

### Executive Summary

The current report focuses on the main results achieved during 2006-2011, the last country programme between UNICEF and the Russian Federation. The final one year extension allowed partners to consolidate results and set the ground for a National Committee which the Russian Government would like to see established by 2014.

Over the years, UNICEF and partners worked together to create federal institutions and improve monitoring systems to better protect children's rights; strengthen regional capacities to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities; prevent the separation of children from families and protect children against HIV; pilot and scale up health services for young people; and promote decentralized planning for children.

As a result, the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, an institution initially established with UNICEF support, has gradually expanded to cover the entire country, with Ombudspersons in each district and at the federal level. Their capacity has been strengthened through the development of a standard curriculum. In cooperation with the Federal Statistics Service, UNICEF has published the first yearly statistical reports on children and youth. In districts which have implemented child protection guidelines, a reduction in the separation of children from their families and an increase in alternative family-based solutions led to significant and sustained reductions in institutionalization. As for HIV, protocols for PMTCT have been adopted, with a fast reduction in MTCT from 11% to 5% in regions where UNICEF supported their implementation. Approximately 150 youth-friendly clinics have been established in more than 40 districts, an accreditation system developed, and an association formed to sustain the exchange of experiences and advocacy. The Child-friendly City Initiative, initially tested in Moscow and St Petersburg in 1997, is now comprised of 17 major city administrations, which were provided with participatory planning and monitoring tools. In Moscow and St Petersburg, UNICEF supported the piloting and city-wide expansion of referral systems and networks of social support for vulnerable families and children. In 2011, a Budget Analysis was undertaken to assess the importance given to children, and the efficiency and transparency in federal and municipal budgeting. It is complemented by an analysis on equity and social inclusion to be launched in February 2012.

In the North Caucasus, the programme initiated in 1999 with partners in five Republics (Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia-Alania) has gradually evolved from emergency response to longer-term development, and resulted in: upgrading of MCH facilities in Ingushetia, contributing to the reduction of infant mortality rates from 37.7/1,000 l.b in 2006 to 11.6/1,000 l.b in 2009; restoration of the cold chain and provision of safe water; establishment of a mine action network, and expansion of psycho-social services across the Chechen Republic; development and adoption of context-based methodologies to promote peace and tolerance; and provision of life and livelihood skills and socio-economic opportunities to adolescents in all five Republics. Endorsement and financial commitments by leaders of the Republics and the Administration of the North Caucasus Federal Okrug were secured to sustain results and support the expansion of innovations.

The above legacy will help UNICEF and partners to give greater attention to the social inclusion of particular groups of children within the development of a national strategy for children. It will also help UNICEF and the Russian Federation engage in a new partnership to help other countries access Russia's experts, institutions, experience and good practices.

### Country Situation

For the vast majority of children in the Russian Federation, the situation has significantly improved since 1990. Their rights have been increasingly promoted, protected and fulfilled. Yet, important gaps remain in their health and education outcomes which prevent them from enjoying the realization of their rights to the same extent as their peers in Western Europe.

Since 1990, the Russian Federation has more than halved its U5MR (2010: 12 deaths/1,000 lb), IMR (2010: 9 deaths/1,000 lb), and Neonatal Mortality Rates (2010: 6 deaths/1,000 lb). However, child mortality indicators are 3 to 4 times higher than those estimated in Western Europe. The Russian Federation, along with the Republic of Moldova, Albania, Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, is among the group of developed countries where U5MR exceeded 10 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010 (source: [http://www.childinfo.org/files/Child\\_Mortality\\_Report\\_2011.pdf](http://www.childinfo.org/files/Child_Mortality_Report_2011.pdf)). Disparities among districts remain high, with an U5MR in some parts of the country comparable to that of Sweden, and in others to that of Egypt.

In education, while learning achievements for Russian children are consistently above the CEE/CIS average at a mean performance average of 465, according to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), they are below the OECD average of 496 (source: Learning Achievement in the CEE/CIS Region- UNICEF Regional Office, 2009, data from 2006 PISA).

Similar to most countries in the world, adolescence appears to be one of the most neglected stages of childhood when it comes to the development of Russian policies, strategies, services and opportunities for participation. The situation of adolescents in Russia poses grave concerns. According to a 2010 study (in Russian), undertaken by UNICEF and the Scientific Centre for Children's Health of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, titled "Adolescent Mortality in the Russian Federation", the adolescent mortality rate among 15-19 year olds has stood at 108-120 per 100 000 during the last 5-year period, which is 3 to 5 times higher than in European countries and is accounted for by external and preventable factors in 80% of the cases. A subsequent 2011 survey (in Russian) by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Social Development titled "Adolescent deaths from suicide in Russia" showed that the average suicide rate among adolescents is 3 times higher than the world's average, and is the third highest in the world. The study further shows that adolescents in Russia are 4 times more prone to depression (20%) than those in other parts of Europe, and that approximately 90% of suicides happen among adolescents living in families facing difficulties. Suicide attempts among adolescents living in institutions, while not researched in the study, are regularly reported in the media.

According to the Federal HIV-Centre, the HIV epidemic continues to progress at a 10% rate annually. At this pace, and without effective prevention measures tackling the main source of infection, i.e. unsafe drug injection, the prevalence rate will double by 2016. Russia hosts approximately half of the children and women living with HIV in the CEE/CIS region, and along with Ukraine, accounts for 90% of new infections in the region (source: World Aids Day Report, UNAIDS 2011). HIV especially affects young people in the 15-29 age group (80% of infections), mostly in the Volga Basin, the Urals and Siberia where the epidemic has reached the generalized stage in a few districts. Important progress in the reduction of mother-to-child transmission, estimated at around 5%, is outpaced by the progression of the epidemic among women, resulting in increasing numbers of children born with HIV every year - up to 400 in 2010. Significant increases have been registered in prophylactic coverage during pregnancy and at birth (at 78.6% and 89.7%, respectively). Still, 11% of HIV+ pregnant women, often facing social vulnerabilities, including drug abuse, miss antenatal consultations and opportunities to be effectively treated to protect their babies.

Violence against children is increasingly debated in the society, including the magnitude of violence inflicted to children in their homes and institutions. Internet providers and law makers are also getting concerned about the risks children take as internet users, whilst they at the same time recognize the need to protect their rights to express opinions and the benefits that internet brings to their development. Among European countries, the Russian Federation is in the lead when it comes to internet use, with users getting increasingly younger. A 2011 exploratory study by UNICEF and the Digital Citizenship Safety titled "The Runet Generation" showed that Russian children are at a greater risk than their European peers when using the internet. Forty per cent of 9-16 year olds reported meeting someone from the online world in real life. Other risks include exposure to unrestricted adult content, malicious software, and cyber-bullying. In the North Caucasus, volatile and pervasive violence, along with continued deprivation of socio-economic opportunities, increase children and young people's vulnerability to exploitation, abuse and poverty.

Most notable among the general measures of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been the development of institutions such as the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights, the Foundation for Children in Difficult Circumstances, and of monitoring systems under the leadership of ROSSTAT. In 2011, meeting its commitment to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Russian Federation submitted its 4th and 5th periodic reports. However, the absence of a consultation process around the submission decreased the opportunity to effectively follow on the 2010 Presidential First Call for Children which affirms the centrality of children to the three overarching challenges facing the country, namely demographic decline, modernization and national unity. In their 2011 Analysis of the Effectiveness of Budget Expenditures for Children (in Russian), the Accounting Chamber and UNICEF concluded that assessing resource effectiveness for children remains a challenge in the absence of a clear federal framework for children guiding policy, resource allocation, and measurement. This challenge is compounded by highly decentralized resource allocation and devolution of accountabilities for children. Russia has yet to ratify the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Council of Europe instruments on violence-related topics. While not an end in themselves, these would help guide the development of national policies and laws, strategies, and monitoring mechanisms.

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

In its review of Options for Social and Economic Development for Children and Poor Households in 182 Countries, UNICEF recognizes the effectiveness of the Russian National Welfare Fund, resourced by oil and gas revenues, in cushioning and mitigating economic shocks on the most vulnerable, including children. However, since the early 2000's, income inequality has increased, with the 1st and 2nd quintile of the population still not reaching the income levels of the 1990's. Fifteen percent of the population is classified as poor according to a subsistence minimum-based measure, whereas a multi-dimensional approach shows 30% of the population as being poor. Children under 16 are at double the risk of poverty. During the period of economic growth after 2003, the difference between child poverty and national poverty rates continued to grow, indicating that growing income disparities have a particularly negative effect on the child population.

Geographic disparities persist and are reflected in significant differences in levels of child outcome, starting with IMR and U5MR.

In addition to poverty, risks of social exclusion affect specific groups of children - such as children living with HIV, children with disabilities, children from vulnerable families with low levels of parental care and violence, and children of migrants. A Situation Analysis undertaken with the Independent Institute for Social Policy and guided by a multi-sectoral group of governmental and non-governmental experts will be published in February 2012 and will propose recommendations for greater mitigation and inclusion.

### **Data/Evidence**

The CPD was based on a comprehensive situation analysis conducted in 2006 addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children in particular. The CO's programmatic focus aimed at prevention of separation of children from families; social inclusion of children with disabilities, in particular capacity building towards inclusive education for children with disabilities; combating the spread of HIV/AIDs, and adolescent health and wellbeing. The 2011 Sitan identified and analyzed the deprivations facing the most vulnerable groups of children (those at risk of abandonment, extreme poverty, children with disabilities, ethnic minorities or migrant children as well as children with HIV/AIDs, IDUs and at-risk adolescents) through the prism of access to health, education, and social protection mechanisms. As the concept of feedback and participation by children in the development and assessment of policies that affect them is in its infancy in Russia, a special section of the Sitan reviews how participation is defined and manifested in the legal framework. It also explores the practical dimensions of child participation in Russia.

Overall, the 2011 Situation Analysis considers the impact of a decade of reforms dedicated to improving the situation of the most vulnerable children and families in Russia, identifies gaps in current strategies and policies and provides a set of recommendations to address the most urgent problems. UNICEF also partnered with the Federal Accounting Chamber on the impact of decentralization and cash transfers to children and families in the regions, resulting in the first ever federal assessment of fiscal transfers to children. The report also included an analysis of the situation of children in the Far Eastern Okrugs which revealed serious disparities faced by children from these regions with regards to access to health, education and social services.

