LOOKING BACK
MOVING FORWARD

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<tr>
<td>AI/PI</td>
<td>Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza</td>
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<td>AMP</td>
<td>Annual Management Plan</td>
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<td>AusAID</td>
<td>Australian Agency for International Development</td>
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<td>BFHI</td>
<td>Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative</td>
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<td>CCCs</td>
<td>Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Center for Disease Control</td>
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<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<td>CFS</td>
<td>Child Friendly School</td>
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<td>CPAP</td>
<td>Country Programme Action Plan</td>
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<td>CPD</td>
<td>Country Programme Document</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>EAPRO</td>
<td>East Asia and Pacific Regional Office</td>
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<td>ECE</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
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<td>ELDS</td>
<td>Early Learning Development Standards</td>
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<td>EMIS</td>
<td>Education Information Management Systems</td>
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<td>EPI</td>
<td>Expanded Programme on Immunisation</td>
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<td>ESLA</td>
<td>Emergency Supply and Logistics Assistant</td>
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<td>FJN+</td>
<td>Fiji Network of People Living With HIV and AIDS</td>
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<td>FSM</td>
<td>Federated States of Micronesia</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information Communication Technology</td>
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<td>JICA</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency</td>
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<td>J-PIPS</td>
<td>Japanese–Pacific Immunisation Programme Strengthening</td>
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<td>KAP</td>
<td>Knowledge, Attitude and Practice</td>
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<td>Abbreviation</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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<td>MEHRD</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of Understanding</td>
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<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>NZAID</td>
<td>New Zealand International Aid and Development Agency</td>
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<td>PasEFIC</td>
<td>Partnership of Excellence for Pacific Children</td>
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<td>PDA</td>
<td>Personal Digital Assistants</td>
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<td>PERT</td>
<td>Pacific Emergency Response Team</td>
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<td>PFTAC</td>
<td>Pacific Financial Trade Assistance Center</td>
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<td>PICTs</td>
<td>Pacific Island Countries and Territories</td>
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<td>PMTCT</td>
<td>Prevention of Mother–to–Child Transmission of HIV</td>
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<td>RARP</td>
<td>Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project</td>
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<td>RMI</td>
<td>Republic of Marshall Islands</td>
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<td>SOPAC</td>
<td>Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission</td>
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<td>SWAp</td>
<td>Sector Wide Approach to Programming</td>
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<td>TOR</td>
<td>Terms of Reference</td>
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<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</td>
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<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNGASS</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly Special Session</td>
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<td>UNHRC</td>
<td>United Nations Human Rights Council</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>UNIFEM</td>
<td>United Nations Development Fund for Women</td>
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<td>UNOCHA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<td>SPC</td>
<td>Secretariat of the Pacific Community</td>
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<td>VII</td>
<td>Vaccine Independence Initiative</td>
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<td>VCT</td>
<td>Voluntary Counseling and Testing</td>
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<td>WFFC</td>
<td>World Fit for Children</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
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Message from the Representative

It gives me pleasure to introduce the inaugural yearly publication “Looking Back, Moving Forward” of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Pacific Office. UNICEF Pacific has assisted child-centred projects in the Pacific since the 1950s. Today our commitment to the region is covered by a multi-country programme (2008-2012) which is designed for 14 Pacific Island countries. Special attention is paid to three of these countries: Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The goal of the programme is to support the governments of Pacific Island countries in acknowledging children’s rights and incorporating them into national development strategies. Our work would be impossible without the support of host governments, donor governments, UNICEF National Committees in the more industrialised countries and thousands of generous individuals – all of whom provide the funds to power our work for children.

No single organisation working in isolation can hope to guarantee all rights for all children. Hence the reason to build strong partnerships across the region, with governments, other United Nations agencies, Non-Government Organisations, Pacific Regional Organisations, children and young people as well as anyone who can make a difference, endeavouring to facilitate participatory approaches to planning and implementing development interventions for children in the Pacific. We believe that a good starting point for strategic development should be the integrity of data on children as the foundation for good planning and performance monitoring. We hope that you will join this partnership to help us improve the survival, development, protection and participation of children.
This booklet looks back on how the specific strategies and activities that begun in 2008 have led to results for children and the lessons learned from UNICEF’s work during the year. It then presents the next steps for implementation in 2009. Several initiatives have forged new ground and these are presented here as innovations from which we can draw inspiration.

Finally, we share stories from children and communities about how UNICEF has touched and changed their lives. A story about what UNICEF’s work has meant for one child can be multiplied many times over, and this helps us appreciate the impact of UNICEF’s assistance on Pacific Island nations as a whole.

UNICEF continues to pay special attention to the mounting environmental, economic, health and cultural challenges faced by small island developing nations. For instance, UNICEF and other partners have embarked on a comprehensive process to identify early warning indicators and approaches for tracking the impact of global economic crisis on vulnerable groups at national and sub-national levels. With Pacific governments and other partners UNICEF aims to ensure that the rights of every Pacific Island child – the Pacific’s greatest asset – are respected, promoted and protected.

Dr. Isiye Ndombi
UNICEF Pacific Representative
Overview

The Pacific Island countries are home to some 2 million people of which just over 900,000 are children below 18 years of age. Some 400,000 of these children live in the five countries – Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu – classified by the United Nations as least developed countries. The UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Programme 2008-12 provides support to 14 countries organized in three priority tiers: tier one (top priority), Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; tier two (second level), Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa and Tuvalu; and tier three, Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tokelau and Tonga.

The overall goal of the UNICEF Pacific multi-country programme 2008-12 is to support the governments of these countries in progressively realising child rights in accordance with National Development Strategies, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the World Fit For Children (WFFC) goals.

2008 saw only moderate progress made towards achieving Millennium Development and World Fit for Children goals, as well as towards aligning policies, plans, budgets, laws and programmes with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Political instability in some countries, land conflicts, rising unemployment, fuel and food price increases, and an increase in criminal activities have caused civil unrest. At the same time, the crisis in the global economy has slowed down financial growth in the region. The region is always vulnerable to natural disasters. In 2008, Fiji and Vanuatu experienced cyclones and there were floods in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Looking back on the first year of the Multi-Country Programme 2008-12

Integrity of data. A primary focus of the first year of the programme was to improve the integrity of development data for children – the foundation for efficient programming. An important achievement was the release of an updated State of Pacific Children Report and several Country Situational Analyses which collectively provide information on critical issues and trends for Pacific children. Programme baselines that will assist evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation with national partners were also initiated.
Programme convergence. Convergence of programmes means addressing all the rights of children, at the same time in a select number of the most vulnerable provinces within countries. Through support to local government, convergence results in comprehensive delivery of quality services and local and community-based outcomes for children. Convergence also supports strong local partnerships for children between government agencies, community-based organisations, donors, non-government organisations and other UN agencies. A second important achievement in 2008 was the convergence of activities from UNICEF’s five programmes in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. UNICEF’s Field Office staff in these three countries together with development partners initiated convergence planning and service delivery with national ministries and provincial offices.

One United Nations. A third major step forward concerned the One Fund, One Programme in Kiribati, between the Government of Kiribati, Government of Australia and the United Nations. UNICEF contributed to the development of this programme. It is hoped that the One Fund will allow better harmonisation and coordination of UN-supported activities, increase alignment between the UN and national systems, and reduce transaction costs between the three partners for the benefit of particularly children and women in Kiribati. Further UN collaborative relationships specifically between UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA to achieve results for children were initiated through the establishment of a joint presence in seven countries – Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Tuvalu and Vanuatu. This initiative was formed in response to the demands of the above-mentioned countries.

Economic Policy and Children. In response to the increases in the cost of food and fuel, UNICEF Pacific together with regional partners presented an assessment of the likely impact of these increases on women and children. UNICEF Pacific advocated for the need to ensure economic policy responses to the food and fuel crises protected women and children. UNICEF Pacific also commenced tracking of the global financial crisis and its potential impact on Pacific Island children and women. UNICEF has engaged with the Ministry of Finance and Planning in several Pacific Island countries to ensure that macro-economic policy and plans that foster economic growth address hardship and poverty among children and women.
Partnerships for Children. 20

partnerships. Examples include:

• A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNICEF and the
  Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to establish a platform of cooperation
  that will contribute to improved health, social and human development outcomes
  for all Pacific Island countries and areas.

• The Japanese-Pacific Immunisation Programme Strengthening (J-PIPS) (14 Pacific
  Island Countries, JICA, WHO, UNICEF, CDC, AusAID, NZAID). J-PIPS has been
  able to bring partners into a common approach and funding pool to strengthen
  Immunisation programmes across the Pacific. Technical support is synchronized
  (each agency offers pieces along a continuum of immunisation technical advice)
  and financial support harmonized across 14 countries – avoiding duplication and
  wastage of resources.

• Sector-Wide Approaches (SWAs) are being piloted for example through the
  Vanuatu Education Sector Strategy (drafted in 2006) as a tool to increase the aid
  effectiveness. UNICEF continues to be involved in the SWAp meetings with other
  donors and government. UNICEF is also engaged with the development of the
  new Health SWAp in Vanuatu. In Solomon Islands UNICEF has provided
  technical inputs into the development of the Health SWAp led by AusAID and
  the World Bank. UNICEF is also actively engaged in the Solomon Islands
  Education SWAp which is strongly supported by NZAID and the European Union.
  In Samoa UNICEF has signed the Health SWAp partnership agreement as a
  “non-pooled” partner.

• A learning and knowledge exchange partnership between UNICEF Pacific and
  Policy Paper Series was developed focused on the Rights of Children in Small
  Island Developing States. During 2008, a Child Protection staff member from the
  Eastern Caribbean Office spent 2 months on a staff exchange with UNICEF
  Pacific. In August 2008 a virtual conference was held between a group of
  Caribbean and Pacific policy makers to exchange on experiences dealing with
  children’s rights. Exchanges between the two sub-regions on the impact of the
food and fuel price rise and the global economic crises are ongoing.

