

Executive Summary

Achievements

UNICEF has influenced the public policy agenda by advocating on key child rights issues that tackle social disparities by targeting the most vulnerable families and children by:

- Successful advocacy led to the establishment of a National Nutrition Council headed by the President after UNICEF evidence demonstrated minimal progress in tackling malnutrition among vulnerable communities for almost a decade, thereby imperiling the achievement of MDG 1. In two districts with highest level of malnutrition, multi sectoral micro-plans have been developed under the leadership of the provincial councils.
- Government consent at the highest level was secured for scaling up efforts to trace missing children and reunify families in the conflict-affected North and East. The Family Tracing Unit is to have an expanded presence across all conflict-affected areas with the enhanced cooperation of all authorities which should improve the rate of success in tracing missing children. By the end of 2011, 117 children had been successfully traced, of whom 54 have been or are being reunified with parents or relatives.
- Juvenile justice advocacy resulted in: i) a new law that offers mediation, as opposed to prosecution, for 'theft of a value less than rupees five thousand' when committed by a child under 18 years of age and ii) a pledge by the Attorney-General's Department to process all child abuse cases before the courts within three months and to tackle an existing backlog of cases.
- Following the successful hosting of the fourth South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV), the Government of Sri Lanka allocated US\$ 100,000 for the construction of 30,000 toilets in rural schools and for the first time allocated budgets for sanitation.

Challenges

Nearly 30 years of conflict have prevented the development of government-service provision in former conflict-affected areas. There is a shortage of human resources such as teachers, medical staff and social protection officers in conflict-affected and rural areas. Social Protection Services and the Women and Children's Desks from the Police need more resources and skills to handle increased case loads.

Social services such as health, education and child protection are decentralised functions in Sri Lanka and additional capacity strengthening is required for sub-national service providers in order to ensure improved planning and effective and socially equitable service delivery for vulnerable children and women.

Collaborative Partnerships

Partnerships for children addressing critical challenges and disparities included:

Collaborating with the National Nutrition Council, Finance Commission and provincial councils in the underserved provinces of Uva and Central in order to improve decentralised planning and resource allocation for equity when tackling poor levels of nutrition among children and women. This multi-sectoral, equity-based model is being tested for scaling up.

An ongoing partnership with the Cathal Ryan Trust, of Ireland, worth more than US\$ 9 million since 2009 supported vulnerable children and their families in selected divisions of Sri Lanka's Northern Province this year by funding the construction, rehabilitation and equipping of five schools, 14 health facilities and associated water and sanitation facilities.

Country Situation

With the end of the three-decade long civil conflict in 2009, Sri Lanka is well poised to accelerate economic and human development. The country has a population of more than 20 million and is ranked 97th out of 183 countries on the Human Development Index (2011). Sri Lanka has a per capita GNI of US\$ 2,240 and is considered a lower middle income country. The per capita GDP is US\$ 2400 with a growth rate of 8 per cent in 2010 with the unemployment at less than 5% (2011). The government investments currently concentrated on infrastructure development, especially in improving connectivity through road, sea and air transportation networks, to lower transaction costs. With such investments, the National development plan, "Mahinda Chinthanaya", aims to reduce both intra and inter regional disparities towards equitable development.

Poverty incidence has been significantly reduced from 15.2% in 2006/7 to 8.9% in 2009/10, regional disparities still exists with poverty incidence ranges from a minimum of 3.6% in Colombo districts in the Western Province to a maximum of 20.3% in Batticaloa districts in the Eastern Province. Similarly, the Gini coefficient for household income increased from 0.47 in 2006/07 to at 0.49 (2009/10) indicative of skewed income distribution towards higher income earners.

The country is presently enjoying the population dividend where the total child and youth comprise more than 40 % of the total population requiring the current opportunities available to be consolidated. In order to maximise this population dividend, the country needs to enhance requisite marketable skills and related resources so that an economically productive labour force is created to assist the projected economic and social growth to ensure reconciliation and durable peace.

Sri Lanka is on track with MDGs 2 and 3. With a literacy rate of 92.3 % for males and 90 % for females, the country has achieved gender parity. Furthermore, in primary schools gross enrolment rates are 91.4 % for girls and 92.2 % for boys. The completion rate in primary is 89.9 % and the survival rate is 99.5 % for both girls and boys. Although high participation rates are noted at primary and junior secondary levels, additional enhancement of quality of education is essential at national and regional level.

The country has achieved overall safe water coverage of more than 89 % and improved sanitation of 85.1 % thus making progress towards achieving MDG 7. As with poverty incidence, regional disparities are observed in water and sanitation coverage that required further investment.

Sri Lanka has shown significant progress in its health status. Life expectancy of Sri Lankans is 70.3 years for males and 77.9 years for females. The maternal mortality rate is 33.4 per 100,000 live births, the infant mortality rate is 8.5 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality is 10.4 per 1000 births. However, Maternal and child undernutrition remains a major challenge adversely affecting children's physical and cognitive development. Although rates of child undernutrition have reduced, the rate of reduction has been low. According to the most recent nutrition data 18.1 per cent of new born babies are of low birth weight varying between districts from 12.7 % in Trincomalee to 27.1 % in Nuwara Eliya. More than 18 % of women in the reproductive age group are malnourished. The prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting among children under the age of five years stands at 22, 19 and 12 % respectively. Addressing undernutrition and regional disparities require more focused local strategies to target the nutritionally-at-risk households.

Twenty four % of the Sri Lankan workforce, approximately 1.8 million workers, is employed overseas. Remittances are second highest foreign currency earner for Sri Lanka. More than two thirds of migrant workers are women with many leaving behind children in less than conducive care and continue to be an issue requiring address.

Efforts invested in the monitoring and reporting of grave child rights violations (1612) shifted to restoring and strengthening the broader child protection system and services in the former conflict-affected areas. With improved family support mechanisms, family separation of children has been reduced, from 15,874 children in registered homes in 2010 to 13,204 in 2011. More children have remained with their families following assistance with psychosocial support and cash grants enabling them to care for their children.

Whilst resettlement in mine-affected areas and the rebuilding of livelihoods is on-going, the mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidence level has decreased by from 27 incidences in 2010, to 17 incidences in 2011. This is largely owing to the sustained mine risk education and awareness programme in schools and communities.

Opportunities arose to work in vulnerable communities on issues such as child marriages, children in conflict with the law and advocacy to improve the lengthy delays in juvenile justice procedures for children in contact with the law. An important law that came into operation was the amendment to the Mediations Board Act. The Amendment (Act, No. 4 of 2011) provides for 'mediation' as opposed to prosecution for 'theft of a value less than rupees five thousand' when it is undertaken by a child under 18 years of age.

Although overall government plans and goals are in line to reduce regional disparities, improve equitable growth and equal opportunities, but demands further investments to fulfill the goal for all citizens.

Who are the deprived children in your country context?

At national level, the country has achieved many of the human development indicators with the exception of undernutrition. However, as exemplified by poverty incidence where although the country average is 8.9 % there are districts with double that incidence, similar disparities are observed with other social indicators.

For instance, the lowest primary completion rate was 74.5 % in Central province while the national average is 83.6 %.^[1] Similarly, underweight among children aged below five years varies from 14.1 % in Colombo to 32.8 % in Badulla, which includes the tea plantation sector. More than 13,000 children live in state-run institutions and a further 2,062 are in detention centres. Many of the 130,943 women who migrate for work overseas leave children behind. The rate of teenage pregnancies was 6.5 % in 2009. In terms of population groups, families in remote rural areas, plantations and those with multiple displacements owing to the former conflict are among the most vulnerable.

Although the country has in place equity-oriented policies and programmes, observed disparities and inequities arise. Limited access to services and information due to difficult terrain in certain districts along with lower quality of service provision owing to staff deployment issues are contributory factors. Both these factors in turn affect social inclusion as well as household's ability to secure a regular income. These drivers collectively marginalise such populations, perpetuate inequalities and prevent households benefitting from public investments.

[1] Ministry of Education, 2008, school census report.

Data/Evidence

The main sources of national and district level data used by the office to build knowledge on inequities are from periodic surveys conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics and Central Bank of Sri Lanka on different subject matters that permit comparison across a number of indicators and determinants. These are through surveys such as the Demographic and Health, Household Income and Expenditure, Consumer Finance and labour, Labour Force, Child Activity surveys and Annual School Census, to name a few.

The second sources of data are from routinely collected administrative information across all Ministries and their annual reports related to service delivery. Both sources provide disaggregated data by sex, age and location of population such as urban, rural, plantation, and from Divisional Secretariat level to isolated population groups that require attention.

To add to this information and as particular concerns arise out of field observations, the office also conducts issue specific in-depth studies and surveys to capture changing or current conditions of selected

vulnerable populations. Such studies vary from child marriages, abuse and alcohol, nutritional status of internally displaced to quality of education of students in low performing geographical locations. For instance, the Marginal Bottleneck Analysis conducted in four districts of the country provided in-depth information on costing of interventions to filling human resource gaps to reduce the bottleneck in service delivery. The analysis has provided information to improve planning and resource used to reduce disparities. Another example is the implementation of the multi sectoral approach to reduce undernutrition in two low performing districts of Nuwara Eliya and Monaragala. The approach links the National Nutrition Council with Provincial and local micro level planning to primarily improve undernutrition among children aged below five and reduce disparities through better targeting of resources through multi-sectoral interventions. Similarly, a family support initiative designed in 2011 drew upon insights from a de-institutionalisation project in 2008-2009. This project showed that for de-institutionalisation to be successful, families need economic and psychosocial support.

All three sources of information are combined to build ground level knowledge to identify determinants of causality so that pockets of deprived, or groups of underserved, are identified and interventions designed with partners to address the underlying causes of deprivation such as poor service delivery and/or inadequate resources to improve welfare. Specific interventions are implemented as models before taking to scale to ensure effectiveness and sustainability of efforts.

As capacity gaps among partners is a contributory factor for poor service delivery, greater focus was placed upon generating reliable information for the purposes of tackling social disparities. To achieve this, support was extended to partners to strengthen data collection, analysis, dissemination and validation of information collected through routine information systems. Support was provided to develop such capacities in the health, education, child care and probation, water and sanitation sectors to enable identification of the underserved for required advocacy and interventions. However, this component of data collection and analysis requires further assistance to be fully institutionalised.

Monitoring Mechanism

Each programme uses a monitoring framework, developed based on work plans, to monitor and assess progress towards achieving results for the most deprived children. Results as outputs and outcomes are measured against pre-defined indicators for which data are collected jointly with the implementing partners. Each programme maintains a programme specific database, which is managed mainly with output data from the field and routine data collected by the departments and Ministries at national and sub-national level. Monitoring is further complemented by conducting sample surveys and trend analysis to assess outcome of projects supported by country office. Among such surveys is the assessment of nutritional status of the internally displaced to assess progress with food supplementation project and improvement in service delivery.

Specific measures, employed by programmes to monitor and assess progress towards achieving results are: (i) progress reviews at programme level, conducted internally and with the implementing partners on regular basis – quarterly and mid-yearly. At these reviews, progress and achievements are assessed against planned results, constraints faced during the implementation period are identified and corrective measures are put in place; (ii) verification of progress through joint field visits, sometimes donors to participate in the field visits. Such progress assessment provides opportunities for the project staff to directly engage with the beneficiaries to obtain their views and perspective as feedback for required corrective measures towards efficient management of projects.

With the country attaining middle income status, donor and other loans at subsidised rates may decrease thus using funds from other sources for national surveys is likely to be a limiting factor. Therefore, a reliable routine administrative data collection will become a critical source to assist in decision-making. The country office having taken note of this shift is currently assisting a number of partners in this direction. For instance, the office supports the collection of water and sanitation data on deprived communities from respective Planning sections and/or Social Service departments in the Divisional Secretary offices. Similarly, government data collection in probation, social services and education are supported towards improving routine data collection with quality enhancement and in a timely manner. Another example is the

support extended to strengthen data collection, analysis, dissemination and validation of information collected through routine information systems in relation to child malnutrition and neonatal death. Overall, a more robust monitoring system and mechanisms needs to be developed and institutionalised by addressing the existing concerns related some data quality and timeliness.

As data collected through routine collection and surveys do not capture qualitative aspects adequately and only studies conducted periodically addresses this gap. However, further improvement in this regard is needed and ways to include such information in a routine collection system is being discussed with respective partners.

Evaluations of projects are generally planned by the respective programmes at the beginning of each year with the partners and are carried out systematically in accordance with evaluation guidelines with the assistance of a peer group to maintain standards and quality.

Support to National Planning

Most UNICEF supported programmes are implemented by Government partners and therefore are jointly monitored with the government. The reviews are conducted both at national and sub-national level of government.

The annual and mid-year reviews with the government assess progress of all interventions funded by the country office including those undertaken by non-government organisations. The annual review is conducted by the Ministry of Finance and Planning with all partners of the country programme where progress, gaps and challenges are discussed and options offered and agreed upon for improvement. Quarterly financial progress is also reported to the Department of External Resources, Ministry of Finance.

At sub-national level the reviews are conducted by the Provincial Chief Secretary with all partners who are supported by the country office. The information from reviews of at the sub-national level in relation to progress, issues and challenges are used to inform the national reviews where assistance from the main ministries are required to resolve certain challenges.

UNICEF works with partners, state and non-state, to jointly develop a log frame with indicators to measure the progress and conduct joint missions to assess progress thereby improving partner capacity. Assistance has also been provided for certain sectors such as education and water and sanitation to develop databases on selected indicators to assist in progress assessment. As an example, UNICEF has provided technical support to the Primary Education Branch within the Ministry of Education, for the designing of a monitoring framework for Child Friendly Schools.

On a quarterly basis, data is collected at national and provincial levels, which is used to develop the progress report based on the existing monitoring framework. These reports are disseminated among the three UNICEF zone offices and Colombo office as a monitoring and information sharing mechanism. The progress reports also serve as a mechanism for feedback on delays in progress and to address bottlenecks encountered for partners. In addition, progress reports, which are submitted with liquidations of funds disbursed, usually at six month intervals, are an important monitoring tool both to partners as well as the country office.

Similarly surveys, evaluations and studies are also conducted jointly with the partners with the aim of informing partners of progress as well as building their capacity for assessment and evidence-based decision making. UNICEF supports professional development workshops to assist partners upgrade their skills in both monitoring and evaluation. Such enhanced skills in turn assist in the institutionalisation of monitoring and evaluation as a management tool among partners.

