

# UNICEF ANNUAL REPORT for Russian Federation



## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While indicators for Russia's children overall continue to improve, equity gaps and risks for exclusion persist. Accounting for only one-fourth of the Region's child population, Russia's children represent two-thirds of the Region's children affected by various inequities, such as separation from biological families, exposure to HIV, and exclusion from schools due to disability. In spite of the successful adoption of comprehensive and resourced plans by some Regions the response overall remains marginally effective in the absence of clear federal policies, standards and criteria for budget allocations in social protection.

Major results in the 2010 programme of cooperation include the strengthened capacity of the expanding child rights ombudsperson (CRO) network and the development of regional programmatic guidelines on child abandonment and disability, in partnership with the Foundation for Children Living in Difficult Situations. Cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office (Rosstat) has resulted in the publishing of the first federal statistical yearbook on youth, with indicators disaggregated by region, sex and age. Youth-friendly clinics operating in more than 30 regions benefit now from a federal certification mechanism and technical resource centre. In joining the Child-Friendly City Initiative, 16 municipalities and towns (5 with population of over one million) have committed to implement the CRC at the city level through existing and prospective plans, budgets and institutions.

In 2011, the final one-year technical extension of the Country Programme agreed upon in 2010, UNICEF and partners will consolidate results in prioritizing: capacity strengthening of federal institutions in child rights monitoring; establishment of knowledge management networks in adolescent's health and municipal policies; and finalization of tool kits for regional planners in child protection and inclusive education. An equity-focused situation analysis will inform policy development in the wake of the Presidential address giving priority to children, and simultaneously to the country's reporting to the UNCRC.

Encouraged by promising results in 2010, the UNICEF Country Office (CO) will further engage the Russian Federation as a provider of technical resources and expertise for CIS countries, a partner in advocacy for children's issues in the G8/G20, and a donor to UNICEF programmes globally. Joint efforts will continue to increase private sector donations to UNICEF programmes.

## 2. COUNTRY SITUATION AS AFFECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN

*Economy & Poverty:* The economy continued to recover from the global financial recession, with real income increasing, accumulated wage arrears decreasing, and unemployment decreasing to almost 2007 pre-crisis level. Even so, economic uncertainties remain and children are 1.7 times more at risk of entering poverty than the general population. Budget reform was adopted to improve expenditure efficiency, linking funds to target indicators/timelines to improve efficiency. Although the government plans to increase the fiscal space to almost 6% of GDP over 3 years, World Bank experts question if these actions are enough to address additional spending pressures emerging due to an aging population. Increased demand for pensions and health care could negatively impact child-related spending. Already in 2010, important budget cuts have impacted social sectors including health and education.

*Demographics and Health:* The government has developed the healthcare infrastructure, contributing to Russia's 3.7 year increase in average life-expectancy, 20% increase in birth rate, and 12% and 26% decrease respectively in mortality and infant mortality. Despite this the child population continues to shrink and young people and vulnerable groups are benefiting less. Promotion of healthy lifestyles remains a challenge, with anti-

alcohol and anti-smoking campaigns continuing in 2010. Russia's high adolescent mortality is another signal of young people's vulnerability and limited well-being. HIV continues to be a fast growing epidemic with 469,412 HIV-infected people, 64.8% men and 35.2% women. The HIV prevalence rate has reached 0.3% of the total population.

### **Growing Opportunities**

*Institutional developments.* Even though it still requires the guarantee of its independence through specific legislation, the federal Child Rights Ombudsperson (CRO) post established under the President at end-2009 provided strong momentum for development of similar regional offices, reaching 59 in 2010. The Foundation to Support Children in Difficult Life Situations (the "Foundation") worked with regional administrations and civil society to better address the needs of the most vulnerable children. Both are key institutional partners for UNICEF helping to raise the profile of children's rights in Russia.

Addressing regional disparities from 1985 to 2007, the Gini coefficient in the 83 regions almost doubled from 0.24 to 0.42, showing increasing inequalities between the wealthiest and poorest. These disparities affect children and families, especially regarding the quality of health and education services for disadvantaged groups and in rural areas.

Child Rights are a high political priority. The President's recent annual Federal Assembly address underscored child rights as a priority for the political agenda, proposing greater support for families and highlighting child population groups that require greater attention.

### **Remaining Child-Related Challenges**

*Children without parental care.* At the end of 2009, children without parental care comprised 2.79% of the child population. The majority of such children are in family settings, but 18% (130,000) live in state institutions. Deprivation of parental rights cases has decreased slightly, while abandonment at birth remains stable. Even though the Regions reduced the number of children in state care institutions, the inflow of children into state care has not declined.

Other areas requiring continued advocacy to counter stigma and exclusion include:

*Children with disabilities.* There is almost a complete lack of infrastructure for people with disabilities and strategies require a multi-sector approach that considers children's needs for social integration from birth through to adulthood and entrance, as feasible, into the labour market.

*Children with HIV.* More than 52,000 children have been born to HIV-positive parents, of whom, more than 3,800 children have tested HIV-positive and another 22,000 are waiting to establish their HIV-status. Over 600 HIV-positive children have been abandoned. Though 96% of HIV-positive children have access to needed ARV-treatment, nearly 10% do not have caregivers to properly administer it.

*Children as victims of violence.* In 2009, 108,700 children became victims of violence and out of these 1,600 died and 2,400 experienced severe injuries. Only slightly lower than 2008 figures, these numbers underscore the need for stronger protection mechanisms to prevent violence – in the home, at schools and on the street.

*Children in conflict with the law.* Though the percent of children sentenced for crimes in comparison to all crimes has decreased to 6.3% (2009), this figure is still high and should be carefully addressed. More than 58% of children who are registered with Commissions of Minors (agencies responsible for registration of children with deviant behaviour) are children from single parent families or without parents.

## **3. CP ANALYSIS & RESULT**

### **3.1 CP Analysis**

#### **3.1.1 CP Overview:**

In 2010, UNICEF and the Russian Federation have devoted considerable effort to further transform their programmatic engagement by:

- 1/ ensuring sustainability of results at scale by analyzing, documenting, and disseminating lessons learnt through networks of specialists and policy makers from Regions especially in HIV, youth health and child protection; specific programmes in the North Caucasus Republics have been successfully handed over to the Republics administrations (e.g. health and landmines);
- 2/ further developing programming guidelines and toolkits for Russia's regional and municipal administrations based on best practices identified in some pioneer Regions in the prevention of child separation from families, and inclusive education, as well as monitoring tools for municipal administrations to assess the situation of children, budgets and plans;
- 3/ strengthening the capacity of key child rights monitoring institutions such as the Association for Child Rights' Ombudspersons through the initiation of an in-service and pre-service curriculum and the development of a national statistical yearbook on children disaggregated by region, age and sex with Rosstat, the Federal Statistical Office;
- 4/ further partnering with the Duma, the Public Chamber, Media, Private Sector and Regional and Municipal administrations to promote children's rights and ensure their centrality in addressing 3 key challenges facing the country - demography, modernisation and social cohesion; and
- 5/ identifying best practices and expertise from the Russian Federation to support other countries of the CEE/CIS region, especially on young people's health and development, ombudspersons for children's rights, decentralised planning for child protection and peace and tolerance.

In preparation for the country submission to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (March 2011), UNICEF supported the CRO report on critical problems in implementation of child rights within the Russian Federation, as well as special thematic reports. In addition, UNICEF has initiated a Situation Analysis with a focus on equity and social exclusion. Such initiatives are expected to contribute to the work of partners involved in policy formulation resulting from the 2010 Presidential Address and the top priority given to children, and the country submission to the UNCRC.

#### **3.1.2 Programme Strategy**

##### **3.1.2.1 Capacity Development:**

In its final year of the 2006-2010 programme cycle, UNICEF and partners aimed at consolidating lessons learned in child protection, social policy, and YPHD to compile a set of guidance documents, strategies and best practices within key areas of child protection for Russia. For example, within the YPHD programme, capacity development exceeded the planned five regional networks of Youth-Friendly Services (YFHS), to encompass six regions, including both regional capitals and rural outreach with most at-risk adolescents (MARA) receiving health, social and psycho-social support. The YFHS accreditation process allows for local capacity building of health service providers as well as standard setting in services delivered. To meet the growing demand from regions and municipalities, there is now an urgent need to expand the Russian expert rosters of qualified trainers and certifiers and further build reference centres. With minimal input (USD300,000 for 23 clinics) UNICEF was able to leverage political will and resources from regions, which have devoted their own resources to support renovations of building and salaries. In addition UNICEF and partner have documented and shared best

practices with distant rural areas difficult to reach through on-going and systematic training.

