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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWP</td>
<td>Annual Work Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>Common Country assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC</td>
<td>Essential Learning Competences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPI</td>
<td>Expanded Programme on Immunization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESDFP</td>
<td>the Education Sector Development Framework Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRBAP</td>
<td>Human Rights Based Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRC</td>
<td>Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMR</td>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDD</td>
<td>Iodine Deficiency Orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KAP</td>
<td>Knowledge, Attitude and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTTE</td>
<td>Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millenium Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMR</td>
<td>Maternal Mortality rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTR</td>
<td>Mid-Term Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTSP</td>
<td>Medium Term Strategic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCPA</td>
<td>National Child Protection Authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIE</td>
<td>National Institute of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-TOMS</td>
<td>Post-Tsunami Management Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRO</td>
<td>Tamil Rehabilitation Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAM</td>
<td>Unaccompanied and Separated Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>United Nations for AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCT</td>
<td>United Nations Country Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDAF</td>
<td>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDG</td>
<td>United Nations Development Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Project Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4Rs</td>
<td>Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

2005 was a far from typical year for Sri Lanka. It was a year of many challenges and equally many achievements. One where we saw tremendous hardship and suffering but also astonishing courage and generosity.

The December 2004 tsunami hit Sri Lanka suddenly and indiscriminately. The human toll was enormous with some 35,000 killed, more than half a million displaced and over 200,000 school children affected. The country’s north-east, just starting to recover from the effects of a 20-year civil war, was hardest hit and the destruction continued along the country’s highly populated south coast bringing to standstill its strong fishery and tourist industries. The value of lost assets has been estimated at US$900 million, but the toll on people’s livelihoods, children’s education, and long-term psychological well-being goes well beyond that.

When I came to Sri Lanka in August 2005 our emergency response had already ended, but really the work had only just begun. Our three-year recovery plan with the Government of Sri Lanka will see US$175 million invested in building and re-establishing health, education and protection facilities around the country. The early outcomes in many of these programs may be seen already in this 2005 Annual report.

To fill our commitment to ‘build back better’ around the country our attention also returns to UNICEF’s regular programmes, many of which were put on hold because of the immediate needs of tsunami recovery operations. Activities to address the needs of children and women affected by war and efforts to combat regional disparities in health, nutrition and education remain ongoing programme priorities around which our work will be guided in the coming years.

The challenge now exists to turn adversity into opportunity. The unprecedented support received after the tsunami from UNICEF National Committees, government and private donors provides a definite opportunity to put into place programs that will improve the lives of children and indeed entire communities.

As you will see in this 2005 Annual Report, whether the situation is easy or difficult our top priority remains the same – to create opportunities for all Sri Lankan children to meet their full potential. This is not something that UNICEF does alone. It is with our partners, both in Sri Lanka and internationally, that we can achieve this and we look forward to continuing our collaboration in 2006 and beyond to build a country – and indeed a world – fit for children.

JoAnna VanGerpen
Representative
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sri Lanka spent 2005 dealing with two difficult challenges. The most over-whelming was the Tsunami that hit the country on 26 December 2004 killing over 35,000 people and initially displacing 890,000 people. The other challenge was the tenuous post-conflict situation in the north and northeast given deteriorating security and little progress in the peace process. A new President was elected in November 2005, and changes in the Government structure and policies are taking place.

Against this background, UNICEF supported the Government of Sri Lanka to respond rapidly to the tremendous needs of the tsunami-affected population. UNICEF assistance, along with the major relief efforts launched by the international community as a whole, helped Sri Lanka to avoid losing ground in its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Key achievements in 2005 are:

- Within a few weeks of the tsunami disaster,
  o health services were restored and there was no major outbreak of disease;
  o 95 per cent of children were able to go back into a learning environment;
  o children who lost one or both parents in the Tsunami were placed with extended families and institutional care was avoided in almost all cases;
  o safe drinking water and sanitation facilities were available to the tsunami-affected population;
  o “child-friendly” policies were adopted for school reconstruction and foster child care.
- The tsunami response strengthened sector coordination mechanisms and partnerships. UNICEF assisted the Government to coordinate emergency response at the national and district levels in education, child protection/psychosocial care and water/sanitation.
- The number of new child recruits to the LTTE declined in 2005 compared to previous years and the average age increased to 16 years. The UNICEF-managed reporting system on child recruitment continues to serve as a strong advocacy tool against child recruitment and as a widely-used indicator of progress in the peace process.
- Baseline surveys for key social indicators were completed in the Northeast Districts. Prior to these surveys, no reliable data has been available for these areas.
- District Child Protection Committees were established in 18 districts chaired by the Government Agent.
Planned activities for 2005 under the regular Country Programme were delayed due to the size and urgency of the tsunami response. Several evaluations and studies of the tsunami response have identified lessons learned that should improve the effectiveness of UNICEF emergency response in the future in Sri Lanka and globally.

In 2006, while UNICEF will continue supporting the tsunami-affected children and their families, it will also accelerate work on post-conflict and development issues, including addressing the problems of regional disparities, malnutrition, quality of education, HIV/AIDS, lack of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. The volatile security situation poses a serious concern for the future of the peace process. Special attention will be given to strengthening staff security systems and monitoring and evaluation of programme activities.

