue. UNICEF and other partners in the sector continue promoting this dialogue.

### **Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration**

UNICEF continued as liaison for the donors in the Sectoral Roundtable, facilitating the dialogue between the government and donors to support the 2011-2015 PEE. Strong sense of partnership has been developed and important funds (US\$ 75 million) have been obtained for the sector, with cooperation, coordination and alignment with national priorities. In this role UNICEF is also coordinating the process of Nicaragua's application to the GPE's catalytic fund. The technical evaluation of the PEE was conducted and it has been agreed that the proposal will focus on preschool education for a total of US\$ 15 million, proposal is currently being prepared with MINED and donors.

A UN working group to support PEE was re-established, with the participation of the WFP, UNESCO, PAHO, UNFPA, ILO and FAO. It intends to establish a joint programme on education in the framework of the PEE in the new UNDAF.

The Joint Programme for the Cultural Revitalisation of the Caribbean Coast (MDG-F) has allowed the linkage of culture and education efforts with the production of 20 programmes made by children from 6 ethnic and Afro-descendant groups. The Joint Programme comes to an end in mid-2012 and an important challenge will therefore be to sustain the results achieved.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

The education sector's role during emergencies has changed in the last two years and still lacks clear guidelines on its functions. The SINAPRED national education and information commission has not operated regularly, but there is an informal communication among its members.

UNICEF continues to develop capacities of MINED: 98 disaster liaison technicians from the MINED delegations in departments and municipalities have enhanced their preparedness for the education response in emergency situations through the Education Bridges methodology.

The government did not include an education response during the recent Tropical Depression 12E, which had a big impact on national territory since school was already ending. Coordination with IOM was established to incorporate activities related to the right to education and friendly spaces for ECHD within the cluster in charge of shelters. It is worth noting that the number of schools used as shelters was drastically reduced as a result of the new administrative stipulations on this matter.

### **Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations**

*"Success or failure in the early learning of reading", CIASES*

Purpose: Identify factors from the school context that help to understand it.

Main findings: This study managed to determine certain factors in the school context that could be positively or negatively affecting reading skills. The most relevant point is the recommendation of simple measures to help remove the obstacles and strengthen factors that facilitate success, in the interest of improving the quality of the teaching of reading. And while there are undoubtedly elements that are more difficult to modify in the short term, others can easily be overcome.

Use: Provide inputs to increase quality education to MINED

*"The situation and prospects in Nicaragua for universalizing quality primary education: Advances and challenges for complying with Millennium Development Goal No.2."* "Eduquemos" Forum of Businesspeople for Education

Purpose: Assess advances in achieving MDG.

Main findings: Recent data and the analysis of the sector's situation, the document that has contributed substantially to the knowledge of the actors involved has been the PEE, which contains the most important variables and the analyses of the most recent studies on the sector's performance. It recommends to increase the public investment in education mainly in preschool level, and teachers qualification to improve quality of education.

Use: It rapidly became a consultation document for the sector. It also contains important recommendations for improved planning of educational strategies in accordance with the gaps identified. MINED has not been able to take better advantage of the results.

### Future Work Plan

The following are the priorities identified for 2012 to achieve the expected results:

1. Accompany the formulation of Strategic Education Plans in 5 municipalities that ensure prioritised attention to excluded groups as part of MINED's 2011-2015 PEE with more focused strategies and budgets.
2. Enhance the inter-institutional approach in the framework of the National Early Childhood Attention Policy.
4. Support the generation of evidence on the effectiveness of the quality model in a group of selected schools, including intercultural bilingual schools in which the transformed Regional Autonomous Education System curricula are being applied.
5. Accompany the Battle for Sixth Grade strategies for achieving the insertion and permanence in school of children from the 15 prioritised municipalities, particularly the strategies for teacher training, the creation and functioning of the School for Directors and Pedagogical Advisors and participation of the members of the educational community.

The main adjustments will be 1) prioritise the classroom level as the focus of UNICEF's cooperation. 2) Treat the school and school nucleus as an organisational and administrative form for reaching the classroom, with support from the teacher training in schools, the municipal and departmental bodies; and, 3) review the actions of other partners and implement alliances that allow a joint and sustainable effect in the territories.

### Country Programme Component: HIV/AIDS and children

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
80% of children, adolescents and pregnant women in 6 of the country's departments with higher HIV prevalence have universal access to HIV-related prevention, treatment, care and support.		2 FA3OT1, FA3OT2, FA3OT4, FA3OT6, FA3OT8

#### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling )	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	\$550,000.00	\$616,300.00	\$612,200.00	99.33%
RR	\$90,000.00	\$108,300.00	\$104,300.00	96.31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$640,000.00</b>	<b>US\$724,600.00</b>	<b>US\$716,500.00</b>	

#### Results Achieved

For the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, coverage of the HIV rapid diagnostic test has risen from 21% in 2006 to 92% in 2011 in the departments and two autonomous regions. The percentage of health units offering HIV counselling and testing reached 91% in 2011 (a total of 1,079 health facilities, including health posts). Meanwhile, 95% of 84 pregnant women with HIV received therapy for the prevention of vertical transmission, in accordance with the clinical protocols approved in the country.

Family- and community-based strategies implemented by 1,075 midwives and 325 volunteers from 65

maternal houses have allowed an increase in the coverage of services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), mainly in hard-to-access rural communities and indigenous and Afro-descendant communities of the Caribbean Coast.