Any other relevant information related to data/evidence?

This country has years of pro-poor service delivery and has an established routine data collection system in relation to health and education sectors, in particular. Two aspects need to be highlighted with respect to routine data. There is a further need to enhance routine data collection so that overall quality of data is

more robust. Secondly, the system has to be strengthened for a feedback mechanism for required corrective action. The tendency to transmit data from the districts to the centre does not encourage the districts to regularly analyse the data submitted to the central Ministries for monitoring purposes. Greater emphasis is required for sub-national data analysis in order to ensure timely corrective measures being implemented for the underserved population in the country. Such analysis will also assist the district in more equity based planning, especially in relation to decentralised functions of service delivery, as such analysis would allow identification of the underserved in a more consistent manner.

Similarly, provincial level-led data analysis for district and planning for the more efficient use of existing resources are other areas that require further assistance to increase equity-based interventions that improves the effectiveness of programme delivery.

One area of data collection where systems have to be institutionalised is in relation to certain indicators and information related to child protection, and the office will work closely with relevant authorities on this.

Country Programme Analytical Overview

The programme is changing its focus from humanitarian service delivery to systems strengthening and capacity building of partners. Thus, during 2011 more focus was given to the software component of the programme such as advocacy on water safety and quality, improving the quality of education, improving levels of nutrition among vulnerable children and women and systems strengthening for child protection.

Health and Nutrition will further strengthen the implementation of a number of interventions in the framework of a continuum of care/life-cycle approach. Emphasis is to be placed on new-born care, tackling under-nutrition through a multi-sectoral approach and management of acute malnutrition in emergencies. There will be greater focus on reducing geographical and gender disparities in health and nutrition outcomes through provision of services for the poor and vulnerable groups in the plantation sector and in conflict-affected districts. The key priorities include:

- Strengthening and expanding the Integrated Nutrition Programme to reach underserved areas and to narrow the disparity gap among various districts.
- Implementation of an integrated Health and Nutrition Communication Strategy to create awareness on preventative and curative health and nutrition practices.
- Strengthening and expanding the scope of early childhood care and development to low performing and resettlement areas.
- Strengthening infant surveillance mechanisms and enhancing commitment to make available an Essential New Born Care Package.

As formerly displaced families rebuild their lives, implementation strategies will become more development-oriented whereby beneficiaries will become involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of WASH activities. This will also include increasing the use of the existing community-based structures at the grass root level, such as Community Development Centres for community mobilisation and for hygiene promotion, and local masons for well rehabilitation and the construction of household latrines.

Child Protection will focus in 2012 on the restoration and strengthening of service delivery and capacity-building of the Government, the main duty bearer. Potential priorities include support for the Probation Service's Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) programme which resulted in successfully tracing 117 children separated from their families during the conflict. The establishment of the District Mine Action Office for the East, the approval of the National Curriculum for school-based Mine Risk Education and the development of the draft Family Policy are other prime examples of producing results by supporting government service delivery, with an emphasis on reconciliation.

Renewed emphasis will be placed on the implementation by duty-bearers of the child-friendly schools (CFS)

approach within all schools, building upon the success in 2011 of the child-friendly approach being implemented in more than 1,200 schools and directly benefitting nearly 300,000 students.

Public and private sector partnerships will assume increased importance for mobilising resources in order to ensure sustainable partnerships and high quality, unrestricted, flexible, and predictable income for UNICEF Sri Lanka as it forms alliances on key child rights issues in order to achieve results in-line with the Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) and the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals (MDGs).

Effective Advocacy

Mostly met benchmarks

Sustained advocacy, public and private, led to the Ministry of Defence supporting efforts to trace missing children in the aftermath of the conflict. Work had already started on this initiative in 2009, but the Government has renewed its commitment this year at the highest level and as a result it is hoped to scale up family tracing efforts across the North and East. So far, 707 cases of missing children have been registered and 117 children have been successfully traced. Thirty two have been reunified with their families.

The Attorney-General's Department pledged in its 2011 workplan to process all child abuse cases before the courts within three months. Currently, it takes on average more than five years and there is a backlog of cases. UNICEF supported training programmes for police, judges, medical officers and the Attorney-General's Department, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice (2008 - 2011), and persuaded the A-G of the need to prioritise child abuse cases.

UNICEF's advocacy resulted in the formation of a national nutrition council, chaired by the President, for the purposes of addressing malnutrition among children. Advocacy within the Ministry of Health persuaded officials to tackle inadequate knowledge among public health officers of the importance of immunisation. This resulted in the mobilisation of public health workers around circulating correct immunisation information and tackling reports of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI). In conjunction with a public awareness-raising campaign, the erosion of trust in immunisation has been effectively reversed.

Sustained advocacy with the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) resulted in the formation of the Ground Water Study Group. This provided a platform for professionals and large donors such as ADB, JICA and the World Bank to engage in dialogue and generate a shared understanding of ground water needs. For the first time in Sri Lanka, national budget funding has been allocated for sanitation. It will receive US\$100,000 for 2012. The Government has also provided funds for 30,000 toilets in primary schools. A sanitation policy for Sri Lanka is awaiting cabinet approval.

The Government issued, in 2011, the country's revised National Mine Action Strategy; setting out how Sri Lanka aims to be mine free. With significant support from UNICEF, coalition partners also launched the Sri Lanka campaign to ban landmines with the main goal to persuade the Government to accede to the Ottawa Treaty, an international treaty banning the use of land mines.

Advocacy to target publics was supported by generating coverage in international (BBC, The Economist, The Guardian (UK), The Independent (UK)) and domestic news media of important child rights issues in Sri Lanka. The country office website was upgraded in order to support advocacy by building its knowledge-sharing role. Thirteen press releases in all local languages, nine human interest stories and 10 videos, were produced supporting key child rights advocacy issues. More than 120 positive stories prominently featuring UNICEF Sri Lanka were generated in the domestic news media.

Changes in Public Policy

An important new law, the Mediation Boards (Amendment) Act, No. 4 of 2011, improved how children are dealt with when they come into contact with the law. This law provides 'mediation', as opposed to prosecution, for 'theft of a value less than rupees five thousand' when committed by a child under 18 years of age. UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Social Services to develop a family policy that offers coordinated social services for vulnerable families. This policy awaits cabinet for approval. Tools were developed for social workers, counsellors and probation officers to manage cases in a systematic, efficient and effective manner.

The Ministry of Health now includes among its health policies that zinc treatment be used for diarrhea and added frequency of vitamin A intake for children aged below five. These are low cost and high impact health interventions.

UNICEF advocated to the government to include emergency education response in the Education Sector Development Framework and Programme II (ESDFP). As a consequence, the new five year ESDFP II (2012 to 2016) includes emergency education response components such as an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and psychosocial programmes. The child-friendly approach is implemented in 1,232 schools directly benefitting 298,744 students, as of December 2011. This approach has been accepted by the central and provincial ministry and departments of education as an effective way of promoting a rights-based approach to a protective teaching and learning environment for children.

Leveraging Resources

Donor and National Committee partnerships were nurtured and strengthened, including those with Poland, Japan, Ireland, Germany, UK and Australian National Committees and with AusAID, KOICA and the European Union (EU). Fundraising efforts were complemented by producing a major advocacy package to raise resources for 2012 - 2013. This package was promoted on the 'Panorama' homepage, the UNICEF National Committees' fund-raising web portal. In 2011, a Joint Plan for Action (JPA), developed by the GoSL, UN agencies and (I) NGOs was presented to the donor community. UNICEF also focused on leveraging government and private resources for the most vulnerable populations.

Continuous advocacy with donors who funded the Child Protection Programme during the conflict resulted in the continuation of fund allocation to vulnerable and marginalised children and their families after the conflict for recovery and development. UNICEF also established partnerships to cater for vulnerable families in the most deprived districts of Uva and Northern provinces. UNICEF contributed to the joint Mine Action Portfolio that was submitted to donors for funding. Through the donor peace support group, UNICEF also mobilised other funding for child victims of mine/ERW injuries.

UNICEF contributed to leveraging resources to address issues of inequity through partnership with the MoE. The Basic Education Support Programme which is implemented in Central provinces to establish Child Friendly Approach (CFA) was extended to the northern and eastern Provinces. UNICEF continued with the cluster co-lead in Education and addressed emergency needs which enhanced resource mobilisation for renovation / refurbishment of damaged schools. UNICEF also advocated for the establishment of information monitoring system at school level to facilitate identification of most vulnerable children at zonal, divisional and school levels. The Ministry of Education (MoE) allocated more resources for the functioning of this system. In 2011, the MoE also estimated that approximately US\$19 million are required to provide 100 % WASH services to all schools in Sri Lanka. UNICEF mobilised funds using existing and new partnerships to raise US\$ 4.8 million to provide WASH in Schools in five provinces in underserved areas and supported the MoE in leveraging its human resources to plan, implement and monitor WASH in Schools activities.

UNICEF supported the human resource capacity of the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage (MoWD) in terms of surge staff as well as setting networks and collaborative mechanisms which resulted in the mobilisation by the MoWD of US\$230,000 to support the organisation of 4th South Asian Conference for Sanitation (SACOSAN) in Sri Lanka.

UNICEF supported the availability of updated information on the nutrition situation of deprived population to mobilise partners to contribute to reducing the inequities. The Health and Nutrition section worked with key stake holders including Ministry of Health, WHO, WFP, UNFPA, National and international organisations and World Bank to attend the needs of the deprived population. These efforts are reflected in the JPA and the multi-sectoral approach to address malnutrition in estate sector, where multiple partners are contributing jointly in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and narrowing the inequity gaps.

Capacity Development

Mostly met benchmarks

In the post-conflict era, UNICEF's emphasis is on capacity-building, the institutionalising of training and long-term systems building.

UNICEF organised a School Self-Assessment training programme for principals, teachers, students and community members which contributed to increased community understanding, participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of school-based management. Provincial resource teams, comprising primary education coordinators and in-service advisers, were established and trained to plan, implement and monitor CFA in targeted provinces. UNICEF organised a planning retreat to improve effective implementation and monitoring of education activities in the Northern Province and a workshop for education stakeholders on Disaster Risk Reduction and school safety. UNICEF developed a partnership with the School Works Branch of the MoE to improve current WASH designs towards child friendly concept. UNICEF also supported the School Health and Nutrition Branch of the MoE in the Southern and Western provinces to directly implement School WASH programmes in 25 schools through School Development Societies.

UNICEF supported the participation of National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) staff in an international training on the preparation and implementation of Water Safety plans. The participants then provided trainings to 1,000 community leaders on contemporary water safety issues encountered in community managed rural water supply schemes. In addition, the establishment of district rural water supply units has increased the capacity of NWSDB to provide timely and improved services to the community managed water supply schemes, especially in the areas of operation and maintenance, water safety, and water conservation.

UNICEF was able to introduce training for police cadets and their trainers at the Police Academy and the residential Police Training School on child protection issues, in light of CRC committee's identified need for training for law enforcement officials which would provide the momentum for engaging in police training. Mine Risk education training was conducted for 54 Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian Demining Unit staff in order to expand MRE programmes for communities. UNICEF helped develop Case Management Guidelines and trained Social Protection Officers to use 'best practice' tools and techniques as they preside on children's cases and reach collective decisions during social welfare case conferences.

UNICEF focused on capacity development to improve the quality of services delivered by health care providers. Eight hundred health cadres improved their knowledge and skills on essential new born care, emergency obstetric care, labour room management, management of malnutrition, and interpersonal communication, enabling them to provide quality services through early detection and appropriate use of tools and techniques and treatment protocol. The establishment, and capacity development, of mother support groups on the importance of breast feeding and complementary feeding; pre-pregnancy and pregnancy care; immunisation, personal hygiene and nutrition has ensured the involvement of local communities for long term and sustainable changes. One hundred media personnel were trained on adverse effects following immunisation (AEFI) which played a vital role in ensuring responsible reporting when rumours circulated about immunisation among journalists.

Communication For Development

Fully met benchmarks

The changing focus of UNICEF's work in Sri Lanka has required more emphasis on planned and systemic communication, C4D.

A major C4D project was delivered by sharing best practices within the Government on how to manage public information surrounding immunisation. Sri Lanka has suffered a backlash within some communities about the safety of immunisation. Immunisation levels had begun to be eroded in Sri Lanka. This C4D project involved Health Ministry Epidemiology officials from its inception; sharing with them C4D techniques including research, designing a strategy, and implementation largely focused on mobilisation of key target publics. More than 3,000 public health workers, some of whom were instrumental in spreading skepticism about vaccine safety, were trained in why immunisation is critical for public health and a series of six workshops were held in the provinces tackling journalists' concerns about immunisation and countering adverse-effects stories/myths. This campaign was recognised at a national ceremony when it was awarded an 'Effie' for its innovative approach which combined careful public awareness messaging invoking indigenous imagery with administrative mobilisation.

UNICEF partnership was reinvigorated with the National Child Protection Agency (NCPA) using C4D methodologies. This partnership commenced with a UNICEF-led planning workshop, for more than 50 NCPA staff, sharing best practices in researching and mapping issues with a view to prioritising child protection issues to be tackled by the NCPA. This workshop resulted in the prioritisation of tackling child abuse, nationally. A C4D strategy focusing on community mobilisation at district and village levels to address child abuse matters has been jointly designed by UNICEF and the NCPA and a national steering committee formed to manage the roll-out of this C4D campaign in 2012; embracing a coalition of partners.

Forty five students (18 boys, 27 girls) representing all 25 districts of Sri Lanka took part in the fourth South Asia Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN IV), held in Colombo in April 2011. Following a successful participatory process owned by the Ministry of Education, they delivered their views on the importance of good sanitation and highlighted current sanitation issues to the adult audience. They expressed their opinions in face-to-face discussions, to the delegates, drawn internationally, and comprising politicians, policy makers, professionals, civil society and international agencies during the respective technical sessions and exhibition.

A C4D strategy was linked to teacher training activities within the Child Friendly Approach to improve quality teaching and learning processes. UNICEF assisted the National Institute of Education (NIE) in carrying out research by teachers for handling classroom issues related to improving children's behaviour and learning achievements. The research was transformed into written and audiovisual materials for teachers. Child Friendly Approach (CFA) manuals were developed and translated into Tamil and Sinhala for sharing knowledge about implementing and improving standards of quality education.