Recommendations of the Accounting Chamber report include the need to increase transparency in budgeting for children as well as a call for federal level guidance to regions on minimum requirements for effective social sector budgeting. As the system, collection and categorization of data within Russia and CEE/CIS is a legacy from Soviet times, Russian statistics are oftentimes not comparable internationally; current indicators are also failing to identify categories of the most vulnerable children or the disparities and inequities facing them. Focusing on data on children and youth in Russia, UNICEF and the Federal Statistics Service (ROSSTAT) conducted an analysis of current methodologies, key data sets and indicators for child wellbeing (health, education, social protection, vocational training, sports, leisure and culture) to identify areas where vulnerable children were not represented. A series of three consultations were held with policy makers, service providers and subject experts during 2011 and the recommendations will be used to increase the quality of current child-related data in Russia. A further outcome of this work is that CIS Stat, the statistical bureau for the CIS using experience and methodologies gained through work with ROSSTAT, will partner with UNICEF to compile data on children and youth for the CIS region.

### **Monitoring Mechanism**

Through capacity building of and partnerships with key federal institutions, UNICEF supported improvements in key areas linked with identifying existing inequities for children. For example, as an outcome of the work with ROSSTAT, the visibility of children and adolescents has increased through better disaggregated data and compiling a one-stop-shop mechanism for data on children that will be incorporated and regularly updated as part of ROSSTAT regular publications. Through work on deinstitutionalization of children in orphanages, coupled with training and capacity building of social service providers, better indicators on child protection have been implemented. Furthermore, government social services have shifted their focus from only emergency assistance to children and families in crisis (street children, abandoned children, etc.) to greater efforts on preventing abandonment and supporting parents and families. This is the result of the development and expansion of the Krasnosielsky Center in Moscow which, with UNICEF support, is the resource and training center not only for the 10 districts in Moscow (serving a population of approx. 15 million residents), but also a resource for exchange of best practices with St. Petersburg. The Krasnosielsky Center has harmonized the approach to interventions, data collection and indicators for the Moscow City region as well as the types and standards of services available. As a result, trust has increased between the authorities and their target beneficiaries, leading to improved emotional, physical and social support to children.

UNICEF initiated support to the Child Rights Ombudspersons (CRO) Network which, over two years, expanded from 37 to approximately 80 regional ombudspersons across Russia. To increase the capacity of the CRO to monitor and support child rights, UNICEF supported the development, testing and delivery of a 72 hour university course on children's rights developed jointly with Russian Universities and CRO institutions in Belgium and Sweden. As a result, all existing regional CROs are trained to deliver quality assistance and conduct monitoring on the situation of children related to their access to health, justice, social protection and education irrespective of their location. This led to the institution of new norms for the protection of children's rights in Russia. Through UNICEF's partnership with the Federal Accounting Chamber, a comprehensive analysis of the impact of federal cash transfers to the regions revealed the need for greater transparency with respect to policies and budgeting for children. It also pointed to the importance of addressing significant disparities in regional allocation of funds for social services, taking into account the region specific socio-economic indicators for the most vulnerable families and children.

Similarly, a series of studies culminating in an in-depth analysis of adolescent mortality revealed that 80% of deaths were preventable, suggesting the necessity of improved services targeting the unique needs of this specific group. A series of three separate studies revealed that children accompanying migrant parents from CIS states are increasingly among the demographic of excluded children. The findings have prompted the St. Petersburg and Moscow City Governments to call for a review of policies and practices to better meet the needs of this particular group which is otherwise not considered within regular data and monitoring mechanisms.

### **Support to National Planning**

Over the years, through its programme of cooperation, UNICEF's focus has been on capacity strengthening of federal institutions in child rights monitoring; establishment of knowledge management networks in adolescent health and municipal policies; and development of protocols for regional planners in child protection, HIV prevention and inclusive education. UNICEF's role has increasingly been to connect key Russian institutions with international best practices, experts and initiatives to reduce the risks faced by children and to promote inclusion.

UNICEF has provided support to the establishment of the Child Rights Ombudspersons network, with approximately 80 CROs covering all regions in Russia to better track and monitor the protection of children's rights. Support to ROSSTAT has enabled better disaggregated data and reporting particularly on vulnerable, excluded groups of children, including children with disabilities and migrant children. These efforts have led to a review of access to services, including social protection, education, and health, for particularly vulnerable groups of children. Supporting ROSSTAT staff to participate in DEVINFO and TRANSMONEE training opportunities has also developed interest and ownership in the application and distribution of child-related data in Russia. Linking international expertise through Child Help Line International to national institutions has enabled improved service delivery for the federal children's helpline as well as the sharing of international best practices. It has also provided consultancy support to regional governments in Petrozavodsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Leningradsky Oblast and Moscow on deinstitutionalization and inclusive education for children with disabilities. This has, in turn, prompted these government bodies to review current practices and consider new approaches for children.

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

## **Country Programme Analytical Overview**

**Capacity Development:** In its final year of the 2006-2011 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 locally-implemented best practices. For example, approximately 150 Youth-Friendly Clinics (YFC) have been established across Russia for adolescents to receive health, social and psycho-social support. An accreditation course for the YFC has been developed in order to ensure consistency. Within the CFCI, UNICEF has developed tools and facilitated mutual exchange of experience which in Moscow has led to increased focus on result-based management using a logical framework approach to link deliverables from different ministries. In child protection, capacity building efforts targeted 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.

**Effective Advocacy:** This has been based on the adoption of an Office advocacy framework, enabling

UNICEF to be more proactive in identifying potential allies in the face of obstacles. It also allows the organization to make better use of the knowledge that it helps generate through supported analyses, research, evaluation and demonstration of projects in the community.

**Strategic Partnerships:** UNICEF partnered with the *Foundation* to bring together civil society and child ombudspersons at three regional workshops to promote deinstitutionalization. Work with ROSSTAT has resulted in improved data for children and youth. UNICEF worked closely with corporate donors to promote public-private sponsorship of local initiatives to support children in need. IKEA remains a key corporate partner generating more than \$1 million annually to provide direct help to children with disabilities, most-at-risk youth and families in crisis. It also funds up-stream policy shifts which was evidenced most recently in the adoption of support for inclusive education for children with disabilities. Amway, Tupperware, and Barclays are other examples of how corporate support to UNICEF programs has contributed to positive change for children. Within their new engagement, the Russian Federation and UNICEF will seek to mobilize such partnerships to assist third countries to reform their own systems and advance children wellbeing.

**Knowledge Management:** The Russian knowledge base is a resource for best practices within child protection, social policy, health, and youth-friendly services. It also promotes Russian experts within the CIS region and globally. To date, Russian expertise in YFS has been shared with Moldova, inclusive education approaches have been shared across the CIS, and child-related data coming from the UNICEF-ROSSTAT partnership have prompted interest from CISSTAT for similar publications.

**Communication for Development:** UNICEF has become active on social media platforms, linking with Facebook, Twitter, Vkontakte and others to reach out to a range of audiences. UNICEF data and opinion is cited in the blogosphere on a regular basis (INSERT 2011 DATA). Key stories in 2011 were: IE conference, Accounting Chamber Report, Adolescent Mortality, RUNET Research on children and the Internet.

### Effective Advocacy

*Mostly met benchmarks*

An Office advocacy strategic framework was initiated in 2010 and further developed in 2011. It has helped UNICEF better advocate for the inclusion of children in wider national priorities, including modernization, Russia's growing role in international development, demography, the North Caucasus and, more generally, national cohesion. It has also helped to proactively identify allies and obstacles in advocacy. Gaps in policy, legislation, and budget allocations have been identified, analyzed and shared with media and policy makers, including through presentations to the Duma, Council of the Federation, and Public Chamber. UNICEF has capitalized on visits by Senior Officials, such as the UN SG, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UNSG Special Envoy on Children and Violence, enrolling their support and publicly advocating for the ratification of UN Conventions and CRC Optional Protocols, as well as European instruments, on disability, child pornography, and sexual exploitation.

To develop an understanding of key factors pushing families into poverty, vulnerabilities and exclusion, UNICEF and lead think-tanks, in cooperation with partners, undertook a series of analyzes and research. The most prominent are the *Analyses of Child Welfare Reform and Deinstitutionalization System in Russia (2008)*, *The Awareness of School Children of their rights (2009)*, the *Analyses of the Situation of Migrants Children in Saint Petersburg (2011)*, the *Analyses of Efficiency of Budget Expenditures on Children in 2011* and the *Situation Analysis of Children in Russia (2011)*. The analyses were widely disseminated through the media and generated public discussions. In support of evidence-based decision making, UNICEF together with the Federal Statistics Service (ROSSTAT) participated in the development and publication of the statistical yearbooks *Children in Russia (2010)* and *Youth in Russia (2011)* which continue to be widely used by policy makers, Ombudspersons, civil society and researchers. The ROSSTAT will continue to

produce them on a bi-annual basis. A series of workshops were also conducted with ROSSTAT and subject matter experts on the enhancement of child related statistics (in 2011) and DEVINFO.

Public interest in CFCI expanded as a result of the Ratings Survey conducted with the media outlet RIA Novosti on the child friendliness of the cities. With the much smaller Petrozavodsk taking the lead ahead of St. Petersburg and Moscow, the results prompted a debate among some cities in the network along with calls to reassess their strategies towards services for children. Citizens themselves were engaged in the outcome of the survey as were children who were very outspoken in sharing their views. A second rating in 2012 will reveal whether the rankings have prompted further action at the city level. High level public and media interest in the analysis of the Federal Budget produced by the Accounting Chamber raised the Federation Council's interest in UNICEF's work and the implications of the findings for children.

