Summary of Recommendations – Child Protection
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Based on the Programme Performance Review and the up-dated Situational Analysis, the following presents an overview of key recommendations for the Child Protection Programme to be discussed and finalized through the MTR process.

For further analysis and background/rationale for the recommendations, please refer to the respective Programme Performance Review document and the up-dated Situational Analysis document.

Recommendations related to Programme Outcomes

1. **Results formulation and structure**: It is proposed not to change results formulations or the results structure (as part of the introduction of the ‘Simplified Results Structure’, Intermediate Results (IR) and Programme Component Results (PCR) will be the new terminology used in lieu of outcomes and outputs). This has been discussed and agreed to by all Child Protection team members and partners. *(Programme Performance review, recommendation 11)*

2. **Continuum of care and tapping into ‘cultural assets’**: A more systematic approach to capacity strengthening and greater clarity on links between formal and informal social welfare practices and systems (making use of ‘cultural assets’ in building/strengthening child protection system) is required as well as the continuum of care and protection of children by the responsible social welfare authority in countries. It is proposed that some minor changes to the outputs and indicators be made as follows:
   - **Kiribati**: output 2.1 – add aspect of ‘prevention’ of child abuse and links to ‘cultural assets’;
   - **Solomon Islands**: output 2.2 – add aspect of ‘prevention’ of child abuse and links to ‘cultural assets’;
   - **Vanuatu**: output 2.1 – no changes necessary;
   - **Fiji**: output 2.3 and 2.4 – no changes necessary;
   - **Samoa**: output 3.2 and 3.3 - no changes necessary *(Programme Performance review, recommendation 2)*

Recommendations related to Programme Strategies

1. **Continue system building approach for child protection**: Support holistic building of comprehensive child protection systems (social welfare and legal reform) recognizing that system formation and strengthening takes time.
   a. Articulate a clear roadmap for balancing informal systems and mechanisms for care and protection of children with formal social welfare systems for children’s protection. Truly ensuring the continuum of care from prevention, to early intervention, detection and service provision. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 4)*
   b. Continue strengthen social welfare systems though better procedures and processes, inter-agency collaboration and support. Social welfare staff should receive further training and better supervision. However, the best balance between professional/tertiary education and informal education for para-professionals need to be articulated. Take into account budget constraints and the reality in the Pacific in light of the Global Economic Crisis and its impact. Systems need to be sustained and effective in the short to longer time period. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 6)*.
   c. Keep the momentum of the legal reform process and for enhancing the capacity of justice actors, in particular in Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomons. *(Programme Performance review, recommendation 1 and Situational Analysis recommendation 1-3)*
   d. Formal and informal social welfare/protection system also need to take into account issues of particularly marginalized children, including those affected by disability, children affected by urbanization and migration. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 5)*
e. In strengthening social welfare and inter-agency collaboration, more consciously integrate child protection in emergency in activities and processes for better preparedness and response capacity. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 7)*

f. Continue to seek long-term partnership with institutions and/or individuals on a retainer basis for capacity-strengthening and system building. *(Programme Performance review, recommendation 8)*

2. **Improve monitoring, reporting and documentation:** It will be important to strengthen the programme’s ability to more effectively report on specific indicators and advancement of targets. Making more effective use of baseline research recommendations as a road map for progressing the respective outputs will also be key along with effective use of MSC for monitoring and reporting. *(Programme Performance review, recommendation 9 and 12)*

3. **Birth Registration key for promotion of children’s rights:** Enhance efforts to strengthen birth registration, in particular in Solomon Islands where progress has been slow and where registration rates are extremely low. Seek opportunities to integrate registration with ongoing programmes, as well as coordinate better with church groups and schools to get children registered when they are baptized or enrolled in school for instance. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 8)*

4. **Accelerating behavioural change component of Programme:** Accelerating Communication for Social Change Plans (CFSC) addressing a range of child protection issues as highlighted above, including peer-to-peer violence, parenting skills, community awareness, engagement with civil society and Church leaders; development of community child protection plans etc. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 9)* In implementing the CFSC Plan, make a conscious effort to address child protection concerns in particular in urban areas as highlighted by the urbanization study. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 10)* Integrate emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities in CFCS plans. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 14)* It should also be recognized that in time, more efforts should be made to use social change processes to influence behaviours beyond community level and targets at Government and its institutions.

