

Executive Summary

The country has been prematurely focused on 2013 presidential elections, showing strong divisions between political parties, affecting approval and implementation of important social programmes. Despite macroeconomic stability and economic growth of last years, the Paraguayan economy is volatile, given that it is based essentially on two exportation products (soybeans and meat) whose prices are highly dependent on external market. It is also important to mention that poverty remained technically stagnant while extreme poverty and social inequality increased since 2009, widening the gap between rich and poor and jeopardising the fulfillment of children's rights and MDGs achievement.

Based on Government's request, the 2007-2011 UNDAF 2-year extension was approved for harmonising UNDAF strategies and duration with national priorities and the five-year national development planning cycle. In this line, UNICEF CPD was extended until December 2013. Following in-depth participatory review of UNICEF strategies with high level government officials, CPAP's extension was signed. UNICEF will focus on the most disadvantaged children, especially those living in rural areas and indigenous children. While keeping the same programme components, it will put emphasis on priority strategic interventions that can influence public policies with an equity approach as a sine qua non condition for achieving concrete results for children.

Achievements

The main achievements were: **(i)** the ECD National Plan and The National Plan for Disaster Risk Management in the Education Sector were launched, providing an integrated framework for survival and development of children under 8 years of age and for promoting best practices on disaster prevention starting with school age children, **(ii)** The government's priority social programme 'Abrazo', designed to eradicate child labor on streets, was expanded nationwide with UNICEF's support, reaching nearly 6,000 children, as well as tackle other forms of hazardous child labor in garbage dumping sites, bricks and chalk factories and sugar cane industrial plantations, **(iii)** 11.750 children and their family members are being provided with birth registration and identity cards in 4 hard-to-reach municipalities along the Brazilian border, thanks to joint efforts from the Government, the Columbia University and UNICEF, **(iv)** the campaign 'Learning Improves without Violence' continued to position this issue within civil society, increasing debate and public interest in looking for other forms to establish limits to children.

Challenges

The chief struggles were: (i) Confrontations in the political-electoral arena permeated the government structure, leading to constant changes of authorities in key positions which affected the implementation of social programmes that are pivotal to winning the fight against poverty. (ii) No progress was achieved in the application of the 'Pedagogic Framework' for introducing sexual education in schools, due to strong opposition and manifestations from the religious and conservative sectors.

Partnerships

UNICEF nominated the famous goalkeeper of the National Soccer Team, Mr Justo Villar, as the new 'Friend of UNICEF', who will play an important role in promoting children's rights, especially among adolescents and youths.

Additionally, the alliance with the Junior Chamber International allowed for extending the campaign 'Learning Improves without Violence' to 13 Departments.

UNICEF also started working on reinforcing social corporate responsibility for children's rights, articulating efforts with private sector, public institutions and NGOs.

Country Situation

Paraguay has a population of 6.3 million people of which 51% are men, 49% women and 39% are represented by children under the age of 18. Urban population constitutes 59% of the total, while 41% live in rural areas. The indigenous population which is the most excluded, vulnerable and facing the worst living conditions represents 2%.

Marked by a premature political campaign towards the 2013 presidential elections strong divisions were manifested within and between political parties affecting the approval of important social programmes for the 2012 national budget.

In the economic field, Paraguay had an unprecedented economic growth (15%) in 2010, with moderate inflation of 7.2% and international reserves reaching US\$4,130 million. According to the Ministry of Finance, an economic growth of 5.5% is estimated for 2011 which is encouraged by a good performance of the agriculture sector, especially the production and exportation of soybeans.

Based on the '2010-2020 Public Policy Proposal for Social Development', the Government has shown continuous progress in public policies focusing efforts towards social sectors and the most deprived groups. 'Paraguay for All' contains 11 priority social programmes aimed at responding to the most urgent needs of disadvantaged populations in a short term period while developing long term sustainable strategies. In this line, the conditional cash transfer programmes, Tekoporã and Abrazo - and other social flagship programmes of poverty reduction - were expanded benefiting near 100 thousand poor people countrywide.

Nevertheless, the 2010 Household Survey shows that poverty remained technically stagnant, from 35.1% in 2009 to 34.7% in 2010, while extreme poverty increased from 18.8% to 19.4%. The survey also indicated that social inequality increased (GINI rose from 0.487 to 0.512), widening the gap between rich and poor. This indicates that the country needs to continue increasing the quantity and quality of social investment in order to alleviate the accumulated historic social debt and inequities. In this sense, it is worthy to mention that Paraguay has one of the lowest tax burdens in the region (13.1% of GDP) which limits the capacity of the Government to expand the coverage of social services. The approval of the IRP (Personal Income Tax) would be an important step towards increasing the Government fiscal capacity for additional investment in social sectors. The trends show it is unlikely that Paraguay will achieve the poverty reduction goal and other MDG goals with the current levels of investment.

The MDGs for maternal and child mortality will probably not be achieved if the decreasing trends from 1990 to 2009 are maintained. The registered maternal mortality rate went from 150 to 125 per 100,000 live births. Despite the children who are registered under the age of five, child mortality rates have significantly decreased from 40 to 19 and 30 to 15 per 1,000 live births respectively,, yet they remain among the highest in Latin America. The neonatal mortality rates remained practically stagnant from 1998 (10.5%) to 2009 (11%).

The registered institutional births rose from 83% to 93% between 1996 and 2009. On this subject, the recent progress made in providing free health services to the most vulnerable by installing 704 family health units in 234 municipalities and improving health system's infrastructure, equipment and human resources, could show positive impact on reducing maternal and infant mortality in the future.

Paraguay has already achieved the MDG for drinking water and access to improved drinking water supply networks increased from 44% in 1997 to 75% in 2010. Key strategies were articulated by the public and private sector and the involvement of local governments and community organisations in the implementation and management of water systems. However, the country will have a difficult time achieving the goals for sanitation.

According to the 2010 MDGs Report, 13,000 people are HIV positive. Out of 10,146 new registered cases between 1985 to 2010, 83% were linked to sexual transmission, 2% to perinatal infections and 3% to contact with infected blood/fluids. Transmission causes weren't identified in 12% of the cases.

The HIV prevalence rate among women older than 15 years of age is 0.34%. Incidence rate in the population aged 15-19 increased from 4.54 to 9.77 per 100,000 inhabitants between 2000-2010. The increasing detection of new infections may be related to improvements in notification and registration systems, and improved access to HIV testing. In 2010, only 37% of people living with advanced HIV infection (based on 350 CD4/ml) received ARV treatment.

The net pre-school enrolment increased from 17% to 68% between 1992 and 2009, while the net enrolment in primary school reduced from 93% to 85%. Although survival rate up to grade 5 increased from 70% to 82%, repetition and drop-out still show very high levels in the first three years of primary school. The literacy rate for the 15--24 age group was 99% in 2010. Paraguay has still much to do for achieving universal access to primary school and for improving education quality.

Since the 2002 Population Census which showed that 10% of the children did not have birth registration, still there has been no new statistical data on this issue. The main bottlenecks for advancing towards universal birth registration are linked to the need for legislation, adequacy difficulties in accessing public services, and weak social awareness on the importance of opportune child registration.

Inspite of the fact that the country has progressed in fighting child labour with the implementation of the Abrazo Programme, nearly 18% of children and adolescents aged 5 to 17 still work, either for pay or with no remuneration. It is estimated that 15% of working children are involved in hazardous child labour.

Intra-family violence is an important issue in Paraguay, nevertheless, official statistics on domestic violence against women and children are scarce and not systematic. A UNICEF supported survey in 2010 showed that violence is culturally accepted when parents need to establish limits to children. A high percentage of children are victims of physical and psychological abuse, mostly between the ages of 3-5 years. The survey also shows that 60% of children suffer some type of violence. 31% of the parents said they strike their children because that is the way they were raised, and 30% said they do so because they become nervous and lose control.