Regarding healthcare for children and adolescents with HIV, clinical follow up and treatment with antiretrovirals has been decentralised in the country's 17 departments. A total of 33 health units, including hospitals and health centres, provide antiretroviral therapy (ART). The number of children and adolescents with HIV that have access to ART increased from 45% in 2008 to 82% in 2011. Prophylaxis with trimethoprim sulfa rose from 46% in 2009 to 91% in 2011. With UNICEF's funding, MINSA acquired laboratory tests to diagnose children exposed to HIV through detection of HIV DNA from blood samples collected on filter paper. As a result, the coverage of HIV testing has risen from 25% in 2008 to 65% as of August 2011.

To prevent HIV among adolescents, Ministry of Education incorporated HIV into the country's primary and secondary school curricula. These topics are being discussed in 90% of the country's 9,408 schools, which cover around a million students. The formal education activities are enhanced through the non-formal education provided by 2,331 school counsellors and 3,500 student leaders trained in peer education, which have reached 105,000 students in 2011. With the participation of NGOs, HIV prevention actions were implemented with indigenous and Afro-descendant adolescents and adolescents in conditions of greater vulnerability, including those outside of the school system. Currently, 2,473 adolescent leaders are developing educational activities on HIV with 22,269 adolescents of both sexes in 22 of the country's municipalities.

To ensure protection of vulnerable children, including orphans, the Association of People with HIV and AIDS (ASONVIHSIDA) strengthened its capacity in promoting and defending children's rights in the framework of the HIV epidemic and has held work sessions with the Ombudsperson for Child Rights and MIFAN for overseeing and protecting the rights of children affected by the HIV epidemic, including advisory and legal support services. An alliance with faith-based organisations achieved the social mobilisation of churches around the rights of vulnerable children. A total of 868 church leaders from 22 Protestant denominations carried out actions aimed at pastoral accompaniment and the reduction of stigma and discrimination.

### **Most Critical Factors and Constraints**

- There are very few research studies providing us with an idea of the impact of the HIV epidemic on children and adolescents. To overcome this limitation, UNICEF provided technical assistance for the inclusion of specific questions in the demographic and health survey (ENDESA) which are currently being conducted, and for the design of a research protocol on vulnerable children that the Nicaraguan AIDS Commission (CONISIDA) will implement in 2012.

- To generate HIV prevention skills among adolescents that attend school, there is a need to improve the quality of education they receive on this topic and to achieve a better linkage between formal and non-formal education activities. There is also a need to accelerate the ongoing education process for teaching staff on sexual and HIV education, a process associated with the training on other crosscutting issues in the curriculum, such as violence prevention and the building of gender relations among children and adolescents.

- It is difficult to reach adolescents in conditions of greater social disadvantage, particularly those outside the school system, with preventative strategies. While the alliance with NGOs has helped to close this gap, it has not yet been possible to scale up the good practices acquired to reach the population of adolescents outside the school system, estimated at 50% of this age group.

- Protection of children affected by the HIV epidemic. The protection actions for children made vulnerable by the AIDS epidemic are being implemented in a dispersed way and with limited coverage. As a result, there is a need to strengthen leadership role of the Ministry of the Family's and its coordination of the actors working on social protection around the national policy and strategy for the response to the HIV epidemic. The implementation of the *Programa Amor* represents an opportunity to overcome this situation.

### **Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration**

In accordance with the UNAIDS division, UNICEF coordinates actions with other UN agencies in support of the national response to the epidemic: with PAHO/WHO for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis and care for children and adolescents with HIV; with UNFPA on HIV prevention among adolescents and the strengthening of ASONVIHSIDA; and with UNDP to coordinate actions on strengthening the Nicaraguan AIDS Commission.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

No action on HIV was included in humanitarian situations

### **Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations**

#### *Report on Universal Access 2011*

This report includes the current status of the indicators that allow measurement of the country's progress in the national response to the HIV epidemic, en route to the goals for achieving universal access to HIV-related prevention, treatment, care and support services. The process of producing the report has allowed reflection among PAHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and CONISIDA, and a review of the strategies in the framework of updating of the National HIV Strategic Plan.

### **Future Work Plan**

- In the framework of the PMTCT strategy, MINSA's technical and management capacities will be strengthened with the aim of improving the quality of care for pregnant women, children and adolescents with HIV, in accordance with the protocols approved in the country. MINSA's management strengthening will focus on three areas: a) the input and supply system, to ensure timely availability, b) the M&E system, c) the management of integrated services, i.e. the incorporation of care for children and adolescents with HIV into the existing maternal-infant services and linkage of community and institutional HIV prevention strategies.
- There is a need to enhance the capacities of teachers and student leaders for the implementation of both the education activities on sexuality and HIV and the complementary efforts of the counseling network and student leaders. To guarantee the sustainability of the interventions, support will be provided to the teacher trainings in schools for the incorporation of special didactics for HIV education into the regular teacher training activities. There is also a need to strengthen an effective information system that allows the monitoring of indicators. Contents on sexual and HIV education will be incorporated into the Regional Autonomous Education System (SEAR).
- Organisational and technical strengthening of the Las Segovias Network and the Caribbean Coast Network for HIV prevention with adolescents in conditions of greater vulnerability. This involves strengthening capacities among NGO technicians (including the monitoring and evaluation of the community interventions) and among adolescent leaders, as well as enhancing the tools (manuals and didactic materials) for working with their groups. A systematisation will be concluded of the good practices obtained in the last five years.

The implementation of communication strategies (C4D) to promote children's rights in the context of the epidemic and to reduce stigma and discrimination. There will also be advocacy with decision makers for the implementation of social protection policies aimed at reducing the vulnerability of children and adolescents to the epidemic.