Within the CFCI, UNICEF has developed tools and facilitated mutual exchange of experience and learning among municipal authorities on plans, budgets, monitoring systems and child participation. In child protection, capacity building efforts target regional and municipal authorities in adopting standards and policies to strengthen child protection systems and improve quality of services. In the Northern Caucasus, more than 5000 teachers and service providers have been trained to address psycho-social needs of children and facilitate cross-cultural communication to ease tensions among youth in the region.

### **3.1.2.2 Effective Advocacy:**

The child rights ombudsperson institution was significantly strengthened by having the federal child rights ombudsperson subsumed under the President's Office. The regional ombudspersons network expanded from 20 in 2008 to 59 of the possible 83 regions in 2010, reflecting the importance that national and regional authorities place on having such an institution.

After years of disappointing efforts to introduce iodized salt into the Russian market in an effort to avoid mental retardation in children and adults due to iodine deficiency, UNICEF and partners finally saw a breakthrough with the government-controlled bread-baking factories who have agreed to review the option of using iodized salt in their bread-baking. Implications of such a decision are widespread as 80% of the Russian Federation still purchases bread coming from such factories. Another example is found within the YPHD component wherein two ministries (the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Ministry of Education and Science) have adopted a Strategy on Adolescent Health and Development (also harmonized with the European Strategy adopted in 2005).

Efforts to promote inclusive education are showing promising results in regions which have adopted new models of inclusion, with children less likely to be placed in institutions as a result of their disability. A Policy Paper on Social Inclusion for children with disabilities is being finalized as part of a national advocacy effort to influence how regional authorities budget for children and families living with disabilities.

More broadly, the recognition of children and key protection issues as priorities for the country in the Presidential address reflect the long-term advocacy and alliances built by UNICEF and partners over the years in the promotion of children's rights in the Russian Federation. While progress is made at regional level, there is still a need to develop common vision, policy, results-based budgeting and standards at the federal level, especially in child protection.

### **3.1.2.3 Strategic Partnerships:**

UNICEF continued to build on its successful relationship with the Foundation to bring together civil society and child ombudspersons at three regional workshops to promote deinstitutionalization. Furthermore, our relations with the federal ombudsman's office facilitated our joint advocacy efforts to highlight the need to counter violence against children in Russia by improving early identification and referral systems – part of which is the national helpline for children re-launched under one national telephone number in 2010.

Work with ROSSTAT, the Russian Statistical Agency evolved, resulting in a second joint publication focusing on *Youth In Russia*. Data on their health, well being and social situation is particularly important in light of the higher suicide rate revealed for this group through a 2010 UNICEF study on adolescent mortality.

UNICEF worked closely with corporate donors to promote public-private sponsorship of local initiatives to support children in need. UNICEF and IKEA launched their soft toy

campaign launch with 'Miss Russia' contest for children with disabilities and a second campaign on Children's Rights. In addition:

- IKEA's 2010 soft toy initiative is expected to raise over US\$1.0 Million. Running during November–December 2010, this campaign provided an excellent opportunity to build awareness about UNICEF among millions of Russian customers.
- Pampers "1 Pack=1 Vaccine" programme supports maternal tetanus, donating a vaccine for every package of Pampers sold. UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador, Oksana Federova, travelled with a UNICEF-Pampers team to Laos to build awareness on this issue, and to observe this programme in action.
- Amway's "Child Smile" Campaign has created more than 65 sensory rooms and playgrounds in children's institutions throughout Russia.
- Tupperware has supported inclusive education through repairing and purchasing new equipment for children in a variety of venues such as schools, kindergartens, and museums.

#### **3.1.2.4 Knowledge Management:**

As Russia transitions from a recipient of foreign aid to the status of an international donor, UNICEF's relationship with Russia also has shifted to capitalize on human resources and knowledge accumulated by Russian experts in areas related to the UNICEF mandate. A step towards achieving this goal is a knowledge base on the CEECIS regional intranet (launched in October 2010) to share best practices within child protection, social policy, health, youth-friendly services, and also to promote Russian experts within the CIS region and globally. In child protection, YPHD, HIV and CFCI, UNICEF and partners systematically identify experiences coming out of community-based organisations serving the most vulnerable families and children; and discuss lessons learnt through regional conferences and workshops to help regions and cities develop their plans and policies, harmonise practices, and develop standards. Knowledge management is integral to capacity development.

The major achievements for 2010 reflect the growing interest in using data for policy development and responses. ROSSTAT in collaboration with UNICEF published the country's first ever report on children in 2010 and is also finalizing a report on youth in Russia (to be printed in January 2011). This together with the use of DevInfo can shine the light on sectors of the population that hitherto have gone unnoticed. Development of Russia-Info has changed our government colleagues' attitudes towards the use of this database, seeing the value of Russia-Info as a monitoring tool for initiatives such as child-friendly cities. Increased interest has resulted in the establishment of a DevInfo council in Russia, which could become a body to maintain and further develop DevInfo database technology.

#### **3.1.2.5 C4D Communication for Development:**

During 2010 UNICEF's data and opinion was mentioned 8,500 times in Russian media and 21,000 times in the blogosphere. The more than 50 press releases developed and regular attendance at press conferences has helped profile critical equity gaps for children and generate public debate and demand. Main stories covered in 2010 were the presentation of adolescent mortality report, launch of the Children in Russia statistical report for ROSSTAT, and the Blame and Banishment Report (September 2010). UNICEF country office (CO) leveraged external partners (French Embassy, Federal Ombudspersons Office and the Council of Europe) to focus attention on the need for an integrated strategy to combat violence against children. UNICEF CO also continued to liaise with Russian authorities for support to children globally, successfully leveraging funds from Russia for Haiti, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. The country report to the UNCRC in 2011 will provide opportunities for children's rights that UNICEF and partners must capitalize on.

### **3.1.3 Normative Principles**

#### **3.1.3.1 Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation:**

A human rights based approach to cooperation is at the core of UNICEF Russia programming. Despite positive economic growth and recovery from the global financial crisis, some segments of Russian society remain vulnerable: the poor, in particular women and children, disabled, socially excluded (due to ethnicity, gender, age, religion) or otherwise stigmatized. Using data from research (periodically undertaken jointly with ROSSTAT) targeting children and youth to inform its support, UNICEF specifically assists the government and civil society partners to promote the rights of the most vulnerable groups and improve their access to services through its programmes on inclusive education, social inclusion of migrant children, deinstitutionalization, and health care services for most at risk adolescents.

In 2010 several initiatives to promote equity and inclusion were undertaken. A policy paper to promote deinstitutionalization was developed with partners to be shared with regional decision-makers as an advocacy tool; focus group discussions were held with children with disabilities to develop a child-friendly version of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities; focus group discussions were held with school children in St. Petersburg and Moscow to ascertain their awareness and understanding of their rights. Results were presented to the Moscow child rights ombudsperson and educational representatives from all districts of Moscow, who are taking action based on report recommendations.

Building on gaps identified within the equity tracker, a Situation Analysis was initiated in consultation with government, civil society and academia, focusing on barriers to inclusion for the most vulnerable children in Russia. The analysis will be based on the general measures of the CRC, examining situations that contribute to deprivation of rights of the most vulnerable children, and will feed into Russia's periodic submission to the Committee of the CRC.

An in-depth analysis of how cash-transfers and decentralization measures are impacting the poorest families in the regions will be used to focus the attention of duty bearers on the particular needs of vulnerable children. A final element will address participation of children in decision-making processes looking specifically at the Child Friendly City initiative and how child-friendly budgeting can be implemented on a regular basis.

#### **3.1.3.2 Gender Equality and Mainstreaming:**

In 2010, UNICEF undertook a gender assessment of its programme of cooperation in the North Caucasus (NC). Its main recommendations, currently addressed, are summarized below:

- UNICEF's NC partners showed basic level of gender sensitivity and competence, but capacity building is needed.
- Awareness raising and capacity building of state officials and public servants is needed (e.g. the Committee of Youth Affairs and other line ministries).
- Stereotypes about fatherhood, role of fathers for well-being of children should be addressed.
- Collection of disaggregated data and gender analysis should be conducted; gender mainstreaming should be the focus in ongoing/future research.
- Monitoring of gender issues in programming to improve gender-responsiveness should continue (e.g. phone hotline).
- Include gender issues in manuals for extracurricular work in educational facilities.
- Ensure gender sensitivity in development of youth entrepreneurship programme.