The CCA/UNDAF process will start in 2006. As the process was delayed by one year due to the Tsunami, the UNDG agencies (including UNICEF) will submit recommendations to their respective Executive Boards for a one-year programme for 2007 as a bridging year to the new five-year programme for 2008-2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Indicators</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population (thousands) (2004)</td>
<td>20570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNI per capita (US$) (2004)</td>
<td>1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (years) (2004)</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 Mortality rate (per 1000 live births)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to sanitation</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to safe drinking water</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of under-fives who are underweight</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of under-fives who are stunted</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total adult literacy rate</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of primary school entrants reaching grade 5</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: State of the World’s Children 2006*
2. SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN SRI LANKA

The status of a dangerously fragile cease-fire between the Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has continued to cause serious problems to the lives of children and women. Presidential elections in November resulted in delayed implementation and changes in policies and administrative structures. In addition the situation of children and women in Sri Lanka was greatly affected by the tsunami disaster.

Conflict between the Government and the LTTE

The unresolved conflict between the Government and the LTTE is probably the most important factor hampering rapid and sustainable development of the economy. The security situation is deteriorating especially in the north and east. Political functionaries have been killed and multiple attacks on military and police outposts have taken place. Religious/ethnic strife is common, and public life is often closed down as a means of popular protest. The volatile situation has limited investment in the areas restricting improvement in overall livelihood conditions.

Recruitment of children by LTTE has not ceased although the total number per year has declined. The 21 cases registered in November 2005, were the lowest since monitoring started in 2002. The average recruitment age also has increased from 14 to 16 years.

The tsunami and its impact

The tsunami that struck Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004 has overshadowed and dominated developments in the country in 2005. The disaster took an estimated 35,000 lives, mainly along the Northern, Eastern and Southern coastal lines. It resulted in the displacement of initially 890,000 people out of a population of over 19 million – as many as were counted during the twenty year long civil conflict. Two thirds of the total tsunami related deaths occurred in the North East of the country that has suffered disproportionately from the conflict and consequent lack of investment and infrastructure development.

Restoration not only of infrastructure but also livelihoods remains a challenge particularly when breadwinners were killed or injured and where the basis for business were destroyed. In February 2005, four fifths of the tsunami displaced were taking
shelter with host families, mostly relatives. This created extra burden on families with already stretched resources and in effect expand the number who could be deemed of “tsunami-affected”.

By June 2005, about 300,000 tsunami displaced had returned to their former homes, and approximately 170,000 people continued living in camps. For the latter, transitional shelters were constructed, replacing tents with semi-permanent structures. The construction of permanent houses however is proceeding slowly due to a shortage of contractors, rising prices, and most importantly, the availability of land. The enforcement of a “buffer zone” along the coastal areas has prohibited many families from rebuilding their houses on their former lands. Finding alternative land has been difficult in some areas.

### Human

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of People killed</td>
<td>35,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people injured</td>
<td>21,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of internally displaced people (IDPs)</td>
<td>515,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Economic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value of lost assets</td>
<td>US $900 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of lost livelihoods</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of houses damaged</td>
<td>98,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Social

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who lost one parent</td>
<td>3954*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children who lost both parents</td>
<td>967*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total widowed, orphaned and affected elderly and disabled</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools damaged</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools used as camps for IDPs</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School children affected</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


* Source: UNICEF Sri Lanka October 2005

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### Health

Regarding the health status of tsunami-affected children, a UNICEF-supported survey conducted in January, four weeks after the tsunami, found that nutrition levels were worse than the national average. Among the one to five age group, 20.2 per cent of children were stunted and 16.1 per cent were underweight. Large discrepancies were also present between districts. Further, 69.2 per cent of children suffered from acute respiratory infections within the two weeks prior to the survey and only 22.7 per cent of the children had received a supplementary dose of Vitamin A in the 6 months prior to the survey.

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Water and Sanitation
UNICEF-supported surveys conducted in March and August found that clean water supplies fully met the Sphere Standards\(^2\), while the coverage rate of toilet facilities was 90 per cent of the standard in August. Within a few months tsunami-affected people in camps were getting better access to clean water and toilets than rural population in other parts of the country\(^3\). In addition, according to the August survey, bathing facilities were available in approximately 65 per cent of the camps and transitional shelters. A total of 182 schools were damaged or destroyed by the tsunami and 650 schools were indirectly affected as they were occupied by displaced populations.

International response
The international community reacted generously to the tsunami and provided sufficient resources to react to the immediate needs in the first weeks after the disaster. UNICEF received a significant portion of contributions – making it a major actor in the arena with a budget comparable to that of the International Fund Institutions. There has been no outbreak of communicable diseases and children were able to return to schools within two months following the tsunami. There were no confirmed reports of child-trafficking in the aftermath of the tsunami. Out of 967 children who lost both parents due to the tsunami, all but ten children are now living with foster families, mostly relatives. The Government has accepted the policy of prioritizing foster care over adoption or orphanages. With the commitment by the Minister of Justice, administrative procedures were simplified.