Who are the deprived children in your country context?

The most disadvantaged children are: (i) indigenous children (ii) poor children from urban and rural areas, (iii) children with disabilities, (iv) street children, (v) children involved in hazardous child labor, (vi) victims of violence, (vii) children in conflict with the law and institutionalized children.

In 2009, poverty and extreme poverty respectively affect 45% and 27% of children under 18. These indicators are higher among rural children, 58% and 40% and indigenous children, 77% and 63% respectively.

Average chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years of age was 14 % in 2005, while it affected 17% of rural children and 25% of children in extreme poverty.

Average registered mortality rates for children under 5 at 19% and child mortality rates at 15% are much higher in rural areas, 23% and 18% respectively.

Although registered institutional births reached 93% in 2009, it is only 64% for women speaking only Guaraní.

While average net pre-school enrolment reached 68%, the gap between urban (72%) and rural areas (64%) is significant. For net primary school enrolment, national average was 85%, against 86% in urban and 83% in rural areas.

Despite average literacy rate was 95% for 15 and plus year old youths, it is only 91% in rural areas and 60% for indigenous population.

Delete space

Paraguay achieved MDG targets for drinking water, but gaps persist between urban and rural areas (87% against 58%). For improved sanitation, urban coverage is 91% while rural coverage is only 39%.

Paraguay currently has 234 adolescents in prison. Majority of them are living in precarious conditions and lacking adequate legal aid in judicial processes.

Data/Evidence

The technical support provided by UNICEF to the country in building knowledge about children and adolescents is showing progress in the area of identifying inequities and their determinants. Statistical data on issues affecting children come from the National Statistics Directorate's (DGEEC) household surveys and population censuses, Sexual and Reproductive Health Surveys, Information System and Management of Paraguay (SIGPA), as well as from specialised studies and publications. This data is used for situation analysis and decision making processes thus providing evidence for legislative changes and monitoring & evaluating social programs.

Along this line, UNICEF has supported the inclusion of anthropometry module in the 2012 Income and Expenditure Survey whose results will be available in November 2012. This will allow for the assessment of malnutrition among children under the age of 5 and act as a valuable tool for advocacy, information and communication and decision-making purposes.

Based on past experience, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to conduct a survey on the status of birth registration and identification of students and their family in four districts of the dry border with Brazil. Taking the school as an entry point, the results of this survey are the basis for the Government to take action in providing birth certificates and identity cards to children. The survey also allows for having disaggregated data by district, school, grade, section, child and/or adolescent students (as well as specific features such as disabilities, indigenous groups, most commonly used language, repetition, dropout, multigrade classes, support classes, etc.). This survey provides the basis for action on birth registration and constitutes a good tool for improving management within the education system.

UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA's *'Joint Programme Investing in People'* has supported the Ministry of Education and the Secretariat of Social Action in piloting the measurement of compliance in education of conditional cash transfer programmes, in 11 schools of Asuncion and the Mbuyapey District. This work helped in gathering evidence about the positive impact that conditional cash transfer programmes have on attendance and grades, and showed the advantages of information technology in schools on administrative processes and records, thus alleviating the burden of work on teacher's.

Monitoring Mechanism

Monitoring and Evaluation is a core element of UNICEF's strategy in Paraguay, fostering situation analysis of children and adolescents, with special emphasis on identifying the most vulnerable children, making extensive use of household surveys, population censuses, statistical systems of the various ministries and other survey instruments to better identify inequities among children and adolescents.

Thanks to good institutional cooperation with the General Statistics and Census Directorate of Paraguay, UNICEF has access to databases of household surveys and censuses which are used to develop analysis on children's situation.

UNICEF has helped to develop the 2012 Population and Housing Census' questionnaire, providing technical support and advocate for incorporation and improvement of child-related indicators, particularly those that allow for better understanding on the situation of most excluded populations such as indigenous, afro-descendent and disabled.

For next year, the Country Office will prepare the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) taking into account selected strategic results areas and the different levels of monitoring results for children with an equity perspective.

Support to National Planning

UNICEF has participated in designing the National Information System for Children, under the leadership of the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents and support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The System includes modules for following up on national policies, development plans and sectorial social programs from the perspective of equity and rights of children.

In addition, UNICEF has assisted in statistical data generation and analysis, like the national survey on child labor which has been conducted this year in collaboration with the National Statistics Department and ILO, whose results will be available in 2012.

UNICEF has also provided support for inserting an anthropometric module in the 2011 National Income and Expenditure Survey in order to update the information regarding malnutrition of children under 5 years of age. The results of the survey will be officially diffused in 2012.

Any other relevant information related to data/evidence?

N/A

Country Programme Analytical Overview

UNICEF will focus on a few strategic interventions, fostering public policies for the most vulnerable, particularly for indigenous children and from rural and poor urban areas, addressing social and gender disparities. The human rights-based approach to programming will guide the entire Country Programme.

UNICEF will work to **strengthening articulation between the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches**, aiming at generating sustainable State Policies for children and adolescents. It will seek to **reinforce inter-institutional coordination**, convening partners and building consensus, creating and strengthening alliances to promote and monitor compliance of rights and ensure sustainability of processes.

UNICEF will focus on **monitoring children and adolescents' situation**, with emphasis on identifying the most vulnerable. It will develop the Situation Analysis of Children and Women and support the Children's National Information System. It will follow up national policies and national development plans with child rights and equity perspective. The analysis of impact on children of such policies and plans, in particular on the most disadvantaged, as well as providing support for the country to progress on their implementation, will be a central role of UNICEF.

UNICEF will give technical assistance for **evidence and knowledge generation** to clearly identify who

and where the most vulnerable are, as well as the bottlenecks that hinder progress towards the accomplishment of children's rights. This will be accomplished in joint collaboration with the General Statistics and Census Directorate (DGECC) and the statistics departments of different ministries.

In collaboration with the UN System and civil society partners, UNICEF will develop **evidence-based advocacy**, especially during the electoral campaign, in order to reinforce children's visibility in the public and political agenda, seeking to increase interest and resources that can contribute to achieving concrete results for children.

UNICEF will design and implement **information and communication** initiatives, using the most advanced communication technologies such as social networks and mass media campaigns, in order to reinforce public awareness on children and adolescents rights, ensuring that policies and services take into account disparities and different cultural contexts, particularly regarding indigenous communities.

UNICEF will foster **youth participation** in policy decision-making, strengthening their ability, as rights-holders, to claim their rights. This will contribute for developing duty-bearers awareness and capacity to fulfil, respect, and protect these rights. It will contribute to strengthen **accountability**, advocating for the creation of a Children's Day in Parliament, where annually the Government would account for the progresses and results achieved for children.

It will seek to reinforce **corporate social responsibility** within the private sector to improve awareness of business responsibility and leverage resources for children. It will provide information, outline actions and opportunities for business to respect and support children's rights in their core operations whether in the workplace, the marketplace, the community or the environment, with especial emphasis on contributing to poor and excluded children.

UNICEF will reinforce **alliances and partnerships** and will support south-south cooperation, particularly with Latin American countries having similar social and economic characteristics as Paraguay.

It will use **social modelling** for scaling-up successful interventions and influencing public policy-making.

Effective Advocacy

Partially met benchmarks

UNICEF has continuously advocated for children to be at the centre of the political agenda, and for their rights to be sustainably inserted in public policies, national strategies and legal frameworks. Advocacy has been based on evidence on the situation of children and adolescents, highlighting the existing inequities and their impact on the most vulnerable.