Within the UNCT, UNICEF actively contributed to the UN input to the CEDAW review of the country report. Along with other agencies, UNICEF highlighted the need for the development of national goals, policy and monitoring, more effective strategies to combat violence against women, greater effort to promote family planning and sex education in the face of decreasing but still high numbers of unwanted pregnancies resulting in high number of abortions, and still increasing HIV epidemic. The report also

underlined that in many regions of the Russian Federation, the situation of women and their personal, family, community and social status is often defined by traditional practices, which prevail over the federal laws. Such practices impose severe constraints on women's ability to choose and participate in society. Little recourse is available for women to resist imposition and report violations. UNICEF also identified the unfolding crisis as likely to have a disproportionate impact on women, as they are already over-represented among the poorest households, i.e. single headed households with children.

### **3.1.3.3 Environmental Sustainability:**

## **3.2 Programme Components:**

**Title: *HIV/AIDS and Young People's Health and Development***

### **Purpose:**

The key objectives for the YPHD and HIV Programme in the 2006-2010 Programme Cycle are to contribute to nationwide initiatives that achieve the following

- At least 50% of young people 10-18 years old, including those most vulnerable, acquire knowledge and life skills to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection and other threats to their health and well-being, and 30% have access to services;
- 50% decrease in the rate of transmission of HIV from mother-to-child (MTCT);
- Existence of policies and strategies that ensure provision of a comprehensive care and support services package for HIV-affected children and families, and increased capacity of young people to make decisions that influence their lives.

In 2010, the YPHD & HIV Programme supported the government in its efforts to achieve these results by:

- Strengthening and expanding integrated child and youth-oriented HIV/AIDS policies through the scaling up of youth-friendly health services (YFHS); investing in capacity building for relevant professional communities to establish a solid YFHS resource network; and supporting field-level efforts to establish YFHS in line with international standards adapted to local nuances;
- Raising awareness of and attention to broader youth issues; summarising accumulated experiences of UNICEF-supported YFHS projects in Russian regions and making it available for health, social protection and education specialists who are responsible for supporting adolescents' and young people's health and well-being;
- Enhancing prevention of HIV transmission from parents to children, and care and support to HIV-affected and infected children;
- Promoting proven capacity building approaches for educators on HIV prevention and prevention of stigmatization and discrimination against people living with/affected by HIV to enhance HIV-affected and HIV-infected children's access to mainstream education and be in discrimination-free environments.

### **Resources Used:**

<b>Donor:</b> (in thousands, USD)	<b>2010</b>
<b>UNICEF Regular Resources</b>	<b>73.0</b>
<b>Other Resources – Outside Donors:</b>	<b>1,544.44</b>
UNICEF Thematic Funding for HIV/AIDS	389.4
UNICEF National Committees (German, Netherlands)	627.0

European Commission	14.6
Corporate fundraising in Russia	510.3
Individual fundraising in Russia	3.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1617.4</b>

## **Result Achieved:**

### **1. YPHD**

Key results included:

- Strengthening national adolescent health resources through the YFHS Training and Methodological Centre, providing technical assistance to approximately 250 specialists on adolescent reproductive health and prevention of risky health behaviours and enhancing professional links between Russian/CIS and European medical specialists;
- Consolidating Russia's 10-year experience in developing YFHS through an international conference involving 360 people from 30 Russian regions and 5 CIS countries;
- Implementing YFHS accreditation process, increasing the quality of medical and social services for adolescents with accreditation of 9 adolescent health centres in 2010;
- Expanding YFHS to 6 regions, establishing networks of 35 YFHS; and developing YFHS for most-at-risk adolescents in an additional 6 regions.

Experts from St. Petersburg Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Studies continued to be UNICEF's strategic partners in helping expand national capacity on innovative adolescent health practices. Conducting the third Russian-language summer school on adolescent health for 39 specialists from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, these specialists have taken a lead in creating opportunities for CIS colleagues and other Russian-speaking specialists to build technical expertise on adolescent health issues.

With a critical mass of adolescent health experts, knowledge, methodologies and technology available in institutions and on websites, the interest in YFHS has increased exponentially among regions. Establishment of YFHS involves direct government buy-in, where regional administrations participate in YFHS orientation meetings to develop the number and locations of YFHS. The development of YFHS incorporates young people from the beginning by conducting YFHS training jointly for specialists and young people, thereby ensuring young people's voices and perspectives are effectively included.

### **2. HIV**

#### *HIV Prevention -- PMTCT*

UNICEF continued to provide strategic information and technical support to the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Federal Surveillance Service, the Republican Clinical Infectious Disease Hospital, the Federal Children's AIDS Centre, as well as regional health and social service authorities and practitioners.

Key contributions to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) initiatives included:

- Upgrade of the national PMTCT monitoring database, improving the Federal Children's AIDS Centre's monitoring capacity to provide region-specific PMTCT information;
- Development of a new PMTCT Bulletin with an overview of PMTCT coverage and outcomes from 1996 to 2008, made available for federal, regional and municipal decision-makers;
- Establishment of a methodological letter regarding HIV among pregnant women and children and prevention of HIV peri-natal transmission, disseminating among regional health authorities and using for preparation of Russia's Country Progress Report on the Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;
- Technical and financial assistance in development of a summary PMTCT report in five regions, with specific policy and practice recommendations for continuum of PMTCT,

treatment of care for mothers and children.

#### *Provision of Treatment, Care and Support to HIV-affected Children*

Linking advocacy for effective PMTCT policies with promotion of policies and practices for comprehensive medical and social care to HIV-affected women and children, UNICEF supported six regions' development and adoption of policies that integrate psycho-social support into one package of medical and social care services for pregnant women, mothers and infants in especially difficult life situations, including those affected by HIV. As a result, more than 5,000 HIV-affected children and HIV-positive pregnant women and mothers gained access to improved PMTCT, ARV treatment, and psycho-social support. Over the past 2-3 years, these regions' MTCT rates have dropped from over 10% to less than 5%.

#### *Protection of HIV-affected Children from Discrimination*

To enhance access to pre-school and primary school education for HIV-affected children, UNICEF along with the Federal Ministry of Education rolled out a special advocacy, communication and capacity building programme in 8 regions, reaching caregivers, educators and administrators at 2,050 schools, kindergartens and residential institutions. A total of 8,380 educators received comprehensive HIV education and evidence-informed tips on how to support positive learners in classrooms. A special training programme was offered to residential care institution staff to develop their capacity in care, treatment and psycho-social support to HIV-infected children left without parental care.

After training, more than 90% (versus 45% pre-training) of teachers and caregivers reported that they were ready to actively protect HIV-affected children from discrimination. Training kits and information materials were developed and made available for educators, preschool, school and residential care facility administrators in all cooperating regions.

#### **Future Workplan:**

In 2010, the programme will further consolidate and disseminate the YFHS concept, practical experience and theoretical knowledge. Promotion of national capacity of adolescent health specialists will also continue, with the on-going YFHS accreditation process and strengthening of international cooperation in the area of adolescent health.

#### **Title: *Child Protection***

#### **Purpose:**

The 2006-2010 CPD proposes that the Child Protection Programme will contribute to nationwide initiatives that achieve by 2010:

- decrease in the number of children in state institutions and a significant increase in the number of children without parental care being placed in family-based care settings;
- decrease in the number of deprivations of parental rights; and
- Increase in the number of children with special needs participating in mainstream education.

The Child Protection Programme supports the government in strengthening and reforming child welfare services and systems that enable vulnerable children to remain in their families or in alternative family settings within their communities. In 2010, the child protection programme's strategy was focused on partnering with Russian colleagues to document and consolidate good child welfare practices and advance stronger networks among Russian specialists, sharing and adapting innovative approaches. UNICEF also facilitated with federal and regional government partners the exchange of Russian child protection experiences with a high level delegation from Vietnam.

The programme has two key directions: early intervention for vulnerable families and de-institutionalisation of the childcare system; and the inclusion of children with disabilities, focusing on mainstream education opportunities and social inclusion. Within early intervention and de-institutionalisation, there are two key sub-projects: (1) child care system development and de-institutionalisation and (2) assistance to extremely vulnerable children.