Challenges
Arrival of large scale funding and a plethora of aid organizations has been a blessing in the short-term, but it has to be handled carefully not to cause negative effects for the socio-political harmony of the country. Below some issues of concern observed in 2005:

The Government is a major partner in implementing the US$ 2.2 billion pledged by the donors in June 2005. However its low absorption capacities cannot be suddenly increased considering the fact that its utilization of aid grants and loans hovered around 18-20 per cent prior to the tsunami. Division of executive and administrative responsibilities between the central Government and the peripheral provincial and district administrations is in a formal but not de facto state of devolution. New institutions were created and recreated during the course of the year. The tsunami affected population was

\(^2\) According to the Sphere Standards, 15 liters of water per capita per day should be available, and one toilet is for the use of maximum 20 persons. By March, 24 liters of water per capita per day was made available at the camps. More than 5,000 toilets were constructed in the camps as of December 2005.

\(^3\) The water supply coverage in Sri Lanka for rural population is 72% and the coverage for improved sanitation in rural area is 89%. Source: Meeting MDG Drinking Water and Sanitation, a Mid Term Assessment of Progress, UNICEF and WHO, August 2004.
not well consulted in the policy development process and not informed of new policies which had direct affected their lives such as cash assistance, relief programmes and the buffer zone issue. The public saw some political rivalries to topple agendas, and the feeding of aid to particular geographical areas by some political actors. All these have led to confusion over implementation of disaster response coordination, policy development and implementation as well as erosion of faith in the Government.

The tsunami also affected the internal conflict. An agreement was reached in June 2005 between the Government and the LTTE to implement a Post-Tsunami Operational Management Structure (P-TOMS) for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the tsunami affected areas of the Ampara, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Trincomalee districts in the North and East provinces. The P-TOMS agreement led to a break-up of the ruling coalition. Aspects of the P-TOMS agreement were later ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and was abandoned by the current Government.

Economic performance and budget in Sri Lanka - 2005

According to the Central Bank’s report, Sri Lanka’s economy grew by 5.1 per cent in the first half of 2005 overcoming the setbacks caused by the tsunami disaster and benefiting from good weather and healthy international economic developments. The economy is progressing to record a growth of 5.3 per cent for 2005. The rising trend in inflation was reversed at the end of the first half of 2005 and is expected to be around 10-11 per cent at the end of the year. The unemployment rate hovers around 8-9 per cent. The overall balance of payments turned to a surplus of around US$ 190 million by the end of the first eight months of the year. Inflows of foreign funds to the Government are estimated to have increased during the first half of the year, due to grants received especially for tsunami relief response. The overall budget deficit in the first eight months of the year as a percentage of GDP declined to 5.3 from 5.4 in the previous year. The prospects for 2006 are promising with economic growth estimated to reach 6 percent.

National Plan of Action and Millennium Development Goal (MDG)

Sri Lanka is on track to achieving several MDGs. However, it will not achieve the goals related to poverty, hunger, reduction of Maternal Mortality rate (MMR), death rate associated with malaria and incidence of tuberculosis. The process is being given much attention with the MDG monitoring group being located in the Presidential Secretariat itself. The new Government is attempting to rebalance the resource allocation towards less developed provinces including the plantation community, reconstruction in the conflict-affected areas and the tsunami-affected areas and other less advantaged districts.

The Government’s commitment to implement the National Plan of Action for Children 2004-2008 has made this a key guiding document for the Ministry of Finance in terms of resource allocations and for line ministries in terms of programme planning. The new President stated in his budget speech in November: “The Social Responsibility Levy will be increased from

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0.25 per cent to one per cent to generate 1,000 million rupees\(^5\), which will be earmarked for the National Action Plan for Children."

**Indicators on children and women**

A close look at indicators concerning children and women in Sri Lanka indicates three main concerns: regional disparities, nutrition status of children and quality of education.

**a. Regional disparities**

Sri Lanka’s key indicators display a life expectancy of 71.7 and 76.4 years for males and females respectively\(^6\), infant mortality rates of 11.2/1,000 live births\(^7\), under five mortality rates at 20.8/1,000 live births\(^8\), maternal mortality rate of 0.3/1000 live births\(^9\) and a net enrolment ratio for 6-10 year olds of 96.4 per cent\(^10\). However, these national figures disguise disparities between regions, most so because key data used for national representation does not include the conflict affected districts of the north east (13 per cent of the population). Indicators in these districts are comparable to the most deprived regions in the rest of the country. It is also important to note that the deprived districts in the southern central part of the country remain at the periphery of attention despite some of the lowest human development indicator values.

**b. Nutrition status of children**

The nutrition status of children continues to pose a serious concern. Stunting for children under five years is 13.5 per cent nationally\(^11\), and the average figure in the country’s thirteen most deprived districts is as high as 18.4\(^12\). The Government still has to finalize a nutrition strategy and decide on institutional responsibilities to execute and monitor its implementation. Key information on causal relationships leading to low nutrition status is yet to be obtained and analyzed. Capacity building of nutritionists is urgently required – there is not a single nutritionist in the north east provinces, an area that includes 10 of the country’s 26 districts.

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\(^5\) 1,000 million rupees is approximately US$ 10 million.