Along these lines, UNICEF has advocated for the ECD National Plan to be elaborated with an integrated and participatory approach, involving Government institutions and civil society organisations.

Together with civil society, UNICEF has advocated and closely worked with the Executive Branch Ministries and the Parliament in order to promote consensus around the draft proposal for the laws regarding corporal punishment and bullying. It will continue following-up this process and advocating for the laws approval next year.

In the process of nationwide expansion of the Abrazo Programme, UNICEF has advocated for its decentralisation at municipal level and for the Programme to tackle other forms of hazardous child labour beyond its original goal of eradicating child labour on the streets.

UNICEF, together with indigenous organisations has advocated for indigenous issues to be inserted in the political agenda, in particular for the application of the Law on Indigenous Education, for the creation of the Directorate for Indigenous Education within the Ministry of Education and for adapting the curriculum and teachers training to indigenous cultures and languages.

In the framework of the Joint Programme Investing in People, UNICEF continued to advocate for more and better investment on children.

UNICEF has also advocated and provided technical assistance for implementing water and sanitation public policies to increase access and improve water quality with emphasis in highly vulnerable rural and indigenous communities.

Changes in Public Policy

For the first time, an integrated and coordinated approach has been used to plan government actions for early childhood development. With UNICEF playing a key role, the ECD National Plan has been concluded with strong participation and commitment from the (delete space) National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, the Health and Education Ministries and NGOs. It was launched at the National Parliament with participation of authorities from the 3 branches of the State, and an inter-ministerial decree was signed establishing that this plan is a national priority. The Plan foresees the establishment of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms both at central and local levels. It constitutes a good opportunity to foster relevant changes for a better start in life for children.

UNICEF has contributed for Abrazo Programme to take strong steps towards eradicating all forms of child labour. It has been expanded nationwide, benefitting nearly 6,000 children. The programme has expanded beyond its original objective of eradicating child labour on the streets, tackling other forms of hazardous child labour such as in bricks and chalk factories, in sugar cane plantations and in garbage dumping sites. It is also worthy to note that some municipalities have taken over the programme implementation, sharing financial costs with Central Government, and adapting the programme to local social, cultural and economic characteristics.

In addition, the Indigenous Education Law 3231/07 was regulated with UNICEF's technical support which allowed the creation of required administrative mechanisms and encouraged the articulation among the various departments within the Ministry of Education who have a role in the Law's application. This has allowed for progress in the Law's implementation through training indigenous teachers, knowledge generation on indigenous cultures and languages and development of demonstrative initiatives on initial literacy. Additionally, participatory spaces were generated to discuss the right to education involving national authorities, women leaders, children and adolescents, indigenous and afro-descendent's. The creation of National Indigenous Education Council is underway.

The Conditional Cash Transfer Programme 'Tekoporá' increased the number of beneficiariesto 100,,000 people countrywide. Thanks to the support from UNCEP, UNDP and UNFPA, Tekoporá now has a beneficiaries management information system that allows for improved administration of funds transfers, reduction in historic problems related to accountability, and payment delays and errors regarding inclusion and exclusion of beneficiaries. The agencies also provided support with the inception of a pilot experience to measure the impact of cash transfers on children's access and permanence at school which has shown the positive(?) results.

The country has also significantly expanded primary health services in poor urban, rural and indigenous communities, installing 704 Family Health Units countrywide.

UNICEF contributed to strengthening institutional articulation between central and local levels, with strong community organisation and participation in designing appropriate technological solutions, in constructing

and managing water and sanitation systems.

Furthermore, the National Water and Sanitation Department (DAPSAN) has established articulating mechanisms between government institutions within the water and sanitation sector and cooperation agencies. As an example, a Technical Inter-institutional Group (GTI) was established for designing and implementing a dynamic information system.

Leveraging Resources

UNICEF has supported the Ministries of Education, Health and the National Secretariat for children and adolescents to start a dialogue process with the private sector aiming to leverage resources for children. In this context, the First Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility for ECD was carried out and negotiations are being conducted to create the Children's Corporate Engagement Network, verbalising efforts between the government, private sector and civil society organisations for ECD.

Capacity Development

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF has provided technical assistance in management, planning and institutional building processes, in order to strengthen national institutions' capacity to run social programmes (Tekopora and Abrazo) focussed on the most vulnerable population and to widely disseminate their results. In this area, UNICEF's support was crucial for the elaboration of the ECD National Plan, providing international expertise and articulating efforts from two key social ministries (Health and Education), the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents and NGOs.

A great deal of emphasis has been placed on sustained training for government officials of different echelons in order to strengthen their capacity to improve the quality of the services they provide. In this framework, it is worthy to mention that training was provided to community leaders and teachers on disaster risk management, as well as to public sector authorities and technicians both at central and local level on education without violence.

UNICEF also assisted the country in documenting lessons learned and innovations, for systematically generating and analysing information, and for monitoring progresses towards fulfilling children and adolescents rights.

UNICEF also has facilitated exchange between governmental and social actors from the region to foster a transfer of know-how and experiences. In this regard, (i) the Technical Forum on Neonatal Health was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Latin American and Caribbean Alliance for Neonatal Health. In this event, participants from Latin American countries had the opportunity to exchange experiences on latest advances on policies and strategies for reducing neonatal mortality, (ii) two members of the National Commission for Following up the Situation of Adolescents in Prison participated in the XV Regional Course on Juvenile Justice in Peru, (iii) UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF facilitated the visit to Paraguay of representatives from the Nicaraguan Parliament who came to see the lessons learned and results related to the Joint Programme Investing in People, (iv) the Regional Advisors missions contributed to reinforce advocacy and technical capacity in the areas of HIV & AIDS, Education, Health and Disaster Risk Management within the education sector.

Communication For Development

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF has continued to reinforce the communication capabilities of the Tekoporâ Programme for conditional cash transfers to families in extreme poverty. In this framework, it provided support to produce a manual for radio journalists, in particular those working in rural areas, aiming at facilitating community access to information on the families' role in ensuring that the programme's conditionality, such as school attendance and health care of benefitted children, are met. The manual's production was a participatory process which included various workshops with journalists, government and NGOs representatives, as well as community leaders from all over the country.

UNICEF provided support for continuing the implementation of the C4D communication strategy 'Learning Improves without Violence', which was launched in 2010 with the purpose to prompt behaviour change in the way parents educate their children, proposing new alternatives to set limits on children without mistreatment. A number of additional alliances were established this year with different NGOs aiming at replicating workshops to mothers and fathers, based on the positive discipline concept, using UNICEF's methodology and communication materials.

UNICEF has contributed to reinforce training of journalists on using children's rights approach in their day-to-day communication duties. In cooperation with the News Agency for Children's Rights (ANDI-LAC Network), it supported media monitoring in order to see the evolution of treatment of children issues in the press. This year 4 new professionals were recognised as 'Child Friendly Journalists' who joined the 20 members of the ANDI Paraguayan network.

UNICEF managed to mobilise the country in promoting hand washing and hygiene. In partnership with PAHO/WHO and the country's health and education Ministries, Global Hand Washing Day was promoted as a strategy to improve hygiene and to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Besides the central event which had major press coverage, educational message was also delivered through 70 radio repeaters nationwide and a tele-centre accommodated in a bus specially equipped with computers and audiovisual materials relating to hand washing which visited 13 schools, reaching 2,500 children.

A 3-year commination and social mobilisation strategy was designed to foster social sensitisation and the inclusion of indigenous children's rights in the public agenda. The strategy's formulation involved wide participation from State institutions, civil society, mass media and indigenous organisations, and the international cooperation.