### **Changes in Public Policy**

Over the country program cycle, there is evidence of a shift in public policy across several areas. While there was an initial reluctance to consider family-based care as an alternative to the institutionalization of children who were either disabled or abandoned, there is now a clear preference for family-based care in Russia. The implications of this are enormous as evidence shows that, particularly for children under three, it is important to have not only material and physical needs satisfied but also emotional needs. Similarly, strong resistance towards inclusive education for children with disabilities has slowly eroded which was helped in part by the IE conference held last year with the participation of regional and international experts on inclusive education. Building on documented evidence from educational institutions implementing inclusive approaches, UNICEF and partners have built a case for inclusive schooling for children ranging from pre-school through high school. Training for educational professionals, service providers, parents and children has opened the doors to a more tolerant environment, along with increased understanding of the nature of disability by non-disabled children and parents. A fully inclusive school system will not be created overnight but improvements have been made as evidenced by the growing number of inclusive schools and proposals to have inclusive schools incorporated (and financial incentives to support them) in the new Education Law. There has also been a shift towards more meaningful engagement with children. When launched in 2007, the CFCI also involved children yet they were not necessarily consulted for feedback on policies or ideas. With UNICEF support, in 2011, the Moscow City Government tried a different approach. As a result, for the first time, a series of ten consultation sessions was arranged with a cross-section of children (non-disabled, disabled, migrant children, children at risk and children from ethnic minorities) to get feedback and ideas on decisions within their community. Children were given the space to question, comment and challenge high level policy makers at the annual Moscow CFCI event.

At the federal level, in January 2012, a new impetus for children was reached, with the Council of the Federation being tasked with the development of a new plan for children which focused on the most disadvantaged. The Budget Analysis and the Situation Analysis of children produced by UNICEF and partners will be key inputs in the development of this plan. Furthermore, a growing number of members of the Duma and the Council of the Federation are now advocating for the ratification by the Russian Federation of the UN Convention for People with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol of the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

### **Leveraging Resources**

The country programme has aimed at leveraging resources at the decentralized level by producing thematic regional planning guidelines for district administrations and developing planning tools for cities joining the Child Friendly City Initiatives. UNICEF and the Accounting Chamber have also partnered to produce an analysis of budget allocations and efficiency at federal and decentralized levels with recommendations to improve processes, transparency, and efficiency relevant to the federal budget, transfers to regions/districts and regional budgeting. Details are provided in relevant sections of the annual report. In

addition, UNICEF has encouraged the Russian Federation to support UNICEF's response in Libya, Kyrgyzstan and the Horn of Africa for which three million USD were mobilized in 2011.

### Capacity Development

*Mostly met benchmarks*

Over the years, UNICEF's focus has been to develop the capacity of key federal institutions in child rights monitoring and decentralized district and municipal administrations in planning for better child protection. For example, in 2011, a new package and on-line course were developed for the Ombudspersons for Children's Rights to help them systematize their work and enhance their performance in assisting victims of violations, assessing overall situations, advocating legislative changes and allocating proper resources. All Ombudspersons have benefitted from the course which will be adapted for a wider cadre of professionals working with children. With the regions/districts, a new set of planning guidelines has been developed to prevent child abandonment and separation, as well as to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities. Such capacity development activities are built on international norms and based on identified local good practices. Many of them have been supported by UNICEF in decentralized settings and produced results benefitting target populations. They have then been systematized and made available to other districts and regions.

The development of medico-social services in response to HIV has helped the Altai Krai to decrease PMTCT below 5% more effectively than other regions. The model has been replicated elsewhere and has contributed to decreasing the national PMTCT rate to approximately 5%. Programme collaboration with Tver, Kostroma, Karelia and Buryatia regions resulted in revisions of regional laws that strengthened the social protection system for families and children and in the broader and more systematized use of outreach techniques to support families. The impact has been considerable. In Tver, in 2007, almost 70 percent of vulnerable families were successful in obtaining needed support, as opposed to just 49 percent in 2005. In Kostroma Region, 80 percent of children returned to their biological parents and the number of children in state-run institutions decreased by 50 percent over five years. More than 22 regions were supported through networking projects and facilitation of regional exchange, resulting in the gradual consolidation of policy and practice in favor of alternative family care and strengthening of family support services.

In North Caucasus, the programme of cooperation has included psychosocial support to children, as well as peace and tolerance with the active engagement and commitment of resources from the local government. Dagestan and Kabardino-Balkaria have pioneered the promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child among teachers and the introduction of inclusive education; the Chechen Government has committed resources to sustain psychosocial support services; and North Ossetia has taken over the management of the family rehabilitation centre established in the aftermath of Beslan crisis. Best practices from the North Caucasus region are being shared with other partners and regions.

### Communication For Development

*Partially met benchmarks*

In 2011, UNICEF made a particular effort to invest in Russian social media, including Facebook, Livejournal, Twitter and the Russian-specific vkontaktie. Public interest is growing (as reported in section Programme

Component/Advocacy and Communication) but it is too early to assess the effectiveness of this effort. On Livejournal, UNICEF disseminated in-depth analyses, key research and advocacy recommendations for an informed and influential audience using this social media platform. With Vkontatkie, a social media platform particularly popular with younger audiences, UNICEF should adapt engagement to the needs of an audience in terms of short news, human interest stories and interest in celebrities. UNICEF will need to invest more into this media platform to effectively promote social, cultural and behavioral change among adolescents and young people.

### Service Delivery

*Mostly met benchmarks*

The most notable example of service delivery in recent cooperation between UNICEF and the Russian Federation relates to the successful initiation and expansion of health services specifically dedicated to adolescents' needs. The experience of Youth-friendly Clinics in the Russian Federation with the support of UNICEF has been fully described in the Young People Health and Development and HIV programme component of this report and in numerous WHO publications.

### Strategic Partnerships

*Fully met benchmarks*

Partnership is at the core of the country programme of cooperation. UNICEF has sought to concentrate on a limited number of partnerships at the federal level, with partners increasingly gaining influence and capacity in producing changes for children in protection, HIV, and, most notably, inclusive education. At the decentralized level, UNICEF has partnered with municipalities that joined the Child-Friendly City Initiatives (17 as of today) to develop appropriate planning, self-assessment tools and participatory mechanisms to put children at the centre of urban planning and promote the inclusion of the most vulnerable or excluded. UNICEF has also partnered with regional/district administrations to develop and test planning guidelines and performance frameworks in child protection and inclusive education. This resulted in the production of a set of regional planning tools disseminated to all regions/districts. Finally, UNICEF has made a special effort to support the documentation of interventions and services at the grassroots level targeting the most at risk so as to inform the development of regional/district planning tools and models for replication.

Finally, through successful partnership with IKEA, inclusive education has been promoted in major cities in the Russian Federation through their customer base, taking advantage of the well-organized "soft toy" campaign. Preliminary results for 2011 show that the partnership between Ikea and UNICEF in the Russian Federation in social mobilization and fundraising ranks second in the world after Germany.

### Mobilizing Partners

UNICEF plays an important convening role in each of the priority themes, especially in child protection and inclusive education. This convening role consists of the following strategic components: dissemination of international norms and standards; support to piloting projects in communities; documentation of local good practices; support to key research and analysis; partnerships with selected regions to develop and

pilot new policy and planning tools; support to forums, conferences and workshops, allowing for information exchange and adoption of harmonized approaches. In this process, UNICEF partnered with a couple of key federal level institutions, such as the Foundation for Children in Difficult Circumstances, the Association of Ombudspersons for Children's Rights, and the Ministries of Health and Social Development, and Education and Science, in addition to key expert NGOs such as Perspektiva on inclusive education and the Foundation Against Violence Against Children on child protection.

### Knowledge Management

*Fully met benchmarks*

Given the sheer size of the country, the large population on one hand and the very limited human and financial resources available to UNICEF on the other hand, UNICEF and partners prioritized knowledge management within their partnership. Guided by international norms and practices in child protection, HIV prevention care and treatment, child rights monitoring and, more recently, disability, UNICEF and partners sought to disseminate international norms and practices while identifying and documenting local practices in line with international standards. Through the organization of inter-district conferences which gradually covered the whole country, UNICEF and partners have brought to the fore local innovations while promoting international frameworks. This process has generated considerable local ownership (as local practices shared were highly relevant to the local context based on history, tradition and legacy of systems, services and monitoring systems) and encouragement for action. It also enabled UNICEF and partners to develop intersectoral regional guidelines for policymakers and heads of decentralized administration in order to spearhead reforms of the child care system.

Another aspect of knowledge management has been to partner with key research institutions and governmental experts to analyze the impact of policies (such as cash transfers for families or institutionalization), monitor the situation of child rights through improvement of routine data collection and analysis, analyze the situation of particular groups (migrant children or adolescents mortality) and resource allocation and expenditure (budget analysis). Many of these seminal analyses were launched within the framework of the Office advocacy strategy and disseminated through media and groups of policy makers and advocates.

A full list of UNICEF Russia publications in 2011 is attached to the Annual Report. Most of the publications are in Russian as they are intended for a Russian-speaking audience.

### Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

*Fully met benchmarks*

The programme of cooperation between UNICEF and the Russian Federation has prioritized the development of national capacities to monitor the situation of children's rights (Ombudsperson for Children's rights and ROSSTAT), placing a particular focus on vulnerable and excluded groups, and recently attempting to more systematically promote children's participation in advocacy activities as well as in municipal planning. UNICEF and the Independent Institute for Social Policy have also used the recommendations from the CRC and, to some extent, CEDAW to develop the analytical framework of their Situation Analysis. Through additional pieces of analyses and research, UNICEF contributed to highlighting the plight of most at-risk adolescents, and alerted the country about the need to tackle the very high

percentage of suicides among adolescents. In developing the Youth-Friendly Clinics concept, UNICEF and partners ensured that services would be adapted to the needs of adolescents, including opening hours, respect for confidentiality, and the promotion of their participation in support and prevention activities. Adolescent participation is gauged as part of the certification process developed for Youth-Friendly Clinics. In the SITAN, several focus groups were organized to ensure that the voices and testimonies of children and adolescents were captured to better understand situations of exclusion and marginalization as well as to listen to their recommendations. In joining the CFCI, municipalities commit to developing mechanisms to encourage children's participation in all decisions affecting their cities. Examples in Petrozavodsk and Perm have encouraged other cities to create such a space for participation.

### Gender

*Mostly met benchmarks*

In 2010, UNICEF undertook a gender assessment of its programme of cooperation in the North Caucasus. Main recommendations, currently being addressed, are summarized below:

- UNICEF NC partners showed a 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. within Committee of Youth Affairs and other line ministries).
- Stereotypes about fatherhood and the role of fathers when it comes to the well-being of their children should be addressed.
- Collection of disaggregated data and gender analysis should be conducted; gender mainstreaming in ongoing/future research is needed.
- Monitor gender issues in programming to improve gender-responsiveness (e.g. phone hotline).
- Include gender issues in manuals for extracurricular work in educational facilities.
- Ensure gender sensitivity in development of the youth entrepreneurship programme.