- UNICEF Pacific initiated a virtual Partnership of Excellence for Pacific children (PasEFIC). PasEFIC is bringing governments, donors, corporate agencies, development partners, NGOs, universities, young people and children into a knowledge generation and exchange network. As one set of key partners, universities in Australia, Hawai’i, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands (Fiji and PNG) have been approached to join UNICEF Pacific in the development of better knowledge of and data on the situation of children and women across the region.
A snapshot of progress against key programme management results in 2008

The following results are those listed in UNICEF Pacific’s 2008 Annual Management Plan and used by the Multi-Country Office to monitor overall programme progress during the year. More achievements and detailed results are presented in subsequent sections of this document.
Health and Sanitation Programme

- National Plans of Action on the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) were completed in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- The procurement of vaccines through the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII) and the accurate forecasting of vaccines and vaccine equipment were supported in all 14 countries although there was a Pentavalent vaccine stockout in Fiji which UNICEF quickly solved.
- Senior EPI managers from all 14 countries completed immunisation programme training.
- Secondary baseline data on EPI, key child and maternal health interventions, and hygiene, water and sanitation were collated against key national and programme indicators in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- Good progress was made on developing an essential intervention strategy for maternal and child health across the Pacific based in particular on a more detailed analysis of progress against MDG 4 (Child Survival), MDG 5 (maternal health), and MDG 7 (environment focusing on water and sanitation). Progress was also made in the supply of essential equipment especially immunisation cold chain and water and sanitation supplies.

Education Programme

- An Early Childhood Education policy in Kiribati was drafted with the support of UNICEF Pacific and submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- A Child Friendly School Assessment planning tool was introduced in over 100 primary schools of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- Finalisation of a Child Friendly School architectural design and the signing of over 50 community agreements for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of schools affected by the 2007 earthquake and tsunami disaster in Solomon Islands.
• The development and pre-positioning of a Pacific Early Childhood Education emergency kit, for children aged 3 to 5 in post emergency settings.

• UNICEF’s “Education for All INFO” (EFA-INFO) tool was introduced to countries across the Pacific. In Vanuatu, for example, a one week workshop for the Ministry of Education has led to greater cross variable indicator analysis in their Education for All Mid Decade Assessment report.

• Secondary baseline data on basic education were collated against key national and programme indicators in Kiribati.

**HIV and AIDS Programme**

• Secondary baseline data were collated against key national and programme HIV and AIDS indicators in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

• A number of trainings and Training of Trainers workshops with young people, leaders and communities to encourage their participation in and contribution to HIV prevention and response were coordinated across the region alongside SPC and UNFPA.

• National guidelines and standard operational procedures for the integration of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services were developed within national reproductive health systems. These were endorsed by Ministries of Health in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

• Needs assessments for integration of PMTCT and Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) services were conducted in three countries (5 facilities were assessed in Solomon Islands, 3 facilities in Vanuatu, and 1 hospital was assessed in Kiribati). Three facilities in Vanuatu received funds for renovation and refurbishment, while the other 6 (5 in Solomon Islands and 1 in Kiribati) have refurbishment planned for 2009. Nine health facilities across Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu had PMTCT services strengthened by the provision of medical and non-medical supplies.
Child Protection Programme

• Comprehensive baseline studies neared completion in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

• A legal compliance review was undertaken as part of the baseline research in these four countries. Efforts were made to ensure appropriate stakeholder application of existing laws and regulations for children’s protection. The Fiji Government undertook an assessment of the extent to which child protection issues are included in the curriculum for pre-service training at the Police Academy and at the University of South Pacific.

• Good, albeit initial, progress was seen in strengthening the social welfare divisions/departments in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and in Fiji. While the Social Welfare Department is well established in Fiji, the departments in the other countries are under-resourced with very limited human resource capacity and no clearly defined mandate in relation to children’s protection.

• In Kiribati and Vanuatu a formal Memorandum of Understanding was developed between the civil registry divisions and the Ministry of Health, allowing birth registration to be undertaken in conjunction with the birth of the child by officially recognizing the role of health professionals in notifying the birth of the child. A similar process was commenced in Solomon Islands.

• Efforts have been made in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to address child protection issues at the provincial level through closer collaboration with provincial level authorities. Further work is required to develop policies for non-violent forms of discipline in schools.

Policy, Advocacy, Planning & Evaluation Programme

• The methodological design phase of a landmark child poverty and child-centred economic policy analysis study was completed in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu with assistance from the Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales.
• Work was commenced on multi-year Strategic Communication for Behaviour and Social Change plans to support the 2008-2012 programme.

• UNICEF Pacific engaged strongly with government and other UN agencies to review the United Nations Development Assistance Framework contribution to national development goals in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu and participated for the first time in joint UN reviews and planning in the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Palau.

• Technical assistance was provided to National Committees for Children in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to better understand their role in the national implementation and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A major legislative reform and the Convention on the Rights of the Child meeting was held in August 2008 with six countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu). The Governments of Cook Islands (Initial) and Vanuatu (Periodic) were assisted in submitting CRC reports.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

• New funding from the Australian Government to strengthen UNICEF Pacific and national emergency preparedness and response capacities was secured. New humanitarian response supplies were ordered, new warehousing facilities in priority countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) were identified, and a new internal Pacific Emergency Response Team (PERT) was formed and trained.
A snapshot of key programme management results planned for 2009

The following results are those listed in UNICEF Pacific’s 2009 Annual Management Plan and are being used by the Multi-Country Office to monitor overall programme progress during the year and will be reported against in UNICEF Pacific’s 2009/2010 “Looking Back, Moving Forward” report. More details on these planned results are presented in subsequent sections of this document.
Health and Sanitation Programme

- High immunisation coverage of all antigens will be achieved in all the countries identified for supplementary immunisation for measles and maintained for all the 14 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs).

- Policy, strategy and systems barriers to high coverage of maternal, newborn and child interventions with equity will be analysed and discussed with national and sub-national partners in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This work will include primary data collection on knowledge, attitudes and practices related to key child and maternal health issues and the commencement of integrated communication for behaviour and social change initiatives.

- Schools and communities in selected areas of Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji Islands will have access to and use improved drinking water and sanitation facilities and the experience and lessons learned will be used to inform national water sanitation and hygiene policies and strategies.

- Policy and strategy documents will be available on health, nutrition, water and sanitation interventions for child survival and development, providing guidance on appropriate institutional accountabilities and budget allocations in Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Vanuatu.

- Timely and quality information will be available on the global food, fuel and economic crises and their impacts on the health and nutrition of children in at least six Pacific countries informing policy options and budget decisions.

Education Programme

- A costed Child Friendly Schools Performance Assessment Framework will inform the expansion of the Child Friendly School model by Ministries of Education in the Pacific (Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu).

- Teacher education curricula will commence integration of child friendly school principles/dimensions (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu).

- Over 5000 students affected by the 2007 earthquake/tsunami disaster will benefit from permanent, safe learning environments in Western and Choiseul Provinces, Solomon Islands.
HIV and AIDS Programme

• The Governments of Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu will have strategic information drawing upon reliable baseline data for four years of programming for HIV prevention for most at risk adolescents and young people in general.

• Most at risk adolescents, youth (10-24 years), and women in at least programme convergence areas of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu will have increased knowledge on how to prevent HIV and/or adopt practices that reduce risks of HIV infection through engagement in behaviour and social change communication campaigns for HIV prevention.

• More pregnant women and their partners will be accessing PMTCT services in 15 selected health facilities in selected provinces and islands of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

• At least 20% of attendees of adolescent friendly services in areas of programme convergence in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu will represent most at risk adolescents.

Child Protection Programme

• Priority pieces of child related policies, legislation and regulations will be drafted that promote the values contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child recommended by the results of baseline research for enactment in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

• There will be strengthened inter-agency collaboration (social welfare services, judiciary, police, and civil society) to effectively respond to children and youth as offenders, witnesses and victims of crimes in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

• Birth registration systems will achieve 80% registration of births in programme convergence areas in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

• Communication for Social Change processes will be initiated addressing key findings and recommendations of the child protection baseline research in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

• Data for key child protection indicators will be more readily available in Samoa and there will be a greater recognition of the “protective environment approach” as a programming strategy amongst key partners.
Policy, Advocacy, Planning & Evaluation Programme

• Economic policy and investment options will be under consideration by national policy makers in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu that draw upon analysis of levels and trends in child poverty and child-related MDG progress.

• Children will have first call on resources in national action plans to monitor and respond to the impacts of the food and fuel price rises and global economic crisis in at least Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

• National Committees for Children capacity to monitor and report on the situation of children will be further enhanced at least in Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

• UNICEF Pacific staff emergency response capacity including Core Commitments for Children (CCC) implementation and monitoring, gender in humanitarian action and supply management will be further strengthened.

• National and sub-national capacity in emergency management planning, assessment and response monitoring for children and women will be enhanced including Core Commitments for Children alignment, gender mainstreaming, and emergency information management in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

UNICEF Field Offices in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

• In areas of programme convergence, children, young people, child care-givers and community leaders will be reporting significant changes in children’s survival, protection, participation and development.

• In areas of programme convergence, sub-national authorities and partners will have developed and will be actively monitoring child-centred development plans for integrated service and programme delivery.
The next section in this report provides detailed results from 2008 and updates on 2009 across the following UNICEF Programmes:

- Health and Sanitation
- Education
- HIV and AIDS
- Child Protection
- Policy, Advocacy, Planning and Evaluation
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Operations
Health and Sanitation
This programme focuses on immunisation, care of pregnant women and newborns, children’s balanced diet, hygiene and good sanitation.

LOOKING BACK

The key objectives of the Health and Sanitation Programme during 2008 were to work with governments and partners to increase childhood immunisation coverage, to ensure that implementation of evidence-based maternal and child health programmes was intensified in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, to support the community-based hygiene and water safety plans in these three prioritized countries and Fiji, and to begin the recovery and reconstruction phase in areas affected by the 2007 tsunami in Solomon Islands.