\(^6\) Census of Population and Housing, 2001 (covering 18 out of 25 districts)

\(^7\) Registrar General, 2002

\(^8\) Registrar General/DHS, 2000

\(^9\) Registrar General, 1997

\(^10\) Labour Force Survey, Department of Census and Statistics, 2002

\(^11\) DHS, 2000

\(^12\) UNICEF and Department of Census and Statistics (forthcoming January 2006)
c. Quality of education

While enrolment and literacy rates are high in Sri Lanka, concerns are rising over deterioration in the quality of education as the result of insufficient implementation of education reforms introduced in the late 1990s. The sector is riddled by problems at all levels: weak definition and implementation of education policies by the Ministry of Education (MOE); ineffective devolution of authority and responsibility; inequities between the quality of education delivered in schools depending on their eligibility for funding by the Ministry or the Provinces; inequities for small and rural schools; non-transparent distribution of scarce resources for recurrent costs and teacher deployment – a chronic shortage of English and science teachers exists and some geographic areas are severely affected by teacher shortages. A total of 95 per cent of the education budget for recurrent costs is for teacher salaries, textbooks and uniforms, leaving almost no funds for teacher training.  

Prior to the tsunami, external donors focused on rehabilitation and capacity building for infrastructure development in the north east and achievement of the MDGs. This continues to be the case for Sri Lanka's long-term donors who are part of the Tokyo process that was established following the cease-fire. It should be noted however that some key donors have voiced their hesitation to provide large-scale and long term funding unless relevant commitment to remedial action in administrative reform becomes visible. Other donors are downsizing their presence in Sri Lanka, in part due to the lack of progress in the peace process.

3. UNICEF COUNTRY PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Implementation of the programme work plans agreed upon with counterparts for 2005 was greatly affected by the tsunami that hit close to two-thirds of the coast of Sri Lanka on the 26th of December 2004, killing over 35,000 people an estimated third of whom were children. The attention of the Government and all development partners was focused on putting in place a massive emergency response to provide emergency shelter, health supplies, safe water and sanitation facilities and other services to tsunami-affected populations, with an initial displacement of close to 890,000 people. As the situation stabilized, UNICEF’s response focused on the needs of 200,000 school-age children, 6,500 children who lost one or both parents and over 500,000 people who were displaced.

With over three decades of experience in Sri Lanka including a history of responding to
droughts, floods and a presence in the north east of the country to assist war-affected and
disadvantaged children, UNICEF Sri Lanka was well-positioned to respond swiftly and
appropriately to the tsunami. Humanitarian relief and rehabilitation activities have been put in
place with focus on the core commitments for children in emergencies by drawing on
established partnerships with Government Departments, NGOs and other UN agencies. In
2005, UNICEF Sri Lanka implemented a response to the tsunami which totaled US$ 55
million including in-kind donations. A three-year plan for programming US$ 136 million has
been put in place, increasing the annual budget four-fold and doubling staffing levels. In
addition, UNICEF implemented a total of US$10.9 million non-tsunami related programmes\(^{14}\) including Early Childhood (US$1.4 million), Learning years (US$0.6 million), Adolescent and
HIV/AIDS (US$0.2 million), protection (US$3.2 million), Planning and Communication (US$0.2
million) and children affected by armed conflict (multi-sector interventions, US$ 3.6
million).

a. Main actions in response to recommendations from the 2004 Mid-Term Review (MTR)

While the tsunami response was all consuming in the first half of the year, the opportunity
was taken to bring attention to key policy issues and actions related to the recommendations
from the MTR completed in October 2004. A key achievement has been the signing of a
Memorandum of Understanding between UNICEF and World Food Programme in Sri Lanka
to strengthen collaboration particularly in the areas of improving maternal and child nutrition
and in the delivery of an essential package of services in child friendly schools. Other key
actions are as follows:

- **To strengthen the nutrition interventions of the Early childhood Development Programme.** The Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition has formulated a national nutrition
policy which is ready to be submitted for Cabinet approval. UNICEF advocacy to
accelerate this process was strengthened by the results of nutrition surveys conducted in
tsunami affected districts which demonstrated high levels of chronic malnutrition and low
levels of Vitamin A supplementation. Studies into the prevalence of Vitamin A and Iodine
deficiency have also been initiated. Further, advocacy and publicity efforts were
undertaken to promote and protect exclusive breastfeeding, including review of the Breast
Milk Substitute Code and prevention of distribution of breast-milk substitutes following the
Tsunami.

- **To enhance quality of education.** There has been progress in the definition of standards
and guidelines for the construction of child-friendly schools, supporting the Ministry of
Education in strengthening the quality of English language education, and expanding the
child friendly school initiative to cover a total of 1,400 schools. UNICEF has also
continued advocacy for addressing teacher shortage and education quality issues in the
Education Sector Development Framework and has been an increase in technical

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\(^{14}\) Utilized amount as of 30 Dec 2005: Early childhood (US$ 1,358,755), Learning years (US$626,303) Adolescent and
HIV/AIDS (US$231,052), protection (US$3,212,098), Planning and Communication (US$205,007), Children Affected by
Armed Conflict (multi sector): sub-national level (US$663,105), Early Childhood (US$480,234), Learning Years
(US$480,234), Adolescent & HIV (US$943,136) and protection (US$ 943,136)
resources with creation of two international professional positions following the post tsunami expansion of education programmes.