### **Resources Used:**

<b>Donors:</b> (in thousands, USD)	<b>2010</b>
<b>UNICEF Regular Resources</b>	<b>46.6</b>
<b>Other Resources - Outside Donors:</b>	<b>2146.2</b>
UNICEF National Committees (German, UK, Swiss, Finnish)	1297.8
Corporate Fundraising in Russia	504.1
Individual Fundraising in Russia	33.5
European Commission	310.8
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2192.8</b>

### **Result Achieved:**

#### **1. Early Intervention & De-Institutionalisation:**

##### *Child Care System Development and De-institutionalisation*

UNICEF partnered closely with colleagues from the Federal Ministry of Education and Science, the Foundation to Support Children in Difficult Life Circumstances, the Federal Child Rights Ombudsperson Office, and the NGO community to advance policy dialogue on childcare reform and to consolidate good Russian practices and international principles in planning and programming for family support services and de-institutionalisation initiatives.

Key results include:

- Advancement of child care dialogue among 450 high-level regional policy-makers and practitioners from three federal districts, completing roll-out to Russia's 8 federal districts, providing strong messages on support to biological families, and linking disability issues with de-institutionalisation;
- Drafting and initial testing of a policy and planning guidance manual for regional administrations, informing them about innovative child welfare planning practices and recommending key objectives, a minimum service package, and monitoring indicators;
- Development of a "prevention baby abandonment toolkit," providing organisational and technical guidelines, and documentation of good Russian practices.

The child welfare resources respond to regions' expressed needs for practical tools and guidance. In initial reviews, federal and regional decision-makers and practitioners have expressed interest in these documents, which may contribute to planned federal methodological recommendations on child care responses and regions' enhanced strategies for addressing baby abandonment.

##### *Assistance to Extremely Vulnerable Children*

The number of street children has significantly decreased, but those remaining are extremely vulnerable and require continued support. Additionally, greater numbers of immigrant children (originating from other parts of Russia and neighbouring countries) require both social and rehabilitation services that meet their specific needs. In response

to this changed context, UNICEF redirected its programme focus from street children to broader groups of vulnerable children.

UNICEF worked with governmental and non-governmental organisations in Moscow, St Petersburg and Tver to develop interventions that reduce the vulnerability of various children's groups. Tver Region was added to the programme as it is an origin for unsupervised children migrating to Moscow and St Petersburg.

Key results include:

- Consolidation of a Moscow emergency social service outreach approach, providing capacity for this partner to become a resource centre for the city and sharing their experiences with Tver colleagues
- Testing and documentation of family outreach and rehabilitation approaches using art as a medium, with participation of the national Pushkin and Hermitage Museums Establishment of a career counselling programme tailored to specific nuances of vulnerable children.
- Direct employment and communication outreach was provided to more than 650 vulnerable young people and indirect career support to over 5,000 children through training of 128 pedagogues and psychologists from state agencies and non-governmental child protection organisations.

These projects promote good care practices for street children and other vulnerable children; advance prevention approaches and family reintegration; demonstrate and enhance coordination between governmental and non-governmental sectors; and encourage innovative child-centred approaches. They also provide tangible examples of UNICEF's engagement with the most vulnerable children in Russia, keeping the organisation in touch with 'frontline' issues in service provision, coordination, and public attitudes.

## **2. Children with Disabilities**

UNICEF sees de-institutionalisation and inclusive education as interdependent reforms to increase the well-being of children with disabilities. In 2010, UNICEF focused on consolidating good practices on inclusive education and disability rehabilitation.

Key results included:

- Development of an inclusive education toolkit, providing organisational and technical guidelines, normative provisions, and documentation of good practices based on 7 Russian regions' experiences;
- Completion of an inclusive education project in the Republic of Karelia, resulting in the Republic's development of a policy strategy on inclusive education and a coordinating council for inclusion;
- Completion of a inclusive education "resource" project in 6 Russian regions, expanding resource capacities of parents groups, educators, organisations conducting public awareness outreach, and education establishments' capacities to monitor progress of inclusive approaches;
- Strengthening of 2 regions' rehabilitation and socialisation approaches for deaf and blind children with multi-sensory impairments, through dissemination of UNICEF-supported methodologies developed by the Sergei Posad Home for Deaf and Blind Children;
- Drafting of policy paper on social inclusion for children with disabilities, highlighting key priority actions to better address disability needs and documenting existing Russian good practices, and accompanying dialogue with regional policy-makers and practitioners.

### **Future Workplan:**

UNICEF will continue to partner with the Foundation and the Federal Child Rights Ombudspersons office to explore opportunities for advancing the child welfare dialogue

among regions, with particular attention to prevention work, opportunities for greater support to biological families, and enhanced support strategies for social inclusion of children with special needs.

In 2011, the child protection programme will also further consolidate good child welfare practices and advance stronger networks among Russian specialists, sharing and adapting innovative approaches such as the rehabilitation responses of the Sergei Posad Children’s Home for Deaf and Blind Children. The child welfare resources (e.g. planning and policy framework, disability policy paper, baby abandonment toolkit) will be widely disseminated and consultations with regional policy-makers and child protection specialists on opportunities to integrate these methodologies in regions’ planning and responses. Assistance to extremely vulnerable children will have a strengthened focus on addressing specific needs of migrant children, sharing existing best practices.

**Title: *Early Childhood Development***

**Purpose:**

Under the 2006-2010 CPD, the strategic results for early childhood development were defined as UNICEF contributing to nationwide efforts so that by 2010 there would be:

- double the number of Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiatives (BFHI);
- double the rate of exclusive breast feeding up to 6 months; and
- triple the number of service providers offering training and support to families for effective parenting in the first three years of life.

With the government’s ownership of the BFHI, UNICEF at the end of 2009 completed its programme support to early childhood development (ECD). UNICEF has incorporated some ECD issues within its other programme areas such as child protection with attention to prevention of baby abandonment, in HIV with support to prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and in the Advocacy, Information and Public Policy for Children’s Rights programme’s campaign to eliminate IDD.

The only support in 2010 provided by UNICEF directly within the ECD project was the sponsoring of one government partner to participate in the sixth meeting of BFHI coordinators.

**Resources Used:**

<b>Donor:</b> (in thousands, USD)	<b>2010</b>
UNICEF Regular Resources	5.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.0</b>

**Result Achieved:**

As mentioned above, UNICEF completed its programme initiatives for this area in 2009.

Looking at the overall results achieved by Russia:

In 2010, six maternity facilities were certified as baby-friendly hospitals (BFH), bringing the total to 284 baby-friendly certified facilities in 49 regions, with representation in each of Russia’s seven federal Districts (including two new regions, Tambovskaya Oblast and the Republic of Tatarstan). Additionally, five female counseling centres and twenty child health clinics were also certified as baby-friendly, bringing the total to 142 female counseling centres and 180 child health clinics. At the end of 2010, approximately 18.6% of all births in the Russian Federation took place in baby-friendly facilities. This is a slight decrease from 2009 (20.1%). In 2010, the first neonatal intensive care unit in a Tambov children’s hospital was certified as baby-friendly.

#### *Elimination of IDD:*

UNICEF's strategy to eliminate IDD was two-fold:

- Collaboration with State Duma's Health Committee to develop legislation on IDD prevention through mandatory iodization of salt for the food industry; and
- Increase awareness of the importance of iodised salt use in the food (baking) industry, raising demand for iodised salt and improving the population's iodine nutrition.

Key results included:

- An advocacy event conducted by the Public Chamber Committee on Demography and Social Policy, with participation by representatives of State Duma, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Rospotrebnadzor, several research organizations, food industry, NGOs and the media. The resulting resolution was sent to Russia's President, Council of Ministers, relevant government ministries and attracted attention of the media.
- Development of a policy paper justifying compulsory use of iodised salt in the baking industry and advocating among baking industry leaders necessary changes in normative base and quality control procedures. This paper and recommendations were presented on the 3rd International Baking Forum in Moscow in October 2011 and received good attention from industry leaders.

The Russian Government adopted "Fundamentals of Public Policy in Healthy Foods and Nutrition in the Russian Federation until 2020", with one expected outcome being increased production of bakery products fortified with micronutrients. UNICEF is working with colleagues from the Ministry of Health and Social Development, other government ministries, research institutes and consumer protection NGOs to ensure that food fortification, such as mandatory iodization of certain types of salt and use of iodized salt in baking industry are covered in the action plan to be developed in the next few months.

#### **Future Workplan:**

UNICEF has completed all its work in the separate ECD programme. No activities are planned for 2011.