The achievements of UNICEF and its partners in 2008

Immunisation

With the support of UNICEF and key partners, the Pacific’s polio-free status was maintained and there was steady progress towards universal coverage with routine vaccines, measles elimination and Hepatitis B control.

Funds were secured for Samoa, Solomon Islands and Kiribati to facilitate the introduction of the Pentavalent vaccine, and an additional amount was promised by the Australian government to enable many more Pacific Island countries to introduce the Pentavalent vaccine and other new vaccines in 2009.

UNICEF Pacific, with financial support from the Japanese government, supplied cold chain equipment to Fiji, Kiribati and Solomon Islands. Over 90% of health facilities in Fiji and Kiribati are now equipped with the chain of freezers and fridges needed to maintain the correct temperature of vaccines.

UNICEF supplied technical support for regional training as part of the expanded programme on immunisation. Ten participants from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tokelau and Palau attended this training.
Care of pregnant women, newborn babies and young children

UNICEF established partnerships with the World Bank and the governments of Japan, New Zealand and Australia to develop programming for the entire health sector through a coordination mechanism known as a sector-wide approach to programming (SWAp) in Samoa and Solomon Islands.

Fiji reached universal baby-friendly status with the award of the UNICEF-WHO Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative to all its 21 hospitals.

In Kiribati, mothers attended training sessions on infant and young child feeding, and more than 10,000 children benefited from a Vitamin A supplementation and de-worming programme in Solomon Islands. In Vanuatu and Kiribati, micro-nutrient awareness campaigns were held and in Fiji, UNICEF financial support was provided to a study of the status of micro-nutrients in children 6 – 59 months old.

Regionally, the important role of nutrition was advocated and regional partners were presented with the assessment of the likely impact of higher fuel and food prices on women and children. Additional resources to monitor the impact were secured.

Hygiene and water safety

Schools and communities in selected areas were provided with safe drinking water and efficient sewerage systems.

In seven primary schools in South Tarawa, Kiribati, these facilities were repaired and in five primary schools in Rotuma and Nayau Island - an outer island in Fiji - they were improved, benefiting 3,650 children. More than 7,700 people in areas affected by the 2007 tsunami in Solomon Islands were provided with access to safe drinking water. Also in Solomon Islands, UNICEF supported the Provincial Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department in Western Province to provide 750 people with access to safe drinking water.
A KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) survey will be undertaken in 2009 in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to better understand maternal and child health issues. In these countries there will be training for facilitators and health staff, procurement of medicines, and an improved surveillance system for vaccine preventable diseases. The focus will be on making pre- and post-natal services available, training health workers to assist at childbirth and providing referral services where necessary.

In countries where the need is greatest, measles campaigns will be integrated with vitamin A supplementation, de-worming and promotion of hand-washing; Pentavalent and other new vaccines will be promoted; and cold chain assessment and interventions will be conducted.

Across the region, breastfeeding will be supported and promoted, and much work will be done to improve water supplies and sanitation in schools and communities. Partnerships will be strengthened for advocacy and obtaining funds for child survival, growth and development. This will include monitoring the health impacts of the global economic crisis and rising food and fuel costs.
Education
The purpose of the programme is to increase the percentage of children benefiting from the equitable provision and completion of quality basic education through a rights-based approach to education programming and policy development.

UNICEF works in partnership with regional Ministries of Education and other regional organisations to promote children's rights to, in and through education.

LOOKING BACK

A key achievement in 2008 was the establishment of an Education Programme team and the planning of the five-year (2008 – 2012) Education Programme.

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

The ECE policy in Kiribati was finalised and submitted to Cabinet for approval. UNICEF provided financial and technical support and the outcome is an inclusive and child-centred policy.

A national workshop on Early Learning Development Standards was held in Vanuatu, with the result that the Vanuatu Ministry of Education made a commitment to develop these standards which will serve as a basis for a national ECE curriculum in 2009.

UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance for the drafting of language in education policies in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The policies appreciate the multiplicity of mother tongues in these countries and the rights to and benefits of a multilingual focus in education.

Child Friendly Schools

Isabel Province led the introduction of Child Friendly Schools in Solomon Islands, and the concept has been shared through visits and workshops for provincial education staff across the country through their participation in field visits and workshops.
A School Self Assessment module, which enables a school to measure the progress it makes towards Child Friendly status, was undertaken by over 100 primary schools in all.

**Emergency and post-disaster education support**

In 2008, UNICEF set up a **Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project (RARP)** for schools affected by the 2007 tsunami in Western and Choiseul Provinces of Solomon Islands. Reconstruction of eight schools began in 2008, with community ownership of the renovated schools a key approach and child-friendly features being incorporated in the school design.

Emergency Early Childhood Education materials have been put into a **Pacific ECE kit** for Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands for use in post-disaster settings.
In 2009, the UNICEF Education programme will continue to support the development of education policies in language and inclusive education in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, as well as providing technical assistance for the development of a national Education in Emergency Plan for Vanuatu. A national study on Barriers to Education in Solomon Islands will form the development of MEHRD’s National Education Strategic Framework 2010-2015, as well as the implementation of a recent Fee Free Education Policy introduced in 2009.

UNICEF will continue to support Child Friendly Schools (CFS), both through the mainstreaming of this approach across Ministry of Education systems as well as in the practical demonstration of CFS in selected provinces of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. At a national level, Child Friendly Schools principles will be infused within teacher training curricula and Child Friendly School standards will be developed as a means of guiding and assessing progress. At a provincial level, activities will include strengthening community-based school committees; improving school development plan processes; providing literacy and numeracy materials to schools; and improving water, sanitation and hygiene.

In the area of Early Childhood Education, UNICEF will continue working with Ministries of Education in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to draft Early Learning Development Standards.

In Kiribati, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the Curriculum Development Unit to undertake a gender audit of curriculum materials, using the opportunity of the curriculum reform process initiated in 2008.

At the request of Ministries of Education in all three focus countries, UNICEF will support the development of national frameworks and improve practice in the area of special needs education. Studies will be carried out to assess the education situation of children with disabilities.

In order to see what progress has been made in the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project, a mid-term review will be undertaken in the areas affected by the 2007 tsunami in Solomon Islands.
HIV and AIDS
The purpose of the HIV and AIDS Programme is to reduce the vulnerability to and impact of HIV and AIDS among the people most at risk in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. There is a special focus on women and children through a selection of high impact interventions for a low prevalence HIV epidemic, including the integration of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services in maternal and child health services, and prevention initiatives for most at risk and especially vulnerable adolescents and youth.

LOOKING BACK

In 2008, UNICEF contributed to the development of the Pacific Regional Strategy, which Pacific Island leaders endorsed and which provides an overarching framework for the delivery of services in the area of HIV and AIDS to countries in the region.

UNICEF participates in several working groups in the Pacific with many partners. One of these partnerships (SPC, UNFPA and UNICEF) coordinates the Adolescent Health and Development Programme. Activities undertaken by this programme in 2008 included establishing a system to reach most at risk adolescents and youth in the five countries with HIV prevention information and skills. Further achievements were:

• the development of a Trainers’ Resource Package and national training was run for ten master trainers. In Kiribati and Solomon Islands, 40 trainers were trained.

• training for 200 groups of adolescents in Solomon Islands and Kiribati.

• training for teachers and youth leaders in new curricula and delivery methods in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and, in the same countries, life skills training by peer educators for 3,000 adolescents.

• in schools, curricula for life skills were developed, tested and integrated in the main curriculum, and teachers and youth leaders in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu received training and orientation in the new curriculum.
Other activities implemented by the countries themselves with UNICEF support included:

• training of 90 adolescents, youth, women and community leaders in reproductive health issues in Solomon Islands. This resulted in an increase in attendance to reproductive health care services.

• training of peer educators, health care providers and community leaders in HIV prevention in Tuvalu. Also in Tuvalu, radio sessions with HIV prevention messages for youths were produced.

UNICEF’s HIV and AIDS Programme also assisted the five countries to implement activities as per their national strategic plans. For example, UNICEF supported countries to conduct campaigns to combat the stigma and discrimination faced by many people living with HIV and AIDS. In Fiji, UNICEF provided assistance to the Fiji Network for People Living with HIV and AIDS (FJN+), an organization that helps people living with AIDS.

In the area of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT), PMTCT has been strengthened by:

• the development of national guidelines and standards in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu

• the integration of PMTCT services in selected health facilities with attempts of reaching the agreed standards by: (a) renovation and refurbishment of the selected facilities in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands; (b) training of 75 health care providers in delivery of PMTCT services in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Mothers and their partners attending antenatal clinics in the five countries have now started to use PMTCT services, and women and children who are either HIV positive or exposed to the risk of becoming so are also benefiting from PMTCT activities.
MOVING FORWARD

In 2009, the HIV and AIDS Programme will focus on activities recommended by the review of work completed in 2008. The Programme expects to:

- support countries in conducting vulnerability mapping and selecting interventions that will make a difference
- increase its focus on prevention activities among those most at risk, and increase their involvement in programme activities
- continue to integrate PMTCT services in health facilities where the need is greatest
- strengthen adolescent friendly services in reproductive health centres
- support capacity development of youth as partners in HIV prevention and increase their engagement in HIV responses
- support the introduction of rapid HIV testing
- assist in capacity development of HIV and AIDS committees at national and provincial levels in selected provinces in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
Child Protection
The purpose of the Child Protection Programme is to build a protective environment for children, free from violence, abuse and exploitation. In 2008, the work of the programme was focused on Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The Protective Environment Approach can be categorised into three broad areas of intervention that build and strengthen systems for protecting children, recognising the socio-economic, political and cultural context in which children grow as shown in the diagram. The framework focuses on:

1. An adequate legislative, regulatory and policy framework for comprehensive protection for children against all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. The conceptual framework recognises that for any law to be useful, effective enforcement is necessary.