- **To implement a Monitoring & Evaluation strategy for the Country Programme.** This continues to be work in progress as the programme scope has changed considerably with the tsunami response. The three-year tsunami response plan has added new elements to the results framework of the Country Programme. The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan was revised in the second quarter of 2005. Additional technical staff have been hired to undertake monitoring and evaluation and a systematic monitoring and evaluation system is being developed. This includes the institutionalization of monthly reporting against key management performance indicators and a field monitoring and reporting strategy.

- **To reorganize the programme structure at the project level for the Learning Years, Adolescence/HIV/AIDS and Protection Programmes.** The planned re-structuring of programmes and projects was completed when work plans were finalized. However, a number of revisions to the structure have been made in order to align work plans, flash appeals and tsunami emergency response requirements.

b. **Shortfalls in implementation of 2005 Annual Work Plans**

The immediate need to put into place an effective emergency response by both UNICEF and the Government resulted in slower implementation of the originally planned programme. It was not possible, particularly in the first half of the year, to pay adequate attention to non-tsunami affected areas, and especially the estate sector. A cross sectoral plan for addressing the needs of conflict-related Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) also did not receive planned attention. This is being taken on as a priority in 2006. Sectoral and district work plans in the north and east were revised in August to reflect the modified work schedule.

c. **Unexpected circumstances influencing the programme**

The destruction caused by the tsunami required the design of a relief, rehabilitation and construction programme with a three year time frame. Consequently, the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) process planned for 2005 was abandoned. United Nations Development Group (UNDG) organizations are preparing a one year bridging programme for 2007. Programme structure and staffing have been modified to effectively implement an ambitious agenda. Opportunities have been seized to bring renewed focus on some key policy issues, which have challenged the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals for Sri Lanka, especially on malnutrition, safe water and sanitation. Through existing legal provisions for fostering arrangements, it was ensured that unaccompanied and separated children were placed in extended families rather than institutions. There has been a concerted effort to invest in and strengthen the physical and programmatic resources of the social welfare sector. Also, there is renewed focus on quality of education and child friendly initiatives.
d. Strengthening use of a Human Rights-based Approach

The current Country Programme has been designed based on the concept of children and women as rights holders with an explicit analysis of the need for supporting and developing capacity of the duty bearers. A case study on how the human rights-based approach to programming (HRBAP) has been implemented in response to the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka was commissioned with support from Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Unit of EMOPS in 2004. The report finalization has faced unexpected delays and will be available in early 2006. The case study will be an additional input to the office plan for strengthening staff capacity building on HRBAP in 2006.

UNICEF has played a key role with other international agencies to encourage the Government to adopt a more structured approach to the relocation of tsunami displaced families in full accordance with international standards pertaining to internally displaced persons, including the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. UNICEF has stressed the importance of balancing the rights of children to return to school with the rights of displaced persons. UNICEF has supported a staggered approach to the reopening of school buildings used as temporary camps to ensure that appropriate alternative shelter is found for displaced families and that IDPs are fully consulted and informed about possible relocation options. In this regard, UNICEF has worked closely with local Government authorities, UNHCR and Save the Children to develop and implement a rapid survey of displaced families to ascertain their preferences regarding relocation.

e. Women’s rights and gender equality

Gender disparity is not evident in the key social sector indicators for health, nutrition and education in Sri Lanka. However, there has been a deliberate initiative to ensure that baseline surveys and special studies provide disaggregated data. UNICEF work plans for 2005 included key components to ensure women’s right to safe motherhood through strengthening emergency obstetric care services and a communication package for addressing early childhood care and providing separate toilet facilities in schools for girls. Gender based violence is addressed through support to Women’s and Children’s police desks, Women in Need and other NGOs that work to prevent gender based violence and provide services for women who are subject to it. Also, some steps have been taken throughout the tsunami response to ensure that issues of women’s rights and gender disparity are addressed. Such efforts have brought focus on the need to programme for a supportive role of men, especially in the aftermath of the tsunami that has left hundreds of men as single parents, with added responsibilities for child and family care that they have
previously not been involved in. The CCA/UNDAF process will also be looking at issues of gender disparity in terms of women’s participation in Governance.

f. Strengthening national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems and capacities
Steps have been taken in Annual Work Plans to strengthen systems for monitoring key indicators such as the utilization of health services, maternal deaths, school enrolment/attendance, cases of violence/abuse against women and children, mine/Unexploded Ordinance related injury. In addition, UNICEF Sri Lanka has a well established monitoring and reporting system for under-age recruitment. The tsunami response has also put a system in place for registering and following up on unaccompanied and separated children (UAM), which is updated on a monthly basis. Apart from monitoring of under-age recruitment, all are maintained by the Government counterparts. The UAM database is in the process of being handed over to the Government. For the last two years, steps have also been taken to strengthen the capacity of the Department of Census and Statistics in managing DevInfo. There has been a clearly demonstrated need for strengthening UNICEF Sri Lanka’s M&E function. In addition, the Government has expressed its intention to set up a mechanism for monitoring commitments and achievements of the National Plan of Action for Children. Deliverables and targets for key performance areas have been identified and are monitored by the country management team on a monthly or quarterly basis.