UNICEF also provided supported for: (i) designing communication strategy to diffuse and promote the ECD National Plan, and (ii) framing a Communication Action Plan to develop hygiene education at community level as part of the MDG-F Water and Sanitation Joint Programme, and (iii) construction and production of a communication campaign to foster birth registration and identity in the Amambay Department along the border with Brazil.

Service Delivery

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF's cooperation is focussed on supporting the design and implementation of public policies with child rights perspective. Service delivery is a very small portion of its cooperation. It is only done when it is part

of demonstrative initiatives that can generate experience that can feed public policies and strategies.

In this sense, taking into account the local context which is the Chaco Region (a semi-arid region where in the greatest part of the territory there are salted water) and after a careful analysis and selection of the communities done with the Municipality of Filadelfia, UNICEF supported the local government to carry out drilling 50 shallow tube wells in 13 indigenous communities seeking for fresh/sweet water. The result was positive, since in 60% of the shallow tube wells were found fresh/sweet water that is being used as an alternative source for human consumption and as a reserve on drought/emergency times. The water facilities were implemented in close collaboration with the communities which participated in the various phases of project implementation.

This experience in providing water and sanitation for rural and indigenous communities, articulating central, local governments and community organizations is currently being used by FOCEM (Mercosur Structural and Convergence Fund), World Bank and IDB's financed projects for expanding coverage in the Chaco region.

UNICEF gave technical, financial and supply assistance for national authorities to issue birth certificates and identity cards to 11.750 children and their family members in hard-to-reach districts along the border with Brazil.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

This year UNICEF has worked on reinforcing existing strategic alliances and establishing a new one, focusing on mobilising resources in different sectors of the Government and society to achieve specific results for underprivileged children. These alliances have allowed for greater involvement, appropriation, broader impact, and an effective use of resources for the institutions and organisations.

In this sense, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the youths professional volunteers organisation 'Junior Chamber International (JCI)' to conduct sensitisation and training for parents at community level in 13 Municipalities within the scope of the communication campaign against child abuse ('Learning Improves without Violence').

UNICEF also continued the alliance with *Diario Ultima Hora*, a national newspaper with the second-largest circulation in Paraguay, to publish monthly opinion articles about relevant issues intended to promote a public agenda on behalf of the rights of children and adolescents.

UNICEF has worked in close alliance with the Ministry of Education (MoH) and the Organisation of Iberoamerican States (OEI) in initiatives to identify, define and carry out activities designed to guarantee all children in Paraguay access to good-quality education.

Within the Health and HIV&AIDS sectors, the Ministry of Health, AECID, USAID, OPS/OMS and other UN Agencies were key partners.

In WATSAN, the MoH's National Environment Sanitation Services, local governments and civil society organisations have played an important role in programme implementation. Moreover, the interagency collaboration between UNDP, OPS/OMS and ILO, the partnership with central and local Government institutions and community based organisations, within the Joint Programme 'Strengthening capacities for drinking water supply and sanitation policies' design and implementation" which allowed for achieving the planned results for indigenous communities.

With UNDP, ILO, UNIFEM and UNFPA the MDG-F Employment, Youth and Migration Joint Programme has focused on eradicating hazardous child labour. Also, this year alliances were reinforced with civil society

organisations like Global Infancia, Plan International and ADRA around different issues related to child protection.

The alliance with the Ministry of Finance, the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents (SNNA), the Social Action Secretariat (SAS) are strategic for the Joint Programme Investing in People, which has proven to be a successful tool to develop analysis and promote dialogue around social investment.

Mobilising Partners

This year the famous goalkeeper of the national soccer team, Mr Justo Villar, was appointed as a 'UNICEF Friend'. The idea is that he contributes towards greater visibility to UNICEF's cooperation in the country. He will support UNICEF's communication and social mobilisation initiatives, targeting children and adolescents, aiming at promoting and sensitising on different issues linked to child protection.

The 'First Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility for ECD' was held to strengthen public-private alliances towards the implementation of the ECD Plan and to foster a Network of Private Companies for the most deprived children.

In alliance with the Special Olympic Games Organisation, UNICEF conducted conferences and provided educational materials on health and child rights for children participating in the American Cup for Disabled Children, held in Paraguay. It was the first step taken to define a common agenda towards promoting inclusive public policies for children with disabilities.

Knowledge Management

Mostly met benchmarks

Imparting knowledge has been a strategic component of the programme of cooperation, as a basis for advocacy and communication for influencing public policies targeting the most deprived groups. With joint efforts between UN Agencies and the Government, the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report was produced and launched. This is a valuable tool for following up progress and for undertaking actions towards achievement of MDGs.

With UNICEF's technical support, the Diagnosis of Early Childhood situation in Paraguay was conducted to outline and prepare for the ECD National Plan.

Also, a Rapid Assessment of water quality in dug wells was carried out in order to improve groundwater treatment techniques in the Chaco Region.

With the purpose to contribute to the right of indigenous children to learn in their own language and culture, the following researches were undertaken and the respective documents published: (i) research-series conducted on traditional Indigenous games of 4 linguistic families, (ii) research on Fauna and Flora in the indigenous territories of the Enxet and Sanapaná peoples, (iii) experience documentation on youth and adults education in the Qom indigenous people.

UNICEF has actively participated in the design of the 2012 Population Census which, for the first time, includes a module on Indigenous and Afro-descendent Population, which will raise relevant information on the situation of these ethnic groups in the country.

UNICEF, the General Statistics and Census Directorate (DGEEC) and ILO have joined efforts to conduct the National Survey on Child Labor whose results will be available in 2012 and will provide important information to orient national strategies towards eradication the most hazardous forms of child labor.

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF has focused its efforts on inserting the human-right approach in the design and implementation of public policies and programmes for children as well as on monitoring progresses towards fulfilling children's rights. It continued to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), with emphasis on the need to improve information systems on children's issues, to increase the amount and quality of social investments and the need for better governmental programmes to assist and care for children who are victims of abuse, violence and neglect.

The UN System provided support to disseminate and apply the CRC recommendation on indigenous children, the ILO Convention 169, and the United Nations Declaration on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Social Cabinet launched the guidelines for working with indigenous communities who are now part of the training programme of public professionals.

UNICEF, together with UN sister agencies, gave support for the visit of the President of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Affairs, Mrs Mirna Cunningham. In her meetings with national authorities and civil society organisations, Mrs Cunningham highlighted the high levels of inequity and the invisibility of indigenous people in Paraguay, which especially affect children and women. She also made emphasis on other important issues such as the gender based violence, the use of agro toxic substances in intensive agriculture that impact on indigenous children's health, as well as the judicial and social insecurity related to rural property in indigenous areas. She advocated for a stronger presence of the State and the involvement of regional human rights organisations in ensuring the rights of indigenous people in the country.

This year the UN Special Rapporteurs on Religious Freedom, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the country. They helped to strengthen UN agencies work, especially in terms of advocacy and bringing new ideas and ways to fulfil and respect human rights in the country.

Gender

Partially met benchmarks

In 2011, the CEDAW Committee issued its Report for Paraguay. Its recommendations highlighted the need for Paraguay to take appropriate measures to (i) reduce maternal mortality, (ii) provide access to basic social services for rural and indigenous women, (iii) expand adolescent's access to sexual and reproductive health, (iv) combat violence against girls and women, (v) eliminate 'criadazgo' or the exploitation of domestic child labour, among others. UNICEF will coordinate with UN agencies and civil society organisations to diffuse the recommendations and jointly advocate for their implementation.