Within the UNCT, UNICEF also 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, and more effective strategies to combat violence against women. It also emphasized that greater efforts are required to promote family planning and sex education in the face of decreasing but still high numbers of unwanted pregnancies resulting in a 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. Examples include forced and early marriage and honor killing. Little recourse is available for women to resist imposition and report violations. UNICEF also identified the unfolding crisis as most likely having a disproportionate impact on women as they were already over-represented among the poorest households, i.e. single headed households with children.

### Environmental Sustainability

*Partially met benchmarks*

In Altai, UNICEF and NGO partners supported pilot initiatives aiming at the reintegration of adolescents separated from their families through their involvement with environmental activities. Such initiatives have been documented and shared through the [unicef.ru](http://unicef.ru) portal for Russian audiences. While it is too early to

speak of a model of intervention, such initiatives can help build knowledge on the role of children in the protection of the environment and support needed by organizations such as UNICEF.

### South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Based on cooperation over the last ten years and through existing strategic partnerships, UNICEF-Russia has identified individuals and institutions as well as expertise and good practices that can support policy development and technical assistance in other countries, especially in CEE/CIS. Promising discussions have been held on HIV with Ropotrebnazor and Maternal and Child Health with the Ministry of Health and Social Development. The CFCI has been rolled out to Belarus and Kazakhstan based on the Russian experience. The Ombudsman for Children's Rights Institution has been established in Ukraine, inspired by the Russian Federation's successful experience. UNICEF helped to establish the first Russian-language summer school on adolescent health in collaboration with Lausanne University. Specialists from Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan participated in a UNICEF-supported training course implemented by the St Petersburg Medical Academy and Lausanne University in 2010. A resource knowledge base has been established on the UNICEF regional intranet site for access by UNICEF Country Offices from the CEE/CIS region. The data is regularly updated and organized around the following:

1. Experts: institutions and individuals who can provide assessment, analysis, draft legislation, policy advice, and training;
2. Practices and Policies: proven practices established at scale, candidates for study tours;
3. Evolving Initiatives: initiatives that are in the making and show good interim results and potential. This covers the following Russian experiences: THE NETWORK OF CHILD RIGHTS OMBUDSPERSONS, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, CHILD WELFARE REFORM, YOUTH-FRIENDLY SERVICES, PROMOTION OF PEACE AND TOLERANCE, PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN VIOLENCE-PRONE SITUATIONS, CHILD-FRIENDLY CITIES, and MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

Russia's new role as a donor provides an opportunity for UNICEF to partner with the Government in advocacy and in identifying areas where Russia's expertise and experience can provide credible and useful technical assistance to other countries in the CEE/CIS.

With countries in Western Europe, UNICEF Russia has promoted the development of horizontal cooperation in areas such as Child-Friendly Cities and Inclusive Education.

### Country Programme Component: HIV/AIDS and Young People's Health and Development

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
MTCT further reduced and adolescents prioritised in service delivery and policies	3	FA3OT1, FA3OT2, FA3OT4, FA3OT6

#### 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	700000.00	1069258.22	1069258.22	100.00
RR	50000.00	172585.36	172585.36	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$750,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,241,843.58</b>	<b>\$1,241,843.58</b>	

#### Results Achieved

UNICEF supported six regions to develop and adopt policies that integrate psycho-social support into one package of medical and social care services for pregnant women, mothers and infants in difficult life situations, including those infected with HIV. As a result, more than 5000 HIV affected children and HIV positive pregnant women and mothers gained access to improved PMTCT, ARV treatment and psychosocial support. Over the past three to four years, these regions' MTCT rates have dropped from over 10% to less than 5%.

Adolescents are a neglected group in Russia. They have the highest rate of depression and are most at risk of death from preventable causes. During the last country program cycle, the objective for UNICEF was to consolidate and disseminate the concept of youth-friendly services through clinics specially trained to provide support and assistance to adolescents. To date, 150 youth-friendly services have been established in 37 regions, providing reproductive and sexual health services, information, counseling and psychological support to approximately 1.8 million young people, including those most at risk. UNICEF has provided support for the establishment of two Training and Methodological centers for youth-friendly health services, and technical assistance to 1000 specialists on adolescent reproductive health and prevention of risky health behaviors, in addition to linking Russian/CIS and European medical specialists in this field. For quality assurance, a YFS accreditation process has been instituted, with 39 fully accredited and upgraded centers completed by end of 2011. The youth-friendly approach in serving adolescent needs has been recommended as a key instrument by the Russian National Adolescent Health and Development strategy document developed with UNICEF support and approved by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The St. Petersburg and Urals Medical Academy and the National Young People's Health and Development Association are UNICEF's strategic partners in expanding national capacity for innovative adolescent health practices. Annually, these partners conduct Russian-language trainings for specialists from CEE/CIS, thereby expanding the YFS movement throughout the region.

Through advocacy with the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Federal Surveillance Service, the Republican Clinical Infectious Disease Hospital, the Federal Children's AIDS Center and regional health and social service authorities/practitioners, UNICEF country and regional offices provided strategic input to major international conferences on HIV/AIDS focusing on reduction of PMTCT. The transmission rate of PMTCT in the Russian Federation has dropped from 19.4% to 5%. Antiretroviral treatment is provided to more than 80% of HIV-infected pregnant women and more than 95% of newborns. However, reaching 100% remains a challenge without adequate policies and practices to identify the most at-risk and stigmatized adolescents (including drug-using mothers) in need of support. During the program cycle, 8,380 educators

and administrators in 2,050 schools, kindergartens and institutions in eight regions participated in capacity building initiatives. A special training program for residential care institution staff was offered to enhance their capacity to provide care, treatment and psycho-social support to HIV-infected children left without parental care. Following the training, more than 90% (baseline: 45%) were actively ready to protect this group of children from discrimination.

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

The Government has developed the healthcare infrastructure, contributing to a 3.7 year increase in average life expectancy, 20% increase in birth rate, and 12% and 26% decrease in mortality and infant mortality, respectively. Despite these positive trends, the child population continues to shrink and the benefits to young people and vulnerable groups are showing a decrease. Promotion of healthy lifestyles remains a challenge, with anti-alcohol and anti-smoking campaigns continuing in 2010. Russia's high adolescent mortality is another sign of young people's vulnerability and poor 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, with "pockets" of higher prevalence rates in rural urban areas across the country. Although Russia has been successful in drastically reducing the PMTCT rates to 5% and making access to anti-retroviral treatment available to HIV infected pregnant women, reaching 100% of this particularly vulnerable and at-risk group will not be possible without additional political support and resources.

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

UNICEF has partnered with the St Petersburg Medical Academy to develop a resource centre on adolescent health and development, including a website with resources for professionals and an accreditation system, including certified accreditors. In HIV, over the years, UNICEF has strengthened its partnership with the HIV-Federal Centre, supporting its effort to become the country's reference expert centre on pediatric AIDS. At the decentralized level, closed partnerships with the administration and services of regions such as the Altai Krai have allowed UNICEF and government partners to pilot, test and expand innovative socio-medical approaches to promote an integrated response to the HIV epidemic in prevention, care, treatment and support.

To better understand morbidity and mortality among adolescents, UNICEF has partnered with the highly respected Federal Central Scientific Research Institute for the Organization and Information of Health, as well as the Scientific Centre on Child Health (RAMN).

Such partnerships constitute key resources that UNICEF and the Russian Federation can make available to other countries through a new form of engagement.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

n/a

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

***"Adolescent deaths from suicide in Russia" - UNICEF Russia and "The Central Research Institute for Health Care Organization and Information."***

Russia ranks third in the world in terms of the number of suicides committed by adolescents, with the average suicide rate among the adolescent population being more than three times higher than the world's average.

The study has revealed that depression and high levels of anxiety and aggression are common among young people today. While the level of adolescent depression in Western developed countries does not exceed 5%, the same level in Russia is hovering around 20%. Approximately 45% of girls and 27% of young men in Russia have recurring thoughts of suicide.

Poverty is not the leading cause of suicide. According to various research data, up to 92% of suicides among children and adolescents are directly or indirectly rooted in disadvantaged family situations (parental alcoholism, conflicts in the family, abusive treatment).

Research findings have again highlighted the problem of underreporting suicide mortality rates. The authors of the report indicate that only undeniable cases of suicide are registered in the official statistics; however, the underlying causes of other registered accidents, such as medication overdose, falling from height or being the only victim of a car crash accident, often happen to be suicide. The actual suicide rates among adolescents in Russia are therefore likely to be much higher.

Increased suicide risk among adolescents is found in two geographic clusters – northwest territories in European Russia and Russia’s Far East and East Siberia territories. In terms of suicide rates, the situation in Moscow and St. Petersburg is relatively satisfactory, though at the same time, a higher indicator of undocumented suicides is registered in these regions.

In order to reduce adolescent suicide rates, suicide prevention activities should be aimed at early identification of suicide risks in families and interpersonal environment of adolescents.

Prevention activities should proceed along two basic lines – general and individual prevention activities since an act of suicide is perceived both as an individual act of a human being and as a socio-psychological phenomenon. General prevention activities help a person at the stage of development of suicidal tendencies, while individual prevention activities help a person at the reversible stage of externally displayed suicidal behavior.

Multiple-level risk and protective factors for suicide determine the need for integrated suicide prevention which would include both a medical aspect and a cultural/education aspect as well as measures to address a number of social issues. It has been established that no single risk factor is likely to be sufficient to cause a death from suicide unless it is combined with other factors.

Suicide prevention among adolescents should focus on early crisis intervention with families and provision of timely social, psychological and other support services to particularly vulnerable adolescents and their families. Implementation of measures aiming to prevent alcohol and toxic substance abuse is also an important component of activities to help prevent adolescent suicide.

### Future Work Plan

UNICEF will make every effort to mobilize experts working on HIV/AIDS and adolescents to meet demands from other countries and continue linking them with global development efforts in these areas of expertise.