Under the related theme of IDD elimination:

In 2011, UNICEF will continue to:

- Increase awareness about the importance of iodized salt among consumers, with focus on the food (baking) industry,
- Advocate for legislation or regulation that increases demand of iodized salt by the food industry and retail trade, as well as support demand by dismantling myths about alleged negative effects of iodized salt.

UNICEF and GAIN will work with national partners to ensure implementation of the Fundamentals of health nutrition policy via a clear action plan and advocate with the Government to create a programme environment that supports sustainable IDD elimination through salt iodization.

**Title: *Children in the North Caucasus Region***

#### **Purpose:**

Under the 2006-2010 programme cycle, UNICEF's activities were to contribute to the North Caucasus Region's strategies enabling the following to be achieved by 2010:

- 50% of children having access to pre-school education opportunities, with a 10% increase in the number of children attending school in Chechnya;
- restoration of 90% of the cold chain in Chechnya and Ingushetia;
- 50% reduction in the number of children affected by incidents related to landmines and unexploded ordinances (UXO);
- 50% increase in the number of children receiving psycho-social and physical support as a result of mine accidents.

These projects are being implemented in five North Caucasus republics: Chechnya, Ingushetia, North Ossetia, Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria. The restructuring of the federal districts, with establishment of the North Caucasus Federal District, has opened new opportunities for UNICEF to better coordinate efforts, promote exchange of best practices among the Republics, benefit from successful social development approaches implemented in other parts of the Russian Federation, and adapt models from countries with cultural and social contexts similar to North Caucasus.

UNICEF's efforts in the North Caucasus were consolidated to ensure sustainability of results achieved in strengthening education and healthcare services in Chechnya and Ingushetia. Joint UNICEF/World Bank interventions expanded opportunities for development of employment skills and socio-economic participation of young people. Fostering a culture of peace and tolerance among children and youth of various ethnicities continued to be one of the main objectives. The positive experience of summer camps and peace promotion approaches is being replicated in other regions of the Russian Federation.

### **Resources Used:**

<b>Donors:</b> (in thousands, USD)	<b>2010</b>
<b>UNICEF Regular Resources</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>Other Resources - Outside Donors:</b>	<b>3701.9</b>
UNICEF Thematic Funding for Basic Education and Gender Equality	100.0
UNICEF National Committees (Swiss, UK, German)	1103.2
World Bank	1149.7
USAID	248.8
European Commission	862.5
Corporate Fundraising in Russia	239.7
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3712.9</b>

### **Results Achieved:**

#### *1. Education and promotion of peace and tolerance*

UNICEF collaborated with the Chechen and Ingush Ministries of Education to promote quality primary and secondary school education for children through capacity building of more than 1,250 teachers and caregivers and distribution of education equipment and materials. In all, 5,000 methodological resources were provided for classroom and resource teachers, and psychologists from the most vulnerable schools.

Using the education system as an entry to mainstream peace and tolerance approaches, UNICEF and Ministries of Education from 5 North Caucasus republics supported training for 100 facilitators on inclusion of peace and tolerance in school curricula, who later facilitated peace and tolerance workshops in teachers' re-training institutes for over

3,000 school teachers. A total of 1,000 children and adolescents imbibed and practised "peace and tolerance" lessons by participating in peace summer camps; cinema and fine art festivals; photo contests; and sports competitions to promote intercultural communication.

## *2. Youth Empowerment*

UNICEF's Youth Empowerment programme partnered with the World Bank to promote future leaders by strengthening the coordination role of the cross-regional Youth Steering Committee and improving professional and technical capacities of youth-related ministries. Grants fostering youth programming enabled NGOs to promote volunteer movements, leadership skills, and dialogue between youth and authorities. The projects also focused on support to young girls, provision of new professional opportunities for the unemployed, and training for young journalists.

## *3. Psycho-Social Recovery (PSR)*

The PSR focuses on enhancement of a strategic coordination framework; capacity building for local psychologists; and establishment of pilot hotline services in Ingushetia, Dagestan and Chechnya among others. Through the PSR:

- 6,344 young people received psychological assistance.
- 17 new PSR centres were opened in 2010, bringing the total to 50 in Chechnya. Peer-to-peer counseling, involving more than 100 young volunteers with basic psychological knowledge and skills, has reached out to more than 2,000 children who have been empowered to be active players in designing recovery approaches.

## *4. Child Protection*

A key component is supporting an improved knowledge base of those working with and for children, specifically through:

- workshops with guardianship specialists on the legal basis for child protection and family-based care solutions;
- integration of a UNICEF-developed child rights training manual into the official curriculum of Pedagogical Teachers' Re-training Institutes in Chechnya, Ingushetia, and North Ossetia-Alania;
- awareness raising among mass media in Ingushetia and Chechnya about ethical reporting and interview methods with children, reaching 65 journalists.

The mine action programme was continued to ensure accurate collection and analysis of casualties related to new mine/unexploded ordinances (UXO) among the civilian population in Chechnya. A series of awareness raising campaigns were carried out by local media to decrease casualties. The programme was handed over to the local authorities and it is monitored by the Chechen Human Rights Ombudsperson office.

## *5. Strengthening Healthcare Services*

In June 2010, the health programme was completed and handed over to the Chechen and Ingush health systems. Key results included:

- Completion of child mortality study in partnership with Chechen and Ingush Ministries of Health. The study's findings will be used to establish a child health database in Chechnya and Ingushetia, to forecast responses for mother and child health protection, and to identify reform approaches of mother and child health services.
- With the Chechen and Ingush Ministries of Health, and Education, hygiene campaigns were conducted for 700 specialists (educators and medical professionals), providing information packages on relevant methodologies. In parallel, 7,800 copies of hygiene posters were distributed to 113 schools in Ingushetia and 60 in Grozny.
- Training courses on integrated management of childhood illnesses were conducted for 100 paediatricians from health facilities in 4 of Ingushetia's rural districts.

## **Future Workplan:**

In 2011, UNICEF will complete its programmes in the North Caucasus giving special attention to future sustainability and handover to institutional partners. An impact evaluation will be carried out to assess the overall effect of UNICEF interventions in the region. The office will develop a special brochure summarizing UNICEF's work in the region, reflecting on efforts taken to support the local governments and communities to improve the quality of life for children and youth.

## **Title: *Advocacy, Information and Public Policy for Children's Rights***

### **Purpose:**

UNICEF's advocacy agenda covers all aspects of child survival, development, protection and participation. The programme has five interrelated components: knowledge & information management; communication and advocacy; support to legislation and policy on IDD (described in the ECD section); and social and resource mobilisation.

Under the CPD, the programme cycle's strategic results were defined as providing support to the government and civil society to:

- establish effective child rights monitoring and evaluation tools and mechanisms at the federal and regional levels, including increasing from 16 to 45 the number of regions with an effectively functioning child rights ombudsperson's office;
- adopt legal and policy frameworks at the federal level that enhance children's rights, including the reduction of violence in families, trafficking and sexual exploitation;
- increase child-friendly decision-making and practices at the regional and federal levels;
- adopt and implement a law on Universal Salt Iodization (USI);
- increase the involvement in and awareness of civil society of children's issues;
- increase the participation of young people in decision-making processes that have significant influence on and implications for them.

### **Resources Used:**

<b>Donors:</b> (in thousands, USD)	<b>2010</b>
<b>UNICEF Regular Resources</b>	<b>186.0</b>
<b>Other Resources - Outside Donors:</b>	<b>913.3</b>
UNICEF Thematic Funding	212.14
UNICEF National Committees (German, Swiss, Finnish)	292.9
European Commission	11.0
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	305.6
Corporate Fundraising in Russia	92.0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1099.3</b>

### **Result Achieved:**

#### *1. Knowledge & Information Management Research*

Information and data management on children's and young people's well-being were enhanced through publication of the statistical yearbook, "Youth in Russia", the first publication to provide all available statistics on youth. UNICEF promoted the data

processing and presentation tool, "DevInfo", and development of the Russian version with the federal state statistics services (ROSSTAT) and the DSG team. Known as "Russia-Info", it contains all available statistics on children along with 251 child well-being indicators, and covers a 17-year period.

UNICEF partnered with the NGO, EveryChild to monitor the effects of the global economic crisis on children's well-being and commissioned research on Moscow school children's perceptions of their rights.

UNICEF partnered with the Russian Federation Accounting Chamber to assess child-related expenditures, analysing at the federal and regional levels the efficiency of budget expenditures in relation to children's interests and making recommendations on how to better harmonise public expenditures with children's rights.