Service Delivery

Partially met benchmarks

UNICEF supports two low performing districts of Nuwara Eliya and Monaragala in the Provinces of Central and Uva to analyse service delivery gaps and target disadvantaged families with effective basic services aimed at improving the nutritional status of children and tackling social exclusion. Considering that the deprived populations live in pockets of low performing districts, a methodology was required to identify

pockets of population groups. As an initial step, nutritionally-at-risk households were identified from the villages with the assistance of the primary health care services. Subsequent to a number of focus group discussions between the different service sectors, key areas of concerns faced by these households were identified. Each of the nutritionally-at-risk households was then visited by a four member team of grass root level service delivery personnel and included the public health worker, the Grama Niladhari (village level government administrator), Samurdhi Niyamaka (poverty alleviation officer) and the Agriculture extension worker. Once the issues for each household were identified the information was collated at the Divisional level (the level lower than a District) and a Multi Sectoral Divisional Level Plan was drawn for each of the Divisions in the District. This micro plan was then implemented by the different sectors through their respective extension service staff.

The important features of the model are pooling and effective use of resources for cross-sectoral and coordinated service delivery providing equitable and targeted interventions. The bottom-up planning process allowed the deprived population to be identified thus allowing better targeting of resources for the most deprived. The project is being implemented on a pilot basis with the intension of scaling up once the methodology is tested for replicability.

More than 16,000 severely and moderately malnourished children in the Northern and Eastern provinces were provided with nutritional supplements including energy biscuits, fortified plumpy nut biscuits and micronutrients as a direct service delivery in response to the emergency situation. The improvement in the nutritional status of the vulnerable children was monitored by the health authorities. Support to health service delivery also included strengthening emergency obstetric care services by providing equipment to hospitals in the North and East and supporting health personnel visiting vulnerable communities, which facilitated access of such communities to improved health services.

Strategic Partnerships

Mostly met benchmarks

Repositioning UNICEF Sri Lanka's public profile and promotion of the UNICEF brand intensified in 2011 by deepening strategic media partnerships and connecting with several International media organisations and closer links were established with a plethora of domestic news organisations in order to raise awareness of UNICEF and child rights issues. UNICEF also played a lead role in UN Sri Lanka coherence by supporting advocacy events and playing a lead role handling strategic communication matters for the Resident Coordinator.

A MoU was signed with UNHCR in early 2011 to ensure the systematic provision of MRE to 1,400 refugees who returned from abroad to places of resettlement in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Cooperation with WFP in the distribution of fuel saving stoves reduced risk for fire wood collectors in mine/ERW contaminated areas. Through a strategic partnership with UNDP in the Mine Action Joint Programme, UNICEF provided MRE and victim assistance to the most vulnerable population while UNDP focused on demining and mine clearing. UNICEF continued its strategic partnership with ILO for the economic reintegration of former child soldiers.

UNICEF facilitates the WASH cluster and is also part of the Shelter, non-food relief items (NFRI) sectors and inter-sectoral coordination meetings. The WASH cluster handled resettlement issues, flood emergencies, SACOSAN preparations, up-scaling WASH in Schools and successfully coordinated WASH facilities throughout the North to maintain good standards in design drawings for dug wells and household latrines. UNICEF has built a constructive partnership with PLAN Sri Lanka to assist the MoE for WASH in Schools. Partnerships were also built with local and international NGOs such as Sewalanka, Rural Development Foundation, and Relief International for activities pertaining to emergencies and community mobilisation.

UNICEF co-facilitated the education cluster with Save the Children enabling an effective, participatory and coordinated complex emergency and transition response. Continuous advocacy through UNICEF's support created an enabling environment in which the MoE developed its capacity in the area of education in emergencies and gradually took on the responsibility for coordination of the cluster.

UNICEF also facilitates the Nutrition Cluster and contributed to Health Development monthly meetings led by the World Bank. UNICEF partnered with WFP and MRI to conduct a survey and generate updated data on the nutrition status of population in resettlement areas to support evidence-based planning and management. In addition, a strategic partnership was further developed with the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) to increase the coverage of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) package of services. Through this partnership, ECCD services were implemented in 225 of the total 448 estates under PHDT. The partnership with the Institute for Health Policy and the ministry of health's planning unit resulted in the production of four district reports based on a Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks analysis, which showed implementation bottlenecks and suggested recommendations.

Mobilising Partners

Through the partnership with Palm Foundation, a local NGO, community-based child protection activities were facilitated in Nuwara Eliya district to eliminate gender-based violence and address livelihood issues in plantation communities. UNICEF also supported the establishment of 176 Community Based Structures (CBSs), such as Divisional Child Development Committees and Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees, to promote the protection of children at village level. These structures were established by the Government partners and involve key community members including teachers, elders and members rural development societies. They aim at both preventing and responding to cases of protection and abuse such as child labour, school drop-out and domestic violence and also provide recreational and cultural activities for children.

UNICEF has developed School Committees where community members create informal networks and are involved in School Self-Assessment and Development Plans to improve the quality of primary and secondary education. This is based on the CFS approach. UNICEF partnered the Centre for Women's Research (CENWOR) to conduct a study on Out of School Children and to assess the impact of poverty, health and nutrition problems, disability, child labour and governance-related issues on children who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of school.

UNICEF partnered with the local NGO Sarvodaya to strengthen community networks and scale up the initiative of Mother Support Groups in underserved areas through its widespread network of infrastructure in the country. UNICEF also mobilised professional associations such as the College of Paediatricians and the Perinatal Society, the College of Obstetrician and Gynaecology to provide technical support and guidance for on-going health and nutrition programmes. In addition, the mobilisation of the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT) has resulted in scaling up of early childhood care and development activities in more than 50 per cent of the estate sector where there is a higher concentration of deprived mothers and children in the country.

UNICEF works closely with NGOs in communities and schools to implement hygiene promotion activities. Rural Development Societies (RDS) have developed on-the-job trainings to improve community participation in the operation and maintenance of dug wells and deep bore wells. Water Committees are involved in the minor repair of tube well themselves and closely work with the Pradesiya Saba for major repair. Trained health and hygiene facilitators voluntarily continued carrying out house visits and awareness programmes to promote good hygiene practices under the supervision of the RDS and some have been integrated in mother support group.

Knowledge Management

Partially met benchmarks

A partnership with the College of Forensic Practitioners resulted in the declaration of 'Child Protection' as the theme for the College's Annual Academic Sessions in 2011. One important piece of research established it takes an average of 62 months, more than five years, for a child abuse case to be processed by the courts. The findings are used as evidence of the significant delay and have prompted a Government commitment to speed up judicial procedures in child abuse cases.

A large scale learning assessment in conflict affected areas of the North and East produced a robust baseline leading to policy dialogue and the development and implementation of an Accelerated learning Programme (ALP) for affected children. The assessment targeted 120,000 vulnerable children and found that a typical learner in the North was behind, on average, 1.5 years and lagging by four years in the East. UNICEF conducted a comprehensive Out of School Children study to identify profiles of vulnerable children, causes of and recommendations for getting and keeping all children in school.

Studies were supported for improving the comprehension of causes of malnutrition, declining immunisation coverage and programme implementation bottlenecks in Sri Lanka. Examples include:

- An assessment of nutritional status and food security levels among resettled families undertaken by the Medical Research Institute in close collaboration with UNICEF, WFP and WHO. This provides latest the situation of under nutrition and food security in Northern province.
- The MRI has been assisted in producing a quarterly Nutrition Bulletin on vulnerable communities.
- The epidemiology unit of the Ministry of Health, supported by UNICEF, identified the determinants of declining immunisation coverage in the country through qualitative and quantitative study and undertook an evidenced based risk communication to address the issues.

As part of the re-positioning of the country office's public profile in Sri Lanka, the country office re-launched its website and embarked on increased coverage of issues and results using multimedia. Additionally, a concerted effort was made to build the website as an information and knowledge hub. Social media was introduced with the launch of the country office's dedicated Facebook channel, in April, and a Youtube channel. Since then 1,052 likes and 567 monthly active Facebook users have been recorded. The number of downloads of documents and materials from our country office website, sharing best practices and awareness-raising on priority issues, nearly doubled on the previous year to reach more than 21,000 during 2011.

UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Health and Institute for Health Policy (IHP) initiated an in-depth analysis of implementation bottlenecks and the reports have been finalised to be disseminated as part of an exercise in building the skills and abilities of officials in the Ministry of Health. The 2011 Global Hand Washing Day theme was 'Hand washing is a habit for more than just a day'. Knowledge promotion sessions were conducted in hundreds of schools. The sessions were interactive, participatory and owned by the respective government counterparts.

Human Rights Based Approach to Cooperation

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF's continuous engagement with all stakeholders at national and provincial levels has resulted in significant progress in reaching the most vulnerable children and giving them a platform to express their views and develop the confidence to realise their rights.

Results being pursued with partners were largely formulated to address programme gaps highlighted by the Concluding Observations of the UNCRC Committee and other human rights instruments. For example, training received by law enforcement officer on the Domestic Violence Act, implementation of a pilot project to expedite case delays in high courts, support to the NCPA to strengthen its Child Line and training of Children's Court Staff are direct responses to recommendations made by the CRC committee. Duty-bearers and rights holders were engaged in consultations/dialogues involving the Commissioner General for Rehabilitation (CGR), Probation Department, and some of the released children and their parents. This consolation created opportunities to raise and discuss security issues with the authorities. Positive steps were taken by the Commissioner General's office to resolve these issues, including meetings on reporting procedures and abuse of power. Consideration of human rights principles in knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation is an area yet to be fully addressed by governments in the provinces. Consequently, governments have been lobbied to have systematic data collection systems and to have full access for monitoring and knowledge building.

UNICEF is focusing on vulnerable groups that are marginalised, disadvantaged and excluded during the selection of target groups for WASH interventions. Special focus is given to internally displaced people still living in the camps and to under-served populations. At the national level, the programmes are focusing on empowering government institutions and enabling them to efficiently expand the coverage of safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene promotion in the country. During the SACOSAN meeting, UNICEF encouraged the MoE to select children representing all the regions and socio-economic backgrounds of Sri Lanka to ensure child participation in the sessions. Special attention was given to students who were not fully conversant in English to ensure optimal participation and integration with other stakeholders.

UNICEF's child-friendly approach (CFA) emphasises creating protective and inclusive learning environments for marginalised children to continue their education. Disadvantaged children were supported through the Accelerated Learning Programme and attended basic literacy classes which ensure the right to education for out of school children irrespective of their gender, age, race or other differences.

UNICEF in collaboration with several partners focused on strengthening the participation of communities as key stakeholders in the planning and management of health and nutrition programmes. To ensure the rights of the IDPs and resettled communities to have access to basic health and nutrition services, UNICEF supported the Department of Health in Northern and Eastern Provinces to build more health facilities and conduct social mobilisation programmes.

Gender

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF Sri Lanka strived to mainstream gender equality into all its activities to address equitably the rights and needs of girls, boys, women, and men. A major area of inequality, disadvantage, and gender discrimination is employment with an unemployment rate of women doubling compared with men for the last 10 years. To address this inequity, the Vocational Training Authority (VTA) was encouraged to increase the enrolment of young women into vocational training courses and increased the age limit for women from 21 to 24 years to provide more opportunities for women to take part in the courses.

As a partner in the UN Joint Programme on Prevention and Response to gender-based violence (GBV) in Sri Lanka, UNICEF implemented a special GBV component to the 'training of trainers' programme for Police officers on ways to use the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act to support victims of GBV. The act empowers abused women to obtain a restriction order on the abusive spouse thereby preventing domestic violence. UNICEF also contributed to the media campaign on 'Prevention of Violence Against Women' as part of the 16 days of activism on violence against women, which resulted in an increase in incidents reported to the police and of women seeking support and assistance. The Police Department was

encouraged to recruit female police officers for Women and Children's Desks to handle cases related to child sexual abuse.

UNICEF supports collection and analysis of sex disaggregated educational data which indicates that, as age increases, a higher proportion of boys drop out of school than girls to pursue livelihood activities. Even though primary education indicators show that male to female ratio is almost one, secondary education indicators shows a huge gender disparity in tertiary education in favour of females. Legal age limit starts at 14 years in the country and the reason for boys' dropout is significantly correlated with this. School attendance committees designed under CFA playing a major role in bringing back out of school children to school and out of school and at risk of dropping out children are supported by the Accelerated Learning Programme and Basic Literacy classes.

Interventions related to WASH in schools and communities aimed at covering special needs of adolescent girls and school sanitation infrastructure is always designed and implemented with gender segregation. Gender segregated, safe and clean sanitation facilities in 114 schools have ensured privacy, provision for menstrual hygiene and healthy sanitation for children including adolescent girls. In addition WASH in schools enhanced the implementation of CFS concept contributing to the increased quality of education for both girls and boys.

Although gender issues are not so significant in Sri Lanka, in comparison to some other countries in the region, disparities exist in various geographical locations and among certain communities. Mother Support Groups formed in various districts are playing a vital part in enhancing the role of women to participate and highlight the needs of the communities with gender focused approach.

Environmental Sustainability

Mostly met benchmarks

UNICEF Sri Lanka includes disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability into all its activities based on the knowledge gained through previous emergency responses. As part of the disaster risk reduction programme, UNICEF supported the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) to restore water sources and to upgrade water treatment processes mainly in the central province to reduce the risk of water contamination during the future floods.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage and NWSDB to celebrate World Water Day which focused on the need for 'clean water for a healthy world'. The theme of World Water Day 2011 was 'Water and Urbanisation', and it provided a good opportunity to discuss a range of options for tackling urban water and sanitation challenges faced in Sri Lanka. It highlighted the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialisation and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems. A strong focus towards water quality surveillance and environment friendly sanitation has been emphasised in WASH programmes owing to many environmental related issues. The absence of proper/ safe disposal of excreta including poor quality substructure of toilets and open defecation has resulted in pollution of surface and ground water sources. During 2011, water sample testing of different water sources has revealed many cases (including children) of contamination of water including fecal coliform. Many water borne diseases, including diarrhea, related to consumption of poor quality water was reported in many parts of the country especially in the north and the central provinces.