## Country Programme Component: Child Protection

### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Enhanced capacity of federal and decentralized administrations to prevent children’s abandonment and separation		3 FA50T5, FA50T7, FA40T1, FA40T7, FA30T6, FA40T3

### 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	1200000.00	1994924.35	1994913.54	100.00
RR	50000.00	5815.61	5815.61	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,250,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000,739.96</b>	<b>\$2,000,729.15</b>	

### Results Achieved

Since 2006, the situation for children has improved in large part as a result of significant government commitment to enhance support to families with children. The number of children without parental care in residential facilities dropped from 127,000 in 2006 to 93,800 in 2010. However, children with disabilities remain at risk of being separated from their families.

UNICEF documented the MHS good child welfare practices in more than 13 Russian regions, culminating with research that took stock of progress in the country's child care system and de-institutionalization process. This work was completed with an international conference involving representatives from federal ministries, 19 regional authorities, child rights ombudspersons, NGOs, and the international expert community. A set of principles and recommendations including priority next steps to accelerate reform and strengthen the position of children in their families were adopted. This child care dialogue was rolled out to more than 700 regional policymakers and practitioners across all of Russia's federal districts, providing strong messages on support to biological families and linking disability and violence issues with de-institutionalization.

Working closely with the MOES and NGO partners, UNICEF also supported the development of a model interagency child care response based on Russian good practices and detailed analysis of legislation and financial mechanisms. Establishment of a child welfare planning and policy framework and a toolkit for prevention of baby abandonment complemented this model, serving as important resources for regional administrations' responses for children.

Child care needs for especially vulnerable children have changed over the programme period; the number of children actually living on the street has decreased but those who remain are extremely vulnerable. UNICEF focus has moved to addressing a broader group of extremely vulnerable children: street children, those at risk of turning to the streets, and children in institutions who need help with establishing themselves in work or in independent living. Working with Moscow's Krasnoselsky Shelter, emergency and outreach services for street children and children in crisis situations were established, incorporating social service responses as part of the police's and Commission for Minors Affairs' regular responses to these types of cases. UNICEF raised attention to the growing trend of migrants and their families, requiring greater access for children to health, education and child protection facilities. Service approaches to integrate migrant children into Russian society were tested. These projects kept UNICEF in touch with the 'frontline' issues in service provision, coordination, and public attitudes. Private sector fundraising and connected communications activities relied heavily on these projects which served as important opportunities for private companies to expand their corporate social responsibility (CSR). UNICEF maintained long-term coordination with six companies regarding CSR.

UNICEF supported inclusive social and education pilots in more than seven regions, and with its partners expanded outreach to involve greater participation of children in programme implementation. A policy paper on social inclusion for children with disabilities, highlighting key priority actions to better address disability needs, as well as an inclusive education toolkit documenting good inclusive education practices in seven Russian regions, provided good resources for further planning and sharing.

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

During this programme period, significant political commitments were made to enhance the prominence of the family as an institution and to provide greater support to children. Establishment of institutions, such as the Federal Foundation to Support Children in Difficult Life Circumstances and creation of the Federal Child Rights Ombudsperson Office, and establishment of regional offices in every region in Russia provided greater protection mechanisms for children.

The value of these changes is reflected in improving overall indicators for children in Russia. At the same time, disproportional equity gaps and risk of exclusion still exist. Accounting for only one-fourth of the child population in the CEE/CIS region, Russia's children represent two-thirds of children affected by forms of inequities, such as separation from biological families and exclusion from schools due to disability.

While certain regions have successfully adopted comprehensive social protection plans, greater efforts need to be made to develop clear federal policies, standards, and criteria for budget allocations in social protection to serve as guidance.

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

In its child protection work, UNICEF continued to closely collaborate with the RF Ministries of Education and Science, and Health and Social Development for policy strategies in child care and disability responses. UNICEF partnered with the Federal Foundation to Support Children in Difficult Life Circumstances and the Federal Child Rights Ombudsperson Office to advance the child welfare dialogue among regions, paying particular attention to prevention work and opportunities for greater support strategies for social inclusion of children with special needs. UNICEF also closely coordinated its work with NGOs EveryChild, Pro-Mama, National Foundation to Prevent Cruelty to Children, Perspektiva, St. Petersburg Red Cross as well as many other civil society members. The Moscow Government Shelter, Krasnoselsky, was a key partner in implementing programme initiatives for especially vulnerable children. Finally, UNICEF also worked with university members such as the Moscow State Psycho-Pedagogical University, regional child rights ombudspersons and many other child rights advocates.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

N/A

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

*Modernization of the Child Welfare System -- the Prevention of Social Orphanhood and De-Institutionalization of Orphans and Children without Parental Care (Russian, English)*: This document provides a policy and planning framework for child welfare and de-institutionalization strategies, pinned by international standards and good practices both from Russia and other countries.

*Prevention of Baby Abandonment Toolkit (Russian)*: The toolkit provides information materials, including organizational and technical guidelines, documentation of good Russian practices and case studies. The materials provide an overview of advocacy steps for decision-makers and more detailed information with algorithms for action by child specialists.

*Journey in Time and Space of the Museum (Russian)*: This publication documents an art therapy approach for rehabilitation of children in difficult life circumstances, using the museum as the rehabilitation environment. The document was prepared and published in cooperation with the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts.

*Social Inclusion Priorities for Children with Disabilities and their Families in Russia (Russian)*: This is a policy document on social inclusion that highlights priority actions needed in different sectors to make communities inclusive for children with disabilities and supportive to their families. This publication was produced with a

consortium of government and civil society experts on disability issues.

*Inclusive Education in Russia (Toolkit - Russian)*: This publication documents a range of good inclusive education practices from seven Russian regions.

*Different Opportunities - Equal Rights: What is the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (Russian)*: This booklet for children provides a child-friendly look at disability issues and provisions within the CRPD. Based on the English version, *It's About Ability*, this booklet was designed together with children and takes into account their perspectives regarding disability issues. A lessons manual was developed to accompany the child-friendly CRPD booklet, providing five 45-minute classroom lessons that can be used in coordination with the children's booklet.

### Future Work Plan

UNICEF will make every effort to mobilize experts and institutions within CEE/CIS countries willing to benefit from Russia's experience in improving child protection systems and promoting the inclusion of children with disabilities. It will also help connect expert institutions in the Russian Federation with international practices and development thinking.

## Country Programme Component: Early Childhood Development

### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Increased access and use of iodine-fortified food		1 FA1OT2, FA1OT3

### 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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

### Results Achieved

For many years, UNICEF was advocating for USI legislation in Russia. With UNICEF support, draft legislation on IDD prevention through USI has been developed. Since 2003, there were three attempts by members of the Health Committee of the Russian Parliament to adopt legislation on IDD prevention (most recently in 2006). However, these attempts were not successful as the Russian Government did not support IDD legislation based on negative reviews from some government ministries.

The situation vis-à-vis salt iodization in Russia changed following adoption by the Russian Government of "Fundamentals of healthy nutrition policy of population until 2020," a policy document which embraced development of a regulatory base for fortification of staple foods (such as bread) with iodine and other micronutrients.

In 2011, UNICEF-Russia continued the Partnership Project to intensify business-oriented approaches towards the global elimination of iodine deficiency through universal salt iodization (USI) in collaboration with Global

Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). UNICEF activities were mainly focused on advocacy for adoption of a regulation on mandatory salt iodization at the government level. In collaboration with GAIN, UNICEF organized the Belgrade Forum for Optimum Iodine Nutrition in Serbia on March 2-3, 2011. The Russian team included 25 members, representing public, private and civic sectors, including several representatives of key government ministries.

At the Belgrade Forum, representatives of government ministries agreed to develop amendments to an existing technical regulation that would mandate the use of iodized salt in the baking industry and public catering. Delegates from the Russian bakery industry pledged to increase the use of iodized salt in bread baking to improve iodine nutrition of the population. Russian academic advisors actively supported the USI programme.

Following the Belgrade Forum, UNICEF empowered national partners to conduct several advocacy events in support of USI. Forum participants wrote a joint letter to the Russian President, calling for bolder actions at the national level to prevent IDD among the population, including development of relevant regulation on mandatory use of iodized salt for mass production of bread and bread products.

Based on a Presidential administrative instruction, the Ministry of Health and Social Development's Health Protection Department supported recommendations made by UNICEF partner organizations to amend the draft Technical Regulation of the Custom Union "On Food Safety" with articles requiring mandatory iodization of fine salt and application of only iodized salt in the production of bread and bakery products. These recommendations were discussed at the roundtable organized by the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (RAMS) on October 14th and received unanimous support from representatives of the salt and baking industries and civic organizations.

The roundtable resolution will be directed to all the concerned government ministries, Prime Minister's and President's Offices. When approved, the Technical Regulation of Custom Union will constitute a solid basis for further action to achieve optimum iodine nutrition of the Russian population. This policy change will be a direct result of massive advocacy activities conducted by UNICEF before, during and following the 2011 Belgrade Forum.

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

The main obstacle for USI in Russia is the alleged "limitation of consumer choice" that limits mainly the sales of iodized vs. common kitchen salt through the retail trade. At the same time, other channels that could provide up to 70% of all nutritional salt (food industry and public catering) are of much less concern in this regard. Many other developed nations faced the same problems as Russia with "limitations of consumer choice" and finally switched to mandatory use of iodized salt in food (baking) industries. For example, from 2009, the application of iodized salt in bread baking became mandatory in Australia and New Zealand. The Netherlands (from 1944) and Denmark (from 2004) have successful IDD prevention programs based on mandatory iodization of bakery salt.

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

UNICEF works with colleagues from the Ministry of Health and Social Development, other government ministries, research institutes (e.g. Endocrinology Centre) and consumer protection NGOs (such as KONFOP) in its advocacy initiatives. UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador A. Karpov has also been a strong ally in this advocacy work. Finally, in this initiative, UNICEF has worked closely with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and members of the Russian bakery industry.

### Humanitarian Situations

N/A

### Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

N/A

### Future Work Plan

N/A

## Country Programme Component: Children in the North Caucasus Region 1

### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Improved services and opportunities for children and adolescents in the North Caucasus		3 FA5OT8, FA5OT9, FA5OT7, FA4OT5, FA4OT7, FA2OT7, FA2OT8, FA3OT6

### 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	3190000.00	2472656.73	2468697.72	99.84
RR	0.00	171886.68	171886.68	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,190,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,644,543.41</b>	<b>\$2,640,584.40</b>	

### Results Achieved

The year 2011 marks more than a decade of UNICEF presence in the North Caucasus. Focusing on mobilization of resources to address poverty, violence, disease and discrimination, UNICEF has built partnerships across the five republics.