g. Developments in partnerships and alliances
2005 has seen a strengthening of existing partnerships and alliances within Sri Lanka, particularly brought on by the requirements of the tsunami response.
- The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has functioned effectively in assigning roles and monitoring progress.
- UNICEF has signed agreements with UNOPS for US$ 48.5 million for the construction of schools, health facilities, water supply systems and social care centres.
- A total of 60 social care centres are being constructed with joint funding from UNICEF and Save the Children Alliance in Sri Lanka.
- UNICEF and WFP have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines collaboration for strengthening efforts to improve the situation of maternal and child nutrition and putting in place a package of essential elements in schools, including school feeding. UNICEF and WFP also jointly supported nutrition surveillance among tsunami affected populations.
- The Action Plan for Children Affected by War, coordinated by UNICEF, supports implementation of a wide range of rehabilitation and re-integration programmes in the north and east in cooperation with ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, GTZ, CARE, Oxfam, FORUT, WUSC, World Vision, ZOA, SciSL, and more than six local NGOs, as well as the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO). As coordinating agency, UNICEF has been able to raise funds for other UN agencies and INGOs. This partnership has been a key in the efforts to provide released child soldiers with reintegration opportunities. 2005 has seen continued progress in coordination among Action Plan partners.
• The Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (4R project) is being implemented through joint planning and programming of UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and ILO. The mid-term review of the project held in mid 2005 and subsequent district progress review exercises reaffirmed the validity of the approach and commitments of all the partners to accelerating progress. A plan to integrate the approach within the UNDAF framework is under progress.

h. UNICEF role in coordination of the emergency response

UNICEF has played a significant role in coordination of emergency activities at the national and district levels. UNICEF deployed staff members and consultants to support the Centre for National Operations, established by the Government to coordinate the tsunami response. These staff worked on the water and sanitation desk, education desk and the children’s desk, which focused specifically on protection issues. UNICEF is also the UN focal point for three sectors of the emergency response: water and sanitation, education and child protection (including psychosocial support and care of unaccompanied and separated children). This role has entailed facilitating the Government’s coordination of the emergency response by supporting regular coordination meetings chaired by relevant Government Ministries, and supporting the planning of services at the national and district levels.

In addition, UNICEF has been active in the coordination of the emergency response in several districts and actively involved in various district sectoral committees. UNICEF Heads of Zone Offices in four zones also serve as UN focal points. In this capacity, they actively supported Government Agents in the establishment of different coordination mechanisms. UNICEF is also participating in the joint emergency task force in Mullaitivu, consisting of the Government Agent, representatives from the LTTE political and women’s wings, the Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services, the Tamil Eelam Health Services, the NGO consortium and one representative from international agencies.

i. Significant changes in strategies, priorities or design

There has been a significant change in the scale and scope of the UNICEF assisted programme in Sri Lanka. The Government and UNICEF signed off on a three year tsunami recovery plan, 2005-2007, titled Rebuilding with Children, which covers work in the 10 hardest-hit districts. This US$ 160 million plan, which consists of US$ 136 million programmable funds and US$ 24 million project support cost (15%), is based on a 2005-2007 implementation schedule, but long-term expenditures will likely extend into a fourth year. Due to the Presidential elections in November and the operational budget preparation in December, the UNICEF Annual Review was postponed to the end of January 2006.
4. PROGRESS OF PROGRAMME

4.1. TSUNAMI EMERGENCY

Programme Objectives

In response to the Tsunami disaster, action was taken to fulfill the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children ensuring the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene; the provision of essential health and nutrition services; the restoration/provision of child-learning opportunities; and the protection and psychosocial support of children and women. Coordination and implementation was enhanced due to established partnerships with Government Departments, local and international NGOs, and other UN agencies.

Resources used (amount in US$)

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*Includes $810,786 from Donations in Kind ($39,000 from US Fund; $557,500 from Sweden Natl Comm; $214,286 from Denmark Natl Comm)

Results Achieved

UNICEF’s initial assistance focused on the procurement and delivery of essential supplies including non-food relief items. UNICEF also prioritized assistance to facilitate children’s return to schools within six weeks of the disaster by supporting the construction of temporary schools and the restoration of damaged schools. UNICEF supported data collection and surveys, which would be the basis for planning actions. Data was collected on children, who had lost one or both parents, and surveys were conducted on water and sanitation coverage and also on the nutrition status of children in the camps for the people affected by tsunami.

UNICEF played a key role in sectoral coordination of education, water and sanitation, and child protection activities, at both the national and district level. Staff support was provided to the Children’s Desk at the Centre for National Operations working out of the President’s house to coordinate the early weeks of the response. At the same time, UNICEF contributed significantly to policy decisions on care for unaccompanied and separated children, standards and guidelines for “child friendly” school construction, post-tsunami nutrition response and restricting distribution of breast-milk substitutes, and, standards for latrine construction and water quality. Support has also been provided to Ministries to support coordination and monitoring.

UNICEF’s response builds on many existing (pre-tsunami) priorities. UNICEF had already been working in nine of the 10 tsunami-affected districts. Work continues to build up capacity and to strengthen emergency preparedness/response including the stockpiling non-food relief items.

UNICEF’s support contributed to the following results during the emergency and transitional phase:

- There was no major outbreak of disease, and health services were restored within weeks.
• Sphere standards were rapidly met for displaced people in eight out of the ten worst hit districts.
• All separated and unaccompanied children were rapidly registered and nearly all placed with extended families within a few months.
• Schools re-opened within a few weeks following the tsunami and more than 95% children were back into a learning environment.
• Psycho-social support activities were promptly initiated.