Environmentally friendly educational environments were created which helped stakeholders in initiating actions to produce a positive change. Communities organised themselves to take collective action by developing their own plans and strategies (e.g. increased access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities, improved rubbish disposal practices and the creation of protective school environments). They also planted school gardens promoting greener, environmentally appealing learning environments. School

safety construction manual developed by the Inter Agency Network for Education and Emergency (INEE) was translated into local languages Sinhala and Tamil. They were distributed among relevant education officers to improve the knowledge on school safety construction practices for protecting from natural disasters.

The health sector has an established infrastructure to ensure environmental sustainability by avoiding contamination. All health and nutrition related programming include safe disposal of hospital waste and capacity building of the relevant staff to ensure good practices while managing facilities. This also includes emergencies where measures are taken to include safe and timely disposal of the waste such as syringes and all other used medical items. Environmental sustainability is also taken into account in the site selection and design of new Health infrastructure.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Sri Lanka hosted the 50th Annual Sessions of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) and persuaded the Ministry of Justice to hold a special session on Trafficking of Women and Children and Child Protection. This session addressed concerns over the increase of human trafficking globally and how the intervention of responsible state agencies and policy makers is required for implementing stronger laws and establishing victim assistance services. This special session was jointly hosted by UNICEF and the IOM with a focus on the international legal framework of human trafficking, the trafficking of women and children within the larger context of migration and the protection of children who are vulnerable to trafficking. The overall objective of the session was to sensitise the audience on various legal, policy and practical issues related to human trafficking.

UNICEF supported the Government of Sri Lanka in hosting the SACOSAN IV conference in April 2011 which brought approximately 500 key delegations from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka into a single forum. The main outcome of the conference, referred to as "The Colombo Declaration", was signed by all the Ministers and elevated the importance of sanitation to a new level, including WASH in Schools. The signatories of the declaration promised to set up a national body in each country to coordinate sanitation and hygiene involving all stakeholders with the aim to achieve access to sanitation to the 700 million south Asians, thus making South Asia an Open Defecation Free region. Another significant outcome of the conference was the signing of a MoU between Sri Lanka and Maldives under which Sri Lanka will support Maldives in the preparation of their water law.

UNICEF supported the participation of health ministry officials in the Asian Nutrition Congress in Manila, which provided a valuable learning opportunity on new evidence-based nutrition interventions being implemented in the region. UNICEF also supported the participation of Ministry of Health officials to attend the regional meeting on monitoring of fortification programmes in the region. Sri Lanka is exploring the possibility of introducing wheat/ rice fortification to prevent anaemia.

Representatives drawn from government sectors, civil societies, NGOs and UNICEF working in South Asian countries participated in a Decentralisation, Equity and Children in South Asia conference, in Kathmandu. The objectives included: presenting evidence and perspectives that inform policy dialogue when designing, implementing or monitoring decentralised service delivery through the lens of equity and child rights, and promoting further understanding and discussing ways forward on equity for children in sectoral decentralisation.

Ten government education officers and two UNICEF officers visited Maldives to share best practices of the child-friendly approach (CFA), including CFA monitoring, cost effective methods in building child friendly environments within and outside schools and methods in maintaining active school-based attendance committees.

Country Programme Component: Education

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Capacity Development	3	FA2OT1, FA2OT9
Compulsory Quality Education	3	FA2OT3, FA2OT6, FA2OT7, FA6OT9
Education Infrastructure Improvement	2	FA2OT1, FA2OT7

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	3,970,000.00	3,401,186.00	2,570,322.00	75.57
OR-R	4,000,000.00	6,118,960.00	6,143,392.00	100.40
RR	100,000.00	83,257.00	83,221.00	99.96
Total	US\$8,070,000.00	US\$9,603,403.00	US\$8,796,935.00	

Results Achieved

UNICEF supported a capacity development programme for education officials on basic education indicators and data analysis enabling education officers to analyse absenteeism data and identify appropriate responses. More than 2,300 out-of-school children were reintegrated back into school through school-based attendance committees and additional support such as basic literacy classes. Mechanisms to monitor and follow-up irregular attendance and dropouts are now available in almost all UNICEF supported schools.

UNICEF supported the Education For All (EFA) Unit to pilot an IE toolkit in Uva and Northern Provinces to promote Inclusive Education (IE) among primary school children, through identifying and reducing barriers that may lead to exclusion. In-service advisors, primary education officers, principals and teachers were trained on using the toolkit to apply inclusive education principles into the school system ensuring full participation and achievement by all children in the school. To facilitate effective application of these principles, education personnel were also trained in monitoring and evaluation, statistical calculation and interpretation of data.

UNICEF played a key role in supporting the Ministry of Education (MoE) in the drafting of the New Education Act to integrate concepts of child friendliness in 2011. IE, Early Childhood Education (ECE), disaster risk reduction, peace education and social cohesion. UNICEF is supporting standardisation in ECE which ensures school readiness, increases school enrollment, reduces the risk of school drop outs and promotes socialisation. To facilitate this, ECE databases were established at provincial and national levels to maintain information on ECE centres island-wide.

The National Institute of Education, with the support of UNICEF, developed lesson plans for teaching, which involves adapting teaching techniques based on individual assessments of a child's learning capacity. In addition, a child friendly framework was developed and will be included in primary education curricula reforms in 2015. The in-service and pre-service teacher training modules for Key Stage 1 (grades 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (grades 3 and 4) were refined to better integrate child friendly practices and inclusive education principles. Awareness programmes for provincial primary resource teams comprising of 199 provincial education officers have been conducted to pilot the training modules with the teachers. More than 700 untrained primary teachers participated in crash training programmes to enhance the quality of teaching and learning.

Through the training of more than 3,500 principals and teachers on Child Friendly Approaches (CFA),

including the monitoring framework, nearly 1,500 schools promote inclusive education, are more gender responsive and integrate effective teaching methodologies, such as multi-level teaching. To complement this training, exchange visits were facilitated between schools practicing child friendly approaches to encourage sharing of best practices and experiences. A comprehensive monitoring tool on CFA was developed to capture school-level best practices in support of institutional learning and baseline data collection. UNICEF also facilitated the implementation of an e-learning course for teachers on child friendly approaches developed by the Commonwealth of Learning. This has resulted in the CFA being more widely accepted as the main strategy for improving the quality of primary education in Sri Lanka.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Monitoring and evaluation needs to be further strengthened. The capacity of the MoE in the collection of baseline data, programme planning, effective monitoring, and evaluation needs to be further strengthened. Anecdotal evidence and random sampling are available, but it is challenging to provide reliable data on the impact of the CFA country-wide. Key indicators of success of the CFA needs to be mainstreamed into the overall MoE monitoring system.

Documenting best practices. There has been limited documentation of lessons learned that would provide a foundation for expanding good practices in education particularly on CFA and the rights based approach teaching and learning.

Planning should be synchronised. It was observed that the planning process in UNICEF is different from the government planning process in relation to timing, and, therefore, UNICEF supported activities were not always reflected in government plans. This has been addressed through the introduction of multi-year workplans.

Delay in fund transfers. Delays in transfers of funds from national to district levels impeded the timely flow of designated funds to the sub national levels for agreed activities. This caused delays in implementation and reaching the planned targets.

Environmental conditions. During the early part of 2011 Sri Lanka experienced flooding and landslides in the East. This diverted resources away from on-going development work to meet the emerging humanitarian needs.

Transfers of key education personnel. The deployments of education personnel at the national, provincial, zonal and school level had an adverse impact on collaboration and programme implementation.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

UNICEF continued in its co-lead role of the education cluster/working group together with Save the Children enabling an effective, participatory and coordinated complex emergency and transition response. Continuous advocacy created an enabling environment in which the MoE developed its capacity in the area of education in emergencies and gradually took on the responsibility for coordination of the cluster.

UNICEF implemented activities with the government partnership (MoE) throughout the year at national, provincial and zonal levels. There are focal points at all these three levels facilitating the implementation process for effective delivery of services. This partnership was extended to the school level through development societies for carrying out minor construction activities, doing school self-assessment (SSA) and implementation of school development plans (SDP). UNICEF also partnered with the National Institute of Education at national, provincial, zonal as well as school level for curriculum development, teacher training and disaster risk reduction in schools.

Through interagency coordination with local and international NGOs and other UN agencies, support was given to more holistic interventions in schools that focused on creating a protective environment, improving learning facilities, ensuring adequate water and sanitation facilities and providing a mid-day meal for children.

UNICEF also collaborated with German International Cooperation (GiZ) to support the Government of Sri Lanka in implementing psychosocial interventions for conflict affected children in the Northern Province. GiZ provided technical guidance and support for monitoring the programme.

With the partnership of the Center for Women Research (CENWOR), UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education to conduct an out of school children survey. This survey identified reasons for children not coming to school and recommended that analysis of the gaps in existing education policies is carried out.

Humanitarian Situations

In 2011, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MoE), National Institute of Education (NIE) and Provincial Education authorities in the North and East to implement education programmes enabling approximately 100,000 internally displaced children to continue attending school, with minimum disruption, in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and resettlement locations.

More than 37,000 children benefited from improved schooling facilities through the repair and rehabilitation of 85 schools, of which 12 schools are being renovated by Save the Children and the remaining by UNICEF. With UNICEF support more than 500 teachers have been trained on the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) and started classroom programmes for over 12,000 children in the first phase.

Early results show that multi-level teaching techniques of the Accelerated Learning Programme are helping children catch up on missed schooling. The Northern Provincial Department of Education trained more than 750 teachers on psychosocial interventions with assistance from UNICEF and GiZ providing an enhanced learning support system and improved 'healing classroom' learning environments for 200,000 children. To improve overall programmatic supervision mobility support were provided to education departments in the Northern, Eastern, and Uva Provinces.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

The Ministry of Education was supported in designing a Monitoring tool and the framework to monitor progress in schools that have adopted Child Friendly Approach. Indicators identified in the framework will also be expanded to other schools with a view to building an information system towards development of a quality and timely routine data collection and feedback mechanism.

Monitoring and Performance Review Branch of the MoE was supported in designing a consolidated log frame for the sector analysis. This will be further consolidated in 2012 so as to incorporate all major outputs that will be linked to the monitoring framework for progress monitoring.

The National Institute of Education (NIE) was assisted in carrying out action research by teachers on handling classroom issues related to improving children's behaviour and learning achievements. The purpose of the Action Research Methodology was to improve the quality of teaching by identifying the learning styles of individual students and to apply appropriate teaching techniques to facilitate the learning process. It focuses on creating a teaching and learning environment within the classroom, improve the role of principals, teachers and the in-service advisors, to improve attitudes towards the teaching profession, create a sense of responsibility and confidence among teachers in their capacity to address the problems arising within the classrooms, establish team approaches, coordination and cooperation among teachers in helping out children with learning difficulties and encourage the application of proactive teaching techniques, where necessary. The research work was published and audiovisual materials were produced for the benefit of teachers.

A country study on Out of School Children was completed as part of a global study. The study highlighted a number of recommendations to reduce levels of school 'drop out' which increases with age, especially in secondary education. A higher number of boys tend to drop out than girls. The overall 'drop out' rates of less than 3 % before the age of 14 years, the compulsory age limit, is low compared to other South Asian Countries. However, although 'drop out' rates are low, attendance rates are quite erratic in certain locations and within certain age groups. This is an issue that needs addressing. The study has provided a series of

recommendations to improve attendance and analysed some of causal factors that contribute to these issues. Some of the recommendations include: increasing the compulsory age of education to 16 years; providing a targeted social insurance scheme to poor families; improving the teacher curriculum to change attitudes; setting up special education units to cater for disabled children, and a disaster safety and social cohesion policy.

Future Work Plan

By end 2012, the priorities in the Education sector are as follows:

System capacity in place to reduce gender based and other disparities in relation to increased access to and completion of quality compulsory education

- Appropriate actions are taken to specifically increase access to education for specific groups of out-of-school/ at risk girls and boys and to follow up on the recommendations of the out of school children survey.
- Government system to identify, mainstream and track out of school / at risk girls and boys is in place and fully functional at National and District level in the Eastern, Northern, Uva and Central Provinces.
- Sector resources mobilised and programmes piloted to address needs of identified groups of out of school/at risk girls and boys.

Education infrastructure improved and supplies provided to underserved children in UN focus districts

- Education supplies and school equipment provided to support the education of vulnerable children in the provinces of North, East, Uva and Central.
- Child friendly learning environments established and other education structures improved in the provinces of North, East, Uva and Central.
- Capacity of government strengthened to ensure safe learning environments for all children through promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPRP) at the national level.

Government system capacity exists to promote rights-based and inclusive education practices

- Government generates and uses disaggregated data (by gender, family income, livelihood, geographical area) in planning, resource allocation, monitoring and policy formulation to promote inclusive education at the national and district level in the East, North, Uva and Central Provinces.
- All primary school stakeholders demonstrate a commitment to CFS criteria in promoting rights-based and inclusive education in 11 districts in the East, North, Uva and Central Provinces.
- Teachers demonstrate rights-based and inclusive education practices in primary school learning environments in 11 districts in the East, North, Uva and Central Provinces.

Country Programme Component: Health and nutrition

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Enhancing access to quality basic health, nutrition and ECCD services	3	FA1OT4
Improving maternal and child nutrition	3	FA1OT1, FA1OT4, FA6OT9
Strengthening of maternal, neonatal and child health care and monitoring	3	FA1OT4

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	3,103,000.00	2,731,000.00	2,711,184.00	99.27
OR-R	3,360,000.00	1,571,697.00	1,560,665.00	99.30
RR	240,000.00	238,321.00	238,321.00	100.00
Total	\$6,703,000.00	\$4,541,018.00	\$4,510,170.00	

Results Achieved

The Integrated Nutrition Programme (INP), launched in 2009, uses a holistic approach to addressing malnutrition among children aged below five, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women. This programme has been critical in contributing to a reduction in maternal anaemia from 30per cent to 16per cent (Medical Research Institute (MRI) 2008, 2010), underweight from 26.% to 23.9%(Demographic Health Survey (DHS) 2007, National Food Security Survey (NFSS) 2010) and low birth weight from 20.4 % to 19.2 % (DHS 2007, NFSS 2010) in UNICEF supported districts. To break the cycle of malnutrition, the Government of Sri Lanka, in partnership with key stakeholders including UNICEF, has initiated a multi-sectoral approach involving health, agriculture, live-stock, communication and other relevant sectors in deprived areas such as Nuwara Eliya and Monaragala including the estate sector. This new approach, together with the formation of a 'National Nutrition Council' chaired by H.E the President of Sri Lanka, has given a new dimension to the efforts for overcoming malnutrition in the country and achieving MDGs with equity.