## *2. Advocacy and Communications*

Working pro-actively with the media, UNICEF enhanced public attention to critical child rights issues (UNICEF mentions in the Russian media increased 60% from their number in 2009); the main website was redesigned, becoming an operational advocacy and communication tool with 300-700 daily visitors and 45,000 unique visitors over the year.

An Office advocacy strategic framework has been developed to help UNICEF better advocate for the centrality of children in wider national priorities such as modernization, the growing role of Russia in international development, demography, and the North Caucasus. Gaps in the adoption of international norms and conventions, and in policy, legislation and budgets allocations, as well as necessary alliances have been identified for key issues. Besides regular media interaction and public awareness initiatives, communication highlights included:

- Advocacy by Global Goodwill Ambassador, Roger Moore, on inclusive education
- Launch of global child rights reports, including on MDG and equity
- Review with the Moscow Government of their CFCI programme, "Moscow Children"
- Three information campaigns with corporate partners, IKEA, Amway, Barclay's Bank and Happyton.

## *3. Social Mobilisation*

UNICEF partnered with the federal and regional CRO offices in developing 6 resources to support ombudsperson daily work, such as Methodological Recommendations on Preparation of CRO annual reports, Handbook for CRO daily work, Russian Federation legislation in relation to child rights; and 4 thematic reports on violence, disability, child participation, and children in conflict with the law.

The UNICEF Global Child Friendly City Initiative (CFCI) was launched in Russia to raise community awareness of child rights and increase the local authorities' commitment to safeguard children's rights at local levels. Sixteen cities have signed memorandums with UNICEF and while it is too early to evaluate the initiative's full impact, child participation has improved cities' planning on child rights; city actions are considered from a results-based rather than resource-based approach; and monitoring indicators are defined in one document, rather than having individual plans for each sector (e.g. education, social protection, health).

## **Future Workplan:**

UNICEF will continue to collaborate closely with the child rights ombudsperson institution, working with the federal CRO office and the Russian State Humanitarian University to develop a child rights university course for regional CROs and establishing a core curriculum for continued learning opportunities on child rights.

Under the CFCI, UNICEF will continue to provide consultations for cities in developing child-focused plans and monitoring approaches. UNICEF will also explore opportunities with participating cities to support development of an all-Russia CFC Council which in the long-run could coordinate cities' efforts to promote child rights and become a working body that closely interacts with city authorities and facilitates capacity building and introduction of new models of child rights promotion.

In the knowledge management section, key initiatives will include:

- Improved capacity for analysis among decision-makers and statistic specialists of available child and youth-related data, identifying data gaps and opportunities for enhanced statistical collection;
- Dissemination of the child-related expenditure assessment, using the findings and recommendations as the basis for dialogue with regions on how to enhance budgets for children’s interests.
- A comprehensive situation analysis that evaluates the social inclusion of vulnerable child groups and provides recommendations to enhance inclusion.

**Title: Cross-sectoral Costs**

**Purpose:**

“Cross-cutting costs” is not a separate programme component. Rather these are resources to support expenses that *cut across* different programme activities, such as communications, portions of operations expenses, or costs related to monitoring of programme activities.

Use of these funds has also assisted the office to respond to emerging opportunities, such as support of a conference on children’s helpline work under a unified federal number. In this case, a request was made by a key partner quickly and demanding an equally speedy response. Recognizing this issue as a developing national priority and one that is critical to enhancing children’s well-being, using cross-cutting resources, UNICEF was able to respond in a timely and effective matter. UNICEF response was comprehensive and entailed providing important international expertise on this critical issue, sharing strategies on use of emerging new technologies such as the internet or mobile phones for child counselling and outreach, as well as sharing experiences of helplines globally.

Cross-cutting funds also enable the office to support innovative “upstream” work (high level advocacy initiatives or critical research), when other funding resources do not allow such flexibility. For example, UNICEF has initiated a situation analysis on the social inclusion of the most vulnerable children, a critical piece of work for defining future initiatives and contributing to Russia’s public dialogue in light of the country’s upcoming periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (March 2011).

**Resources Used:**

<b>Donors:</b> (in thousands, USD)	<b>2010</b>
UNICEF Regular Resources	638.6
Other Resources - Outside Donors	277.9
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>916.5</b>

**4. OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT**

**4.1 Governance & Systems**

**4.1.1 Governance Structure:**

The Country Management Team (CMT) had five meetings in 2010. The CMT’s standing agenda includes management of resources, monitoring of programme and operational goals and priorities, and resolving management issues and staff welfare concerns. In addition, the CMT was regularly consulted and asked to provide advice and

recommendations via mail-poll. The CMT provided guidance on recruitment of 15 fixed-term posts following Programme and Budget Review in 2010 decisions and staff departures, UNICEF's presence and structure beyond 2010, staff development plans and staff welfare issues, staff security particularly in the North Caucasus, UN House issues and common services, and other programme and operational issues and concerns.

CMT decisions were shared with all staff through meetings, staff assemblies and memos from the Representative. CMT minutes are filed in a common shared folder. Performance indicators for programme, communication, operations, fundraising and partnerships continue to be monitored by the CMT. Both the Moscow and Vladikavkaz offices continue to work closely together for enhanced coherence in the various functions in the two offices.

Weekly meetings of all programme, fundraising and operations staff are regularly held to review office priorities and highlight activities undertaken during the last week and planned for the week specially those requiring attention and coordination among the different sections. Heads of Section meetings were introduced at the end of 2010 as an outcome of the Annual Review process to increase collaboration across sections (Programmes, Communications, Operations and PFP) and promote synergies.

A performance management plan is in place for all programmes based on indicators and quality assurance mechanisms. HACT is now fully implemented and programme officers/assistants conduct spot checks while visiting implementing partners. The CO has received a satisfactory audit rating in governance.

#### **4.1.2 Strategic Risk Management:**

A structured approach exists to systematically identify, analyse and manage risks and opportunities. In 2010, a risk assessment was conducted as a team exercise addressing all governance sectors – operations, programmes, PFP, communications and the North Caucasus office and reviewed at the CMT in November. Risks are defined based on the risk management system comprising 83 target questions developed by UNICEF HQ and further adapted by the CO. Early on, the Office adopted a mainstreaming approach to enterprise risk management which will form the basis for the 2011 Annual Management Plan. Steps to mitigate the risks have been identified and will be further refined in 2011, based on the scenario of engagement between UNICEF and Russia beyond 2011. Business continuity issues are also addressed in the AWP and reviewed to ensure a timely response to changes in internal and external operating environments. Security wardens are in place and a telephone tree is established in case of emergency. Regular heads of section and CMT meetings provide opportunities to flag issues of concern.

The office's Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans for Moscow and Vladikavkaz have been updated and Business Continuity Plans have been tested. These exercises showed that the office's level of readiness and ability to respond to an emergency is adequate.

#### **4.1.3 Evaluation:**

The office has an updated IMEP which is used as a planning tool for evaluations and assessments in key programme areas. UNICEF has coordinated with local partners on strategic research regarding specific programme areas such as the status of street children, school children's perspectives about implementation of their rights, and child participation processes within child-friendly city initiatives. Academic institutions and Russian think tanks have specialists with high quality capacity, enabling strategic and effective reviews.

In 2010, UNICEF has embarked on implementation of a situation analysis targeted on social inclusion of children from vulnerable groups. This research, to be completed in

2011, will serve as a strategic information document to guide the office in opportunities to develop a new working partnership with the Russian Government.

#### **4.1.4 Information Technology and Communication:**

The office completed all IT planned tasks, and software/hardware upgrades and updates, such as Moscow Internet line upgrade up to 5MB unlimited line, PBX management, PIX Firewall upgrade, Hardware and Software upgrades of Servers and user workstations.

The Vladikavkaz office's internet connection was improved in comparison with 2008 through serious technical analysis and subsequent hardware and software reconfiguration, conducted with professional technical support of TViNGO Telecom Company (current Internet Service Provider) and Global Alania (alternative back-up Provider). The maximum quality of internet connection physically possible in the NC Office was achieved.

The Moscow and Vladikavkaz offices have an operating video conference unit that has been installed, tested and put in the ICT production environment for staff communication with other UNICEF and UN offices. While this does not replace all on-site face to face meetings, video conferencing is being considered for travel replacement where feasible, allowing greater flexibility within operating budgets. Use of video conferencing is strongly encouraged for regular and ad-hoc meetings and consultations in the region.

UNICEF VoIP and call-through means are more widely used by staff, but need to be optimized for international and mobile calls.