5. **Programme integration:** There is a need for the Child Protection Programme to work more closely and integrate its work with other UNICEF programme areas:

   a. Work more closely with health programme in addressing child protection concerns in relation to health professionals *(Situational Analysis recommendation 11).* Specific actions may involve health professionals engagement in child protection system building (for prevention; early intervention and referral of child abuse); birth registration promotion and use of health community networks (breast feeding support groups etc) for prevention of child abuse and promotion of protective behaviour.
   
   b. Work more closely with education programme in addressing child protection concerns in schools and boarding schools. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 12)*

6. **Emerging issues:**

   a. Seek opportunities to more clearly and directly address specific child protection issues, including CSEC. This is also related to the need to better document changes and articulate results achieved under the Programme. *(Situational Analysis recommendation 13)*
   
   b. Seek opportunities to more clearly take gender into account in programme design and implementation. Programme is currently undertaking a gender analysis of the 2008 Child Protection baseline research reports.
   
   c. Seek opportunities to consider and respond to impact of climate change as it relates to child protection concerns.

7. **Tier two country implementation (Fiji and Samoa):**

   a. Relatively low expenditure rates for Fiji should urgently be addressed. With staff present in Fiji, there is no reason why absorption capacity can not be improved. It is recognized that in comparing status of completion of Monthly monitoring matrices, Fiji does not show a good record. Child Protection staff in Suva are encouraged to pay greater attention to monitoring progress and enhance programme implementation.
Also, realistic budgeting should be undertaken each year as Fiji may in fact not need a lot of financial resources (Government has resources itself and resources from others). UNICEF’s role is to influence the best use of existing resources.  
(Programme Performance review, recommendation 5)

b. Low expenditure and implementation rates for Samoa is a continued concern. The difficulties related to programme implementation can be ascribed to challenging partners and difficult programming environment. Creative solutions must be discussed (including human resources) as part of the MTR process with partners and firm agreements made. A lower allocation rate of funding may be considered in the remaining period of the programme cycle. (Programme Performance review, recommendation 6)

8. Up-stream advocacy and policy engagement: Greater engagement with the Planning and Financial Ministries as well as Sectoral Ministries in terms of Policy and Planning will be required in the remaining period of the Programme cycle. (Programme Performance review, recommendation 10)

Recommendations related to Programme Management Structure

1. **New Fixed-term Child Protection Officer, Solomon Islands (L2):** Enhance funding utilization and absorption capacity in the Solomon Islands. Given the fact that Solomons is the biggest (population wise) LDC country in the region and given the scale of child protection concerns and opportunities, this is a priority. It is recommended that a new FT L2 Child Protection Post be established in support of the Child Protection Programme. (Programme Performance review, recommendation 3)

2. **New Child Protection Communication officer (NOB):** In relation to low expenditure rate under outcome area 3 and the need to accelerate the work on behavioural change, it is recommended to accelerate implementation of the CFSC along with greater focus on monitoring and documentation of change. It is recommended that a new FT Child Protection Communication officer post (NOB) be established in support of communication for behavioral change in the focus countries. The most appropriate location of the post should be considered (it may not be Suva) as the bulk of the work will be in support of field offices in Solomons, Vanuatu and Kiribati. (Programme Performance review, recommendation 4)

3. **New Child Protection Specialist (L3), Suva:** Greater engagement with the Planning and Financial Ministries as well as Sectoral Ministries in terms of Policy and Planning will be required in the remaining period of the Programme cycle. It will be important to strengthen the programme’s ability to more effectively report on specific indicators and advancement of targets in the next couple of years. Making more effective use of baseline research recommendations as a road map for progressing the respective outputs will also be key. It is recommended that a new L3 Child Protection Specialist post be establish in Suva to support these processes. (Programme Performance review, recommendation 10 and 12)