### Country Programme Component: End violence against children

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
By 2012, children and adolescents whose rights have been violated due to the different expressions of violence have an effective special protection system.		1 FA4OT9, FA4OT1, FA4OT2, FA4OT4, FA4OT5, FA4OT7

#### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling )	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	\$650,000.00	\$483,400.00	\$470,100.00	97.25%
RR	\$127,000.00	\$282,000.00	\$279,400.00	99.08%
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$777,000.00</b>	<b>US\$765,400.00</b>	<b>US\$749,500.00</b>	

#### Results Achieved

National Police's preventative model with at-risk adolescents was strengthened in 4 areas of Managua, improving the work of 60 police officers. The judicial school produced a methodology for working with a gender- and rights-based approach and assessed its training needs - 22 prosecutors specialised in "oral trial techniques" for juvenile trials. UNICEF provided support to the Special Parliamentary Commission which was set up in response to calls to increase the maximum penalty for adolescent offenders. As result of a consultative process, it recommended a technical evaluation of the Code for Children and Adolescents without increasing penalties.

With Nicaraguan Tourism Institute, 69 new promoters were recruited and 27 taxi drivers trained to counter sexual exploitation in 4 cities. Sixty officials and police were trained in masculinity, HHRR and gender based approach and sustainable relationship between tourism and protecting child and adolescent rights. A community and municipal defense system was restructured in Granada including 35 businesspeople to coordinate actions regarding sexual violence and the restitution of rights with shared responsibility. The police's comprehensive attention model for victims of violence was enhanced by training 155 officers on interview techniques, assessment of violence victims' physical and psychological state, and planning educational activities with a gender approach.

With UNICEF's support, MIFAN finalised the special protection regulations, validated with 200 officials from 23 delegations; coordinated the functioning of the protection system in municipalities where *Programa Amor* operates, stressing sexual exploitation and child abduction; and mobilised 4,000 volunteers to expand protection outreach of delegations. Seven delegations were strengthened to protect rights of the HIV positive population and provide special protection through community care modalities. MIFAN also led the formulation of the Early Childhood Policy, including a family violence free environment.

Women and Children Secretariat of Autonomous Regions initiated an anti-violence radio campaign in 4 indigenous communities and 2 municipalities, while in Bilwi a municipal policy was approved and 38 organisations formulated an action plan stressing violence prevention.

Using mobile units, the Central Registry reached 55 remote communities, especially indigenous or Afro-descendant populations in 10 municipalities of the North and registered 5,000 children and adolescents in coordination with the Programa Amor; 977 children and adolescents were registered in 2 Caribbean Coast municipalities. With university students, the CEDHECA organised coordination in 2 municipalities with health

and education services, and committed parents of adolescents to confirm their children's identity to prevent trafficking. A procedures manual and communication products were produced and 2 hospital registration windows reopened. In 2 municipalities of the North, an assessment on registry situation was conducted in 17 rural communities and 5 neighbourhoods. PRONIÑEZ oversaw compliance with the right to a name and nationality in 12 municipalities of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, stressing the importance of enhancing interinstitutional coordination. With UNDP and UNFPA, a situational assessment of registry offices of 28 municipalities was used to provide inputs to the draft Registration System bill.

### Most Critical Factors and Constraints

- Continued lack of data on different forms of violence that could reveal causes and prevalence, and facilitate better victim protection responses and the appropriate orientation of laws, policies and plans.
- The country does not have a plan on violence prevention and response plan to address recommendations of the World Study (2006) and the CRC committee (2010), despite several advocacy attempts with national counterparts.
- The model for the defense of the rights of children and adolescents, based on the municipal commissions, is being transformed into a new model for citizen participation.
- The area of national protection, under MIFAN's legal responsibility, has few specialised staff members. There is a need for it to function in a systemic or coordinated way.
- The threat to reform adolescent special justice system widely reported in the media clearly revealed a lack of knowledge on the matter and that duty bearer institutions still have a lot to fulfill with an insufficient budget. A technical evaluation 13 years after it came into force is recommended.
- The continuing high levels of rotation of decision-making officials and technical personnel, as well as the overlapping of roles and competencies in child protection among governmental institutions.
- There is still a limited budget assigned to civil registry offices in the municipalities and a low professional level among registrars.
- The population has limited information about the procedures for registering children, which added to geographical, economic and cultural barriers still influences under-registration in many areas.

The complex negotiation to pursue child registration campaign in an electoral year and local conditions limited time for implementation.

### Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

1) UNICEF produced a strategy to counter-fight demands to increase years of imprisonment for adolescent (described in part two of the **Country Programme Analytical Overview**) in alliances with the entire UN system and with organisations working in this area, including the judicial branch, the Public Ministry, the National Police Juvenile Affairs Directorate, the Coordinator of NGOs working with Children and Adolescents, Terre des Hommes (Switzerland), GVC from Italy, the National Council of Universities (CNU), and the National Autonomous University (León).

2) UNICEF, in conjunction with the UNDP, supported a needs assessment for training penal, civil and labour judges on international human rights standards and norms, particularly the rights of women, children and adolescents, and indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. It detected a lack of knowledge of international and national legal instruments, the concept of "best interest of the child" and the right of children and adolescents to be heard in judicial processes, which has resulted in their lack of application.

3) The Interagency Gender Commission conducted a comparative study of the contents of two draft bills to tackle violence against women. PAHO and UNICEF funded the study that was presented to the National Assembly which considered their advantages and disadvantages and the national and international regulatory framework. The results were of great interest to the National Assembly and helped to elaborate

the technical note to recommend approval of the law by the Justice Committee. The Law has since been approved in general by the Assembly's plenary.