The Business Continuity Plan's IT component is being finalized for testing in 2011 in the Moscow and Vladikavkaz offices. Minimum security telecommunication requirements under Minimum Operational Security Standards (MOSS) are maintained, while equipment and data are fully protected following the latest IT audit security requirements.

#### **4.2 Fin Res & Stewardship**

##### **4.2.1 Fund-raising & Donor Relations:**

Out of 26 donor reports due in 2010, 3 were due for submission in December, 21 were submitted on time and 2 were sent late. Feedback from donor report monitoring reveals that the majority of donors are satisfied with UNICEF's substantive and financial reporting.

With UNICEF's changing role and potential new partnership in Russia, private fundraising - both corporate and individual - has become increasingly important. Over the last five years, UNICEF has been refining its private sector fundraising to mobilise greater financial resources for children's rights. Currently, it has over 1,000 active individual donors and seven major corporate partnerships, with the following four corporations contributing more than USD 100,000: IKEA, Pampers, Amway and Tupperware. In 2010, UNICEF raised from the private sector locally USD 1.6 million, up from USD 1.3 million in 2009. Still 90% of it comes from corporations, most of which concentrated among a limited number of Russian branches of global companies (e.g. Ikea, PNG, Tupperware and Amway). In 2011, the focus will be on building new corporate partnerships and diversifying UNICEF's revenue streams by engaging local corporations (rather than relying exclusively on affiliates of global companies) and through expansion of the Major Donor Programme (individuals contributing between USD 1,000 and USD 100,000 or more annually).

In addition, UNICEF has collaborated with donors to conduct monitoring missions and site visits, provide support and outreach directly to project partners and conduct joint media promotion events on child rights. By the end of 2010, the CO had effectively expanded the parameters of bilaterally supported programmes and secured additional USAID and the EU funding for on-going child rights initiatives.

In 2010, UNICEF successfully obtained 94.3% of its funding needs, with 96% of the funds raised by the office through 'other resource' funding.

#### **4.2.2 Management of Financial and Other Assets:**

Financial management and control systems in 2010 were developed in accordance with changes in UNICEF requirements and 2007 audit observations. Work processes were reviewed and revised to align with global UNICEF business process changes (CRC, PCARC, travel). A self-evaluation of internal control measures was undertaken, resulting in structural optimization, refinement of work processes and updating of flow charts. TOA/DAT was revised to reflect the changes of financial control assessment.

All required documents were submitted to the Office of Internal Audit for a desk review.

Concrete steps were undertaken for further (H)ACT development and full implementation for all partners. Eight joint spot checks of implementing partners were carried out. The assurance matrix was updated, using the audit conclusions regarding reporting, financial capacity and internal control system of IPs. Implementation of the modified (H)ACT modality based on FACE combined with checking and monitoring of financial reports minimized financial risks. DCT report submission times and outstanding balances were considerably reduced.

New guidelines on cash assistance, selection and assessment of partners, new formats and limits for PCA and SSFA, standards and requirements of PCARC were studied at joint meetings. Recommended templates and budgets were reviewed and modified in conformity with legal and tax requirements of the Russian Federation.

Partners were briefed on the latest changes and standards, and newly recruited staff was trained on UNICEF regulations and financial requirements.

Enhanced cash flow forecast submissions, timeliness, accuracy and permanent cash resources monitoring have improved estimations. Cash optimization and planning are still the priority in financial policy, especially as UNICEF is moving forward to IPSAS.

In 2010, the operations team continued studying IPSAS principles and submitted required reports. Consistent steps in reconciliation and clearance of GL accounts, submitting required data for reporting has prepared the office for IPSAS transition. Using DFAM intranet resources and consultations, the office has succeeded in timely submission of un-posted vouchers and preparing IPSAS reports.

During 2010, the operations team continued optimization work and reduction of operating expenses: building maintenance, telecom expenses, office supplies and utilities.

#### **4.2.3 Supply:**

The total supply component on 9 December, 2010 was USD1,317,970 of which, USD300,074 was for the North Caucasus Region. The main supply components included supply requirements of the Child Smile project, Youth Friendly Clinics, and the child protection project in Karelia. In the North Caucasus, the main supply components were CYDP materials - equipment for the winners of the small grants project funded by the World Bank.

Gradually phasing down its operation in the North Caucasus, UNICEF in the North Caucasus reviewed its logistical needs. As a result, Vladikavkaz's warehouse capacity decreased from 960 to 440 sq.m in 2010. The total supply volume in the warehouse on 1 September 2010 was approximately US\$ 54 thousand.

The present RF production capacities and wide variety of different products in the market allowed the supply unit to implement 100% of procurement locally.

This year the supply staff for the first time participated in several renovation works, estimations and acceptance of construction (Karelia, Tatarstan and Tver).

In 2010, the supply unit identified the companies and signed LTAs for procurement of printing, transportation, mailing, IT/office equipment and furniture, fuel and accommodation. Most of the local suppliers accept UNICEF's payment conditions, especially suppliers with the repeated orders. The general practice requires all suppliers to submit 0% VAT invoices; however, many suppliers refused to do so for different reasons. Nonetheless, the number of 0%VAT suppliers increased in 2010 compared to previous years.

The supply unit uses the Internet resource mainly as a search system, source of price comparison of, and in some cases as a procurement source for items below USD 1,000.

Almost all shipments of goods procured in Moscow for the programme unit and partners were undertaken by suppliers. Where needed, logistic services of transporting company were based on LTAs.

Tender practices are shared with the partners from remote Russian areas. Some partners conduct the biddings and present documentation to UNICEF for supply verification. UNICEF places PO's with UNICEF approved companies or directly with the recommended local supplier from the respective region.

Based on a request from OMT, several tenders were conducted by UNICEF including on security, cleaning services, furniture and audio-visual equipment for the UN common premises.

#### **4.3 Human Resource Capacity:**

In line with the evolving presence of UNICEF in the Russian Federation and the new form of partnership, major efforts have been made to strengthen the capacity of the Office in private sector fundraising and communication, through the recruitment of new senior staff, while streamlining various functions to better serve the requirements of the closing of the country programme.

The office continued implementing the Competency Based Interview Form in the interview documentation process, resulting in more efficient recruitment processes (15 recruitment cases in 2010). A human resources (HR) assistant from UNICEF-Azerbaijan was deployed for a month in Moscow to support the recruitment process, provide support to the newly recruited HR assistant in Moscow, and as part of an HR development and exchange programme, to share knowledge and experiences, as well as best practices in other country offices.

With the help of the Regional Office, career and staff development opportunities have benefited staff on abolished posts or those anticipating downsizing. The emergency in Kyrgyzstan provided career development opportunities for two staff members from the Vladikavkaz office.

The country office was able to address effectively HR issues related to the very high staff turnover and recruitment of a large number of new staff - unfamiliar with UNICEF rules and regulations - without major disruptions and problems.

Due to the inconclusive discussions on the new form of engagement between UNICEF and the Russian Federation, the office experienced a high turnover rate throughout 2010. This had negative outcomes especially in terms of lowered pace of plan implementation and transfer of learning from the departing to the remaining staff. The office continues to monitor development of staff competencies to enhance their knowledge and skills and meet performance expectations, as well as enhance their employability outside the UN.

Staff well-being is always on the agenda of the CMT. The CMT monitors annual and sick leave balances to ensure that staff maintains a good work-life balance and a healthy life.

In summer of 2010, due to unfavourable weather conditions and fire smokes in Moscow, greater flexibility in the existing flexi-time working time schedule was infused to minimize the impact of the climate on the staff's health and well-being.

High work load remains a concern in ensuring staff well-being. However, the office is looking into the ways of reducing it through better organization of processes and responsibilities.

#### **4.4 Other Issues**

##### **4.4.1 Management Areas Requiring Improvement:**

Installment of video conference units in the Moscow and Vladikavkaz offices has enhanced efficiency of communications between the office, the CEE/CIS regional office, and partners, as well as saved expenses from travel and per diem costs.

The Vladikavkaz office has also experienced savings from obtaining a new internet provider (saving USD5,100 from July–December 2010), reducing its warehouse storage (savings of USD1,100 per month) and renegotiating office rent, releasing use of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor (a saving of USD9,300 from July–December 2010).

##### **4.4.2 Changes in AMP:**

In 2011, the office will consolidate its results and ensure their sustainability, while facilitating a smooth transition to a likely new phase of programme cooperation after 2011. On the assumption that the current country programme would conclude at the end of 2010, some activities planned in the 2010 AMP were re-scheduled to 2011. The AMP will be updated based on decisions as to the form of engagement beyond 2011 and formulated along an enterprise risk management approach.