With UNICEF's continued advocacy and training, the number of specialised perinatal care institutions reporting the findings of perinatal death audits increased from 25 in 2010 to 41 in 2011, out of a total 59 institutions. These perinatal death audits promote evidence-based actions to reduce neonatal/perinatal deaths in Sri Lanka. More than 800 health care providers have been trained in essential new born care, new born life support and emergency obstetric care/labour room management enabling them to provide quality services. In addition, UNICEF's advocacy efforts have resulted in the inclusion of zinc in diarrhoea treatment protocol. These initiatives have contributed to reducing infant mortality from 10.1 per 1,000 live births to 8.5 per 1,000 live births (Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 2010).

UNICEF has increased coverage of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) activities to 50 % of the tea plantation sector. In addition, the development of ECCD standards in 2011, with a focus on the needs of the zero to five year category, will further improve the situation of children in the estate sector.

An island-wide risk communication campaign was successfully conducted to restore trust in immunisation, which had been eroded due to adverse events following immunisation (AEFI). The campaign involved workshops for journalists and the development of a risk management training manual which was used to train health workers. The campaign led to confidence-building resulting in an increasing trend from 94 per cent immunisation coverage in 2009 to 98 per cent in the first quarter of 2011.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Institute for Health Policy, has completed the 'Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks' exercise to identify implementation constraints of the health system in low performing districts. The district reports promote evidence-based planning in the health and nutrition sector. In addition, UNICEF further enhanced the capacity of the MRI in data collection, analysis and reporting, which facilitated the publication of quarterly Nutrition Bulletins to highlight the nutrition situation in the country.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

Trained human resources: There is an acute shortage of health staff particularly in the Northern and Eastern districts and in the tea plantation sector. This is primarily due to non-availability of basic facilities, such as accommodation, transport and schooling for children, lack of eligible candidates from the respective

areas, and a limited incentive mechanism to attract and retain staff in peripheral health facilities. To facilitate outreach services during the implementation of the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme, UNICEF filled the gap of Public Health Midwives by supporting Rural Health Assistants. In addition, UNICEF also supported the placement of consultants in the Family Health Bureau as an interim measure to facilitate programme implementation. The Therapeutic Feeding Centres, which played a vital role in managing severe acute malnutrition and averted many deaths during the emergency, lack the required staff to continue functioning.

Decreasing support from external donors: Fundraising has become challenging given Sri Lanka's good performance against multiple social indicators and its upgrade to a lower middle income level country. Despite significant disparities across geographic areas and socio-economic groups, Sri Lanka is currently not considered an international priority given other international crises and changing political and macro-economic factors. These factors have impacted upon the Sri Lanka Country Office's ability to fund-raise.

Policy implications and practical difficulties: Health and Nutrition services are primarily delivered through government structures and with national investments. While over the past few years these have brought significant improvements in maternal, infant and under-five mortality, greater and more effective coverage is required. However, UNICEF has faced challenges in the development of alternative services and involvement of non-government entities, which affects the development of strategic partnerships that would enable such coverage.

Reaching consensus on multiple micronutrients: Sri Lanka has a very strong regularity role when introducing new policies or strategies. However, there are sometimes extensive processes and procedures to initiate globally agreed health and nutrition interventions. One such example involved reaching agreement to increase the frequency of Vitamin A administration from three to nine doses in 5 years and the dosage from 100,000 to 200,000 i.u, in-line with international standards. These changes will only be implemented after the findings of the next micronutrient survey, to be completed in 2012, are available. The survey will provide an update on the current status of micronutrients in the country, the impact of ongoing micronutrient related interventions and a baseline for future planning.

Delays in completing the micronutrient survey: The national micronutrient survey that was initiated by the MRI will only be completed by mid-2012 due to the emerging priority for a nutrition survey in the North. This has had an impact on the timely implementation of changes regarding vitamin A dosage and frequency.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

In 2011, UNICEF continued to act as a Nutrition Cluster lead facilitating coordinated service delivery under the Joint Plan of Assistance for the North. In addition, UNICEF played an active role in the Health cluster under the leadership of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and participated in monthly Health Development meetings led by the World Bank. UNICEF focused on strengthening partnerships with the Ministry of Health, UN agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), WHO, FAO and United Nations Population Fund, to promote the health and nutritional well-being of the population.

UNICEF partnered with the MRI and WFP to generate updated data on the nutrition status in resettlement areas to support evidence-based planning and support. In addition, UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Institute for Health Policy to complete the 'Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks' exercise to identify implementation constraints of the health system in low performing districts, which resulted in the production of four district reports proving an in-depth analysis of the nutrition situation.

Great strides have been made to increase coverage of ECCD activities in the tea plantation sector which was achieved through a strategic partnership with the Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT). Out of the total 448 estates under the PHDT, UNICEF supported the implementation of ECCD services in 225 of them.

To increase coverage and further empower and mobilise communities, UNICEF partnered with non-government agencies such as Sarvodaya. Through this partnership Mothers' Support Groups have been established to promote the active involvement of mothers in health and nutrition activities thus ensuring sustainability of activities.

Humanitarian Situations

UNICEF provided nutritional supplements, including Plumpy nuts, BP 100, Energy Biscuits and micronutrients, to more than 16,000 severely and moderately malnourished children under the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme (NRP) implemented in the resettlement areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. More than 10,000 children below five and 4,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women were treated for malnourishment at the recently refurbished hospital in Mullaitivu district. Twenty three Gramodaya health centres have been refurbished/ constructed to ensure the availability of basic health and nutrition services to resettlement populations.

The effectiveness of this NRP, as a component of the Integrated Nutrition Programme, is reflected in the reduction of underweight from 26.6 % to 23.9 % (DHS 2007, NFSS 2010) and low birth weight from 20.4 % to 19.2 % (DHS 2007, NFSS 2010) in UNICEF-supported districts. In addition, the Therapeutic Feeding Centres, the facility-based component of NRP, continued to play a vital role in the treatment of severely acute malnourished children with complications. However, owing to the lack of trained staff, the sustainability of these centres is an issue in the long-term. In 2011, an additional 25 health staff were trained on implementing nutrition interventions in emergencies.

UNICEF also supported the re-establishment of the cold chain system in the resettlement area by providing central cold rooms, solar refrigerators, vaccine storage refrigerators, vaccine carriers and other cold chain monitoring equipment.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

One of the main outcome of studies was the district investment case reports, based on the marginal budgeting for bottleneck analysis conducted on behalf of the health sector. The analysis was conducted in four districts on a pilot basis, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The analysis costed some interventions for the four districts producing varying outcomes, ranging from the need to conduct community advocacy and public information programmes, to filling the required vacant posts, to obtaining the maximum benefit from investments. The findings of the study were shared with the district health authorities and were utilised for their planning of 2012 interventions and budget planning.

A study on food and nutrition was conducted in the Northern Province to assess the nutritional status of the newly resettled population. The findings indicated that the nutritional status of the resettled communities was adequate but gaps in service provision required further attention.

The strengthening of routine data collection on the stunting of children aged below five continues as the indicator among the SRA 3 and would complement the underweight indicator for corrective intervention design. The indicator has been institutionalised within the primary health services. The overall strengthening of routine data collection and the identification of nutritionally-at risk households are being currently piloted through a multi-sectoral approach project in two districts in the country. Both interventions encompass building the capacity of partners.

Future Work Plan

During the last year of the UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Programme Action Plan 2008-2012, the Health and Nutrition programme will further strengthen the delivery of interventions within a framework of a continuum of care/life-cycle approach, covering the periods of childhood, adolescence, pre-pregnancy, pregnancy and motherhood. Emphasis will continue to be placed on maternal care during pregnancy, delivery and lactation, new-born care, Early Childhood Care and Development, and prevention of under-nutrition through a multi sectoral approach and management of acute malnutrition in emergencies.

There will be greater focus on reducing geographical and gender disparities in health and nutrition outcomes through provision of services for the poor and vulnerable groups in the plantation sector and in conflict affected districts. The key priorities include:

- Further strengthening and expansion of the Integrated Nutrition Programme to reach the underserved areas and to narrow the disparity gap between various districts.
- Strengthening the multi-sectoral approach in improving nutrition through capacity building and

logistical support.

- Implementing an integrated Health and Nutrition communication strategy to create awareness on preventive, promotive and curative health and nutrition practices.
- Further expanding the scope of early childhood care and development and integrating the nutrition programme including nutrition screening in low performing and resettlement areas.
- Strengthening perinatal mortality surveillance mechanisms and enhancing commitment to make available an Essential New Born Care Package with increased focus on improving the quality of new-born care to reduce neonatal deaths.
- Maintaining high immunisation coverage by using appropriate communication strategies, capacity building and a web-based information system.
- Strategic programming for youth and adolescents in Sri Lanka on the issue of HIV/AIDS based on findings of the needs assessment survey on the health and well-being of young people in Sri Lanka.

Country Programme Component: Water, sanitation, hygiene

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Capacity improvement to expand WASH	2	FA1OT12, FA1OT13 (c), FA6OT9
Improved WASH for underserved communities	2	FA1OT13 (c)
Improvements to WASH for resettled communities	2	FA1OT13 (c)

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	3,370,500.00	3,364,526.00	3,352,754.00	99.65
OR-R	6,370,000.00	2,929,516.00	2,928,587.00	99.97
RR	100,000.00	76,734.00	73,682.00	96.02
Total	\$9,840,500.00	\$6,370,776.00	\$6,355,023.00	

Results Achieved

In 2011, continued advocacy by the MDG Monitoring Committee for Water and Sanitation, of which UNICEF is a member, resulted in the inclusion of water and sanitation indicators in the national statistics count by the Department of Census and Statistics. This systematic collection of data facilitates evidence-based planning and results based monitoring for future programming.

UNICEF advocated for the formation of the Ground Water Study Group under the leadership of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board to address the issue of access to safe drinking water. This forum brings together government and other development partners with the objective of pooling efforts and resources to reach a durable solution for achieving universal coverage in household water supply. Based on an on-going review of the ground water situation in Sri Lanka, the forum will identify priority areas of support from donor groups to ensure better coverage and sustainability of ground water facilities.

During 2011, the issue of adequate sanitation gained importance and momentum as a result of the South Asian Conference on Sanitation IV held in April 2011 in Sri Lanka under the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage with support from UNICEF. Ministers from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries renewed their commitment to the right to sanitation by signing 'The Colombo Declaration' which elevated sanitation to a new strategic level in addition to highlighting WASH in schools as a priority area.

The water quality surveillance programme was expanded to the Northern and Eastern Provinces in 2011 through the establishment of two District Rural Water Supply Units in Trincomalee and Mannar districts by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board. UNICEF also provided equipment and IEC materials to Units island wide to facilitate water quality surveillance in the district with specific focus on the 3,000 community managed schemes. This has resulted in improved water sources for vulnerable communities in a total of 19 districts.

UNICEF also provided child, disabled and environment friendly water and sanitation facilities to 114 schools, with majority of these schools in the North and East, in addition to promoting good hygiene practices among the school children. Further hygiene promotion activities were carried out during the celebration of Global Hand Washing Day, involving the participation of 90,000 students from 209 schools island wide. The Ministry of Education played a key role in facilitating these activities which was driven by the students themselves through the preparation of awareness materials and messages to promote good hygiene practices.

Approximately 32,000 rural people, including pregnant and lactating mothers and children aged below five years, benefitted from UNICEF-supported water and sanitation facilities in 31 health centres in Vavuniya, Mannar, Jaffna, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. An additional 44,825 returnees, including 28,000 children, in the resettlement areas of the North and East gained access to improved water supply and sanitation facilities through the cleaning and rehabilitation of 6,763 wells, construction of 32 wells, installation of 40 tube wells, construction of 10 rain water harvesting systems and construction of 1,176 toilets.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

The increasing rate of IDP resettlement and subsequent closure of remaining IDP camps, required regular needs assessments to implement water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in the camps. In addition, frequent changes and varying technical capacities of personnel in the government sector, particularly in the Zonal Departments of Education (ZDE), Assistant Commissioner for Local Government (ACLG) and Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) in the newly resettled communities of Killinochchi and Mullaitivu, had an impact on how UNICEF partnered and collaborated with government authorities.

Delays in construction were experienced owing to the unexpected heavy rains and floods in the East, poor road conditions in remote areas and the lack of skilled labour in the location itself or difficulties in retaining those from outside the district. In addition, for many sites the distance to available resources, such as source water and construction materials, involved time-consuming journeys.

The non-availability of WASH baseline data has been highlighted by both government and humanitarian sector partners as a hindrance for evidence-based planning and monitoring. In addition, the unavailability of geological information in resettled areas, decreasing availability of ground water during the dry season and difficult hydro-geological conditions have made it challenging to provide timely, quality services as well as ensure adequate coverage.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

In 2011, UNICEF continued to closely collaborate with government partners such as the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Ministry of Education, ACLGs, RDHSs and ZDEs to provide safe water, adequate sanitation and promote good hygiene practices in communities, schools and health centres ensuring sustainability of facilities through proper care and maintenance.

Additional partnerships were built with local and international non-governmental organisations such as Sewa Lanka Foundation, Rural Development Foundation, Voluntary Organisation for Vulnerable Community Development (VOVCOD), Relief International and Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland (ASB) to implement water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in the resettlement areas with community mobilisation. Partnerships with Malteser International continued during 2011 to rebuild the future of resettled communities in the Eastern Province through construction of community and school water and sanitation facilities, including related hygiene promotion.

WASH continues to be a sub-sector of Shelter and Non Food Related Items (NFRI) sectors and relevant agencies working in the sector are represented at inter-sectoral coordination meetings which facilitated decision making on cross cutting issues such as inclusion of a toilet in each house under housing projects. New partnerships were built with the World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Asian Development Bank as part of the Ground Water Study Group in order to strengthen the capacity of the Ground Water Section to increase safe water coverage for 100 % of the population by 2020 as stipulated in the national goals. In addition, a partnership with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) was built during 2011 to support the Ministry of Education to increase WASH coverage in schools in Uva, Central, Eastern, Northern and North Central Provinces.