UNICEF programme of cooperation in the North Caucasus ended on 31 December 2011. Since 1999, in close cooperation with UN agencies and other international organizations, UNICEF has worked with governmental and non-governmental organizations in five republics (Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia-Alania) to provide children with basic needs, increase their opportunities for development and participation, and build an environment supportive of children's rights. Initially designed as an emergency response, the programme has gradually evolved towards rehabilitation and longer-term development. Local capacities have been strengthened and local ownership has been nurtured across the programme to ensure the sustainability of results.

Examples of results achieved through the programme of cooperation include:

- reduction of infant mortality rates in Ingushetia (from 37.7 in 2006 to 11.6 in 2009);
- restoration of 90% of the cold chain infrastructure in Chechnya;
- sustainable supply of clean potable water and improvement of sanitary conditions for residents in Grozny;

- creation of a sustainable network of psychosocial services and experts in 50 school-based centers in Chechnya;
- development and establishment of a mine action network and monitoring system;
- development of a systematic approach to the promotion of peace and tolerance through participatory development of context-based methodologies, now applied in youth centers and schools in five Republics;
- establishment of a network of youth centers in the North Caucasus providing life and livelihood skills, as well as opportunities for the socio-economic participation of adolescents and youth.

In "UNICEF in the North Caucasus - 1999-2011 from challenges to opportunities", UNICEF summarized programme achievements and documented the changes made in children's lives in the following areas: education; peace & tolerance promotion; health; water & sanitation; mine action; child rights promotion; psychosocial recovery and youth development.

As it moves towards a new form of engagement with the Russian Federation in 2012-2013, UNICEF is making sure that initiatives and pilots are shared with the Administration of the Governor from the North Caucasus for replication and sustainability, especially in the areas of youth empowerment and the promotion of peace and tolerance. In addition, when it comes to the promotion of children's rights, UNICEF will facilitate access of partners from the North Caucasus to federal-level initiatives supported by UNICEF.

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

The persistent volatility and lack of economic opportunities in the North Caucasus continue to pose a risk for child protection, development and participation. As donors and international presence has been significantly reduced since the end of 2011, particular challenges remain when it comes to the provision of technical support, sustained monitoring of child rights and security for organizations protecting the rights of the most vulnerable. The Governor's Administration of the North Caucasus Okrug has emerged as a key partner and has shown a keen interest in sustaining partnerships, results and good practices achieved during the cooperation between UNICEF and the Republics of the North Caucasus.

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

The Governor's Administration of the North Caucasus Okrug will be a key partner for the Republics in sustaining results and partnerships for children. UNICEF shared with the Administration relevant studies, evaluations and methodologies.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

Ongoing volatility requires vigilance from children's advocates in the country with regard to violations of child rights.

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

In the North Caucasus, UNICEF conducted the **Final Impact Evaluation** of the 2.5-year joint **UNICEF-World Bank Youth Empowerment and Security Project**. The aim and approach of the project were found to be highly relevant to the needs of the region in "bringing about changes in attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of young people, including increased participation in community activities, increased ethnic tolerance, and expanding social and economic opportunities for young people". The evaluation findings will be used by the respective local governments to consolidate the activities of the project to improve youth programming and inform future youth investments. It will also guide the way in which UNICEF influences

future policies.

UNICEF in cooperation with Partnership for Every Child, Russia conducted an **assessment of capacities of social and health services for children with special needs in Chechnya**. The main objective of the assessment was to analyze the existing child disability prevention system through a comprehensive evaluation of the medical, social and educational services available for children with special needs in the Chechen Republic. In the course of the assessment, local health and social institutions received both technical assistance and specific recommendations on measures necessary to improve the quality of services for children with disabilities.

UNICEF summarized the results of cooperation, progress and remaining challenges for children in the North Caucasus in "UNICEF in the North Caucasus - 1999-2011 from challenges to opportunities", November 2011.

### Future Work Plan

UNICEF will continue to connect partners in the North Caucasus with international organizations working in adolescent participation and promotion of inter-ethnic peace and tolerance.

## Country Programme Component: Advocacy, Information and Public Policy for Children's Rights

### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Improved monitoring systems, expanded alliances, and increased public awareness and child participation to promote inclusion of all children		3 FA5OT8, FA5OT9, Support 4, Support 6, FA5OT1, FA5OT2, FA5OT3, FA5OT4, FA5OT5, 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	800000.00	928407.61	925404.60	99.68
RR	157000.00	173517.84	162520.83	93.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$957,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,101,925.45</b>	<b>\$1,087,925.43</b>	

### Results Achieved

#### 1. Knowledge & Information Management Research

UNICEF with the Federal Statistics Service (Rosstat) published two statistical yearbooks *Children in Russia* (2010) and *Youth in Russia* (2011) with disaggregated data by region. These publications are widely used by policy makers, ombudspersons, civil society and researchers, with Rosstat continuing to publish them on a bi-annual basis. Knowledge management was expanded through research examining factors leading families into poverty, exclusion and other vulnerabilities. With lead think tanks, UNICEF conducted a number of analyses, including: *Analyses of Child Welfare Reform and Deinstitutionalization System in Russia* (2008); *Awareness of School Children of their Rights* (2009); *Analysis of the Migrant Children's Situation in Saint Petersburg* (2011), *Analysis of Efficiency of Budget Expenditures for Children* (2010); and *Analysis of Children's Situation in Russia* (2011). These analyses were widely disseminated through the media and

generated public discussions. In particular, the budget analysis influenced national debate on the status of family and children within federal policy.

### **2. Advocacy & Communications**

UNICEF Office developed and used new tools to increase efficiency in its advocacy and communication in 2010-2011, including the first ever Country Office Advocacy Framework in the CEE/CIS Region, a media monitoring tool covering a wide range of Russian-speaking media in the CEE/CIS, a strategy for effective presence in the social media, and a six-month evaluation of UNICEF's effectiveness and image in print and electronic media. Simultaneously, UNICEF prioritized engagement with Russian-speaking media by sharing with them seminal research and analyses and human interest stories. Analyses of adolescent suicides, budget efficiencies, and ranking of cities according to their child-friendliness have been very well received in internet and print media targeting policy makers and people in positions of influence, including in Livejournal.ru. UNICEF related topics continued to be more widely covered by media in 2011. More than 104,000 visits were registered on [www.unicef.ru](http://www.unicef.ru) in 2011 (compared to 70,000 visits in 2010). Interest has also grown in social media. For example, on Facebook, 535 people "like" the UNICEF page (from zero stage), and more than 80 people discuss UNICEF posts and links every day. Almost all of the people who "liked" the page are active: they discuss UNICEF posts and links and repost publications to their friends. Almost every post has several hundred views. On YouTube, UNICEF Russia has 229 subscribers. More than 1,411,699 views were recorded in 2011. In media, more than 5000 references about UNICEF were registered in 2011 (about 300 publications per month), out of which 60% were published in online media, 25-27% in print media, and 13-15% were broadcast. The most covered issues were: the UNICEF report on youth in Russia, UNICEF's campaign for the Horn of Africa, UNICEF & IKEA campaign, and youth friendly clinics.

### **3. Social Mobilization**

Given UNICEF resources in relation to the country context - more than 140 Mio people, territory spanning over 10 time zones - UNICEF has utilized social media as a tool for increasing public support to its cause. This complements its nascent fundraising efforts among individuals.

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

Limited resources to conduct effective communication campaigns covering the whole country.

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

Key partners in research, analysis, monitoring, communication and advocacy include: the institution of the Ombudsperson for Children's Rights; the Foundation for Children in Difficult Circumstances; ROSSTAT; the Accounting Chamber; media; the Duma; the Council of the Federation; the Ministry of Health and Social Development; the Ministry of Education and Sciences; the Independent Institute for Social Policy; the Moscow State University; the Government Russian Humanitarian University; the Orthodox Church; media and many others.

### **Humanitarian Situations**

n/a

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

- **An analysis of UNICEF communication** allowed UNICEF to assess qualitatively and quantitatively its image and effectiveness in conveying key messages for various audiences. Specific recommendations were made to adjust the communication strategy accordingly.

**- "Analysis of the efficiency of public expenditures for children", UNICEF and the Accounting Chamber of the Russian Federation**

According to Article 4 of the Convention, States Parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate measures "to the maximum extent of their available resources" for the implementation of children's economic, social and cultural rights. As part of the research entitled "Analysis of the efficiency of public expenditures for children" carried out jointly by UNICEF and the Accounting Chamber of the Russian Federation, data concerning public spending on children at different levels of governance have been closely examined utilizing over 280 indicators for the quality of children's lives (including health, education, living standards, etc.).

**Key research findings:**

- Notwithstanding some positive trends in individual indicators characterizing the situation of children, there remain numerous outstanding issues which have yet to be addressed and which hinder the full realization and harmonious development of every child's potential.
- Lack of a clearly defined conceptual framework required for the implementation of public policy for children significantly complicates the process of determining the extent of funding needed for children and the efficiency of their use.
- The main burden of social obligations for children is borne by regional budgets. About 25% of their total expenditures are related to financing this particular sphere, while the proportion of similar expenditures in the federal budget is less than 2%.
- At the regional level, there is a funding shortfall and inefficient use of funds assigned to address children's needs.
- A sociological survey conducted at the regional level (which took into account views and opinions of both adults and children) demonstrated fragmented public knowledge of the budgeting process and poor involvement of local communities in this process. Only 26% of the respondents believe that the government measures aiming to support families with children are efficient.
- The analysis of the efficiency of public expenditures for children has revealed that the current child welfare system in Russia is inconsistent and fragmented. To improve the allocation efficiency of government resources for children and families with children, in-depth monitoring of the situation of children should be organized, and a special state program targeted at children and families with children should be developed.

As part of the research, a book for children aged 10-12 entitled "Adult secrets about money" was published to help children understand the fundamentals of the budgeting process in the Russian Federation.