UNICEF continued providing assistance to national partners to incorporate gender perspective in their policies and programmes. For instance, it facilitated the exchange of experiences among rural and indigenous women leaders in order to reinforce their knowledge on their legal rights, their capacity for political participation and on how to protect their rights. It also aided the participation of women leaders in regional forums and working meetings with national government authorities.

As part of the UN Inter-agency Group on Gender, UNICEF participated in the UNETE campaign against all forms of discrimination and violence against children and women. It also collaborated in preparing for the

visit of the UN Women Executive Director, Mrs Michelle Bachelet who gave a strong message in terms of the need for the country to reinforce women's economic and political participation in development policies.

Environmental Sustainability

Partially met benchmarks

UNICEF's work contributed to reinforce capacity for risk management in schools, seeking to identify environmental vulnerabilities that can jeopardise the realisation of children's rights and incorporating disaster risk reduction in the education sector policies and programming.

While supporting the water supply and sanitation sector to promote access to safe water and basic sanitation, UNICEF has helped to build capacity, with emphasis in the governmental sector, in terms of addressing the environmental and social consequences of interventions seeking to ensure sustainability of water and sanitation systems. For this, it contributed to develop demonstrative initiatives with strong community organization and participation, that are feeding the design and implementation of policies and strategies that are sensitive to the impact of environmental hazards on children and point out to improving water quality and access for highly vulnerable rural and indigenous families in the semiarid Chaco region.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Latin American and Caribbean Alliance for Neonatal Health, UNICEF provided financial and technical support for carrying out the Technical Forum on Neonatal Health which took place in November with the participation of representatives from Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Paraguay. The Forum's purpose was to facilitate the exchange of experiences among the participating countries on the latest developments linked to policies, strategies and plans aimed at reducing neonatal mortality.

UNICEF continued to be a part of the Lazos Sur-Sur (South-South Ties) alliance between Brazil and eight countries: Paraguay, Bolivia and Nicaragua in our region; Timor-Leste in Asia; y Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and *São Tomé-Príncipe* in Africa, for the eradication of the vertical transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother-to-child and the promotion of prevention of HIV transmission among adolescents and youths.

UNICEF also facilitated the south-south cooperation between the Ministries of Education and Health, Indigenous Peoples and Universities for improving management capacity within the indigenous education and health services. In this initiative the following countries were involved: Bolivia, Ecuador, and Brazil. In this framework, it continued training indigenous linguists in collaboration with the Government of Brazil and the University of Sao Paulo and continued to support the diffusion of the Guaraní Map. Subsequently, a meeting of the Guaraní Nation was held with the participation of MERCOSUR countries, including Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia.

UNICEF also provided technical assistance to the National Service for Environmental Sanitation (SENASA) for the implementation of water supply and sanitation projects in rural and indigenous communities of El Chaco, financed by the Structural Funds of Mercosur (FOCEM).

UNICEF forged ahead to diffuse the experiences of the Joint Programme Investment in People on monitoring social policies and investment among Latin American countries. This year representatives of the Nicaragua Parliament visited Paraguay with the purpose to see how it was implemented and adapt it to their context.

Country Programme Component: Child survival and development

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
- UNICEF will have strategically contributed to reinforce the National Response to reduce Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV&AIDS, to strengthen care of children infected and/or affected by HIV and to increase adolescents' knowledge on the ways to prevent the virus transmission.	2	FA3OT2
-At the end of the Programme cycle, UNICEF will have strategically contributed for pregnant women and under 5 children, especially the most vulnerable, to have access to quality maternal and child health services, safe water, food and nutritional security.	2	FA1OT8
-UNICEF will have contributed to strengthen national capacities for guaranteeing children's rights to education, focusing on the most excluded: indigenous, disabled and children living and rural areas.	2	FA2OT8

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	\$703,400.00	\$830,622.32	\$826,044.18	99.45%
RR	\$387,600.00	\$477,800.00	\$452,364.65	94.68%
Total	US\$1,091,000.00	US\$1,308,422.32	US\$1,278,408.83	

Results Achieved

UNICEF has contributed to **building capacity** of health professionals and community leaders on exclusive breastfeeding, neonatal and community Integrated Strategy on Prevalent Childhood Diseases and the 'Mother Canguro' initiative. It also supported training on the use of Guarani language and intercultural approach within health services. It helped to designing a **communication strategy and** communication action plan with child-rights, gender and intercultural approach, based on which various promotion and educational materials were produced.

UNICEF succeeded in **reinforcing the vaccination cold chain** with bipolar refrigerators for hard-to-reach communities where public electric systems are extremely deficient. It also provided technical assistant for designing the new National Vaccines Warehouse.

The First National Congress on Indigenous Health was conducted with UNICEF support, helping to strengthen dialogue and articulation between health authorities and indigenous leaders around indigenous health policies.

UNICEF provided support for training health workers to apply HIV and syphilis protocols, reinforcing the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and contributing to improve community-level care at the Family Health Units (FHU) in the most vulnerable regions. Thanks to technical assistance and comprehensive supervision from FHU's coordinators and PRONASIDA, it was possible to maintain services quality in providing pregnant women with adequate information and pre and post-test counselling.

Also, 31 children from 2 HIV Children Care Centers received psychosocial and learning strengthening support, allowing children to enrol in regular school and to have ties with relatives.

UNICEF worked with the National Service for Environmental Sanitation (SENASA), Departmental and Municipal authorities and community-based organisations (CBOs) to address WATSAN issues in rural and indigenous communities in the Chaco semiarid region. It provided financial and technical assistance to: (i) improve WATSAN programmes management with a dynamic information system piloted in one department, and the articulation between local authorities and CBOs towards the sustainability of WATSAN systems (ii) increase WATSAN services coverage, implementing family rainwater harvesting and sanitation systems, as well as 50 shallow tube wells, benefiting 22 indigenous communities (iii) improving the quality of drinking water by means of manufacturing family ceramic filters, provision of water treatment supplies and training, reaching 1000 families.

With UNICEF playing a key and strategic role, the ECD National Plan was validated in four regional forums and launched at the National Parliament. The process was conducted with an integrated approach, involving the Ministry of Education, Health and SNNA which points out to its sustainability. The Plan's implementation have started by creating a working group involving private sector, NGOs and government institutions.

UNICEF also facilitated the process of implementing the Law on indigenous education through indigenous teachers training, knowledge generation on indigenous cultures and languages and development of demonstrative initiatives on initial literacy. Moreover, participatory spaces were generated to discuss the right to education involving national authorities, women leaders, children and adolescents, indigenous and afro-descendent.

The Ministry of Education, with the support from the Joint Programme on Youth, Employment and Migration, started implementing the schooling model tailored to the needs of domestic employees, benefitting 150 women.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

This political campaign for the 2013 presidential elections has already started accentuating existing political fragmentation and division between and within political parties. This has negatively affected the social sectors, delaying the approval of programmes and budgets, as well as reducing the amount of budgetary resources for social services. As a consequence, the health sector had to deal with constant strikes of professional staff throughout the year, claiming for better labor conditions.

In this complex political context, the frequent changes of government authorities at the highest levels, with subsequent turnover in personnel at managerial and technical levels, both permanent staff members and contractors and new approaches to the work has delayed compliance with the cooperation programme as scheduled, especially in the education component.

The National Programme for HIV&AIDS (PRONASIDA) continues to be perceived as a services provider, a care center for people living with HIV&AIDS, instead of its role as the rector entity of the National Response. Some health services at local level continue to refer patients who need care to PRONASIDA in Asunción.

There are still insufficient statistics on certain high-risk groups, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men, indigenous people and others. The result is a lack of appropriate intervention to address these specific situations. Another issue is that comprehensive care for HIV+ abandoned or orphaned children is still the realm of religious organisations. The public sector has yet to act in this respect.