4) UNICEF-Nicaragua's communication component in coordination with the TACRO Protection area supported the filming of the series *Contracorriente*. The series portrays the situation of trafficking and sexual exploitation in a tourist city and constitutes a final product of the Strategy to Fight the Abuse, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents in Central America.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

The importance of protection for children and adolescents in emergency situations due to the psychosocial effects on individuals, families and in the community was analysed with 57 officials from government organisations, along with the Civil Defense Force and the RAAN and the RAAS regional governments, in coordination with MIFAN. The training was also based on UNICEF's corporate commitments of protecting children and adolescents and the legal-judicial underpinnings of this obligation. Particular support is being provided to help the Bluefields Municipal Child and Adolescent Commission in the RAAS to produce a psychosocial care manual adapted to the reality of that area. This is being done through the Regional Government's Planning Directorate and a technical commission has been set up to provide advice on the process.

In response to the emergency caused by heavy rainfall this year, support was provided to MIFAN to ensure a better psychosocial response for 600 affected children and adolescents and their families located in shelters in Managua and other Nicaraguan cities. UNICEF advocated for its inclusion in production and review of a Flash Appeal as part of the protective environments in shelters, psychosocial rehabilitation and educational support for affected children and adolescents, in coordination with National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System (SINAPRED), the municipal disaster prevention, mitigation and response committees (COMUPREDs), MINED and MIFAN. Since it was not included in the initial proposal, UNICEF provided US\$ 24,000 (is this supposed to be \$24,000?) from regular resources, and will include collaboration in next year's program to increase capacity of MIFAN since shelter management and psychosocial rehabilitation is a new function, to be included in the redesign of the national prevention and response system in emergencies.

### **Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations**

"Community Intervention on Prevention, Detection and Reporting of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents" (2008 to 2010).

Purpose: A systematisation of 5 organisations was led by MAIS and reconstructed the experiences in the community intervention processes with people involved in the prevention, detection and reporting of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents in two tourist cities, border cities in northern Nicaragua. This is currently in the process of being published.

Main Findings: This systematisation identifies and characterises the methodologies, approaches and context in which the five organisations implemented the work with community reference people (people that community trust in) for prevention, detection and reporting of violence. It describes the process that community networks and community reference people went through to be able to work on the prevention of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents in close articulation with the community, and how they contribute to advocate and strengthen stakeholders awareness in the municipalities.

Use: This experience will be shared with MINFAM and other organisations that work at the local level to strengthened local protection systems with local actors.

### Future Work Plan

Strengthen alliances to protect the adolescent's rights in specialised juvenile penal justice system according to CRC principles. Prioritize the production of comparable and valid statistical data from both the police and judicial authorities to counter the population's negative perception of adolescent offenders; assessment of the implementation of the Code for Children and Adolescents thirteen years after it came into force, particularly in relation to the juvenile penal system, to avoid any regressive reforms. It is essential to pinpoint the weak points related to the law's application and judges' actions, or whether or not to promote adolescents to act with degrees of impunity. Champion awareness of the importance of preventative actions in training of new legislators and officials on the Code for Children and Adolescents.

Continue to advocate for a statistical system for following up on the rights of children in Nicaragua, with special emphasis on cases that warrant special protection responses and violence (Recommendation 11 of the World Study on Violence against Children).

Take up the dissemination and compliance with the recommendations of the 4th Report of the CRC committee and the Recommendations of the World Study (Nos. 1, 2 and 11) by technical strengthening and articulation of actions of National Police, Supreme Court, General Attorney, Ombudsperson for Child and Adolescent Rights.

Support MIFAN to take leadership on following up on laws and policies related to protect children and adolescents on the issue of violence. Finalise UNICEF's Strategy on Violence against Children and Adolescents, mapping the institutions involved.

Institutional strengthening aimed at systemic functioning of *Programa Amor* at the local level through the training of MIFAN officials responsible of the programme to enhance coordination among the different national and municipal institutions aimed at prevention and the defense of child and adolescent right; support MIFAN to lead the structuring of the local protection systems in 13 municipalities.

Place the issue of UN guidelines for the alternative care of children on the agenda with MIFAN and the Office of Ombudsperson for Child and Adolescent Rights.

Improve coordination of the community and municipal systems in Granada and the implementation of mechanisms for their systemic functioning aimed at preventing violence and providing care and legal protection for victims.

Promote approval of the Civil Registry Law and an adequate allocation from the national budget and international cooperation. The training of registrars and other officials is crucial for the new law's implementation.

### Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral costs

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
The cross sectoral component includes all activities that support the general implementation of the programme, such as administrative actions to purchase supplies, monitoring and evaluation activities and technical assistance for local development. Also includes all cross-cutting communication strategies for the achievement of key results, focusing on child and adolescent participation, behavioral change, informed demand by rights holders and advocacy with duty bearers.		1 FA6OT1, FA6OT9, Support 1, Support 2, Support 3, Support 4, Support 6, FA5OT6

#### Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling )	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E				
OR-R	\$175,000.00	\$456,300.00	\$444,900.00	97.50%
RR	\$220,000.00	\$327,900.00	\$310,200.00	94.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$395,000.00</b>	<b>US\$784,200.00</b>	<b>US\$755,100.00</b>	

#### Results Achieved

Cross sectoral costs cover program and operational staff that provide technical assistance in all program components that cannot be attributed solely to any specific component or result. This includes communications, monitoring and evaluation, finance, procurement, HHRR and ICT activities.