UNICEF contributed the following support to achieve these results:
• Within 72 hours of the disaster, essential drugs and supplies were provided to 150,000 people.
• A total of 91,000 insecticide treated bed nets were delivered.
• A total of 1.6 million vitamin A capsules were given to 380,000 children.
• Essential household and hygiene supplies were delivered to 66,000 families.
• A total of 2,400 latrines were constructed.
• A total of 32,092 children participated in psycho-social activities.
• Social workers visited a total of 6,538 children who were separated from their parents, unaccompanied, or left with a single-parent.
• Education supplies including schools-in-a-box, school uniforms, school bags and desks and chairs were provided for the use of 128,825 children.
• Textbooks were printed for the use of 160,000 children.
• A total of 104 schools were repaired, and 170 schools were cleaned and white-washed.
• A total of 227 temporary learning spaces were provided.

Future Workplan

Following the initial response phase, UNICEF Sri Lanka shifted its focus to programmatic interventions for rehabilitation, which will continue through 2007. UNICEF’s three-year recovery plan negotiated with the Government, and coordinated with the UN transitional strategy, is already underway.
4.2. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Programme Objectives

The early years of life are crucial. When well nurtured and cared for in their earliest years, children are more likely to survive, to grow in a healthy way, to have less disease and fewer illnesses, and to fully develop thinking, language, emotional and social skills.

The overall goal of UNICEF Sri Lanka’s Early Childhood (EC) Programme is to establish the full potential of the child by improving survival and nutrition and maximizing cognitive and psychosocial development. The integrated approach to early child development in Sri Lanka represents a significant shift from the sector approach that the country pursued previously to a multi-dimensional intervention that combines health, nutrition, water supply, hygiene and sanitation and psychosocial development.

The objectives of the EC Programme, as modified by the Mid Term Review, are to:

- Improve cognitive, social and emotional development of children in early years of life;
- Reduce Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR) to 44 per 100,000 live births;
- Reduce Under 5 Mortality Rate to less than 13 per 1,000 live births;
- Reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to less than 10.5 per 1,000 live births and neonatal mortality to less than 10;
- Reduce prevalence of low-birth weight to less than 15%;
- Reduce prevalence of underweight children under 5 years to less than 27%.

The Early Childhood programme is directly related to Millennium Development Goals 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and strongly linked to Goals 2, 3, and 8. Its core strategy is to improve the quality of basic services; focus on the most disadvantaged and conflict affected districts; develop enabling national policy and programming environments for maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition, improve hygiene and equitable and sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation services; and promote participatory approaches to decision making and management at different levels. The early childhood programme focuses on providing strategic support to the three, inter-related, result areas of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF): 1) mitigating the effects of conflict 2) reducing poverty and 3) strengthening governance.

Resources used (amount in US$)
### Funding

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* Including WASH

### Results Achieved

A series of programme reviews and routine data collection generated through the Health Management Information System showed encouraging results in 2005 and also highlighted areas where more efforts were required.

**Improving cognitive, social and emotional development of children in early childhood**

- A comprehensive communication campaign was launched on 15 September 2005 by the Ministry of Health to promote child care practices at family level and advocacy at national and sub-national levels.
- 40,000 school children benefited from improved school water supply and sanitation facilities and hygiene education contributing to an improved learning environment and increased retention.
- 988 (64%) out of a total of 1,544 day care centres in the estate sector have achieved the required level of improvement to meet the standards of child friendly development centres.

**Improving child survival**

- The prevalence of low birth weight in 35 Divisional Secretary Divisions (DSDs) where the programme has been implemented for the past 2 years stands at 12 % compared to the national figure of 17 %.
• Vitamin A coverage at 9 and 18 months has increased from 44.4 per cent and 43.2 per cent in 2003 to 75 and 83 per cent in 2005. The coverage in tsunami affected districts was 98 per cent.
• A national nutrition policy was drafted and is ready for submission to Cabinet for approval.
• 99 per cent coverage achieved for vaccinations including polio, diptheria and measles in the plantation estates.
• Standard operating procedures developed for vaccine management based on assessment of effective vaccine management at different levels.
• Water and sanitation facilities improved in more than 100 hospitals and health centres.

Reducing Maternal Mortality
• Home deliveries dropped from 250 (0.8%) deliveries in 2002 to 158 (0.5%) in 2004 suggesting that 99.5 per cent of deliveries are taking place in health institutions.
• There has been an overall improvement in maternal death reporting. Maternal and Perinatal Mortality Reviews are conducted regularly in 20 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka.