2. Adequately resourced professional child protection services coordinated within a formal social welfare system, including programmes for prevention and early interventions, support to referral and response mechanisms, programmes for recovery and reintegration assistance for victims of violence, abuse and other support services for families and children. This element also
LOOKING BACK

The Programme builds on the notion of broad partnerships to effectively address child protection issues. Therefore new partnerships were formed throughout the year through networking and dialogue by the child protection teams in the five countries. Key partners in the justice sector, such as the new Ministry of Justice and Social Welfare in Vanuatu, were brought on board when UNICEF participated in the South Pacific Council for Youth and Children’s Court conference held in Samoa.

Laws and regulatory frameworks

As part of a comprehensive baseline research conducted in 2008, a legal review was undertaken in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It assisted in identifying the areas needing reform so that children who are victims, offenders and witnesses can be better protected and served by the justice system in their country.

Efforts were also made to ensure that existing laws and regulations are properly applied. In Kiribati, for example, a manual for child-friendly court proceedings and police procedures was developed. Magistrates and police officers in some areas of the country are now more ready to consider children’s rights when making decisions.

With support from UNICEF, the Fiji government assessed the extent to which child protection issues are included in the pre-service curriculum at the Police Academy and the University of the South Pacific.

3. Ensuring positive and protective attitudes and practices as part of **societal and individual behaviour change.** Public awareness and programmes supporting positive practices are important to ensure attitudes and values contributing to keeping children safe.
Social welfare systems

A good start was made in 2008 to strengthen the social welfare systems in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu so that children can be better served and protected from abuse. In Solomon Islands, for example, UNICEF funded a technical advisor who worked with social welfare staff to set up a case management system and establish links with other stakeholders through Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs). This has resulted in more children being referred to social welfare for professional care and more staff being assigned to the Children’s Protection section.

A case management manual has also been developed in Kiribati and this, too, has shown results: greatly improved coordination between police and social welfare personnel in Tarawa. Here, there has been an increase in the number of children who voluntarily come to the Social Welfare Unit; this is possibly a result of the school visit programme undertaken by the Unit.

In Vanuatu, UNICEF is working with the new Ministry of Justice and Social Welfare to define its role in relation to the protection of children and, in Fiji, the Social Welfare Department began revising the guidelines for greater collaboration among the various agencies involved in resolving cases of child abuse. Also in Fiji, a study on kinship/foster care began and could be a first step towards reducing the number of children being raised in child care centers rather than in families.

Work has been done in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to improve the birth registration system, allowing birth registration to be officially undertaken by health professionals.

Child protection in the home and community

To provide a solid foundation against which to measure future progress, a child protection baseline research was undertaken in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Children, communities and government ministries were involved in the research, and already some indirect benefits have been noted, such as a greater understanding among stakeholders of critical elements in a good social welfare system for children. The research was the major achievement in 2008 and took a great deal of time. Already the research has proven to be a powerful advocacy tool and has helped to identify critical areas for intervention.
Field Offices in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu being fully staffed with Child Protection Officers, were able to provide constant monitoring of activities throughout the year, as well as mid-year and end-of-year reviews with national partners and other UN agencies.

In Fiji and Samoa, the Child Protection Programmes continued to support community-based activities for promoting child protection. Discussion with groups of community leaders is one such activity.

**MOVING FORWARD**

From 2009 onwards, the monitoring of trends and the assessment of the impact of activities undertaken by the Child Protection Programme will be greatly facilitated by the baseline research findings. It will be possible to measure changes in regulatory and social welfare systems, as well as changes in the behaviour and practices of individuals and communities.

Samoa expects to complete their baseline data research in 2009 and the findings will inform policy and planning for 2010. Their research focuses on assessing behaviour, knowledge and practices at family and community level; social welfare and protection systems; and a legislation review.

The Child Protection team, working with the Education Programme, expects to improve protection of school children from abuse by teachers. A code of conduct will be developed for all who come in contact with children. The aim of this activity is to make it possible to identify danger signals and to provide professionals and parents with the skills they need to prevent abuse.

Birth registration in Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati will be strengthened by a variety of measures, including training in registration procedures for medical personnel and training of the civil servants working in registry offices.

Legislation dealing with child protection will be further improved by training duty bearers such as police and legal officers in promoting and drafting Child Protection Acts.
Policy, Advocacy, Planning & Evaluation (PAPE)
The PAPE programme helps Pacific Island countries place children at the centre of national policy, legislation, planning, budgeting and reporting. It supports the development of evidence-based social and economic policies that address the rights of children, youth and women, and assists governments to ensure that data on these groups of people are integrated into planning, monitoring and evaluation systems in (at least) Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. PAPE advocates for and promotes active participation of children, young people and women in these processes.

PAPE also works with the four other programmes (Child Protection, Health and Sanitation, Education and HIV and AIDS) to ensure there is a system of results based planning and management; that data and advice are available on specific areas like HIV, juvenile justice, youth, health and nutrition; to support communication for behaviour and social change; and to assist in research, monitoring and evaluations of UNICEF-supported programmes. PAPE also oversees UNICEF Pacific’s external relations and fund-raising and contributes strongly to the work of UNICEF Pacific’s Emergency Response Team as well as Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response initiatives.
LOOKING BACK

Child-Centred Economic and Social Policy Analysis

The methodological design phase on a landmark child poverty and child-centred economic policy analysis was completed in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu with key Ministries, Save the Children (Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), and the Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales. Technical support was also provided to the development and finalization of National Youth Policies in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for Vanuatu’s National Child Policy was also drafted through consultation with stakeholders presenting opportunities to improve child-centred planning and reporting across government.

Child-Centred Budgeting

PAPE has begun documenting lessons learned by other development partners working in this area and from CRC Advocacy packages delivered during national election campaigns in 2008. Activities within this area of work require further consultation in 2009 with Ministries of Finance and Planning, ADB, World Bank (undertaking Public Expenditure Reviews in the Education and Health Sectors in several countries), Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC), AusAID (undertaking Public Expenditure Reviews in Health in several countries), and other donors. PAPE also contributed towards the UNDP Pacific Centre-led MDG Initiative regional training to provide a child-centred and rights-based focus on budgeting for Melanesian and Polynesian countries.

Child-Centred Legislative Reform

An initial group of delegates from Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu alongside representatives from the University of South Pacific, United Nations agencies, NGOs and young people gathered together in August 2008 in Port Vila, Vanuatu to consider three questions: (1) What have Pacific Island Countries achieved and what experience has been gained along the way as regards legislative
reform for the realization of children’s rights? (2) What more could we achieve in the immediate future (2009-2012) towards a longer-term horizon? (3) What challenges will we face and how can we overcome these, drawing upon lessons learned and good practice in the Pacific and elsewhere?

Based on their own analysis of the meeting’s contents and national progress, participating country teams used the opportunity to develop a “Legislative Reform and CRC Action Plan” articulating: 2012 results, annual activities, mechanisms for participatory reform, monitoring and evaluation, and possible entry points for UN, NGO and donor agency assistance. This planning further supports the Child Protection Programme’s work in legislative reform. A key feature of the meeting was the high level of engagement from school children and young people. The meeting was also attended by the current Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and benefited from literature resources provided by the UNICEF Innocenti Centre and UNICEF New York.

**Child-Centred Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Skills**

PAPE provided technical and financial support to various evaluations in 2008 including an evaluation of the Kiribati Government’s Outer Island Youth initiative conducted by young people trained specifically for the purpose and coordinated by Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA); and an External Evaluation of Live and Learn’s Peace Education Programme in Solomon Islands.

In Vanuatu, data analysis of the 2007 Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and a Nutrition Sub-Sample Survey was completed with technical assistance provided to the MICS Task Force, the National Statistics Office, and key Ministry of Health personnel. The MICS Survey is scheduled for launch in the first half of 2009.

To prepare for the development of multi-year, multi-programme Communication for Behaviour and Social Change plans, assessments were completed by national consultants of NGO and Civil Society Organization (CSO) Capacity in Social Mobilization and Emergency Response in Fiji (n=20 agencies), Solomon Islands (n=12 agencies), Kiribati (n=15 agencies) and Vanuatu (n=35 agencies).
National communication plans to support Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza (AI/PI) Preparedness and Response were completed and based on detailed research and validated through desk-top exercises in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. Six AI/PI Advocacy Workshops followed by a Regional Communications Workshop significantly developed capacity of stakeholders at national and sub-national levels on AI/PI knowledge and awareness, coordination and processes.

**Child-Centred Data Systems**

During 2008, PAPE built strong linkages with SPC’s Statistics and Demography Programme, ADB, World Bank, UNDP Pacific Centre and UNDP, UNFPA, the UNDAF M&E Group, AusAID and NZAID statistics focal points (including the respective National Statistics Bureaus) in preparation for the development in 2009 of a multi-year, multi-agency data and statistics capacity building framework. The development of this framework forms part of the new UNICEF Pacific/SPC MOU signed in November 2008.

PAPE, alongside other UNICEF Pacific staff and EmergencyINFO focal points in the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), continued to provide technical inputs into an initiative led by UNOCHA and including regional partners (Red Cross Federations, SOPAC, Asia Foundation, and WHO) to establish national baseline datasets to inform National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans as well as to develop Rapid Assessment Tools and Monitoring systems for Emergency Response.

**Child-Centred Reporting**

Technical assistance has been provided to National Committees for Children in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. As a result, Committee Plans of Action were completed in all three countries while Committee TORs were finalized in Kiribati and Solomon Islands.

Situation Analyses were published for Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Palau, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu, as well as a new State of Pacific Children 2008 Report. The Governments of Cook Islands (Initial) and Vanuatu (Periodic) were assisted in submitting CRC reports. The Government of Solomon Islands was assisted in developing a mechanism for the National Advisory Committee for Children to collect information from children for the preparation of the State Party Periodic CRC Report and other reports and research.
MOVING FORWARD

In the area of **child-centred economic and social policy analysis**, 2009 activities will include: initial analysis of available social and economic data to determine levels and recent trends in child and youth hardship/poverty; begin analysis of previous economic policy impact in relation to child-related goals and targets; and capacity building processes to improve child-centred policy formulation. In the area of **child-centred budgeting**: consultations will continue with Ministries of Finance and key development partners to determine options for improving expenditure analysis for children. In the area of **child-centred legislative reform**: four year (2009-2012) plans of action for progressive legislative review and reform developed in 2008 will be initiated.