Humanitarian Situations

More than 59,000 people displaced by the floods during early 2011, including 35,000 women and 15,000 children, gained access to more than 10 litres of safe drinking water per person per day in compliance with SPHERE minimum standards of 7.5 to 15 litres per day needed for all purposes. This was achieved through the construction/cleaning/renovation of 10,694 wells and two rural water schemes, restoration of 346 household water connections and operation of 12 water bowsers for three months in Vavuniya, Mannar, Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts.

In addition, UNICEF continued to support the Government of Sri Lanka and implementing partners to ensure provision of safe water supply, related water quality monitoring activities and adequate sanitation for the remaining 6,100 displaced persons still living in camps in the North and East. In addition, 18,550 hygiene kits and 4,000 refill kits containing essential items for flood affected families and IDP families in camps in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee (1 kit per family) were procured and distributed.

UNICEF also supported 18 local authorities in the North and the East to improve the solid waste collection system in both flood and conflict affected areas including the establishment of a waste collection system at the household level which is then processed and disposed. Improvements were made to the solid waste dumping sites in Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Vavuniya reducing hazards to the environment especially during the rainy season. This has had a positive impact with no cases of diarrhoea reported during the height of the floods and in IDP camps including Menik Farm.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

The main function in the water and sanitation in relation to monitoring was to strengthen the mechanisms both at national and sub-national levels. At national level a set of guidelines was prepared and adopted by the government and partners of Sri Lanka. The guidelines finalised in February 2011 are currently operationalised in cleaning and rehabilitation of 10,000 wells, especially in the Northern Province. The guidelines for cleaning and rehabilitation of wells in the new re-settlement area were to ensure minimum quality of drinking water to the resettled IDPs from the former conflict affected areas.

The country faced a number of issues that required humanitarian assistance due natural disasters such as floods and landslides as well as continued resettlement of the IDPs from the former conflict affected areas. A monitoring mechanism was established to ensure progress of fulfilling the water and sanitation needs of the displaced as well as the vulnerable. The monitoring mechanism was designed to capture disaggregated data by sex and age was established and carried out in close collaboration with partners particularly the government technical staff, selected non-governmental organisations as well as communities

Furthermore, a baseline survey to capture the water and sanitation status of the post conflict areas of Batticaloa and Trincomalee in the Eastern provinces were conducted and completed and information disseminated to the relevant authorities. Information from the baseline survey served two purposes; one was to identify the current situation and gaps in services, the second was information on gaps and needs that can be used in planning interventions in 2012 and as evidence for advocacy to mobilise funds from partners.

Future Work Plan

In 2012, UNICEF will continue to work in close partnership and coordination with relevant Government partners (such as the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage (MoWSD) and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board), local authorities (such as the Assistant Commissioner for Local Government) and other development partners including JICA, ADB and World bank to provide access to safe water, adequate sanitation and promote good hygiene practices amongst people living in the underserved areas of the Central and Uva Provinces, resettled areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and remaining IDP camps.

UNICEF will focus on strengthening the WASH system in the country through building the capacity of the MoWSD at national and district levels, particularly in the sub-sectors of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation and Ground Water. In addition, UNICEF will support the Ground Water Section of the MoWSD and closely work with the Ground Water Study Group, established in 2011, to leverage resources from donor groups to increase coverage of water to deprived communities and ensure sustainability of ground water facilities. UNICEF will further support the revision/strengthening of the maintenance policy for hand pumps to ensure functionality and sustainable use of hand pumps.

To facilitate evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of child friendly water and sanitation facilities, including hand washing in schools, UNICEF will continue to strengthen the School Health and Nutrition unit of the Ministry of Education. In 2012, UNICEF aims to support 250 schools in UVA, Central, Eastern and Northern Provinces with adequate child friendly water and sanitation facilities.

Support to the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage will be extended to complete follow up activities of the SACOSAN IV conference held in 2011 with regard to: achieving universal coverage for sanitation, increasing hand washing practices, ensuring proper waste disposal, supporting increased coverage for WASH in schools and facilitating implementation of the national sanitation policy drafted during 2011.

Advocacy on the preparation and implementation of Water Safety Plans for the remaining community managed rural water supply schemes will continue. In addition, technical support will be provided to the NWS&DB to support the functioning and effective use of the water and sanitation database established during 2011 which maps existing WASH facilities and gaps at the Divisional level.

Country Programme Component: Child protection

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Child rights and international standards in legislation and protection policies and practices		2 FA4OT6, FA4OT7, FA6OT9
Restoration and strengthening of legal and social protection systems		2 FA4OT6
Risk management of landmines and explosive devices		2 FA4OT6, FA1OT8

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	4,306,500.00	880,486.00	879,009.00	99.83
OR-R	3,955,000.00	2,884,864.00	2,874,804.00	99.65
RR	90,000.00	120,607.00	120,498.00	99.91
Total	US\$8,351,500.00	US\$3,885,957.00	US\$3,874,311.00	

Results Achieved

To strengthen the legal protection system, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, provided technical expertise in the amendment of several provisions of the main national children's law the 'The Children and Young Persons Ordinance' in-line with international standards. A final review of the amendments by the Ministry of Child Development is ongoing before submission to the Cabinet for approval. In addition, amendments to the Model Orphanage or Children's Homes law are currently underway to ensure stronger monitoring of the standards of Children's Homes by the Provincial Probation Commissioners. To complement these legal reforms, more than 1,800 legal protection actors were trained on legal protection provisions for children and families. UNICEF also supported the refurbishment of Sri Lanka's second Children's Magistrate Court in Jaffna, which opened in November 2011.

In 2011, UNICEF continued to emphasise the importance of family based care for children separated or at risk of separation. Through UNICEF-supported reintegration programmes, the Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS) successfully reintegrated 1,552 children back with their families. To address issues such as poverty and social exclusion, which are the underlying causes of family separation, UNICEF supported 1,697 vulnerable families through income generation grants, cash allowances, education assistance etc. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Social Services in the deployment of 20 counsellors to the Northern and Eastern Provinces serving more than 18,000 individuals. To promote relevant Ministries to collaborate and coordinate services provided to vulnerable families, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Services to develop a Family Policy Document which is pending cabinet approval. This policy will ensure that these families receive comprehensive support that addresses their needs in a holistic manner.

In 2011, 95 Social Care Units, under the Ministry of Social Welfare and Child Development, are functioning to promote coordinated services for vulnerable families. More than 200 social protection officers attached to these Units have been trained to implement Case Management Guidelines including social care planning, family assessment and reunification, case conferencing and family group conferencing. UNICEF also continued to support 468 community-based structures, such as Children's Clubs, Child Friendly Spaces and Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees, reaching more than 38,000 vulnerable children to ensure better child protection monitoring and referrals.

UNICEF played a key role in supporting the Government of Sri Lanka to reintegrate children formerly associated with armed groups. In 2011, 1,041 child surrendees have received or are in the process of receiving reintegration support such as educational support, vocational training, life skills training, counseling and livelihood assistance. In addition, UNICEF partnered with the Vocational Training authority to provide life-skills, vocational training and employment for 876 vulnerable young people. Almost 60 % of those that have completed the training are engaged in self-employment trades.

In mine affected areas, 348,612 individuals benefitted from Mine Risk Education and 1,012 people with disabilities received physical rehabilitation services. This resulted in a reduction from 27 mine accidents in 2010 to 16 in 2011 with 21 civilian victims from victim-activated landmines and explosive remnants of war.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

The presence of government social support services in the Northern districts remains limited. Government services such as the Police Women and Children's Desk and Social Protection Services require further strengthening through the deployment of additional skilled human resources, training of child protection officers and increased budget allocations for social assistance. To help restore child protection services, UNICEF contributed to strengthening the capacity of 130 child protection officers working in the North and East, on an interim basis. Continuous advocacy is required to ensure that the Government has the required human resources in the North and East to fulfil its child protection mandate. Equipment and budget allocations should be made and training of the new staff should be an immediate priority and integral part for the development plan for the North and East.

The Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs have coordinated closely in the revision of the Children and Young Person's Ordinance (CYPO). The Cabinet has requested further

revisions before final approval.

Although former child surrendeers face many of the same problems as other children in areas of return, they do require additional follow up and support to ensure that they are effectively reintegrated in society. Despite having received a release order by the court, some children are facing security issues and have to report their movements outside the district. Owing to these security concerns, as well as the lack of opportunities in areas of return for employment or education, some families have chosen to send their children to other districts or for the child to remain in a Children's Home outside the district. Many of these children have missed a significant amount of schooling and have been separated from their families for a long period both whilst recruited and in the rehabilitation centres. With the large number who are at home, without school, training or skilled employment, it remains essential to ensure that opportunities are provided to them enabling a bright and productive future. This has to be done in an inclusive manner ensuring that programmes that target vulnerable children include this important category of child surrendeers so that they are not further stigmatised.

Further trust building between communities and service providers, such as the police, counselors and probation officers, are required for effective community based interventions in the resettled locations in the North.

As a result of continuous Mine Risk Education, the general level of understanding on the threat of mine/explosive remnants of war is high. However, as many communities live close to infested or not yet fully surveyed areas Mine Risk Education continues to be critical in reducing the threat. In addition, people from the Southern Province have started visiting the North and East and need to be aware and maintain mine safe behavior.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

Repeated displacement, conflict, loss of property and livelihood in the North and East resulted in the inability of many families to care for their children making them vulnerable to institutionalisation, abuse and exploitation. To address this, UNICEF engaged with the Ministry of Social Services (MoSS) and the provincial Departments of Social Services (DoSS) to provide families with the means to care for, protect and education their children through family support programmes such as cash grants and counselling.

In the Northern and Eastern provinces, UNICEF entered into partnerships with the Vocational Training Authority (VTA), World University Services of Canada (WUSC) and Save the Children to support the reintegration of children and youth, including children at risk of family separation, through vocational training, life skills education, and employment opportunities.

UNICEF partnered with the Human Rights Commission to activate child rights monitoring mechanisms in the Northern Province through awareness raising amongst community members and Government actors and training for Women and Children's Desk (WCD) officers on child rights.

UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and a local non-government organisation, Lawyers for Human Rights and Development that worked with children detained at the School for Youthful Offenders in the area of juvenile justice, legal reforms and training of legal protection service providers. .

UNICEF continued to work in close collaboration with the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) on preventing and dealing with child abuse cases including support to the '1929' Children's Help Line which serves as a formal complaint system to report such cases. In 2011, more than 50,000 complaints were received, of which 6,724 are being further investigated and referred to relevant authorities for action.

Humanitarian Situations

During the flood emergency in the Eastern province, UNICEF took the leading role in coordinating the protection cluster, including the child protection sub cluster, in the absence of UNHCR. As part of the response, UNICEF provided emergency supplies including more than 24,000 tarpaulins sheets, 5,000 clothes sets and 1,700 family kits (comprising of clothes, kitchen utensils, towels, sheets etc.) for the most

vulnerable families and their children. In addition, 2,000 vulnerable families affected by the flood were provided with cash assistance as an immediate emergency response till systems can start functioning again.

A key child protection issue, following the displacement of communities in 2009 during the final phase of the conflict, was that of separated and missing children. The families of children that were separated or went missing have reported and filed tracing requests with a number of authorities at the district as well as at the national level. In December 2009, in response to the numerous tracing requests received, the Vavuniya Government Agent and the Probation and Child Care Commissioner of the Northern Province, with UNICEF support, established a Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) Unit for unaccompanied, separated and missing children. In 2011, UNICEF continued to support expansion of the FTR Unit to all districts in the North. As of 2011, FTR units have successfully traced 117 children, of whom 54 have been or are being reunified with their parents or relatives.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

The study on the situation of children in the School for Youthful Offenders revealed that out of the 63 inmates, 47 were children under 18 years of age and 16 persons over 18 years at the time of admission. 69.8 % children were involved in petty thefts; 17.4 % in drug offences; 6.4 per cent in offences involving sexual / physical violence. There were 6.4% who had not committed any crime but were in need of care and protection. There was evidence of lack of or inadequate parental care in 19 out of the 31 cases. Twenty three (23) of them had a previous history of 'delinquency'. It was recommended that more commitment, follow up and compliance with the legislation should be practiced for police, probation and court.

Monitoring and technical support was provided to partners to enable provision of requisite information on indicators and to enable measurement of progress achieved and gaps that require addressing. The monthly progress reports were generated by the section using the information collected for progress monitoring with partners. At the same time joint field visits were undertaken with partners, when needed, to address bottle necks in implementation.

The study on the impact of adult alcohol consumption on children examined evidence regarding harm caused to children exposure of adolescents to alcohol consumption patterns and availability and prevalence and patterns of alcohol consumption among groups. Although it was not possible to quantify harm to children from adult alcohol use or on adolescent alcohol behaviour, risk of abuse is high. The best studied destruction from adult alcohol use is the negative economic impact on the household which in turn significantly harms children by using up meagre earnings in the poorest families. Abuse is often reported to be a consequence of alcohol use and is a likely association. As for adolescent alcohol use, no specific figures of incidence or trends can be derived. The study findings contribute to the government's policy in reduction in alcoholism where a media campaign has already been initiated by the government.

Future Work Plan

The following priorities have been identified for 2012 in the Child Protection sector:

Restore/strengthen family support systems

- UNICEF will continue to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Services, Department of Probation and Child Care Services and local NGOs to strengthen safety nets for vulnerable families and their children; provide psychosocial support and counselling services; and strengthen interim care for children in need of care and protection.

Provision of life-skills, vocational training and employment for youth

- UNICEF will continue to partner with the Vocational Training Authority, World University Services of Canada and Save the Children to support career guidance and life-skills, training and employment opportunities for vulnerable adolescents for whom formal education is no longer an option.
- UNICEF will further develop its youth participation methodology (issues affecting youth, types of engagement and strategy for working with youth) for inclusion in the next country programme cycle 2013-2017.