The limited amount of financial resources for the health and HIV&ADIS programme components has also been a constraint for UNICEF to have a more prominent and active role when advocating and negotiating for children's rights.

Although the country has progressed in terms of access to water supply and sanitation systems, a challenge to ensure the sustainability of such facilities in rural areas and indigenous communities remains. In addition, incorporating adequate hygiene practices for an optimal use of sanitary facilities and in-house water treatment and conservation is also a pending issue. Furthermore, the lack and dispersion of information within the sector is a matter that should be addressed.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The main strategic partners and allies in the health and HIV&AIDS sectors are the Ministry of Health, OPS/OMS and other UN system agencies, AECID and USAID. In the WATSAN sector, the local governments and civil society organisations have also played an important role in programme implementation.

The interagency collaboration between UNDP, OPS/OMS and ILO, the partnership with central and local Government institutions and community based organisations, within the Joint Programme 'Strengthening capacities for drinking water supply and sanitation policies design and implementation' allowed for (i) conducting a nationwide rapid assessment of water quality in dug wells, (ii) designing a communication plan on the right to quality drinking water and sanitation, (iii) strengthening the inter-institutional coordination role of the Technical Secretariat for Planning (STP), for an effective management of the Joint Programme.

The 'First Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility for ECD' was held to strengthen public-private alliances towards the implementation of the ECD Plan and to foster a Network of Private Companies for children.

Humanitarian Situations

UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Education to finalise the National Plan for Risk Management in the Education Sector, in the framework of the DIPECHO VI. The Plan was launched and the first steps for its implementation were done with the following activities: (i) diffusing and training of regional directors and supervisors, (ii) conforming the first School Risk Management Councils with the participation of community leaders and representatives from different local institutions.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

UNICEF contributed to capacity building and knowledge generation for improving the initial literacy in the mother tongue and the development of basic skills in Spanish and Guaraní. In this context, (i) a study was carried out on teachers skills in both languages and, (ii) a research was conducted on the efficiency of the didactic sequences methodology to improve learning on languages and mathematics which indicated positive trends in progressive improvement of students learning. The results of both will be used for policies designing against school dropout.

UNICEF gave technical support to conduct a study on initiatives for preventing violence in the classroom, as well as the Situation Analysis of children under 8 years of age as part of the ECD National Plan.

Future Work Plan

UNICEF will continue to support the country in the following activities:

- Developing advocacy and communication processes aiming at promoting and strengthening the community's primary health care as a strategy to achieve free and universal access to health services for the most vulnerable children, reducing gaps in poor rural and indigenous communities.
- Providing technical assistance to strengthen the 'Child friendly health services' initiative, focussing on exclusive breastfeeding by supporting the 'Amamanta Network' and hospitals and health services self-evaluations.
- Contribute to generate anthropometric information about on children under the age of 5I as a basis for advocacy and monitoring.
- Training and technical support for the implementation of the National Plan on Disaster Risk Management in the Education Sector (12 Months).
- Support the reinforcement of supervision within the National Programme for Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis.
- Identifying who and where the children excluded from school are and the bottlenecks impeding them to access the education system.
- Contribute to develop a monitoring system for indigenous education.
- Technical support for implementing and monitoring the ECD National Plan.
- Systematisation of successful experiences and lessons learned, particularly those concerning ECD National Plan, initial literacy, bilingual education Guarani and Spanish and indigenous education, seeking to contribute to improve education quality.
- Demonstrative experience on the application of the ECD National Plan at department and municipal levels.
- In the framework of the Water and Sanitation Joint Programme (PNUD/OPS-OMS/UNICEF and ILO), support will be provided for: (i) expanding the Dynamic Information System aiming at improving water supply and sanitation sector's management at national, departmental and municipal levels, (ii) identifying low cost appropriate technologies in water and sanitation, (iii) implementation of demonstrative systems in 4 indigenous communities of the Central Chaco region, (iv) carrying out a communication campaign at community level on the right of every child to have safe water and adequate sanitation facilities.
- Develop strategies to improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene education in schools focusing on hand washing promotion.

Country Programme Component: Public policies and child protection

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
-UNICEF will have contributed to create an environment that protect and guarantee children's rights against violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination, specially the most vulnerable and affected by poverty and exclusion.	2	FA4OT7
-UNICEF will have strategically contributed to the implementation of evidence-based public policies with a human-rights approach and adequate financing, in order to fight against poverty and inequities that affect children, within the framework of the MDGs and the 2010-2020 Paraguay for All Plan.	2	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	\$409,000.00	\$669,140.39	\$669,140.39	100.00%
RR	\$258,400.00	\$292,200.00	\$259,889.98	88.94%
Total	US\$667,400.00	US\$961,340.39	US\$929,030.37	

Results Achieved

The Joint Programme (JP) 'Investing in People,' continued analysing and following up the Government social programmes. It started to develop a pilot system to measure the effects of conditional cash transfer programmes (CCT) on children's school attendance, the idea is to progress towards impact measurement and encourage efficient use of funds.

In this framework, the JP continued supporting the Information and Management System of Paraguay (SIGPA) which is being used to manage data related to beneficiaries of the CCT Tekopora and Abrazo. It has also conducted a demonstrative experience in 11 urban and rural schools on the Tekopora conditionality related to education. The experience showed that children from benefitted families attend school more regularly and their school grades are better compared to those who do not receive cash transfers.

As a UN Joint effort, the 2010 National MDG Report was finalised and launched.

In child protection, UNICEF contributed to strengthen the institutional role of the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents(SNNA) which is the public institution in charge of articulating the design and implementation of inter-sector policies for children. In this framework, UNICEF provided technical support and guidance and developed communication and social mobilisation strategies in the areas of preventing child violence, abuse and exploitation, eradicating the worst forms of child labor, improving birth registration and penal juvenile justice.

UNICEF continued to give assistance for reinforcing the **inter-institutional table on the right to identity** which articulates national efforts to avoid overlaps, to optimise the use of available resources and simplify processes to issue child birth registration and identity cards. It also developed demonstrative initiatives that helped to reinforce institutional coordination at central and local levels while contributing to increase the number of children having birth registration in very vulnerable communities.

In this context, it provided technical assistance for field data collection on birth registration and identity of school children in 4 hard-to-reach municipalities along the Brazilian border, as well as for designing a communication and social mobilisation campaign as the basis for national authorities to issue birth certificates and identity cards to 11.750 children and their family members.

Under the SNNA leadership and UNICEF's support, the I Regional Meeting followed-up on the recommendations of the Global Report on Violence against Children. As a result, Paraguay created a working group consisting of government institutions and NGOs which has already developed a routing map for monitoring the implementation of the report's recommendations.

UNICEF continued to promote behaviour change based on 2010 campaign 'Learning Improves without Violence,' in alliance with different NGOs.

UNICEF supported the extension of the ABRAZO Programme, increasing assistance to 4,530 children (16% under 5 and 84% from 6 to 14) working on the streets and 2669 families. They receive school support, health services and food in 36 community centres. It works with children's families, raising awareness on children's rights and disadvantages of child labour.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Even if the conditional cash transfer programmes are significantly expanded, there is the need for a better monitoring of their impact on poor population, in particular on the most disadvantaged children.

Government efforts are underway to improve children's access to basic services. However, these initiatives continue to be insufficient in terms of providing assistance to children who are victims of violence and abuse. Although the current Government has progressed in the implementation of the National Protection System for Children and Adolescents, there is still much to do for it to function adequately, especially at decentralised level.