**- Package of Materials for Realizing Children's Rights in the Russian Federation (Russian) and an Educational Programme for Continued Learning of Child Rights Ombudspersons of the Russian Federation Territories (Russian):** packages of materials developed for child rights ombudspersons based on the review of Russian ombudspersons' experiences and practices.

**Future Work Plan**

The above partnerships are very useful resources for other countries of the CEE/CIS which wish to benefit from Russia's experience. UNICEF will facilitate access to these resources as well as make sure that Russian experts and institutions have access to international leading networks in their respective areas of expertise. For example, the CIS Stats Office expressed interest to develop Children and Youth Stats statistical compendium in partnership with UNICEF in 2012.

### Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral Costs

#### PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Efficient management of UNICEF resources in support of social inclusion and equity in Russia and elsewhere		3 FA6OT9, Support 1, Support 2, Support 3, Support 6

#### 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	200000.00	203399.89	196399.97	96.56
RR	540000.00	370122.78	370122.77	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$740,000.00</b>	<b>\$573,522.67</b>	<b>\$566,522.74</b>	

#### Results Achieved

The cross-sectoral support allowed UNICEF to maintain a presence in the country and engage with Russian partners at the strategic level to improve the situation of children and women.

#### Most Critical Factors and Constraints

n/a

#### Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is UNICEF's leading counterpart on all matters relating to its presence and new form of engagement. The Ministry of Health and Social Development has been the overall counterpart for the implementation of the 2006-2011 country programme.

#### Humanitarian Situations

n/a

#### Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

n/a

#### Future Work Plan

The presence of UNICEF in the Russian Federation is under discussion which relates to the new form of engagement which both UNICEF and the Russian Federation aspire to.

### Effective Governance Structure

The AMP continued to be the main guiding document for the work of the CMT with clear objectives and indicators within the context of the transition. The CMT continued to be the main consultative management committee ensuring cross-communication among key functions in the office and allowing senior staff to recommend the best course of action for the overall interest of the Office, overcoming competing interests and priorities. The regular CMT meetings reviewed objectives against agreed indicators, monitoring progress and allowing for corrective actions in advocacy, programme management, communication, fundraising, operations and staff participation. Minutes were systematically shared with all staff. Office committees continued to ensure transparency and sound decisions, while promoting wider staff participation.

The Joint Consultative Committee proved to be a very efficient mechanism for promoting cooperation between staff and management during the restructuring.

A key focus area within the program cycle was the efficient management of the downsizing of the Office, including closure of the North Caucasus office and rollout of VISION and IPSAS. The finance team's efforts focused on training and mastering VISION and IPSAS for full transition starting from 1 January 2012. SAP-HR and Payroll implementation was successfully introduced on 1 July 2011. Using DHR/DFAM guidelines and active support, staff members familiarized themselves with key payroll and reporting procedures. Five staff members were appointed and trained as VISION super users, and in turn trained other colleagues along a clearly defined schedule, allowing an all-Office training completion by the end of December 2011. The training programme facilitated the accumulation of practical experience through exercises. Another operational priority was to enhance and optimize office policies and operating procedures to ensure compliance with financial regulations in spite of reduced staffing and office restructuring. The TOA/DAT was consistently reviewed and revised to reflect changes regarding financial control assessment, and to ensure accountability and proper segregation of duties. A briefing on segregation of duties, TOA/DAT was conducted.

As a result of the downsizing of the finance team, (H)ACT assessment monitoring and the Assurance Matrix updating responsibilities were delegated to programme assistants. Finance was involved in spot checks and verification of preliminary and consolidated financial reports and in providing comments and instructions to implementing partners to ensure compliance with UNICEF standards and requirements and minimize financial risks and losses. There were no outstanding DCT balances at the end of the year.

Close collaboration between the Programme and Operations teams enabled the Office to meet the demanding deadlines of early year closure, implementation of the transition to VISION and successful closure of UNICEF's operations in the North Caucasus.

### Strategic Risk Management

In 2010, the Government of the Russian Federation and UNICEF agreed to extend the 2006-2010 country programme by one year, until the end of 2011. Considered as a technical extension, the intent was to give partners additional time to assess options for engagement after 2011, and smoothly manage the transition. The AMP was designed as a mitigation plan to the Enterprise Risk Management Exercise initiated at the end of 2010 which is ongoing. It was based on the assumption that the transition and uncertainty relating to UNICEF's continued presence were overarching risks for UNICEF's operation in the Russian Federation in 2011. As a final decision on the new model of partnership beyond 2011 was yet to be made, the 2011 AMP needed to be highly flexible, closely monitored by the CMT, and adjusted as need be.

Specific risks identified included early separation of staff, which will likely increase the workload of the remaining staff base, staff motivation, proper closure of the Vladikavkaz base, and managing the

expectations of counterparts and staff in the face of uncertainty related to the presence of UNICEF in the country. For each risk identified, risk mitigation measures were identified, ranging from staff support to re-allocation of tasks, recourse to temporary assistance, prioritization of strategic upstream issues, consolidation of results and institutions, and clear communication. A specific enterprise risk management matrix was developed, shared with the RO and utilized to guide the development of the yearly Annual Management Plan.

### Evaluation

UNICEF planned and conducted monitoring of all research and analyses activities through IMEP. Research and analyses activities were related to key programmes, strategies and management areas. Even though some of these papers were called "evaluations" (for example, the CFCI ranking toolkit), they were not actually intended as evaluations as per UNICEF's definitions. Thus, CFCI ranking toolkit was developed to allow ranking of CFCs by degree of child friendliness. A methodology for "friendliness measurement" is based on the one used internationally for child friendly cities self assessment adapted to incorporate Russia's context. The methodology is based on official statistics complemented by opinion surveys of children of different age groups and parents. It is constructed around two key principles. Firstly, the indicators used reflect results and not processes (i.e. number of HIV infected people and not how many actions were undertaken to prevent the spread of the HIV infection; number of children who passed the Unified exam which will allow them to enter high school and not the average score of the unified exam). Secondly, when indicators were calculated, factors such as population, economic or financial parameters are eliminated.

The limitation of the methodology is that it reflects only common child related issues and it does not allow specific problems which a city might have to be captured (e.g. some cities may have exceptional ecological problems and spend a lot on health with very poor results, while others which do not have such problems could spend much less and have excellent results; also, in cities with sea ports, the level of prostitution is usually higher along with drug trafficking). The rating tells us that the success of a city's development when it comes to the best interest of a child is not directly correlated with the resources spent on child related issues. Funding, although very important, is not the only prerequisite for a city to be child friendly. Most important is social mobilization, political will and the commitment of city authorities to address children's issues. Also important is the involvement of civil society and children in these activities. The rating also tells us that when willing, each city is capable of making improvements to create a better life for children. Compared to research, the country's evaluation capacity is weaker and should be developed.

In the North Caucasus, a final evaluation of the World-Bank supported programme on youth empowerment was completed and the general impression of the process and the outcomes was positive. As planned, the evaluation took place at the end of the World Bank/UNICEF programme, but it also coincided with the beginning of UN's departure from the North Caucasus. In 2011, UNICEF also undertook an evaluation of its communication effort and image which has subsequently guided the Office communication strategy.

### Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

All IT planned tasks and software/hardware upgrades and updates were completed, including the Moscow Internet line upgrade up to 10MB unlimited line, PBX management, PIX Firewall upgrade, Hardware and Software upgrades of Servers and user workstations.

In October 2011, Moscow completed migration to Windows 2008 Virtual environment which significantly increased economical usage of expensive IT Hardware Systems and one more step was done in terms of global UN Reform.

The UNICEF Moscow Office and other offices in CEE/CIS now have an operating Video Conference unit that has been installed, tested and put in ICT production environment for regular usage by all staff for communication with other UNICEF and UN offices. While this will not replace all face-to-face meetings, Video Conferencing should be used instead of travel where feasible in order to create more flexibility within operating budgets. The use of Video Conferencing was strongly encouraged in the region for both regular and ad-hoc meetings and consultations.

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

The IT component of the Business Continuity Plan was tested in 2011 for Moscow staff. 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.

### Fundraising and Donor Relations

The Office has made every effort to fully use existing contributions and meet the objectives of governmental grants for children in the North Caucasus and children at risk of being abandoned or separated. Donor reports have all been submitted on time and were greatly appreciated. In its fundraising efforts, UNICEF Russia continued to give priority to local private sector fundraising and stopped actively seeking funds from external donors. As a result, it locally fundraised USD 2.8 million in 2011, a two-fold increase from 2010, surpassing the 2011 target by 22%. Still, at 90%, the fundraising base is over reliant on corporates. Among all donors, the local partnership with Ikea proved to be very successful, especially in support of the Soft Toy Campaign. Ikea and the UNICEF CO focus on the promotion of inclusion, especially of children with disabilities and from vulnerable families. In addition, the Office continued to actively engage with the Russian Government to finance activities overseas, resulting in a USD 3 million contribution from the Russian Government to UNICEF in response to emergency in Kyrgyzstan, Libya and the Horn of Africa. UNICEF also engaged with Russian counterparts in exploring avenues to support other UNICEF country programmes in Central Asia in their response to HIV.

### Management of Financial and Other Assets

Over the last several years, the Office continued to give particular importance to timely and quality fulfillment of financial obligations, especially when it comes to liquidation of cash assistance, submission of donor reports and bank reconciliations. Particular emphasis has been placed on the full utilization of PBAs from National Committees and governments.

Efficient cash management remains one of the focal points of UNICEF's financial management. Successive improvements in cash flow forecast submissions, timeliness and accuracy, and permanent cash resources monitoring resulted in a decrease of overestimations. Cash optimization and planning remain the priority in financial policy, especially in relation to the move to IPSAS. In the framework of preparation for IPSAS adoption in 2012, the finance team enhanced the quality of financial reporting, and improved accountability and transparency. Consistent steps in reconciliation and clearance of GL accounts and submission of required data for reporting enabled the preparation for IPSAS transition. By using DFAM Intranet resources and consultations during the reporting period, the Office was successful in timely submission of unposted vouchers, correction of problematic accounts and preparation of IPSAS-connected reports.

Another operational priority was to enhance and optimize office operating procedures and policies for adherence to financial regulations and control requirements in the context of expected staff reduction as a

result of office downsizing/restructuring. TOA/DAT was consistently reviewed and revised to reflect the changes in financial control assessment and ensure accountability and proper segregation of duties. A briefing on segregation of duties, TOA/DAT was conducted.