Restore/strengthen social protection systems

- UNICEF will assess key protection issues related to adolescents in line with research conducted by the Child Protection section on early marriage and statutory rape and exposure to alcohol. Findings of the early marriage and statutory rape study would be used to advocate with state partners on the need for reproductive health education among adolescents.
- UNICEF will conduct further in-depth research to analyse cases of child abuse and violence.
- UNICEF will support the Ministry of Justice and other legal protection actors to promote child friendly procedures and infrastructure in the judicial system of Sri Lanka for children who are in need of care and protection.

Country Programme Component: Planning, monitoring, evaluation

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Capacity development in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	2	FA5OT2, FA6OT9

Resources Used in 2011(USD)

Resource Type	Planned for 2011 (as per CPAP ceiling)	Allocated in 2011	Estimated Year-End Expenditure	%Spent (4)/(3) * 100
OR-E	0.00	68,971.00	28,518.00	41.35
OR-R	580,000.00	484,412.00	484,329.00	99.98
RR	120,000.00	78,533.00	77,501.00	98.69
Total	US\$700,000.00	US\$631,916.00	US\$590,348.00	

Results Achieved

To facilitate more efficient service delivery to the most vulnerable people, 20 high level planning officers from all nine provinces and four key ministries at central level, including the Finance Commission of Sri Lanka, were trained in results-based planning and management by the Centre for Development and Research in Evaluation International, Malaysia. This has resulted in improved uniformity in provincial level development planning processes involving the identification of vulnerable groups and allocation of resources for equitable service delivery. In addition, the capacity of the Department of National Planning, Planning Division of Central Provincial Council and Citizen Service Division (CSD) of the Presidential Secretariat, was strengthened through provision of essential office equipment for storing and processing of data. As a result CSD is now capable of more effectively handling public grievances of under-privileged communities, including internally displaced persons.

UNICEF also supported the training of five senior managers from the Department of Census and Statistics on new techniques in population census, such as census information, data dissemination, development of indicators and geo-spatial information management. This training is benefitting the conduct, processing and presentation of the 2011 National Census. To further improve evaluation skills, 22 Government development managers participated in the five-day third International Evaluation Conference on Evaluation for Policy and Action organised by the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEVA) in Sri Lanka with support from UNICEF. The support provided by UNICEF helped strengthen the evaluation function of SLEVA and promote greater focus on evaluation in the development sector in Sri Lanka.

UNICEF supported an equity-based study in Central and Uva Provinces to identify households with undernourished children aged below five, based on which two projects were developed with a view to

improving the nutritional status of children under five through the involvement of key development sectors related to health, household income, food security and basic services. The projects are being implemented in the two most under-served districts of the provinces of Nuwara Eliya and Monaragala.

In Uva Province, UNICEF supported the Provincial Council to hold a multi-sectoral consultative meeting with the objective of achieving greater equity in service delivery for women and children the Province. The two-day consultations helped to identify disparities within and between districts as selected indicators to enable planning and allocation of funds for the less performing areas within the Province. This initiative is a follow-up to the regional workshop on 'Regional Policy Dialogue on Decentralisation, Equity and Children in South Asia'.

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

The multi-sectoral approach to reduce under nutrition among households required the different service sectors to converge to resolve the wide range of issues faced by the nutritionally-at-risk households in the districts of Nuwara Eliya and Monaragala. As nutritional issues and service delivery for nutrition are perceived only as health sector issues, a series of workshops had to be conducted for all multi-sectoral service providers at Divisional Secretary Division levels to sensitise and provide an understanding that nutrition is a developmental issue not just confined to health. The sensitisation of service providers from other sectors requires a change in mind-set prior to project implementation. As sensitisation workshops were not planned at the initial stage of project implementation, this set back the time frame for project implementation at household level, but is considered an investment with sustained results.

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

UNICEF, having taken the lead role in the development of the 2013-2017 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), collaborated with all other UN agencies to reach a collective agreement on key outcomes and outputs under each of the four pillars of the UNDAF. Following these inter-agency consultations, UNICEF collaborated with the Government to attain agreement and consensus on the overall results framework of the UNDAF that will, in turn, contribute to achieving the respective sectoral national goals.

The partnership with the Sri Lankan Evaluation Association was further strengthened this year with UNICEF supporting the International Conference on Evaluation as well as the workshops on professional development. Both events contributed to building capacity on evaluation in the public and private sectors and promoted the use of evaluation as a management tool to achieve planned results.

The overall country programme is reviewed twice annually by the Government of Sri Lanka partners where the Ministry of Finance and Planning, as the key signatory of the CPAP, assesses the annual work plans for alignment with the government's development policies as well as conducting annual reviews of programmes with all partners. Collaboration to strengthen decentralised planning and resource allocation have been initiated in two provinces.

Humanitarian Situations

Two broad areas of interventions in relation to humanitarian situation are: (i) reporting progress to the government on humanitarian activities undertaken by the programmes, (ii) capacity development in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the Planning Departments of the Provincial and Central Ministries with a view to institutionalising a uniform mechanism across Provinces and Central Ministries on managing projects and risks during disasters.

A detailed progress report was prepared, on a quarterly basis, to the presidential task force (PTF) that monitored the humanitarian situation in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. UNICEF's support, in terms of humanitarian action comprised provision of basic services – health, education, water and sanitation, and child protection to the resettled communities and IDPs who still remained in camps before resettlement. Data was collected on key indicators from the field and progress was monitored closely, which enabled allocation of resources and interventions to most needed locations. Progress reports, thus prepared by each humanitarian agency involved in provision of services facilitated/enabled PTF to coordinate the humanitarian

assistance effectively avoiding duplication and neglect.

To facilitate more efficient service delivery, 20 high level planning officers from all nine provinces and four key ministries, including the Ministry of Disaster Management, at central level, were trained in results-based planning and monitoring. The training resulted in improved planning and monitoring of interventions both during normalcy and in disasters that require maintenance of basic databases on population, especially in disaster prone areas of the districts.

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

All monitoring, studies and evaluations are reported under the individual programme sections.

Future Work Plan

In line with the Government's policy for development, interventions to increase efficiency and effectiveness in resource allocation and use will take centre stage across all interventions with the Government in particular. This becomes even more critical in the backdrop of a reduction in donor support in the light of the country's improved economic status and current and projected growth rates. Therefore, future work lies largely in developing capacities on planning and resource use allocation along with tracking of expenditure on child welfare.

Country Programme Component: Cross-sectoral costs

PCRs (Programme Component Results)

PCR	EQRank	OTDetails
Cross sectoral costs		0 Support 1, Support 2, Support 3, Support 4, Support 5, 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	0.00	1,213,159.00	1,157,990.00	95.45
OR-R	1,800,000.00	1,443,022.00	1,225,388.00	84.92
RR	160,000.00	142,034.00	110,236.00	77.61
Total	US\$1,960,000.00	US\$2,798,215.00	US\$2,493,614.00	

Results Achieved

n/a

Most Critical Factors and Constraints

n/a

Key Strategic Partnerships and Interagency Collaboration

n/a

Humanitarian Situations

n/a

Summary of Monitoring, Studies and Evaluations

n/a

Future Work Plan

n/a

Effective Governance Structure

During 2011 the Country Management Team (CMT) continued to make use of its management reports to track key management indicators related to the use of budgets (RR/OR/SB), PBA expiry, OBO & DCT status, open audit recommendations, implementation of AWP activities, status of donor reporting, travel/TA statistics, and office gender distribution. Appropriate follow-up actions were taken when necessary, and subsequently monitored.

Programme Planning Meetings (PPM) were conducted on a quarterly basis to provide inputs for programme management, internal control oversight, and enhanced programme and operations implementation, as well as to support development of a functional mechanism for the development of coherent strategies to address cross-cutting issues in programme implementation.

Both the CMT and PPM also focused on the provision of inputs for staff capacity building and morale as an investment to improving efficiency in implementing the country programme. Furthermore, the CMT and PPM meetings were helpful in identifying and analysing risks/opportunities affecting achievement of results, including cross-sectoral issues, such as migration, stakeholder participation, youth unemployment and gender.

The Emergency Team Focal Points supported the integration of emergency preparedness in the SLCO Multi Year Work Plan for 2011-2012 to ensure that the various programme components were all emergency risk focused, while building on lessons learnt earlier. They also reviewed and updated the status of preparedness in the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) system, including the identification of related key services and supplies. While using UNICEF's revised Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) as a framework, the office continued to ensure that preparedness and response were in line with a human rights-based approach to programming.

During 2011 the office continued to support enhanced understanding of HACT related processes, and several HACT/FACE related refresher sessions were arranged for partners. In addition, the planned eleven micro-assessments of key partners took place.

The office was audited by the external board of auditors in November 2010. In 2011 an action plan was prepared for addressing the issues raised by the external auditors, and during the year renewed emphasis was placed upon the areas of inventory management, budget management, OBO, and DCTs. By the end of 2011, all thirteen audit observations were closed.

Joint Coordination Committee meetings were conducted with the Staff Association and members to discuss and inform members of emerging issues. The monthly Staff meeting, chaired jointly by the Chair of Staff Association and the Representative, was another mechanism used to discuss and review key matters with staff. Additionally, guest speakers from both inside, and outside, UNICEF were invited to address staff on issues of potential interest.

It is noteworthy that an IT Governance Committee was established in June 2011. The members met twice during the second semester and recommended:

- Ø A Telecommunication Policy to streamline the use of mobile and land line phones and ensuring savings on cost and manpower.
- Ø An IT investment plan covering the upgrade of new equipment to cope with VISION requirements and installation of PABX in zone offices to enhance the communication system and ensure system transparency.

Strategic Risk Management

In 2011, the SLCO continued to build on the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Assessment conducted in 2010, which involved a consultative process with a cross-section of staff with facilitation by a member of

the Office of Internal Audit (OIA). During this exercise, the following three significant high risk areas for action by SLCO were identified: 1) Aid environment, 2) Predictability of funding, and 3) Organizational competencies.

The concerted efforts initiated in 2010 to determine possible actions and measures to address the challenges identified in the formulated "*Action Plan to improve the ERM in the Sri Lanka CO (2010)*", and the related implementation and monitoring of the same, were further pursued in 2011. The office endeavoured to embed risk management processes and activities into overall office business practices too. Accordingly, the CMT and PPM paid close attention to fund raising related implications pertaining to the world-wide financial crisis and to the shift of focus in UNICEF SLCO investments from an emergency humanitarian response to rehabilitation, resettlement and development with an upstream policy related focus on equity-directed investments.

The 2011 updated UNICEF SLCO "*Funding and Leveraging Resources Strategy, 2008-2012*" highlights in particular the importance of:

- Ø Improving the predictability in funding from major donors and to leveraging resources to meet the critical programme priorities of the country programme and emergency response;
- Ø Fostering a change in the donor mind-set towards quality, multi-year, flexible or programme/thematic-based funding to avoid fragmentation of activities;
- Ø Sharpening UNICEF's technical leadership on children's issues thereby offering a solid knowledge base and analysis on the situation of children and women for programming and advocacy; and
- Ø Building strong staff skills in donor relations, contributions management and reporting to deliver the most effective support with the smallest transaction costs possible.

Along with country office outreach through electronic media, field visits, and specific fund-raising proposals, the preparation of a concise donor fund-raising advocacy package and related briefs was the result. A specific 'NatCom toolkit' is planned to be produced in 2012 in alignment with the new country programme 2013-2017.

In 2011, SLCO also focused on the following two risks assessed in 2010:

- Ø *Process and Procedure*: a self -assessment exercise was conducted aiming at mitigating risks in several areas such as Contracting for Services, SSFAs, DAT, NEP, etcetera. as well as identifying office improvements covered under 4.4. Corrective actions were implemented and a special focus was given on NEP where the data base is now fully operational.
- Ø *Ability to Change*: the office has anticipated the restriction imposed by VISION on the number of users as well as the complexity of the system and has therefore trained a limited number of qualified staff in each area. Additionally, processing units are created to ensure all transactions are administered in VISION for Colombo and the three Zone Offices, from January 2012 onwards.

It is noteworthy that both the EWEA and the Business Continuity Plan were updated, while critical staff were identified and provided with required communication links.

Evaluation

In terms of managing a rigorous and independent assessment of programmes, an office structure is in place where they are reviewed and monitored by a selected group, according to the subject of the assessment. This commences from the stage of finalising the terms of reference to ensure objectives are met and quality control is achieved. The office of Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) is updated twice yearly to assess tasks undertaken and to assess if any additional items need to be incorporated. This is subsequently reviewed and/or endorsed during Country Management Team (CMT) meetings. The findings of the assessments are shared with both staff at the quarterly Programme Planning Meeting (PPM) for progress review and information dissemination. The findings of assessments are used in several ways: 1) to address gaps in services; 2) for advocacy where more than UNICEF action is required to resolve the issues identified; 3) to re-orient the intervention where the targeted population is not fully covered or benefitting according to planned results; and 4) to advocate with higher authorities in government where human resource issues have to be discussed and collective decisions are required.

With regard to the evaluation capacity available in the country, the capacity is sound though there is scope for further improvement. However, this has not restricted locating professionals to conduct assessments when needed. The country office has been continuously engaged in developing capacity of evaluation professionals and has gained momentum in terms of interest and usefulness of evaluation as a management tool. This year the office supported the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association, one of the pioneering professional bodies in South Asia to host the third International Conference on Evaluation titled "Evaluation for Policy and Action" where there were five pre-conference professional training workshops conducted by renowned International Evaluators. These workshops were attended largely by local professionals from both the private and the government sector.

Apart from facilitating the pre-conference and conference workshops to build evaluation capacity, the office has also assisted a number of government organisations in strengthening monitoring and evaluation capacity by supporting a number of workshops and training with national and international trainers to improve evaluation capacity both at the national and decentralised levels of the administration. The main objective of this initiative - apart from building capacities - is to institutionalise evaluation as a management tool to be used without bias or with apprehension as a fault finding tool. In the same context the SLCO liaises closely with the Foreign Aid and Budget Monitoring Department under the Ministry of Finance and Planning, which is mandated to evaluate government projects and programmes.

Effective Use of Information and Communication Technology

This year, the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) focused on strengthening its ICT infrastructure in preparation for the migration to VISION.

In addition to the normative functions, the following are the major accomplishments for this year.