## **5. STUDIES, SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

### **5.1 List of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations:**

1. *Analytical Report on Sociological Assessment "Youth Empowerment and Security in the North Caucasus"*
2. *Adolescent Mortality in the Russian Federation*
3. *Knowledge of Personal Rights and Ways to Protect Them by Moscow School Children*

### **5.2 List of Other Publications**

1. *On the Health Path together with Kukaracha*
2. *All that involves you. (4 volumes: 1) Towards yourself; 2) Your choice; 3) Be yourself; 4) Add colours*
3. *Youth Friendly clinics in the Russian Federation: initiative, experience, results, cooperation, way forward*
4. *A strategy "Health and Development of young people in Russia (harmonization of European and Russian approaches to theory and practice to strengthen health of young people*
5. *Prevention of dependencies. The experience of creating a system of primary prevention*
6. *The problems of HIV mother to child transmission*
7. *Child with a Positive Sign*
8. *International Conference: "Youth-Friendly Clinics: 10 years. To be continued..." Conference materials*
9. *10. I want to conduct training. Guidelines for the trainer working on HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and STI issues*
10. *Frank Conversation with Girls*

11. *Methodological Guidelines: Way to be an observer - ways to be yourself*
12. *Lost in Justice*
13. *Manual for Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care*
14. *Council of Europe's National Strategy to Combat Violence*
15. *Booklet on Evaluation Criteria*
16. *Booklet "Legal Aspects of Adoption"*
17. *UN Secretary General's Russian Summary of Violence Against Children Global Report*
18. *Juvenile Justice Indicators Manual*
19. *Convention on the Rights of the Child*
20. *"Peacemaker" Magazine*
21. *Background for expanded use of iodised salt for production of bakery products*
22. *Booklets "Ethical principles of Preparation of Journalistic Materials on Children's Issues"*
23. *CRC in passport format*
24. *UNICEF Newsletters No.1 (April-May 2010) & No. 2 (June-September 2010)*
25. *Booklet "Matching Technology"*
26. *28. International Year of Youth - Brochure*
27. *Youth in Russia 2010*
28. *Progress for Children Report*
29. *Methodological Guidelines: How to teach to live independently*
30. *Methodological Guidelines: How to become confident*
31. *Methodological Guidelines: Meeting each other*
32. *Promoting the Rights of Children with Disabilities*
33. *UN Guidance for Alternative Care*
34. *Child Rights Teaching Manual*

## 6. INNOVATION & LESSONS LEARNED:

**Title:** *Most At-Risk Adolescents' Health*

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**Abstract:**

In the Russian Federation and CIS, the quality of adolescent health in general and reproductive and sexual health in particular along with other risky behaviour-related health issues (drug abuse, STIs, HIV infection) requires close monitoring. In recent years, an innovative model in serving adolescent's health needs based on adolescent-friendly approach is becoming increasingly accepted. However, the majority of adolescent-friendly health services, being part of a state health system, focus their interventions on the mainstream adolescent population. As a result, they do not reach vulnerable, disadvantaged, or hard-to-reach groups of adolescents even though these groups demonstrate the highest need for health interventions. Dissemination of practical experience in dealing with these issues is an important step towards equipping all relevant players in the field with knowledge of effective approaches and existing challenges.

**Innovation or Lessons Learned:**

- Most at-risk adolescents (MARA) are not a homogenous group of adolescents and young people. Unsupervised adolescents differ from their peers who live in state institutions, come from underprivileged minority groups (Roma), or those injecting drugs, selling sex, etc. Any interventions aimed at improving their health status should be based on careful selection of a target group and obtaining detailed information on the specifics of the target group profile.

- Specialized health institutions (AIDS-centers, for example) with experience of dealing with vulnerable groups are much more effective in reaching MARA, than primary health care institutions.
- Serving health needs of MARA requires an integrated approach, involving other sectors (social protection, youth affairs, NGO).

### **Potential Application:**

Any sustainable intervention in this area is valuable for service providers, authorities, policy makers working for the well-being of youth - particularly hard to reach groups.

### **Issue/Background:**

Russia and the CEE/CIS region continue to have increasing HIV infections and other related social infections. Adolescents, especially those who are at most risk of HIV, experience difficulties in accessing health and social protection systems able to equip them with knowledge and skills needed to increase their chances to live normal lives. Equitable access to services for all, including those who are currently excluded and missed, is a key for achieving MDGs related to HIV/AIDS, for decreasing the alarming level of adolescent mortality, and for ensuring healthy and protected future for many thousands of adolescents and young people.

### **Strategy and Implementation:**

#### *Planning evidence-based interventions*

To obtain more in-depth information on existing needs and available resources to deal with the challenges of providing MARA with health services, and to develop common strategy of a project, 9 Russian regions took part in a working meeting held in Tomsk, in November 2009. Sharing and analysing their field experiences and brainstorming on the most effective approaches in reaching MARA with health services resulted in the selection of 6 regions to implement pilot projects aimed at different vulnerable adolescent groups.

#### *Advocacy at regional level*

After returning to their regional bases, the main implementers (AIDS-centres) initiated a series of working meetings with their local authorities, media and potential partners to raise awareness and obtain a common understanding on the issue, to create partnerships, and to ensure further sustainability of planned interventions.

#### *Implementation*

During the project's first year, each region selected one or two specific groups of MARA population. Being the leading institution, each AIDS-centre established partnerships with other sectors (e.g. social protection institutions, outreach services, youth affairs departments, other health institutions) with clear division of responsibilities ensuring a continuum of services to better address health and development rights and needs of adolescents.

### **Progress and Results:**

By the end of 2010, six Russian territories (Krasnoyarsk, Kaluga, Kazan, Ekaterinburg, Biisk, and Lipetsk) had in place functional services for vulnerable groups of adolescents, including unsupervised adolescents, Roma, drug users, and vocational school students coming from remote rural areas. All services are part of state institutions (health, social protection, youth affairs) that makes them both stable and sustainable. Although at an early stage of implementation, the newly set up services already are extremely active in organizing thematic information campaigns, conducting interactive events of different types, including trainings and role play, and undertaking outreach activities for target groups to attract adolescents to visit health services for the purposes of diagnostic, counseling, testing for STIs and HIV, treatment, etcetera. All centres report a visible increase in the number of health-related visits by adolescents over the last three months, though more time is needed to confirm these initial positive trends. While

expanding the scope of outreach activities is critical to dealing with vulnerable groups' health behaviour and health habits, it continues to be a challenge due to the lack of trained professionals and limited financial resources to support this work (including low salaries of social workers, etcetera).

#### **Next Steps:**

The YPHD team will focus on documenting and systematizing the project experience so that it can be replicated beyond the Russian Federation. It will also work on disseminating the project's results at a regional level to help incorporate this approach into the routine functioning of all relevant institutions and organizations, and actively promoting the involvement of other regions with the project.

## **7. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION:**

In anticipation of its potential engagement in the Russian Federation beyond 2010, UNICEF has continued to identify within its programmes "transferable" innovations and experiences for other CIS countries and beyond. Based on the cooperation with the Russian Federation over the last 10 years and through existing strategic partnerships, UNICEF-Russia has identified individuals and institutions, expertise and good practices that can support policy development and technical assistance in other countries, especially in CEECIS. A resource knowledge base has been established on the intranet.

Examples in knowledge management within East-West cooperation include:

- The Child Friendly City Initiative in Russia, which is eliciting interest from other countries promoting the initiative – e.g. Kazakhstan and Belarus which invited representatives from Russian CFCs to their conferences and training seminars to share the experience.
- UNICEF helped establish the first Russian-language summer school on adolescent health in collaboration with Lausanne University. Specialists from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan participated in this programme in 2010.
- UNICEF facilitated with federal and regional government partners the exchange of Russian child protection experiences with a high level delegation from Vietnam.
- Peer exchange/consultations were held via e-mail and skype with UNICEF-Brazil and other BRIC and middle-income countries to exchange strategies on CFCI and the promotion of equity.
- Advocacy and Programmatic exchange and discussions on issues of joint interest (violence, impact on children of parental separation in bi-national unions, children and the G8/G20) have been held with UNICEF National Committees (especially French, Finnish, and UK). Partnership with the Council of Europe on violence and children provided further opportunities to facilitate exchange of experience between Russia and other member countries of the Council of Europe.