The main investment during 2011 was the implementation of the IXth Radio and Television Festival (please refer to innovation section of the report). Communication team was in charge of ensuring UNICEF's brand and the preparation of the C4D strategy of the country program and advocacy strategy on the reform of the adolescent judicial system. Other results are the development of communities through social networks and exerting influence and engaging in advocacy in the media, both nationally and locally.

Human resources function was an area of focus and investment in 2011, especially with staff development and improvement of the recruitment processes. Training of staff was prioritised, including general training in mandatory areas such as gender, ethics, VISION and SAP training modules, and security, SSAFE, courses and workshops on the use new software in preparation to changes in 2012. Individual training plans were also developed in technical areas, with coaching and peer support training for selected staff. A data base for professional services and consultants was designed and is being implemented, increasing the effectiveness of this function.

Financial support to the Resident Coordinator's Office was provided through this component to cover the salary of the Human Rights Advisor, who plays an important function supporting the UN system in developing a human right focused CCA and UNDAF. He is also in charge of coordinating the relationship with civil society organisations and indigenous population's representatives through an Advisory Committee on Indigenous and Afro-descendent population (CCPIAN).

Program implementation has also been strengthened with the recruitment of the new National Monitoring and Evaluation specialist, who was in charge of the program coordination, while Deputy Representative acted as OIC. Another activity to strengthen program implementation was the implementation of 15 audits of main

counterparts during the year to assess their capacities and weaknesses. Also the Sub office in Bilwi was a strong support to increase effectiveness in retrieving financial reports and supporting regional counterparts in implementation, as well as keeping the fleet and staff of drivers for land transportation for field visits and program monitoring.

### **Most Critical Factors and Constraints**

Mobilisation for children's rights was very delicate given the national electoral period. Mobilisation campaigns needed to be carefully planned for them not to be perceived as political statements for or against any political party. Public presentations of international documents and national research were also moments of reflection of the advances achieved in the country that needed to be timed very carefully.

In addition, program staff has been more involved in micro-assessments in order to follow up and support administrative and financial counterpart capacities. Audits have shown that UNICEF staff needs to be more systematic in monitoring counterparts' implementation capacity.

### **Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration**

The Radio and Television Festival for Children Rights is organized with over 40 NGOs that work for children's rights at the national and local level. This is a strong partnership which UNICEF has been able to mobilise to build a successful national movement for children's rights. This year other UN agencies such as WFP, WHO and UNFPA were integrated in this national movement to advocate for adolescent development. In addition, UNICEF invites national artist to participate in the mobilisation process for children's rights, which includes training session with adolescents. This has created important opportunities for adolescent to advocate for their rights to participate in the media and local events. In addition, the alliance with over 20 national artists was consolidated this year, with their participation in the first Concert for Children's Rights, named "Open your eyes". A national television program is also an important partner that has produced reports on children's rights in close collaboration with UNICEF and has played an important role in creating a favourable environment for adolescents. The result of this alliance was a national mobilisation for Adolescent development to reduce stigma of adolescents as criminal offenders, and to combat the demand to increase legal penalties for underage children.

UNICEF continued the strategic Alliance with Save The Children, Plan International, "Dos Generaciones" and The "Universidad Centroamericana" (UCA) to increase knowledge on Human Rights in journalists through the 7th version of a Superior Degree on Communication and Children Rights and the 3rd Post Master Diploma on Communication and Health with emphasis on HIV in association with UNFPA, Save the Children and the UCA. To date, a cumulative number of 250 journalists have been trained in Human rights since the beginning of the country program.

A joint program on Health and HIV to accelerate progress on MDG 4 and 5 was prepared by WHO and UNFPA, and financed by The Cooperation of Luxemburg. Two other joint proposals with several UN agencies were prepared for Indigenous Population and to combat Violence against Women. These three joint proposals are to be included as a result in the new UNDAF 2013-2017.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

not applicable

### **Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations**

*Creative workshops*: Disseminate the experiences of children and adolescents involved in a network of communicators and trained in different communication techniques to exercise and defend the rights of children.

*Participation*: Promote and practice participation of children and adolescents in different spheres of their lives.

*Children's Broadcasting Day*: Inform how 4 municipal governments in Las Segovias declared Child Broadcasting Day" in recognition of their right to express themselves through the communication media.

*9th Festival of Radio and TV Systematize 6 months of the social mobilization campaign*: "Adolescence: An Age of Opportunities".

*Concert for the Rights of Children and Adolescents*: Advocate a positive image of adolescents and their human rights.

### **Future Work Plan**

Technical assistance to support the implementation of the C4D strategy, organise X Festival of Radio and television for children rights and manage Web page and social networks (Facebook and twitter).

Monitoring and evaluation function will be enhanced

HHRR, ICT, finance and supply component for all programs will continue to be supported.

Gender mainstreaming in country program and support to UNCT advocacy activities for women and girls activities under the work plan of the Gender Interagency Group will be included.

Support to the implementation of CP in the Autonomous regions will continue through the Suboffice in Bilwi.