In the area of **child-centred Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) skills**, 2009 activities will include: support for sub-national planning and monitoring; technical coordination of multi-year Communication for Behaviour and Social Change plans; and joint Government/UN Monitoring and Reviews. In the area of **child-centred data systems**: a child-focused Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Diagnosis will be conducted to examine amongst other issues, roles and responsibilities of the main parties in the national M&E system, national-provincial-community M&E linkage, types of M&E indicators and tools in use, and capacity constraints and capacity priorities.

In the area of **child-centred reporting**, 2009 activities include: further capacity building support to National Committees for Children. A “National Committee for Children Toolkit” for Pacific Island countries will be developed and will include guidance on participation of children, monitoring the status of children, preparation and monitoring of National Plans of Action and CRC preparation, submission and reporting to Geneva. The Toolkit will be developed alongside CEDAW implementation capacity building efforts being coordinated by UNIFEM, SPC and UNDP Pacific Centre. If resources allow, support will be provided to CRC Reporting processes in Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.
Emergency Preparedness and Response
Humanitarian response activities are an essential part of the overall work and cooperation of UNICEF. Our role and mandate to respond to emergencies are well articulated in the 2004 Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCCs) document and well understood by partners in Government, international organisations and civil society. UNICEF systematically integrates commitments to respond to the urgent needs of children, women and families in emergency situations into programming and operations. UNICEF builds and retains institutional capacities to meet the CCCs and ensures that its staff and all programmes of cooperation are able to adapt to emergency situations that require humanitarian response. The extensive field experience and presence, neutrality, human rights-based mandate and operational capacities of UNICEF are particularly important assets.

LOOKING BACK

Pacific Emergency Response Team (PERT)

A Pacific Emergency Response Team (PERT) was formed in July 2008 - comprised of 16 members from Programmes, Operations and PAPE sections. PERT focuses exclusively on programme preparedness and response. In October 2008, a workshop facilitated by the Regional Emergency Advisor was held to build understanding amongst PERT members of UNICEF’s Emergency Preparedness and Response principles and tools. The 2006 UNICEF internal Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan was reviewed and revised by the PERT at this workshop.

Pre-positioning of emergency supplies

The pre-positioning of emergency health, water and sanitation, education and recreation supplies in the Pacific is currently supported by two project agreements – first, a 4-year agreement with AusAID focusing on health, water and sanitation supplies (and associated capacity development) and the second, a one-year agreement with NZAID for the development of early childhood emergency kits and the strengthening of education and recreation kits. An Emergency Supply and Logistics Assistant (ESLA)
joined UNICEF Pacific in October 2008 to manage the procurement of emergency supplies and the establishment of warehousing. As such, warehouse assessments have been undertaken in Port Vila, Vanuatu and Honiara, Solomon Islands as well as a review of the current Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project (RARP) warehouse procedures in Gizo. In selecting warehouse options, preference has been given for those which offer possibilities of partnership – with NGOs (i.e., Red Cross) or Government.

A list of materials for a Pacific Early Childhood Education kit has been produced following extensive consultation with Ministries of Education, National Disaster Management Offices and NGOs in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. 50% of the materials for these ECE kits have been ordered and a set of facilitator guidelines are ready for translation. In addition, an international consultant has drafted a revised set of facilitator guidelines for recreation kits, based on materials developed for the Safe Play areas in Solomon Islands.

**Cluster Coordination**

The Pacific Humanitarian Team, led by UNOCHA, was formed in mid 2008 and has replaced the UN Disaster Coordination Team in the Pacific. As agreed in July, UNICEF is lead agency in the Pacific for cluster coordination in the areas of: Water and Sanitation; Nutrition (sub-cluster); Child Protection (sub-cluster) and co-leads the Education cluster alongside the Save the Children Alliance. In addition, UNICEF is a partner with OHCHR and UNHRC in the informal protection working group which has recently been formed. One of the tasks of the Pacific Humanitarian Team over 2008 has been the development of a multi-cluster rapid assessment (RA) tool, currently being spearheaded by a smaller working group. UNICEF is a member of this working group and in addition to providing technical support, has committed to providing financial support in the drafting and piloting of RA tools.
Mapping of Core Commitments for Children (CCCs) Against National Disaster Plans

Technical assistance is being provided to assess existing national emergency response plans and capacities to determine areas requiring attention and to provide information on subsequent emergency management planning and response training required. A range of NGOs and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have been assessed in 2008 to examine their capacities for emergency response.

MOVING FORWARD

In 2009, a significant arrival of emergency materials is expected in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji. The Emergency Supply and Logistics Assistant will support the capacity development of staff in the Field Offices and National Disaster Management Offices tasked with maintaining and monitoring national warehouses. Furthermore, a mapping of supply channels and possible contracted as well as community-based distribution mechanisms will be undertaken in 2009. Further work will be conducted with national partners on the development of a multi-cluster rapid assessment (RA) tool. A consultant will be mobilized in early 2009 to assess national plans and make recommendations for ways to improve plan-CCC alignment and strengthen national and sub-national emergency response capacities in relation to implementing CCCs at times of emergency. The consultancy will be carried out in five countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
Operations
Partnership & Collaboration
- Banks
- Travel agencies
- Supplies & Vendors
- Other UN agencies
- Meetings to discuss common services
- Security - UNDSS
- Ministries of Foreign Affairs
- Embassies
- UNDP
- Customs & Immigration

Finance & Administration

Information Technology

Supplies

Human Resources

Innovations
- Reduce travel claim work processes - streamlining
- Capacity Building for Ops staff for backup system to support programmes
- Help Desk
- Travel claims - reconciliation

Key Results 2009
- Strengthen Operation areas in Field Offices (FO), Finance, Administration, Connectivity, Supply
- Complete and implement work processes
- Work on Annual Management Plan ready by March
- Prepare for Audit
- Micro-assessment to become compliant with the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfer by June
- Improve internal supply controls
- Improve field office connectivity
- Roll out CITRIX programme
- Implement Business Continuity Plan (BCP)
LOOKING BACK

Staffing issues

In 2008, the number of UNICEF staff posts for the Multi-Country programme increased from 40 to 71. A Caring for Us team looks after the well-being of staff, and the team supported a number of initiatives, including an update relating to HIV/AIDS in the workplace.

Supplies

Many supplies need to be bought and transported to carry out the work of UNICEF Pacific and, while much of this goes smoothly, problems inevitably arise. Getting duty-free exemption forms for imported items is a process that can take a long time and delay programme activities. Flight cancellations and poor connections make transporting delicate supplies such as vaccines and vaccine equipment in the region difficult. The Supply Unit strives to ensure this risks are minimised. Shipping costs are high, so most items, such as office vehicles, water and sanitation supplies, video teleconference sets, computers, emergency supplies, office furniture and printing supplies, are bought locally.

Information communication technology (ICT)

As UNICEF Pacific continues to expand, in terms of both staffing, work and responsibilities, the ICT Unit works hard to provide the support and services required.

Priorities for 2009 include not only maintaining the existing system/infrastructure and keeping with UNICEF’s strict Global ICT standards, but also improving connectivity for staff in the office and in the field.
Some of the plans for 2009 include:

• Proper management and coordination of Field Offices – quarterly Operations oversight visits are planned
• Preparation and monitoring of the 2009 Annual Management Plan
• Preparation of Support Budget 2011 -2012
• Review and implement office work processes
• Review of Terms of Reference for Office Committees
• Preparing for an internal audit
• Improving internal controls with supply
• Implementing the Business Continuity Plan
• Complete micro-assessments of Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in relation to introducing a new Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
• Provide technical assistance to Joint UN Presence activities
• Improve the ICT unit and ensure reliable connectivity with the Field offices and an adequate back-up system is operational.
Innovations and lessons learnt
Child Protection research

The aim of this research was to collect baseline data about child protection practices and systems in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to measure against the changes brought about by the Child Protection Programme activities over the next few years.

This research was innovative in that it allowed, for the first time, an opportunity to align the attitudes, perceptions and behaviour of the key stakeholders with social processes already in place, the legal and regulatory systems mandating these processes, and the media and community culture around them.

The researchers used personal digital assistants (PDAs) to collect data. For the first time, PDAs were used to collect responses for long questionnaires and for qualitative as well as quantitative responses.

Children and Youth participation in legislative reform

A six-country regional meeting was held in August 2008 in Vanuatu to review the progress of broad legislative reform in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in these countries, identify what still needs to be done and discuss how to overcome obstacles. The successful participation of 499 children from four countries in this exercise demonstrated how ‘the voice of the child’ could be heard at this, and at similar meetings at various stages of the reform process.

Children’s voices being heard are just as important as their views being acted upon. Delegates present at the meeting in Vanuatu needed to appreciate the participation of children and be receptive to the views they expressed about the aspects of national legislation they considered in urgent need of reform. These included: discrimination, corporal punishment and the mistreatment of children by their adoptive families.
Real life stories
Investing in Children – A Course Towards a Better Future

Frieda Taigwata laughs as she talks about her children, and for good reason. She is a Solomon Islands mother who has raised four healthy children in a poor country, a country rattled by years of political tension and devastated by a tsunami.

So pleased is Frieda with her children’s progress that she expresses their ages in the context of age next birthday, rather than last birthday. “Jason is coming up to 12, Sarah is going up to 11, George up to seven and John is going up to one year old next month,” she boasts.