Although SNNA has done excellent work towards eradicating child labor on the streets and expended the Abrazo Programme, more efforts should be undertaken to fight other forms of hazardous child labor like children working in quarries, bricks and chalk factories, and garbage dumps and agriculture commercial production. Also, the SNNA should develop further efforts to fully implement the National System for the Promotion and Protection of Children Rights.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The Ministry of Finance, the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, the Social Action Secretariat are UNICEF's main strategic partners within the Joint Programme Investing in People. This has proven to be a successful tool to develop analysis and promote dialogue around social investment. However, the Programme needs better planning based on programmatic priorities of each agency, better internal coordination mechanisms and communication with government partners.

With UNDP, ILO, UNIFEM and UNFPA the 'Employment, Youth and Migration' Joint Programme has focussed on eradicating hazardous child labour. Also, strategic alliances with civil society organisations like CDIA (Coordinator of NGOs working for Children and Adolescents), Global Infancia, Plan International, Save the Children and ADRA, among others, were key to advance in different issues related to child protection.

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

The Income and Expenditures Survey, which is currently being conducted by the National Statistics Office, includes an anthropometric module aiming at measuring the nutritional situation of children under 5 years of age. The Survey's results will be available at the end of next year.

With UNICEF's assistance, the National Commission in charge of monitoring the situation of adolescents in prison visited the 5 prisons in the country. The Commission's report was presented to the Minister of Justice and Labour and actions are underway to improve living conditions of imprisoned adolescents, to keep them separated from adults and to improve follow up on legal processes.

Future Work Plan

UNICEF will provide assistance to:

- Following up social investment and developing information, communication and advocacy for increasing the amount, quality and sustainability of social investment, especially on the investment on excluded children, with stronger accountability. It will seek to strengthen visibility of the impact of economic and social policies on the living conditions of children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable. It will conduct systematic analysis on public social investment, as well as on the effects of conjunctural crisis on children. It will promote social debate and civil society participation on following up public budget allocation to social sectors and implementation.
- Provide technical assistance for monitoring the impact of conditional cash transfer programmes on children. It will support evidence-raising on the effect of CCT to alleviate child poverty and on breaking the cycle of intergenerational transmission of poverty.
- Provide support to reinforce the national statistics system with the purpose to better incorporate indicators on the most vulnerable and excluded children.
- Developing advocacy strategies on children's rights during electoral campaign.
- Reinforcing corporate social responsibility, fostering alliances and engaging both existing and potential new corporate partners to advance children's rights.
- Give technical support for a participatory evaluation of the National System for the Promotion and Protection of Children Rights, as a basis to advocate for adequate legislative adjustments and budget allocation, so that it can be fully implemented at the different levels of public administration.
- Identification of bottlenecks, studies and proposals for legislative adjustments on birth registration.
- Systematisation and diffusion of the Abrazo Programme experience for eradication of child labor on the streets.
- Provide technical assistance to the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents and other partners to combat other forms of hazardous child labour.
- Information and communication on alternative ways to educate children without violence, lending continuity to programmes that support prevention and attention to abuse, corporal punishment and violence towards children and adolescents in their immediate environments.
- Continue supporting the articulation among government institutions and civil society organisations at central and local levels to give all children birth registration and identity cards, as well as development of demonstrative experiences for achieving universal birth registration.
- Advocate for the fulfillment of the rights of children in coordination with the National System for the Promotion and Protection of Children Rights to keep adolescents out of the penal system, as well as for generating educational initiatives for adolescents in conflict with the Law for their recovery and social reinsertion.

Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral costs

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Management of the programme of cooperation is carried out efficiently.	0	FA6OT9

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				
RR	\$100,000.00	\$112,000.00	\$100,764.60	89.97%
Total	US\$100,000.00	US\$112,000.00	US\$100,764.60	

Results Achieved

- Programme planning, implementation and monitoring & evaluation were conducted with efficiency and effectiveness.
- Human, logistic and material resources needed were provided according to planning.
- Advocacy, information and communication have supported accomplishing the objectives of UNICEF 's cooperation.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

N/A

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

N/A

Humanitarian Situations

N/A

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

N/A

Future Work Plan

N/A

Effective Governance Structure

The management and coordination mechanisms established by the organisation have operated systematically in the Office during the year: Country Management Team (CMT), the Contract Review Committee (CRC), the Property Survey Board (PSB), the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) and the Local Training Committee and the Programme Board.

In the second semester, the CMT has been adjusted in terms of roles and membership, incorporating the Programme Board's functions, with the purpose to avoid overlaps and optimising the use of time and resources. The CMT started to meet every week in the new modality as opposed to once a month. All staff meetings were organised at least once a month, to further strengthen information sharing and participation of staff members in the CO management. All staff members had an active participation in the process of preparation of strategy and plan of action for the 2-year extension of the Country Programme.

The CMT took a leadership role in addressing the following core issues among others: the preparation of the Annual Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Work Plans (AWP) and PBR proposal for the incorporation of Paraguay CO in the Southern Cone Processing Center.

Strategic Risk Management

Risk management has been present in several areas of action of this Office, especially in the revision and selection process of its counterparts and allies. In preparation of the 2011 Annual Management Plan, the risk profile of the Office was updated.

The Business Continuity Plan has been revised and updated, tested and adjusted. Training sessions have been provided on remote access to IT systems using Citrix. In this regard, the staff has worked at home using PROMS and Lotus.

Evaluation

As part of the AMP formulation, the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) was prepared establishing key studies, situation analysis and evaluations to be conducted during the year. The IMEP was discussed with partners in the framework of the preparation of the Annual Work Plan and was reviewed and updated regularly.

The CO reviewed key administrative processes (contracts, DCT, supply, and travel) to adjust the flow chart in anticipation of the arrival of the new Representative. Taking into account the heavy workload with VISION training and migration activities in the last three months of year, the revision of the AMP and AWP was postponed for the beginning of next year.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

In 2011, the UNICEF Paraguay Office continued its efforts to prepare its ICT infrastructure for the implementation of organisational improvement initiatives, such as Vision and modernisation of office environment, etc.

The office migrated from SITA link to UNICEF IPsec link. This helped reduce costs and enhance the speed of the Internet service. Also, the primary connection was upgraded from 2Mb to 4Mb to support the bandwidth requirement of Vision, VoIP, Webex and Skype, etc.

A hyper-V host machine based on Windows Server 2008 R2 is up and running in the office. Several physical machines were converted into virtual machines. ~~Next year will continue with other servers.~~ The adoption of server virtualisation will help reduce the hardware footprint, software license costs, maintenance costs, and further improve efficiency and ICT management capabilities. This is the first step that include the **green IT at the Office** (implementation of energy-efficient hardware).

All computers used by staff member are Windows 7 compatible. UNICEF standard image including Windows 7 and MS Office 2010 have been successfully introduced in the office. 30% of the critical staff members are currently equipped with a laptop.

Corporate applications were upgraded to their latest version according to the global release plan in a timely manner. Virus definition and security patches on all machines are also updated on all machines according to schedule.

The office routinely improves its telecommunication systems to provide efficient and effective service to the users and to reduce costs. VoIP has been working very well and the office telephone system will be replaced next year with an advanced IP PBX system.

Key staff members have been furnished with blackberries for efficient communication.

The office also made efforts to strengthen its emergency preparedness and business continuity capacity. ICT disaster and recovery plan was tested as planned and updated accordingly to support the office business continuity requirements.

The office continued to be MOSS compliant. Emergency telecom facilities were tested regularly.

The Regional ICT Officer recently came to perform an IT Assessment, BCP Review, Security Assessment and SAP/Vision readiness of the office. He has completed the IT assessment using an ICT Audit Questionnaire and sent a report with the results of the IT Assessment which included some issues and recommendations, that the office is taking the appropriate measures to rectify any errors.