### Effective Governance Structure

The Risk Control Self-Assessment conducted at the end of 2010 has allowed to identify areas to be strengthened in particular with regard to governance and management structures. These areas of improvement were included in the Annual Management Plan which includes office priorities and assigns clear accountabilities. To increase the capacity of the CMT managerial functions and take effective actions to improve the office's performance, a set of 7 managerial indicators were selected after review of their progress in 2010. These include: donor reports not sent on time; outstanding DCT > 9 months and Staff costs spent on learning and development, bids and recruitment processes, open TAs and POs. The CMT reviewed and took actions related to these indicators which show visible improvement in 2011. The consolidation and strengthening of Bilwi sub-office was finally achieved. The Sub office structure was completed, staff was trained and physical, security and administrative conditions were deployed to strengthen UNICEF's presence in the most deprived area of the country in which an important part of the current CPD is concentrated. Staff helped to follow up on DCTs, coordinate travels and field visits as well as the organisation of meetings with counterparts, provided technical and administrative support to implementing partners (that implement 38% of total budget) and supports coordination with other UN agencies. This presence has increased the added value of UNICEF in the region and allowed to develop important programs to strengthen regional autonomies, work with indigenous organisations and support the regional development plan for the Caribbean Coast. Other mayor activities done by the CMT were related to the remodeling project of the Country Office in order to redistribute limited spaces among staff in a modern and functional manner. The improved efficiency of supply section and the new Memorandum of Understanding with UNDP on rent free premises are described in further sections.

### Strategic Risk Management

In December 2010, the CO reviewed the Risk Control Self-Assessment and updated its profile and library, resulting in the identification of 3 high risk situations: Natural environment, which Nicaragua is particularly prone to; Safety and security, which reflects higher risks in the country; and Country environment, taking into account current political conditions due to electoral year; and 7 medium-to-high risk areas (Aid environment; Programme strategy; Capacity for programme management; RBM and measurement and reporting of results; Governance and accountability; Systems and IT infrastructure; and Financial management), out of a total of 26. Several actions were designed as a result of this exercise, used in the preparation of the AMP as well as other tools, which will be described in the following sections according to the nature of each one. A new review at the end of this year took place, and will be the basis for the preparation of the 2012 AMP and for the analysis that will inform the preparation of the CPD and CPMP for the period 2013-2017.

The EWEA plan was updated in the online version during 2011, including programmatic and operational response. It also includes the coordination agreements with other UN agencies in the interagency emergency group UNETE, national authorities of the national response system SINAPRED and the humanitarian network REDHUM. This exercise has improved COs preparedness to respond in emergency situations internally and with counterparts. As a result during emergency created by Tropical Depression No 12, the coordination mechanisms entered in function and contributed to respond in a timely and effective manner regarding COs responsibilities in the preparation of the response, flash appeal preparation and cluster coordination in the WASH section within national response. Protection was not prioritised by government for initial response, nevertheless activities were supported in shelters as one of UNICEF's CCC mandate included and updated in the EWEA. Areas to be improved in 2012 are Key Action 4 - Update and testing business continuity plan (3.5 / 8) and Key Action 11 - Supply and logistics emergency readiness (9 /18)

### Evaluation

As part of the planning exercise for 2011, CO updated IMEP including studies, systematisation, evaluations and surveys in line with the new simplified result structure (PCRs and IRs) agreed with the government after the MTR process of 2010. These studies were included in AWP's with implementing partners to create capacities in the country to monitor situation for children as well as to translate evaluation recommendations in action plans.

A mid-term review on the MDG-F Nutrition JP was done. This program is implemented in indigenous communities of the RAAN. The evaluation was done by an international external consultant. A reference group was organised by members of UN agencies and Nicaragua national and regional government, who approved the TORs, and provided feedback on drafts and final report. An action plan with national and regional authorities is being prepared in response to the recommendations received to ensure appropriation of the program.

MDG-F gender JP is going through its final evaluation, with a local team contracted by the RC Office. The results will be available in January 2012.

UNDAF is also going through a final evaluation, some initial findings were shared with government and UNCT. Final report will be available in January 2012. Lessons learned will help the preparation process of new UNDAF.

### Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In order to be ready for the changes envisaged by the organisation in this area, ICT prepared a work plan in line with the approved Service Level Agreement signed by the office, which achieved a 100% implementation rate. Main activities were:

- ICT section supported the office's training plan and conducted 8 clinics on ICT related matters, including new operational systems and tools and areas where weaknesses were identified, such as radio and satellite communications. Attendance rate exceeded 75%.
- Migration of all users PC to windows 7, new corporate operational system, according to ITSS policy.
- The office succeeded in increasing the band-width of the internet connection with the local ISP, from 1 to 4 Mbs for only 25% additional cost. This is going to replace SITA as the main local internet connection, following new guidelines from ITSS, allowing a better performance of all web-based applications, including VISION.
- A new telephone PBX was installed, introducing an E1 channel delivering significant improvements in the office's communications.

Regarding the compliance levels of the SLA itself, 8 out of 10 indicators were achieved (with rates over 99% of service availability). Problems were found only with the radio-communication system, which was re-deployed in September, after a long period without service; and the telephone PBX, which was replaced because of poor-performance and reconfigured in August with the E1 channel. No other problems were reported with regards to phone communications. It is expected that, with these 2 corrections, provision of all 10 services under ICT responsibility will achieve over 99% availability rates.

Furthermore, a survey on satisfaction with the 9 services provided by the ICT area identified in the SLA was carried out in the office amongst all staff. Satisfaction levels were over 84% in all areas with the exception of BB services, which faces problems with international roaming issues and caused problems to users when travelling.

The reorganisation of office spaces will allow the renewal of ICT structured cabling in 2012, which dates back to 1999, suffered a number of amendments and fixes and is jeopardising internet and local network connectivity.