One of Frieda’s four children, however, is in the danger zone. At under a year old, John is highly vulnerable to many illnesses. Over Christmas, he suffered an illness that caused his temperature to rise to 38°C and his chest to swell. He pulled through this, but is not safe yet. Sarah, too, had also been very ill as a baby. At eight months, she had a serious, week-long respiratory illness. The children have had malaria, of course. Frieda almost forgets that Jason, Sarah and George have suffered from this disease; it is so common, so usual, she says. But they have come through it and are now fit and strong.

They are a happy family. The boys can be a handful but Sarah is good around the house. She and Jason won school awards for good performance and responsibility last year, Frieda says proudly.

Although the Solomon Islands under-five mortality rate (the probability of dying between birth and five, expressed per 1000 live births) is in the moderate range (73 per 1000 live births), there has been progress since 1990, when statistics showed 121 deaths per 1000 live births.

UNICEF launched the first Progress for Children report in 2007. It gives hope as it shows that more of the world’s most vulnerable children, like Frieda’s John, will survive to five and beyond. The report showed that, internationally, the number of children dying under five is at a record low.
This bitter-sweet milestone was reached in 2006, when deaths of under-fives around the world fell below 10 million to 9.7m. Not since 1960, when child deaths were first recorded, has the figure been so low. If babies and young children were still dying at the 1960s rates, an estimated 25m would die this year. Measles vaccinations, mosquito nets, vitamin A supplements and increased breastfeeding—all vigorously promoted by UNICEF—have been the main contributors to the improvement.

Nevertheless, a number of children nearly equal to the population of New Zealand die in the first 28 days of life every year worldwide. They account for 37% of under-five deaths.

Frieda credits her children’s good health largely to vaccines, which her children get from a UNICEF-supported government health clinic. She is clear about the need for the jab. “Our kids must have the immunisation to ward off diseases like measles and polio.”

Of all its health initiatives and programmes with governments and other agencies, UNICEF does particularly well in its widespread child immunisation programme. Under the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII), UNICEF places vaccine orders for 14 Pacific Island countries and ensures that there is an uninterrupted supply of high quality, low cost, WHO-standard vaccines. UNICEF’s Chief of Health and Sanitation, Dr Eliab Some, said, “Immunisation has saved millions [of lives] and has enabled others to lead longer, healthier lives.” The programme, he said, “is defined as the delivery of vaccines and other cost-effective interventions that have the greatest impact on reducing child and maternal mortality and morbidity.”

Frieda charts her own children’s development in a little “baby book”. Four out of five mothers in her hometown use the booklets to keep a record of vaccinations and to measure their children against average weight and growth schedules.

Parents in Solomon Islands who do not immunise their children or get medical care when they fall ill, usually don’t because they can’t. They either live on far flung islands or are prohibited from getting to clinics by distance or transport costs. Some parents, distracted by anxiety about lack of income, don’t think to take their sick children to clinics when symptoms first appear, Frieda says.
Across the Pacific there are some serious health problems—20% of Pacific Islanders have poor drinking water, 30% do not have sanitation facilities, 20% of children are not immunised against measles, and 60% of children are anaemic. Vitamin A, iodine and other micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent. Rates of exclusive breastfeeding are low. Poor child feeding practices combine with childhood infections (diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and malaria) and parasitic worm infestations. Access to emergency obstetrics is a major challenge for rural and outer-island communities.

In 2000, most of the world’s governments pledged to reduce under-five death rates by two-thirds by 2015. At the mid-way point, it is becoming clearer which countries will and won’t make it. Overall, Pacific rates have improved since 1990 but efforts must be intensified in countries such as Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to reach the 2015 targets.

UNICEF’s Progress for Children report highlights that child mortality is a sensitive sign of a country’s development. Dr Some said that investing in children’s health and development is a sound economic decision and one of the surest ways for a country to set its course towards a better future.

_A painting done by School students during the UN DAY celebrations in Solomon Islands_
Diary of the Education Specialist – Dr. Nikhat Shameem on her first visit to Child Friendly Schools in Ysabel Province, Solomon Islands

It was a warm day when we left Honiara to travel to Buala on Ysabel Island. The trip started with a 50-minute plane ride to Fera Island, just off the Ysabel Island coast, where the Provincial Education Officer, Ellison Mane, was waiting to whisk us to Buala in a 12-foot boat. I kept an eye out for the legendary salt water crocodiles – but to no avail. In Buala, we were met by Wryne Bennett our Child Friendly Schools (CFS) coordinator, who in turn introduced us to others working in the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development (MEHRD) Buala office.

Our first visit was to Bolitei Primary School, a four-hour boat ride along the coast from Buala. Roy Bowen, Chief of Solomon Islands Field Office, and I were accompanied by Wryne, Ellison, Issac (boatman) and Dorothy Bana (paralegal trainer and CFS steering committee member). The schools in Ysabel Province are quite scattered and are reached by boat as there are no roads connecting them. There are no jetties or boat ramps; you jump straight out of the boat onto the best landing spot as judged by Isaac, our competent boatman, be it beach, a muddy track or a rough rocky shore. We were wet from morning to night from the breakers and from the waves hitting against the sides of the boat, especially in open seas.

On our arrival at Bolitei, we were made very welcome by the headmaster, Richard Riu, and school chairman Daniel Hiropuhi. They were accompanied by many children as school had finished for the day. Richard and Daniel showed us proudly around the school buildings which had been built by the school community and were still being added to. The school has informal boarding facilities for children, whose parents leave them at the school on Monday and pick them up on Friday. Children as young as six years old board here and share responsibilities with the older boarders, carrying water, preparing food, cleaning and cooking.

We visited seven schools during the week and in all of them I was impressed with the sheer joy of the children and also by the fact that many of them had to travel long distances to school, often by canoe, and put up in informal dormitories or with extended family members in order to attend school.
In many of the schools, staff and children were committed to making sure that the schools were perceived as ‘child friendly’, conducive to teaching and learning. While impressed with much of what I saw, including artwork and colorful pictures on display in the majority of classrooms we visited, I did have a few concerns regarding the other pillars of child friendly schooling.

Firstly Jejevo Primary School, one of the pioneers of CFS in Ysabel, was a disappointment. In 2007, 490 children were enrolled children here but only 390 so far in 2008. The infrastructure was poor and it was difficult to see how the government grant was being spent. There was no fresh water; children were buying fizzy drinks to quench their thirst. In one classroom 25 children were seated on a wet floor—when they stood up to sing for us I could see the damp patches on their bottoms. Water was leaking from the roof and rain was sleeting in from the windowless sides of the classrooms. Despite these discomforts, the five and six-year-olds in the class sang for us at the top of their voices and with the most amazing harmony. We were touched.

Of the seven schools we visited, only four had functioning water tanks, which are used by both the school and the community. The amount of water available for the school population needs to be urgently addressed.

Secondly almost all seven schools visited had really poor toilet facilities. Only Tamahi Primary had adequate safe water facilities and the school management committee reported enough toilets. Some schools had one or two toilets in school populations of 150 children or more, but Sigana Primary School had no toilets at all for its 175 children, who have go to the toilet in the mangrove swamp. This is of concern on an island where dangerous crocodiles lurk among the mangroves.

Although teachers and students tried hard to use hygienic practices such as hand-washing in a basin or bowl, children in some schools were sharing the same bowl of water through lack of sufficient water. Children, communities and teachers need further support and training on both hand-washing and sanitation.

Finally, the boarding facilities of primary school children need to be looked into. In Bolitei Primary School, children as young as five years old stay in these informal facilities and cook for themselves. While there was some teacher supervision, it was not clear whether adequate nutrition was considered when planning menus, as it seemed that children were generally taking care of themselves. Supervision of the children is
essential to keep them healthy and safe. In many villages children were boarding with relatives and the Ysabel province CFS steering committee expressed concern about the safety and well-being of children left with relatives during the week.

Registration of these informal facilities and records of the number of children who board in them are needed. This is essential so that data be reported back to MEHRD and the children who have to board can be better catered for.

Leadership education should play an important role in schools in Ysabel province. Teachers, head teachers, school management committees and the community need to be playing their roles with transparency and obvious commitment. Leadership training for teachers in training as well as qualified teachers, along the lines of UNICEF’s child friendly schooling concept, will help matters considerably.

Because of the distances involved and the challenges of transport, we could not visit all the child friendly schools in Ysabel Province, but I thought that the situation in the schools we visited was similar in the schools we could not visit.

I was glad that the school chairman who head the school management committees comprising staff, parents and communities, expressed similar views about water and sanitation issues, such as the lack of toilets and insufficient water tanks. They also spoke of a lack of community involvement and the difficulty with bringing the community together for consultations.

I was very impressed with the CFS Steering Committee and the Mothers Union, as well as the Provincial Government representatives in Ysabel province. They are convinced that children like to come and stay in schools because they are happy and protected in
the school environment. The CFS Steering Committee comprises teachers, mothers’ union representatives, a police officer, a paralegal trainer, school management representatives, head teachers and a nurse. The Principal Education Officer also attends meetings. The Steering Committee is keen to support UNICEF’s programme and have been working very closely with Wrynne Bennett, the UNICEF CFS coordinator in Buala.

After four days in Buala, I returned to Honiara, where I discussed water and sanitation issues and the possibility of collaborating with two health promotion officers in the Ministry of Health. I also presented a report to Mylyn Kuve, the Permanent Secretary of Education, on the CFS schools and the way forward for consolidating and expanding the CFS concept through to 2009, including training in pre- and in-service teacher education programmes.

There is still much to be done, but with the schools working on self assessment of problems and issues, and with the writing and actioning of school development plans with UNICEF support in 2008, a much more focused approach to dealing with issues can be devised for each school, as each is unique in priority areas of need. At the end of my visit, I felt the responsibility rested on us to accomplish as much as we can for the health, well-being and meaningful education of children in Ysabel Province.