1. Implementation of Cisco Adaptive Security Device Manager (ASDM) in Batticaloa, Jaffna and Vavuniya Zone Offices' local area network. The ASDM provided vital real-time system status information on the Cisco firewall and the network traffic of which assisted the IT staff in addressing issues on connectivity and bandwidth issues.
2. Computer server load balancing for Colombo, Batticaloa, Jaffna and Vavuniya Zone Offices to increase scalability, high performance and availability and disaster recovery.
3. ICT infrastructure upgrade in preparation of VISION migration which covers the following:
 - a. WAN optimisation on bandwidth upgrade
 - b. Citrix for VISION
4. Establishment of the local ICT Governance Committee
5. Establishment of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WFP for the data backup off-site storage arrangement.
6. Successfully managed and completed the following system application rollouts.
 - a. Windows 7
 - b. Windows Server 2008 / Hyper-V
 - c. Symantec Enterprise Management RU6
 - d. HP Service Manager
7. ICT support for the ROSA VISION Training of Trainers Workshop.
8. Conducted several training programmes to train staff on new systems and applications.
9. Automation of several processes identified during the self-assessment exercise held in the office on improving office operational procedures for greater efficiency

Fund Raising and Donor Relations

The Country Office has been updating its Funding and Leveraging Resources Strategy 2008-2012 to adapt to the rapidly changing country context and the current constrained aid environment. For this purpose, a

major advocacy package was finalised and circulated to show the main achievements of UNICEF during the emergency response and show the strategic priorities for 2012 - 2013. Furthermore, SLCO also started work on the development of toolkits for UNICEF National Committees to facilitate their fundraising with new donors while concentrating on prioritised resource mobilisation targets. In addition, concerted efforts were made to assess top donors' aid portfolios (map out their assistance priorities and funding opportunities) in view of the changing political environment in Sri Lanka, and a feasibility study on private sector resource mobilisation is being explored.

The SLCO's fundraising efforts have resulted in the mobilisation of 86 % of the OR ceiling in the Country Programme Document for 2008-2012 and 44 % of the Joint Plan of Action appeal 2011 to meet the urgent needs of women and children in Sri Lanka. The SLCO has an effective monitoring system of funds utilisation with particular focus on expiring PBAs, ensuring while striving for at least a 98 % utilisation level, which has limited the need to extend the duration of PBAs. The SLCO internal control mechanism to monitor the timeliness and quality of donor reports has resulted in all donor reports meeting UNICEF reporting standards and all except one submitted on time. Many of our leading donors have expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the reporting and have carried out field missions in the country which enabled them to better understand ground realities and the nature and impact of UNICEF's programme interventions.

Communication played a prominent role highlighting the UNICEF and UN response to the floods emergency in the Eastern Province in January 2011. From the eye of the floods emergency, multimedia fund-raising tools were produced and awareness-raising live interviews with international television and radio stations conducted. A UNICEF Sri Lanka-produced film was used to launch the joint UN-Government floods emergency appeal, in Colombo.

During the year, UNICEF has developed a joint programme with ILO, UNDP, UNOPS, FAO and the IFC to implement the European Union 2013-2017 Programme to Support the Reconstruction and Development in selected Districts in North and East Sri Lanka. This innovative five-year partnership will contribute to poverty reduction in North and East Sri Lanka and bridge the socio-economic gap with the rest of the country through supporting sustainable regional and local development and good governance in conflict-affected areas.

Management of Financial and Other Assets

Continuous monitoring and reviewing of direct cash transfers ensured that the percentage of unliquidated outstanding direct cash transfers (DCTs) of more than nine 9 months total was less than 1 % of total DCTs by 31 December 2011, which was one of our priorities in the 2011 Annual Management Plan. Furthermore, all DCTs issued in 2010 and in prior years were liquidated by end 2011. The CO continued its regular consultations with the Treasury Department to enhance the workflow and streamlining of payments of quarterly direct cash transfers to all Government partners.

In total eleven micro assessments were planned for the year 2011, and all these were completed as per the schedule. Subsequently, programme sections have put in place strategies to mitigate the various identified risk areas. In addition a special audit is in progress and is due to be completed in January 2012. As part of the necessary assurance activities the office continued to pursue the conduct of regular field monitoring and spot checks in 2011.

The office was consistently able to ensure the appropriate levels of funding and availability of cash for both programmatic activities and operating expenses, whilst securing the most competitive rates from the market.

In line with further strengthening the financial management and increasing operational efficiencies to ensure the prudent use of UNICEF resources an internal review of transactions and operational procedures of the Batticaloa Zone office was carried out by Chief of Operations and the Finance Officer.

Recommendations made were aligned with the operational changes envisaged with VISION.

The Finance Officer was invited to support the New York Audit team as a guest auditor for the internal audit in Islamabad, and she also participated in the Salary Survey workshop held in Vienna as a member of the Local Salary Survey Committee.

In preparation for the implementation of VISION and IPSAS the finance team participated in the super user training held in Colombo. The team - consisting of three accountants - is focusing on the accounting skills required for the implementation of IPSAS and VISION and is involved in the change initiatives needed for the success of IPSAS and VISION.

All 13 external audit recommendations made subsequent to the External Audit exercise conducted in late 2010 were closed by December 31st.

Supply Management

The supply component for SLCO in 2011 was US\$ 7,612,046. This sum includes the procurement of goods valued at US\$ 3,646,879 (USD 745,370 Offshore & Regional Procurement and USD 2,901,509 Local Procurement). And the procurement of services costing US\$ 3,965,167.

The SLCO supply component concentrated on procurement of strategic and essential supplies and services, while shaping the local market for strategic products and services by aggregating needs and developing the capacity of local industries to manufacture high quality goods and services. Further improvement in planning, coordination and integration of Programme and Supply sections helped to harmonise various types of goods being used during emergency interventions.

The consolidated SLCO 2011 procurement plan was developed in the first quarter, enabling the SLCO to aggregate its needs for essential commodities and services.

Thirty six new long-term agreements (LTAs) for commonly used supplies and services were established in 2011, helping to reduce the order processing time and improve the prompt delivery of supplies and services.

Pre and post-delivery inspection considerably improved the quality and timeliness of supply chain performance.

SLCO significantly scaled down warehouse capacity by closing down all zone office warehouses and outsourcing warehousing services in Colombo.

Direct delivery strategy was developed and implemented for all regular programme supplies. This drastically cut down delivery lead times and overhead costs by avoiding temporary storage in UNICEF warehouses.

The SLCO assisted Government partners to build their capacity in clearance of off-shore shipments on arrival and manage warehouse inventory by assessing their capacity and staff training.

Being the lead agency in UN joint procurement, UNICEF coordinated activities of the UNJPT and established UN common LTA's resulting in medium and longer term cost-savings.

The SLCO facilitated procurement services for the Ministry of Health, valued US\$ 518,295.

Lessons Learned

- Ø Obtaining the services of an inspection company appeared to be a good performance management tool.
- Ø Realistic and detailed distribution of plans helped to maintain zero stocks and expedite deliveries to partners.

Constraints

The identification of potential suppliers/service providers at field level, where most programme activities are being implemented remained a challenge.

Human Resources

The human resources function in 2011 focused on implementing the 2010 PBR recommendations and aligning the human resource (HR) management to the country programme requirements. During the year, 29 national and international positions were filled using the Competency-Based Interviews (CBI) standardised selection tools.

The office faced challenges with recruitment of IP TA positions. For one position, selection processes were carried out thrice resulting in lengthy delays and the position being vacant for up to one year. The office also continued to face difficulties in attracting experienced female candidates for professional posts. The gender ratio for NOs in Colombo Office is presently 46 % female and 54 % male. However, comparably, the ratio in the field offices is 26 per cent female and 74 % male.

The 2011 Learning and Training Plan focused on skills, knowledge and competencies required for implementing the identified SLCO priorities for the year. Fourteen local group training events were organised including CBI, Managing Performance, Report Writing, First Aid, Computer Skills for Drivers, Time Management, and LDI Year 3. The Regional VISION TOT for Super Users was conducted in Colombo and 27 staff members from Sri Lanka were trained as super users. Subsequently a core group of end-users were trained and clinic/practice sessions are underway to ensure a smooth transition into VISION in January 2012. Missions to other COs provided an opportunity for staff to expand the depth and breadth of their experiences.

This year the office achieved 100 per cent completion rate for 2010 PERs and 2011 PER key objectives by the first quarter of 2011.

SLCO Staff Association Elections were held on 27th May 2011 and a new committee was elected. Key events organised by SA were the UN Annual Cricket Carnival held on 28 May 2011 in Colombo, Annual picnic held on 4th June and a year-end party for staff and families, held in Colombo mid-December 2011.

The Caring for Us (CFU) Committee worked closely with UN Cares in the compliance of minimum standards on HIV/AIDS in the workplace. The Committee also carried out activities on staff well-being i.e. Stress, Work-life balance, Working with Respect and Environmental Sustainability. Ten volunteers continued to provide counseling to staff. Counseling services were also available for all staff and dependents through a Counselor contracted on retainer basis.

Efficiency Gains and Cost Savings

Cost Savings. SCLO has worked on a cost saving plan for 2011/2012. The following are specific achievements in relation to 2011. More initiatives are in progress and will be released during the first semester of 2012.

Ø The change in warehouse contractual setting has enabled a saving of US \$ 167,000

Ø By streamlining the use of mobile and land lines, the LTA with the telephone company has enabled the provision of free of charges for all calls within the UN

Ø The Internal Telecommunication Policy is enabling time savings in the management of bills and

recoveries as well some financial savings.

Improving office operations for greater efficiency: a participatory exercise was conducted involving more than 30 per cent of the staff in which several areas were reviewed, obstacles identified, causes highlighted and pragmatic solutions proposed, such as:

- ∅ automate the issuance, reconciliation and certification of fuel coupons
- ∅ automate the flow of telephone bills where staff confirm electronically their personal dues to Finance
- ∅ full outsourcing of ticketing and visa processes
- ∅ automate IT and Admin services including direct booking of taxis by staff, etcetera.

Changes in AMP and CPMP

While the key programmatic and management priorities for next year's Annual Management Plan require confirmation by the UNICEF SLCO's Country Management Team, it is expected that the 2012 AMP will focus on:

- ∅ Timely submission of the CPD, CPMP and CPAP for the new Country Programme starting 2013.
- ∅ Further consolidation of the shift of focus in UNICEF SLCO investments from an emergency humanitarian response to rehabilitation, resettlement and development with an upstream policy related focus on equity-directed investments.
- ∅ Effective implementation of the Updated SLCO Fund Raising/Resource Mobilisation Action Plan, including all donor reports due submitted on time.
- ∅ Continuation of Implementation of the SLCO Lanka Strategic Priority Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming
- ∅ Streamlining of the implementation of VISION and further development of the concept of VISION Processing Units where all transactions for the Colombo CO and the three Zone Offices are centralized with a limited number of staff pooled in one hub.
- ∅ Preparation and introduction of plans to reduce the number of Zonal Offices (given the current post-tsunami and post-conflict context) and to work towards an overall gradual reduction/streamlining of staff , including a restructuring of the Operations Section.
- ∅ Further implementation of operational cost saving as well as of efficiency improvement plans.
- ∅ Further enhancement of HACT/DCT implementation, monitoring and related micro-assessments.
- ∅ Preparation for and follow-up on the 2012 Internal Audit exercise.

Summary Notes and Acronyms

ACLG	Assistant Commissioner for Local Government
AALCO	Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation
AEFI	Adverse events following immunisation
ALP	Accelerated Learning Programme
ASB	Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland
ASDM	Adaptive Security Device Manager
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CBSs	Community Based Structures
CENWOR	Centre for Women's Research
CFA	Child Friendly Approach
CFS	Child Friendly Schools
CFU	Caring for Us
CGR	Commissioner General for Rehabilitation
CSD	Citizen Service Division
CYPO	Children and Young Person's Ordinance
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DoSS	Departments of Social Services
DPCCS	Department of Probation and Child Care Services
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
ECE	Early Childhood Education
EFA	Education For All
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness Plan
ESDFP	Education Sector Development Framework and Programme II
EU	European Union
FTR	Family Tracing and Reunification
GBV	Gender-based violence
GiZ	German International Cooperation
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IE	Inclusive Education
IHP	Institute for Health Policy
INEE	Network for Education and Emergency
INP	Integrated Nutrition Programme
JPA	Joint Plan for Action
LTAs	Long-term agreements
MDGs	Millennium Declaration and Development Goals
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoSS	Ministry of Social Services
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWD	Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MTSP	Medium Term Strategic Plan
NCPA	National Child Protection Agency
NFRI	Non-Food Relief Items
NFRI	Non Food Related Items

NFSS	National Food Security Survey
NIE	National Institute of Education
NRP	Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme
NWSDB	National Water Supply and Drainage Board
PHDT	Plantation Human Development Trust
RDS	Rural Development Societies
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACOSAN IV	South Asian Conference on Sanitation
SLEVA	Sri Lanka Evaluation Association
SSA	School Self Assessment
VTA	Vocational Training Authority
WCD	Women and Children's Desk
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WUSC	World University Services of Canada
ZDE	Zonal Departments of Education

Document Centre

Evaluation

	Title	Sequence Number	Type of Report
1	Nutrition status of children under five and Household Food security in Northern Province – 2011 October	2011/01	Survey
2	National Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal care Assessment - Sri Lanka	2011/02	Survey
3	Investment case based on Marginal Budgeting of Bottlenecks tool in four districts, Hambantota, Monargala, Nuwara Eliya and Vavuniya.	2011/03	Study
4	An assessment of students' competency levels in Grades 3-9 in Northern and Eastern Provinces	2011/04	Study
5	Impact of adult alcohol consumption on children and adolescent alcohol use	2011/05	Study
6	Teenage pregnancy and statutory rape	2011/06	Study
7	Nutrition Status in Sri Lanka, Determinants and Interventions: A Desk Review 2006-11	2011/07	Study
8	Building the future for communities in Eastern province: A mid Term Review	2011/08	Evaluation

Other Publications

	Title
1	An assessment of students' competency levels in Grades 3-9 in Northern and Eastern Provinces, March 2010 (completed in 2011)
2	Sinhala and Tamil translations of the 'Guidance Notes on Safer School Construction: Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery'
3	The Nutrition Bulletin Sri Lanka

Lessons Learned

	Title	Document Type/Category
1	Child Participation in the 4th South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SCOSAN)	Innovation
2	Tracing missing children in conflict-affected areas	Lesson Learned

Programme Documents