### Fund Raising and Donor Relations

No new proposals were elaborated for 2011, given that the country program was over funded after a successful fund raising strategy with the Dutch and Swedish governments with a favorable donor environment and the approval of four joint programs of the MDF-F trust fund. Some additional funds were received from Spain NATCOM according to the Birth Registration proposal presented in 2010. The joint program for Human Security, being prepared since 2010, has suffered significant changes and is being re-elaborated to be presented to ECHO, Japan next year. Luxemburg, a new bilateral donor for UNICEF is interested in collaborating with UN coherence. As such, a joint program on Health, Nutrition and HIV is being elaborated with WHO and UNFPA to achieve MDG 4 and 5.

In addition, donor proposals must be in line with the new CPD and UNDAF country cycle 2013-2017. Since new government period starts in January 2012, it was agreed that CPD will be presented during the second regular session of the Executive Board in September 2012. No new donor proposals have been drafted until UNICEF's contribution to UNDAF is more defined with the government, expected to conclude in March 2012.

In addition, donor environment in Nicaragua is changing after being declared Middle Income Country. Many governments are redefining their cooperation with Latin America; while bilateral donors are reducing their presence, multilaterals concessional credits is increasing. It was decided this year that the Dutch government (main donor for the CP) will leave the country at the end of 2013, with no possibility of extending additional grants for new CPD. In this context, possibilities of local agreements with bilateral donors have been reduced. The UNCT is studying the possibility to create a multi-donor trust fund for the new UNDAF. Next year will be key to identify new donors, prepare donor proposals to be presented to NATCOMS and Thematic funds from UNICEF for new CP.

### Management of Financial and Other Assets

Programme funds implementation rate reached 98% of US\$ 7.1 million planned resources. High implementation rates and funding allowed a total of US\$ 26.3 million enforced as of 2011. In The Executive Board approved an increase in the ceiling after negotiations and available funding with the donors. This totaled US\$ 34.2 million, leaving a balance in the amount of US\$ 7.8 million to be used in 2012. Available funding and negotiation with donors in 2012 received an approval to increase the ceiling by the Executive Board for a total of US\$ 34.2 million, leaving a US\$ 7.8 million balance to implement in 2012, last year of the program.

Outstanding DCTs over 9 months were kept below 5% (except 2 months) for a third consecutive year. DCTs over 6 to 9 months declined from 15% in the first half of the year to 5% in the second half. The plan to strengthen the realizing partners' capacity (implemented since 2010) is expected to continue improving this situation.

As noted by the 2009 audit, all operational areas kept good performance. The table of authority (ToA) was kept up-to-date and concerned staff implemented their assigned authorities accordingly. Bank reconciliations, timely submission of monthly and year-end reports to headquarters and processing of financial transactions continued in a proficient manner, with the set of SOPs that help organise procedures,

paperwork and allow time savings. To the good practices on PP&E management, the office added a reorganisation of the supplies management practices. This exercise helped to timely fulfill headquarters' requirements of information for migration into VISION.

An area of major concern was the development of a set of guiding principles and tools for partners' capacity assessment and strengthening, initiated in 2010. The risk associated with counterparts low capacity remains a serious constraint as concluded by the RCSA analysis. Tools were developed according to HACT framework, in line with new Guidelines for Programme Cooperation Agreements, focusing on: i) assess partner's capacity and identify needs for an adequate programme implementation at the beginning of the negotiation of the agreement; and ii) speeding up the process of submission of the FACE reports, a problem that jeopardised CP implementation. HACT audits were implemented in 15 implementing partners, including Ministry of Education, Health, Labour and two autonomous governments; 10 spot checks of partners were complemented by training sessions on FACE; and the preparation of 34 filing cards of the most important implementing partners (42 to be completed in 2012), containing information on programme and financial capacity obtained from audits, spot checks and historical financial data. These are updated permanently to plan capacity building activities.

The agreement on CO free tenancy of the ground floor of the UN House in Managua expired in 2009 and tacitly continued while negotiations for renovation were ongoing. After some failed attempts, a new lease agreement clarifying UNICEF's rights and obligations was developed and is already authorised by DFAM. This agreement will allow the office to conduct a series of space's reorganisations, which are already designed, funded and approved, aimed at solving severe space difficulties and constraints staff is now facing and accommodate staff to complete the CO team.

### Supply Management

As part of the RCSA exercise, a reorganization of the supply component of the CPD was planned, looking to increase efficiency and impact, UNICEF's efforts were focused on large purchases and technically complex items where UNICEF's technical assistance is critical, instead of smaller purchases that could be easily acquired by implementing partners themselves. The threshold limit was set to US\$ 5,000, below which purchases would be processed by the partners themselves according to signed agreements, except for technically complex items or printed material requiring UNICEF's approval.

As a result of this strategy, between 2010 and 2011 the number of PGMs raised in the year decreased from 124 to 55 and the number of POs signed in the year decreased to one third, from 353 to 120, whilst the supply component proportion in the annual programme budget merely decreased from 13% to 12% in the same period (from US\$ 1.1 million to US\$ 0.8 million). The composition of the supply component of the CPD by amount of transactions also changed. Requisitions' proportion above US\$ 5,000 rose from 36% to 60% and POs' proportion above the threshold more than doubled from 14% to 31% in the same period, which represents a significant gain in efficiency (data for 2011, as of November 30).

In line with these results, the composition of the supply component of the CPD by class of items changed: specialised equipment (mostly for health, HIV/AIDS and education activities) was responsible for 47% of this year supply component (compared to the 16% share in 2010) and 33% corresponds to diverse printed materials (compared to the 17% share in 2010), which shows that the programme's impact and results is what the CO was looking for.

The participation of the local procurement modality in the whole component is very high, despite the local providers' limitations, with 84% of the total value. Finally, the office was requested to assist in 11 procurement services for a total amount of US\$ 491,000, which represents a significant decrease compared to the services provided last year of US\$ 1.7 million. All of these services were processed for the Red NICASALUD and the Ministry of Health, and traditional clients.