Nikhat, Ellison More (PEO), Wrynne Bennett (CFS co-ordinator), Issac (boatman) Richard Riu (headteacher, Bolitei), members of the school committee
Examples of Studies, Surveys, Evaluations and Knowledge Products completed in 2008

All reports and products described here are available for free download from UNICEF Pacific's website: www.unicef.org/pacificislands
Examples of Studies, Surveys & Evaluations Completed in 2008

Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (Vanuatu)

This is the first Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) undertaken in the Pacific with financial and technical support from UNICEF. This report provides up-to-date data on child and infant mortality, child and maternal health, nutrition, child development, education, child protection and HIV/AIDS, Sexual Behavior and Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Vanuatu. This report is an essential resource for tracking progress towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and World Fit For Children (WFFC) goals and, above all, to further assist shaping better policies, plans and programmes for children.

Evaluation of the Peace Education project

The evaluation looked at whether the project enhanced the central role of education and learning in the pursuit of peace in Solomon Islands; whether it facilitated links and networking, exchange and interaction among schools, teachers and children on the nature, values and principles of multi-culturalism and peace building; and whether the project provided a space and opportunity within school environments to refine and promote the vision of, and transition to multi-culturalism and peace understanding. The evaluation also looked at positive and negative factors that have influenced the project; key issues to consider for future strategic directions of the peace education programming, including opportunities for any challenges to long term sustainability; key considerations for Live and Learn (NGO) in further strengthening partnerships with communities and partner organisations.

Child Protection Research

In 2008, a comprehensive child protection baseline research was undertaken in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The baseline research assessed the national situation in the three components of the Child Protection Programme, namely: 1) to what extent national laws and regulations include provisions protecting children; 2) the existence of a social welfare system that is effective in providing care and protection for children; and 3) the knowledge, attitudes and practices amongst a broad range of stakeholders (including parents, teachers, community leaders) in relation to violence, abuse and exploitation of children. The research will provide a solid foundation for programme interventions in the next few years and a benchmark against which progress will be measured over the coming years. The research was undertaken in close collaboration with line Ministries in the four countries, it involved children’s participation and community consultations/field research which proved to generate indirect change and positive results for children. For example, the consultations with children who have had contact with the justice sector, proved to be a very empowering experience for many of those involved and the ‘institutional stocktaking’ workshops on social protection services resulted in greater understanding amongst stakeholders of critical elements in a good social welfare system for children.
Health and Sanitation Secondary Data Baseline Survey 2008

This survey was undertaken to establish a “2008 baseline” against impact, outcome and output indicators listed in UNICEF Pacific’s 2008 - 2012 CPD and Country Programme Action Plans (CPAPs) with governments for Health and Sanitation. The main countries of focus were Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The survey considered all available data sources including national strategic plans, UNICEF Situation Analysis Reports, CRC, CEDAW and other national and regional human rights reports, UNICEF ChildINFO and UNICEF Pacific CRING datasets, national and Regional Millennium Development Reports and recent surveys, reports and evaluations in relevant social sectors conducted by Government, UN, Regional Agencies and Non-Government partners. Findings were shared with government and development partners and entered into UNICEF Pacific’s DevInfo system.

HIV and AIDS Secondary Data Baseline Survey 2008

This survey compiled relevant information from all available secondary data sources against the 2008 baseline indicators listed in UNICEF Pacific’s 2008 - 2012 Multi-Country Programme Document (CPD) Results Matrix (Impact Indicators) and the 2008 - 2012 Country Programme Action Plans (CPAPs) with governments for HIV and AIDS. It also identified the CPD and CPAP indicators for which secondary data are either unavailable or inadequate. The survey considered all available secondary data sources including national strategic plans, UNGASS reports, Behavioural Surveillance Surveys, UNICEF Situation Analysis Reports, CRC, CEDAW and other national and regional human rights reports, UNICEF ChildINFO and UNICEF Pacific CRING datasets, national and Regional Millennium Development Reports and recent surveys, reports and evaluations in relevant social sectors conducted by Government, UN, Regional Agencies and Non-Government partners. Findings were shared with government and development partners and entered into UNICEF Pacific’s DevInfo system.

Fiji Formative and Baseline Study for Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza Communication Preparedness and Response

This research is part of the baseline studies undertaken in Fiji sponsored by UNICEF with the support of the Ministry of Health, Women and Social Welfare. The surveys of caregivers and school students and key informant interviews demonstrated a modest level of awareness of bird flu among the general population. The research provides baseline measures on four key interventions promoted by UNICEF to combat AI/PI: report, wash, separate, cook. It also covers a range of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that will contribute to the development of a communication strategy.
Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Behavioural Interventions and Communication Strategies of Fiji

Of all Pacific Islands Countries, Fiji has the largest commercial investment in the poultry sector. In addition Fiji has large numbers of poultry in common human-poultry interaction in the rural areas, where poultry raising has changed little from traditional practices and is common in village life. The study revealed several areas for public awareness strengthening, particularly in relation to reporting and handling sick or dead birds and disposing of dead stock. The commercial sector is well prepared for an AI outbreak while domestic poultry present the largest risk of transmission of AI or HPAI, as Domestic Farmers are less educated than Commercial Farmers; have limited resources for infrastructure to prevent transmission or to assist disease control, and few resources to devote to the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Current handling and hygiene practices in rural areas put villagers and their immediate families at grave risk in the event of an avian flu outbreak. Recommendations for action are presented.

Kiribati Formative and Baseline Study for Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza Communication Preparedness and Response

This qualitative and quantitative research with caregivers, students, NGOs, public servants and other stakeholders provides direction for the development of preparedness and response communications for AI/PI at both the strategic and tactical level. The current situation in Kiribati is a mixture with some factors which will enhance and others that will impede the implementation of the behavioural interventions that are key to preparedness and response for avian influenza/pandemic influenza (AI/PI). Knowledge of AI/PI is starting from an unsurprisingly low base but factors such as a well developed system of health centres and clinics with nurses recognised as an important/credible source of health information; a simple media structure with relatively high proportion listening to radio which is already in use to communicate health messages; significant evidence of well developed personal hygiene practices; and limited significance of local chickens (except to young boys) are all positive. Other key findings and recommendations are presented.

Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Behavioural Interventions and Communication Strategies in the Poultry Sector of Solomon Islands

This study reveals Solomon Islands as having the beginnings of a poultry industry and frequent human-poultry interaction in the rural areas, where poultry raising has changed little from traditional practices and is common in village life. Perhaps the greatest areas of concern revealed in this study are the significant proportion of poultry farmers who do not report dead stock, dispose of them carelessly, consume sick stock and do not know where they can access the nearest animal health worker. Secondly, most family members of commercial and domestic farmers and school children, come into close contact with poultry on a regular basis, even when poultry are sick. Other findings and recommendations for action are presented.
Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Behavioural Interventions and Communication Strategies in the Poultry Sector of Vanuatu

Vanuatu has market controls in place and early efforts to regulate poultry farming in the event of an outbreak. Although the commercial industry is small it is preparing itself for poultry diseases. Domestic poultry handling practices are yet to achieve a satisfactory level of hygiene and are similar to those in Solomon Islands. Other findings and recommendations for action are presented.

Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza Communication Resources, Essentials and Tools for Emergencies (CREATE) materials for Fiji

The CREATE tool package was developed through a community-based approach to ensure that appropriate, effective and professionally produced emergency communication tools can be adapted and developed quickly and delivered to where they are most needed. It has illustrations, photography and prototype materials for Fiji.

Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza Communication Resources, Essentials and Tools for Emergencies (CREATE) materials for Solomon Islands

The CREATE tool package includes illustrations, photography and prototype materials for Solomon Islands. The package was developed with Solomon Island communities to ensure that appropriate, effective and professionally produced emergency communication tools can be adapted and developed quickly and delivered to where they are most needed.

Capacity assessment on Strategic Communication for Behaviour and Social Change and Emergency Response of Government, NGOs, and CSOs in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

UNICEF in collaboration with the governments of Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu conducted a Strategic Communication Planning and Implementation Capacity Assessment that will shape the development of national Multi-Year Strategic Communication Plans. The assessment looked at how communication for behaviour and social change is planned and implemented, and it evaluated stakeholders in each country and looked at what capacity gaps are evident. It also looked at the technical as well as functional capacities of relevant stakeholders to effectively make use of strategic communication strategies through advocacy, social mobilization and behaviour change communication and their capacities and potential role in emergency response. This included an assessment of resource limitations that may impact on the programme environment. The capacity assessment report provides key findings on relevant CSOs and NGOs that governments, UNICEF and other UN agencies can work closely with in achieving results for children in the Pacific.
Study on child poverty and policy analysis, child-centred budgeting and policy formulation processes in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu – the Design Phase

This is the design of UNICEF Pacific’s landmark research on children in poverty in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, which will be implemented during 2009-2010. The design outlines the suggested methodology for in-depth child poverty analysis given the availability of the data in country and provides an overview of analytical approaches to evaluate the impact of the past economic policy on child-related outcomes.

Examples of Knowledge Products Completed in 2008

UNICEF Pacific at a Glance

This publication provides readers and partners a bird’s eye view of UNICEF Pacific’s priorities and how the agency works with partners to support government development strategies, with a special focus on improving the survival, development, protection and participation of children.

UNICEF Pacific Funding Proposal

This proposal highlights funding requirements for UNICEF Pacific’s multi-country programme. It looks into the five programme areas where donors can support and finance programme activities for the reporting period of 2008 – 2012.


The report provides an overview of the situation of children, women and youth. UNICEF’s programme in Kiribati aims to improve the situation of children and women through its work with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Social Sector Ministries and NGOs. It also provides a useful reference for national Government bodies, the public and other development partners.
Samoa: A Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth – 2006

The report provides an update of the development trends in Samoa that affect the well being of children, women and youth. It also highlights UNICEF’s programmes and provides a useful reference for national Government bodies, the public and other development partners. The 2006 report is expanded to include youth and presents an overview of the situation of children, youth, and women in Samoa at the start of the 21st century. It was drafted with the help of many people in Samoa and also draws upon published and unpublished information and reports.