Technical assistance and support are extended to the interagency project "Investing in People" (UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) that generates more demand which is complemented by an ITC consulting firm every year.

Fund Raising and Donor Relations

Although the Office was able to cover its needs in terms of financial resources, it has been greatly dependent on Thematic Funds to meet its programmatic goals. Thematic funds allocations were received in the areas of child survival & development, education and protection and the Swedish Committee maintained its support to fight against child labor.

The elaboration and submission of funding proposals to potential donors was conducted throughout the

year. The main initiatives in this regard were: (i) preparation of the Fundraising Toolkit for MTSP Focus Area 1 and submission to PFP Geneva, (ii) elaboration of the Chaco sub-regional proposal on indigenous education, (iii) formulation of the funding proposal on monitoring social investment which was uploaded to the PFP Geneva Fundraising Market Place web page.

There five donor reports available in 2011 were submitted on time. The Communication section contributed towards the production of materials required to respond to the special needs of the UNICEF Committees, such as life stories and/or audiovisuals.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

The coordination between the Operations Area and the Programme Area considerably improved during the year. The systematic participation of the Operations Officer in the weekly meetings of the Programme Board/CMT, as well as permanent interaction prior to decision-making and on-the-job training of programme and operations assistants were at the forefront in terms of the guidelines and regulations on financial and administrative aspects. This has aided in fluent transactions and avoided costs associated with reprocesses.

A large percentage of administrative and financial activities were adjusted in view of the implementation of VISION and IPSAS. All staff members received training on key topics to ensure full functioning after VISION-go-live in January.

The weaknesses identified in 2010 regarding the monitoring of programme implementation were addressed by a systematic review of programme implementation, conducted in the Programme Board/CMT meetings throughout the year. This helped to identify and correct obstacles on a timely basis. Follow-up of pending outstanding liquidations has been carried out regularly. Both the Programmes and Operations Areas work synergistically to achieve timely and quality liquidations. The most important indicator at the end of 2011 was that the pending liquidations between 6 and 9 months was at 0% and more than the nine months of balances.

PIDB codes were reviewed and adjusted to reflect with greater precision the object of the activities that have been carried out.

For 2011, about 16% of the Regular Resources were allocated to operational costs, complementing the insufficient allocation of Support Budget and almost 58% of the RR was used to pay staff salaries. The building's maintenance costs continued to increase in spite of cost-reduction efforts. The building is rather old with its air conditioning system and elevators needing repair. In efforts to reduce the building's common costs (UN House), for the first time since the end of 2010 it was possible to report a reduction in the electricity bill as a result of important factors: (i) continuous awareness-raising on the rational use of electricity as one of the objectives of the Green Office Initiative, (ii) change of electricity costs from the Commercial rate to the Government rate.

Supply Management

As UNICEF's cooperation in Paraguay is focused on public policies, the procurement of supplies was minimal and limited (5% in relation to programme and support budgets). Although local procurement processes have improved substantially, the following constraints such as insufficient providers, difficulties for providers to comply with all the documentation requested by UNICEF, and late implementation of AWP supply activities.

Human Resources

On January 2011, the regional office informed that Paraguay would be part of the Southern Cone Processing Center (SCPC), beginning on January 2013. The Office prepared all the PBR documentation with possible scenarios, but the office proposal was not approved. Instead, the Regional PBR approved the abolishment of three posts (Operations Officer, Operations Assistant and Adm/Fin Assistant) and the establishment of a new GS6 post titled Operations Assistant, among other minor changes.

The decision process adopted by the Regional Office to incorporate Paraguay in the SCPC has had a strong impact on staff morale. Nevertheless, the affected staff members have continued to work with high commitment and sense of responsibility. Special attention, guide and support to staff on abolished posts are carried out by Senior Managers, Local Staff Association and Regional Office. In this line, two of the staff in this situation received funds for learning purposes from TACRO budget.

PAS (Personnel Appraisal System) implementation has been a priority for management this year.

Human Resources Focal Point performed a continuous follow up on the actions taken by NY and TACRO for the implementation of continuing appointments.

The CO funded the training for a second Peer Support Volunteer in order to improve counseling resources available locally.

According to the Annual Workplan of the UN CARES interagency group, a survey was conducted to all staff to assess minimum knowledge regarding HIV & AIDS in the work place, as well as the agencies received male condoms to be available for all staff.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The estimated operational cost savings with the incorporation of the Paraguay CO to the South Cone Processing Center One are around 90 thousand US\$ annually.

Changes in AMP and CPMP

The most significant change in 2012 Annual Management is related to the implementation of VISION, reinforcing the results-based approach in planning and monitoring the programme of cooperation. The Office will also need to start adjusting its operation mechanisms in view of its integration to the SCPC.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

Acronyms:

AECID	Spanish Agency for Cooperation and International Development
ANDI-LAC	News Agency for Children's Rights-Latin American and Caribbean Network
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
DIPECHO	European Commission for Disaster Preparedness
CEDAW Women	Convention for the Eradication of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
C4D	Communication for Development
CMT	Country Management Team
CO	Country Office
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPD	Country Programme Document
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
DAPSAN	National Water and Sanitation Department
DGEEC	General Statistics and Census Directorate
ECD	Early Child Development
FHU	Family Health Units
FOCEM	Mercosur Structural and Convergence Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTI	Technical Inter- institutional Group
GS	General Services
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IADB	Inter- American Development Bank
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMEP	Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
IRP	Personal Income Tax
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MOSS	Minimum Operations Security Standards
MTSP	Medium Term Strategic Plan
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
NY	New York
PAHO/WHO	Panamerican Health Organization/World Health Organization
PFP	Programme?? Fundraising and Partnerships
PBR	Programme Budget Review
PRONASIDA	National Programme for HIV& SIDA
SAP	Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing
SCPC	South-Cone Processing Center
SENASA	National Service for Environmental Sanitation.
SIGPA	Information and Management System of Paraguay
SITAN	Situation Analysis
SNNA	National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents
STP	Technical Secretariat for Planning
TACRO	UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNETE	United Nations Emergency Team
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF
UN-WOMEN
Women.
USAID
WATSAN

United Nations Children Fund
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of
United States Agency for International Development
Water and Sanitation

Document Centre

Evaluation

	Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
1	Rapid Assessment of water quality in dug wells.	2011/29	Evaluation
2	Diagnosis of Early Childhood situation in Paraguay	2011/30	Situation Analysis
3	Research-serie on traditional Indigenous games of 4 linguistic families	2011/31	Study
4	Research on Fauna and Flora in the indigenous territories of the Enxet and Sanapaná peoples	2011/32	Study
5	Experience documentation on youth and adults education in the Qom indigenous people	2011/33	Study

Other Publications

	Title
1	Poster on Children's Rights
2	Poster of hand washing technique - reprinted
3	Poster of the Campaign "Without violence you educate better"
4	2012 UNICEF Calendars on ECD
5	Guide for parents: How to set limits to children: "Without Violence you educate better"
6	Compilation of the Child Rights Convention and the National Law (New Edition)
7	Guide for Catholic Church Pastoral's leaders
8	Brochures and Manuals about children's nutrition in school environment
9	School kit on Children's Rights (CRC version for kids and games)
10	National Plan for Risks's Management
11	Notebooks, guidelines and certificates for adolescents - 1x100 for HIV Prevention
12	5 thematic brochures on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
13	Manual for radio journalists about Cash Transfers and its social impact
14	ECD National Plan (Folder- Diagnosis - Plan - Summary version)

Lessons Learned

Programme Documents

	Title	Document Type
1	Diagnosis of Early Childhood situation in Paraguay	ECD SITAN
2	ECD National Plan	National Plan