### Human Resources

Three issues on work environment identified by staff during the 2010 annual retreat were addressed: 1) work/life balance. Actions included process simplification, training and dissemination of standardised operational procedures, review of JDs, preparation of an induction package and review of the office manual. Additional actions will be taken in 2012 to continue with this process, and 2) staff learning and development.

A three level training program was launched: 1) *individual trainings* to enhance staff member's performance, completed by 15 members on finance and accounting basics, Communication and Children's Rights, administration of windows servers, and telecommunications in emergencies. ii) *Courses identified* by office management to improve performance aimed at the entire staff like new framework for PCA and SSFA, HACT principles and FACE preparation, PAS preparation and evaluation, gender equality, prohibition of harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of authority, ethics and integrity and 8 ICT clinics on Windows 7, Office 2010, Outlook 2010 VPN, webmail and citrix tools. IPSAS and VISION training needs were also included in this level and completed successfully. Six courses on IPSAS were completed by the Operations Staff. iii) *talent identification* (reduced group of staff members with good performance, promising career and specific needs), to develop or improve individual competencies or technical knowledge to improve individual potential or re-convert it to meet evolving office's needs. All staff was invited to submit applications. The selection process and the identification of the areas for development will be concluded on February 2013. 3% of the budget was assigned for all training. 3) strengthen the JCC, by redefining its responsibilities and differentiate it from CMT. Four JCC meetings took place this year, all of them recorded and focused on maintaining and improving work environment. Staff Association received membership benefits for the associates in low cost stores and opened a communication channel with UNFCU.

Security is a major area of concern since safety and security conditions in the country have been deteriorating the past few years. Security Risk Assessment for the main office and the sub-office were updated according to the new Security Level System; resulting MOSS compliance rate is 90%, which leaves a wide space for improvement through actions that will be identified in the year-end review meeting to be implemented in 2012. All staff sessions on the basics of the new system were conducted throughout the year. Security focal points, all staff of the sub-office and additional colleagues went through the SSAFE training. Major achievement was the re-establishment of the radio-communication system, scaled down last year due to the obsolescence of the repeaters system. An agreement was signed to share UNDP, WFP and UNICEF's repeaters in a single interagency frequency. All staff radio checks were conducted since the system was deployed in September, with participation rates of over 70%, with aim to improve next year.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The reconversion of UNICEF's former spaces in the UN House into common spaces will allow the office to share the cost of maintenance with other UN Agencies, meaning savings of around US\$15,000 per year, plus US\$ 3,000 per year related to the lease of office space no longer being occupied in 2012.

An automated on-line system was developed to keep a roster of experts and specialists in a number of fields of UNICEF's interest, which includes all the relevant information needed for consultant selection and evaluation processes, including experience on emergency response. To ensure competitiveness of the selection process, massive public invitations were carried out. Currently, the roster houses around 500 experts in several fields. With this tool, the office is now able to conduct shorter processes for the identification of consultants. Since September 2011, 5 consultants have been identified and contracted utilizing this simplified procedure. Also, the tool allows the office to save around US\$ 3,000 per advertisement for each consultant required by the office, with an estimated savings of US\$ 45,000 per year.

### Changes in AMP and CPMP

AMP will focus on supporting new policies on Early Childhood Development and Violence, strengthen emergency capacities response and conclude assessment of counterparts that will be partners in the new country program.

No changes in CPM are foreseen for 2012. New CPMP will be prepared in 2012 for the new country programme 2013-2017 to be implemented in 2013.

### Summary Notes and Acronyms

ANA	National Waters Authority
AMC	Accion Medica Cristiana (NGO)
AWP	Annual Work Plan
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CMNA	Municipal Commission for Children and Adolescents
CNU	National Council of Universities
CODENI	Coalition of NGOs Working with Children and Adolescents
CONISIDA	National Council on HIV
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
ENDESA	National Demographic and Health Survey
FISE	Emergency Social Investment Fund
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
IEAS	Child Friendly and Healthy School Initiative
INIDE	National Institute of Information for Development
INIFOM	Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Affairs
MIFAM	Ministry of Family
MINED	Ministry of Education
MINSA	Ministry of Health
MHCP	Ministry of Finance
RAAN	North Atlantic Autonomous Region
RAAS	South Atlantic Autonomous Region
RASNIC	National Water and Sanitation Network of Nicaragua
SIASAR	Rural Water and Sanitation Information System
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SILAIS	Departmental Health Unit
SINA	Children and Adolescents Information System
SINAPRED	National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System
UCA	Central America University
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank

### Document Centre

#### Evaluation

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Sequence Number</b>	<b>Type of Report</b>
1	Evaluation of the Gender Joint Programme	1	Evaluation
2	Mid-term evaluation of Joint Programme Tuktan Yamni-Muih Bin Muihni Yamni	2	Evaluation

#### Other Publications

	<b>Title</b>
1	Mathematics
2	Early Education
3	Into education
4	School safety
5	Myths and realities of HIV in rural areas
6	World Food Day
7	National study of children, poverty and disparities.
8	Gender approach in basic and middle education in Nicaragua.
9	Factors that influence school enrolment and retention
10	Situation analysis of Millennium Development Goal 2: "Achieve universal primary education in Nicaragua".
11	Systematization of the School Democracy Network.
12	Systematization of successful experiences of the Municipal Child and Adolescent Councils (CMNAs) (including defense systems).

#### Lessons Learned

#### Programme Documents