In 2011, as a result of reductions in the finance team, (H)ACT assessment monitoring and the Assurance Matrix updating responsibilities were delegated to programme assistants. Finance was involved in spot checks and verification of preliminary and consolidated financial reports. It was also involved in provision of comments and instructions to implementing partners to ensure compliance with UNICEF standards and requirements and minimize financial risks and losses. Outstanding DCT balance at the end of the year equaled zero.

In 2011, UNICEF successfully managed the lease agreement of the UN House on behalf of the hosted UN agencies. As instructed by HQs, a Trust Fund was set up to receive payments by UN agencies and process combined payments to the tenant. UNICEF requested UN agencies to transfer payments in advance to mitigate risks instead of paying on a reimbursement basis. Following changes in UN agencies' location during the year, the CO Operations team participated in negotiations and recalculations of common rent and services. A reconciliation of accounts was done for each agency at the end of 2011, and UNICEF successfully transferred the management of the lease to WHO on January 2012. Payments for utilities are pending but are covered by UN agencies' balances and additional advances if needed. This allows UNICEF to significantly influence negotiations with the tenant, including re-negotiating a zero rent increase for 2012 while keeping financial risks to a minimum.

### Supply Management

Significant steps were taken in 2011 to streamline supply procedures, thus alleviating the workload at the time of office downsizing. A total of 194 POs supply inputs for the country programme were made in 2011, not including freight at an estimated value of USD **1,435,046**. In Moscow, 28 cases were reviewed by CRC in 2011 for the total amount of USD 920,320; in Vladikavkaz, 14 CRC cases were reviewed for USD 456,963. The Supply and Programme units agreed on and introduced an optimized procedure for procurement carried out by partners for USD 3,000. All partners were duly informed about the necessity to observe UNICEF standards and the obligation to provide all the respective bidding documents. These procedures, which are in line with UNICEF standards, facilitated more efficient procurement of low value items. Several requests were received from the Regional Office for assistance with translation services and preparation of an international conference on inclusive education.

To meet the donor requests under the "Child Smile" project, new simplified guidelines and procedures were developed for advance payment for opening ceremonies to institutions participating in this project. These procedures allowed for payment of advances not exceeding USD 1,000 for the official opening ceremonies (in compliance with UNICEF regulations) based on FACE, MOU and project application forms. All institutions report on the expenses with protocols, business offers, invoices and checks, and FACE forms, thus significantly reducing the number of transactions. Certification of compliance with MOU is also signed after each opening ceremony with all institutions participating in this project. In 2011, Supply staff made several project presentations to donors (IKEA and Tupperware).

The local market capacities and wide variety of different products allowed the UNICEF Moscow Supply unit to implement 100% of procurement locally.

Supply identified the companies and signed LTA's for procurement of:

Designers: *BBDO, Media People, IP Koretskaya, IP Dudenkov*

Transportation: *OOO "Garant-Trans", OOO "Logservice-V"*

Medical equipment: *OOO "Medex"*

Play\Sensor\life safety equipment: *PKG "Alma", OOO "Aspect", ZAO "Raduga"*

Promotional materials: *OOO "Verdi", "Suveniri.ru Ltd*

Although most local suppliers accept UNICEF payment conditions, especially suppliers with repeat orders, UNICEF's general terms and conditions cause debate between the supply unit and suppliers. Advance payment is usually required by Internet shops (always 100% advance payment) and suppliers from remote regions where UNICEF is not very well known; however, the number of 0% VAT suppliers increased in 2011 as compared to previous years.

The Supply Unit uses the Internet to search and source price comparisons. Internet prices are usually lower than at shops. The challenge is the 100% advance payment which is not in line with UNICEF rules. As a result, procurement over the internet is used for low value procurement only. Even though VAT is included in internet prices, it is more cost effective to buy certain items on the internet than in ordinary shops.

The warehouse in Vladikavkaz, one of the few in the CEE/CIS region, successfully closed in November 2011.

### Human Resources

In terms of Human Resources management, the Office's main effort concentrated on the restructuring of UNICEF presence in the Russian Federation. From a previous 45-post operation, the UNICEF Office downsized to 15 posts. The process was held in full consultation with the Staff Association and the Joint Consultative Committee was used to channel expectations and agree on feasible options for protecting the interests of the Organization while preserving staff dignity and optimizing their chances for career re-orientation.

In establishing the new structure, the decision was made to abolish all posts and give staff with the relevant profile a chance to apply. Preference was given to internal recruitments. The Office also sought the assistance of the Regional Office to support staff in their career adjustments, including in identifying aspirations, providing training in CV writing and competency-based interviews, adjusting working time to allow for job searching, providing letters of appreciation and support, supporting participation of staff in development initiatives, and preparing staff for new job opportunities. In cooperation with the Regional Office and other country offices, short term deployments - some of them leading to longer-term recruitments - were systematically accommodated and financed.

Performance evaluation reports were completed in a timely and regular fashion. Recruitments for the new 15-staff Office were all completed by September 2011 to allow staff to have clearer expectations of continued prospects with UNICEF for 2012. Several orientation sessions were held on entitlements as defined in AI 2010-01 and further clarification was provided in cooperation with HQ and the RO where there was room for interpretation.

All in all, the 2011 Staff survey results show that the Office fares similar to the rest of the Organization, which is an accomplishment in itself considering the changes and absence of clear long-term perspectives regarding UNICEF's presence in the Russian Federation.

### Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

The review of supply procurement processes and the Office's streamlining of small-size procurement led to a 75% reduction in the number of procurement transactions (POs and PGMs) below USD 3,000 and a 50% reduction of the total number of procurements undertaken by UNICEF on behalf of counterparts. Due to this, added-value brought by UNICEF's involvement was deemed negligible. UNICEF Russia continues to use current LTAs as an efficient and transparent way in its procurement.

### Changes in AMP and CPMP

In 2012, the AMP will be defined when the parameters of engagement with the Russian Federation become clearer. This is due to the fact that these parameters will have significant management implications for all functions, including advocacy, partnership, communication, fundraising and operations.

Whatever they are, the AMP will have to be defined in close collaboration with the Regional Office in Geneva as UNICEF presence will be administratively managed by the Regional Office as of January 1st 2012.

### Summary Notes and Acronyms

AIDS  
Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome  
ART  
Anti-Retroviral Treatment  
ARV  
Anti-Retro Viral  
AWP  
Annual Work Plan  
BCA  
Basic Cooperation Agreement  
BFH  
Baby Friendly Hospital  
BFHI  
Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative  
CAG  
Cash Assistance to Government  
CEDAW  
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women  
CEE  
Central and Eastern Europe  
CFCI  
Child-friendly City Initiative  
CIS  
Commonwealth Independent States  
CMT  
Country Management Team  
ConFOP  
Confederation on Protection of Consumer Rights  
CPD  
Country Programme Document  
CRC  
Convention on the Rights of the Child  
DM  
Direct Marketing  
EC/TACIS  
European Commission  
ECD  
Early Childhood Development  
ECE  
Early Childhood Education

EECAAC  
Eastern European and Central Asian AIDS Conference  
EMERCOM  
Federal Ministry on emergency situations and natural disasters  
ENOC  
European Network of Ombudsmen for Children  
EPI  
Expanded Programme for Immunization  
EU  
European Union  
FAO  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
GAVI  
Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization  
GDP  
Gross Domestic Product  
GFATM  
Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
GWA  
Goodwill Ambassador  
HACT  
Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer  
HC  
Humanitarian Coordinator  
HDR  
Human Development Report  
HIV  
Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
IAAH  
International Association of Adolescent Health  
IDD  
Iodine Deficiency Disorders  
IDP  
Internally Displaced Person  
IDU  
Injected Drug User  
KAP  
Knowledge, Attitude and Practice  
LTA  
Long Term Agreement  
M&E  
Monitoring and Evaluation  
MAPS  
St. Petersburg Medical Academy of Post-graduate Studies  
MARA  
Most At Risk Adolescents  
MCH  
Mother and Child Health Care  
MDGs  
Millennium Development Goals  
MES  
Ministry of Education and Science  
MFA  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
MHSD  
Ministry of Health and Social Development

MIC  
Middle Income Country  
MoU  
Memorandum of Understanding  
MRE  
Mine Risk Education  
MTR  
Mid Term Review  
MTSP  
Mid Term Strategic Plan  
NC  
North Caucasus  
NGO  
Non-Governmental Organization  
NPA  
National Plan of Action  
ODA  
Overseas Development Assistance  
OHCHR  
Office of the High Commission for Human Rights  
OMT  
Operations Management Team  
OR  
Other Resources  
P&T  
Peace and Tolerance  
PAF  
Personnel Action Form  
PBR  
Project Budget Review  
PER  
Performance Evaluation Report  
PLWH  
People Living with HIV  
PMTCT  
Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission  
PPP  
Programme Planning Process  
PSA  
Public Service Announcement  
PSFR  
Private Sector Fundraising  
PSR  
Psycho-social Recovery  
RC  
Resident Coordinator  
RF  
Russian Federation  
RMT  
Regional Management Team  
RR  
Regular Resources  
SD  
Supply Division  
SSA  
Special Service Agreement

STIs  
Sexually Transmitted Infections  
TOR  
Terms of Reference  
TOT  
Training of Trainers  
UNAIDS  
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
UNCT  
United Nations Country Team  
UNDP  
United Nations Development Programme  
UNDSS  
United Nations Department of Safety and Security  
UNESCO  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
UNFPA  
United Nations Population's Fund  
UNHCR  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
UNODC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
UNV  
United Nations Volunteer  
USAID  
United States Agency for International Development  
USD  
US Dollars  
USI  
Universal Salt Iodization  
UXO  
Unexploded Ordinance  
VAT  
Value-Added Tax  
VoIP  
Voice over IP  
WFP  
World Food Programme  
WHO  
World Health Organization  
YFHS  
Youth-friendly Health Service  
YIC  
Youth Information Centre  
YPHD  
Young People Health and Development

### Document Centre

#### Evaluation

#### Other Publications

	Title
1	List of Publications by UNICEF Russia - 2011

#### Lessons Learned

#### Programme Documents