Tokelau: A Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth – 2006

The report presents the state of affairs of children, women and youth in Tokelau. Although small and remote, Tokelau benefits from a unique relation with New Zealand. Issues affecting children, youth and women derive from three factors: limitations in the quality and scope of the available services - some of which are unavoidable because of the island’s remoteness and small size. UNICEF and the National Committee for Children lobby and harmonize strategies to address a range of children’s issues. These include ensuring that children receive adequate health care, immunisation and nutrition; ensuring appropriate parenting and child protection; and lobbying for services for disabled children.

Tonga: A Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth – 2006

Information on the health and educational status of Tongan children, youth and women and the specific issues pertaining to each group is drawn together and examined in this report. Tonga’s human resource development situation provides context for a discussion of Government initiatives to enhance women’s participation in the workforce and improve the health and educational achievement of young people. This situation analysis concludes with recommendations that could enhance the participation of women in development and assure positive development of children and youth in Tonga.

Tuvalu: A Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth – 2006

The report provides the status of children, women and youth in Tuvalu. Like the other Pacific Island countries, Tuvalu faces issues of land shortage, overcrowded urban areas and potential inundation if sea levels rise. The Tuvalu Situation Analysis provides an overview of the Tuvaluan land, history, culture, economy and people, and highlights issues that impact contemporary society. Furthermore, it looks at the health and education systems and patterns of employment, and examines matters that affect all three groups that are focus of the report.
Fiji: A Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth – 2007

The report provides an overview of the situation of children, women and youth in Fiji in the 21st century. It highlights the key concerns such as health, education, domestic violence, physical abuse of children and how UNICEF, government and other stakeholders are working together to identify and improve areas of concern.


The report provides an update of the situation of children, women and youth in Palau. It highlights the achievements in health and education, and discusses psycho-social challenges and children with special needs. Furthermore, the situation analysis summaries recommendations for addressing the needs of children, youth and women.

State of Pacific Children – 2008

The report analyses the current situation for a million children living in the 14 Pacific Island countries. It also highlights the progress on the situation of Pacific children since the 2002 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, with reference to trends in the institutional, policy and legal frameworks, the ongoing effectiveness of National Advisory Committees on Children (NACCs) and the success of national and regional initiatives in Early Childhood, Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse, Birth Registration, the Expanded Programme on Immunisation, Prevention of Violence Against Children, and Legislative Reform in alignment with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Avian Influenza Advocacy Kits for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati

An advocacy kit on Avian/Pandemic Influenza was developed to gain and maintain political commitment at the highest levels. The advocacy kits include information on the 1918 Spanish Influenza in the Pacific; general information on Avian and Pandemic Influenza; the current situation and initiatives against AI/PI cases globally; the relevance of AI/PI to the Pacific and promoted hygiene behaviours against risk of AI/PI infection and transmission. These were subsequently adapted and translated for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati to generate interest and political will from government officials, health workers, media representatives, religious organization leaders and other non-government community-based workers.
PMTCT of HIV, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands Draft training package – presentation booklet

The draft training package is for PMTCT health care providers who have been trained to strengthen PMTCT services in Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands. The package was put together by the PMTCT health care providers who attended a regional PMTCT workshop.


PMTCT health care providers who attended a regional PMTCT workshop drafted this trainer’s manual together with a presentation booklet and participant manual to assist with the strengthening PMTCT services in Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands.

PMTCT of HIV, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands – Participant manual

PMTCT health care providers who attended a regional PMTCT workshop designed this participant manual together with a presentation booklet and the trainer’s manual to assist with the delivery of PMTCT services in Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands.

A Mother’s Hope for an HIV-free Child: a documentary

Every year, more than 700,000 children in the world become HIV-positive and of this number 15 to 20 percent are infected during pregnancy. With this glaring global statistic on children living with the virus, UNICEF launched a campaign in 2005 to bring the child to the forefront of the fight against HIV. This documentary, based on a true story, is about a concerned mother living with HIV who shares her experience during her pregnancy/childbirth and as her baby develops. It looks at the care that was provided to her to have a child free of HIV.
Solomon Islands Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster, April 2nd 2007: An evaluation of UNICEF’s Response

The report represents a detailed evaluation of UNICEF’s response to the Solomon Islands emergency. It is the first external evaluation of UNICEF’s performance in the context of its response to emergency in the Pacific and also the first detailed participatory evaluation of a humanitarian agency’s response in the emergency and initial recovery phase of the Solomon Islands disaster.

Essentials for Excellence: Researching, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic Communication for Behaviour and Social Change with Special Reference to the Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza/Pandemic Influenza

How do we know if Strategic Communication is addressing the right AI/PI issues among the right people, at the right time, in the right way? And how do we know if strategic communication is actually making a difference to AI/PI preparedness and response efforts? Essentials for Excellence is aimed at users who want straightforward answers to often quite complex questions (including sampling, research design and pre-testing), who need handy tips, and who are looking for practical rather than academic advice. This is also a useful basic reference for researching, monitoring and evaluating other Strategic Communication initiatives.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse in the Pacific: A Regional Report

This report highlights the complex and inter-related factors that increase the vulnerability of children to sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, or both, in the Pacific region. The report is a synthesis of the findings of five country studies – Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu – conducted between October 2004 and June 2005. The purpose of the report is to break the silence surrounding the extent and nature of sexual abuse and exploitation against children in the Pacific region and to prompt open, constructive community debate and new policies that aim to end the suffering of victims.

Child Protection Birth Registration Brochures

The brochure provides steps on how to register a child in Kiribati. It is aimed at parents and caregivers especially those who have not registered their child/children. It also highlights the importance of birth registration as a child’s right (Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).
Protecting Children from Violence, Abuse and Exploitation in the Pacific: A Regional Programme Strategy for Building a Protective Environment for Children in the Pacific

The document, finalized in 2008, is a result of consultations with counterparts and based on previous programming experience in addressing child protection issues - in the Pacific region and globally. The strategy articulates the agreed Programmatic approach for child protection programming in the Pacific and acknowledges the need for a broad range of stakeholders to collaborate in order to truly build a protective environment for children, free from violence, abuse and exploitation. The strategy outlines a three-pronged approach for effective child protection programming - the need to have better legislation and legal systems; to improve social welfare systems for children and families and to address behaviour and practices that violate children’s right to protection. The document also includes practical guidance on administrative procedures and work processes regulating the partnership between UNICEF and Pacific partners.

Report on the Legislative Reform and CRC Regional Meeting, Vanuatu, August 2008

Legislative reform is an iterative process and can include: building on traditional systems and customary practices; reviewing and amending (as necessary) existing laws or drafting new laws; analyzing and then establishing or changing (as necessary) institutions to implement laws; reviewing and then altering (as necessary) policies and legal, judicial, budget and accountability systems; and strengthening the implementation of laws. A lot can be done within existing legal frameworks to advance the rights of children such as reinforcing institutions, laws, systems and services. Legislative reform involves a number of actors including: the legislative sector; politicians; civil society organizations; children and young people; interest groups; and the general public. In August 2008, an initial group of delegates from Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu alongside representatives from the University of South Pacific, United Nations agencies, NGOs and young people gathered together in Port Vila, Vanuatu to consider how legislative reform for children can be progressed. This report provides an overview of each day of the 4-day meeting and final recommendations.

Situation Reporting: Food price increases/nutrition security in the Pacific Islands, July 2008

This is the first report on the food prices situation and the impact on children in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) and how UNICEF is responding and intends to respond in the short- and medium-term. The report is written within the broader context of the impacts of global oil and food price increases on the Pacific region.
Some Key Events in 2009 for UNICEF
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<th>MONTH</th>
<th><strong>International Days and UNICEF events</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>International Children's Day of Broadcasting (1)</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>International Women’s Day (8) “Women and Men United to End Violence Against Women”</td>
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<td>Regional Millennium Development Goals Summit, Nadi (16-20)</td>
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<td>World Water Day (22) “Transboundary Waters”</td>
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<td>Pacific Forum Education Ministries Meeting, Tonga (24-27)</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>World Health Day (7)</td>
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<td>ILO Symposium and Social Justice and Child Labour (20-24)</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Japanese-Pacific Immunisation Programme Strengthening (J-PIPS) meeting, Nagasaki, Japan (11-15)</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>World Day Against Child Labour (12)</td>
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<td>MICS Launch-Vanuatu Date (TBC)</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>South Pacific Youth Festival (13-18)</td>
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<td>Pacific Islands Health Minister’s Meeting PNG (Date TBC)</td>
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<td>Social Policy in Pacific Islands Symposium, Fiji (21-23)</td>
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<td>Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>World Breastfeeding Week (3-7) “A Vital Emergency Response”</td>
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<td>International Youth Day (12)</td>
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<td>Launch of Counting up, Counting Down (UNICEF Report), Cairns (in conjunction with PIFS Forum Leader meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>South Pacific Council of Youth and Children Courts, Auckland (date TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Global Economic Crisis and Pacific Island Children Conference, Fiji (Date TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>World Teachers’ Day (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UN DAY (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Universal Children’s Day (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>World AIDS Day (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State of the World’s Children Report 2010 (date TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Human Rights Day (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kids Link Video for Sam Marino/Alexander Bondini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foundation Award at UNICEF HQ (15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNICEF PACIFIC
APPROVED
ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
2008-2012
Looking Back Moving Forward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Available Funds</th>
<th>Funds Spent</th>
<th>Percentage Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Sanitation</td>
<td>2,420,373.73</td>
<td>2,419,597.90</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,349,305.95</td>
<td>1,332,254.97</td>
<td>98.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>2,381,891.85</td>
<td>2,365,889.80</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>860,258.80</td>
<td>858,229.94</td>
<td>99.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy, Advocacy, Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>1,810,364.38</td>
<td>1,809,445.02</td>
<td>99.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations (including Cross Sectoral Costs)</td>
<td>1,991,753.18</td>
<td>1,949,409.75</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10,813,948.48</td>
<td>10,734,827.38</td>
<td>99.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>