In 2005, the EC Programme expanded to cover an additional 41 DSDs in addition to the original 100 DSDs. The programme expansion resulted in the training of 122 Master trainers and 2,200 grassroots level service providers. The expansion to 40 estates exceeds by 60% the planned target of 25 estates by 2006 and provides a strong foundation for future expansion to other estates. In addition, UNICEF contributed the following support to achievement of the above results:
• UNICEF supported improvements in the quality and access to basic emergency obstetric care and neonatal care through renovation of 35 maternity units. Essential obstetric and neonatal care equipment was supplied to 59 labour wards. Further, 41 million iron/folate supplements for the control of anaemia in pregnancy were procured.
• 49 Maternal and Child Health Centres were constructed and equipped and 4 paediatric wards were renovated.
• The Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition (MOH) was supported with the procurement of over 3 million Vitamin A doses.
• UNICEF supported the procurement of 50,000 iodine test kits to strengthen the capacity of the MOH to monitor the iodine content of salt at the household and retail levels.
• Support was provided to the MOH to formulate a national nutrition policy for Sri Lanka and an infant feeding policy to support Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS.
• Over 365,000 Child Development Records were printed and distributed to monitor and promote growth of all under fives children in Sri Lanka. This was coupled with training of 78 master trainers from 15 tertiary care hospitals and over 2,000 peripheral service providers on lactation management. Lactation centres in six maternity hospitals were
established where mothers could receive adequate information and demonstration on breastfeeding.

- UNICEF supported a review of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in 12 districts and printed and distributed 2,000 copies of the Weekly Epidemiological report for use in improving EPI management.
- Support was provided for the MOH communication campaign to improve child care practices. Over 150,000 copies of communications materials ranging from flash cards to booklets, posters, advocacy leaflets and videos were produced in three local languages.
- UNICEF constructed and renovated school water supply and sanitation facilities in 400 primary schools and supported hygiene education in the tsunami and war affected districts.
- Assisted with improved water and sanitation facilities for more than 100 health centres and hospitals in various districts.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and NGOs, developed and disseminated 315,000 stickers, as well as 200,000 leaflets, carrying hygiene messages and other health related information, for IDPs and the general population.

The main constraint for the programme has been the shortage of trained health workers of all categories in the north east. Although the MOH is making considerable efforts to train and post health workers, uncertainties in the peace process and difficult living conditions have continued to discourage health workers from accepting assignments in the country’s north east area. The Tsunami response also diverted human resources away from the implementation of regular programmes causing delay in implementation. Delays in recruitment of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) staff delayed project implementation and impeded timely sector coordination at the national and district levels. Inadequate information systems regarding WASH facilities and services among different partners at district and division levels is also a problem.

Studies on vitamin A deficiency and iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) in Sri Lanka were conducted in late 2005 to assess the impact of micronutrient deficiency control programme. Two baseline surveys to assess the water and sanitation status in IDP camps and transitional shelters affected by the tsunami were conducted by UNICEF in February and June. The findings indicated that adequate water supply was available in general but problems in sanitation existed, mainly due to a lack of

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**Health Centre Provides New Hope For Mothers And Babies In Tsunami-Affected Galle**

The old two-room Galwadugoda Gramoyda Health Centre is dwarfed by the new building on the grounds next door. The old centre was the primary place of care for thousands of expecting mothers and newborn babies in this sub-section of Galle municipality– until the tsunami hit and left the place in an even worse state.

“We had no waiting room, no patient rooms, no counselling rooms, but we had a lot of leaks when it rained,” says Galle’s chief medical officer of health, Dr. Sriyani Jayasurya.

The new clinic provides ample space for waiting rooms, patients and counselling – minus the leaks – and will offer antenatal services (for pregnant mothers), as well as immunization, weighing, family planning and counselling. Live-in midwives provide 24-hour care for patients, many of whom are from poor families, and still working to overcome direct impacts of the tsunami.

UNICEF’s three-year recovery plan in the health sector will support the Government of Sri Lanka in restoring and upgrading health and nutrition services and strengthening the national system as a whole, including the reconstruction of 35 damaged hospitals, health clinics and drug stores.

“Providing high quality health care assistance to pregnant mothers and new born babies is fundamental in ensuring strong communities,” says UNICEF’s Early Childhood coordinator, Dr Aberra Bekele. “If there was any positive benefit to be seen from the tsunami, it has been in our capacity to turn the devastation into an opportunity, in building back better health facilities that will assist long-term health standards.”
bathing facilities and poor drainage. Corrective actions were taken to improve sanitation, drainage and hygiene in and around the camps. The third base line survey is scheduled to be completed in early 2006.

Partnerships
The MOH is the main implementing partner for the ECD programme. The MOH has a strong and extensive primary health infrastructure that takes services closer to families and communities. The Children’s Secretariat of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Social Welfare is another key partner addressing the needs of children between 3 and 5 years old. In the estate sector, the Plantation Human Development Trust is the key partner. Other partners include the MOE, NGOs, Provincial Council and the College of Paediatricians and Gynaecologists. UNICEF also works closely with WHO, WB, UNFPA and WFP. As part of a collaborative effort in the Early Childhood programme, WFP and UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding to improve maternal and child nutrition in selected early childhood programme areas.

The Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply and the MOH are the major policy and decision making partners in water and sanitation, and the National Water Supply and Drainage Board is the executing agency. At the district level, the Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services and Medical Officer of Health (MOH) are responsible for providing sanitation services in partnership with UNICEF, supported by other UN agencies such as IOM, UNHCR, WHO and INGOs. The Government of Sri Lanka has requested UNICEF to be the focal point among UN agencies for providing support in co-coordinating the sector at national and district levels, planning, making technical guidelines, as well as providing financial support to implement projects at both national and district levels.

Other highlights and cross-cutting issues
The early childhood programme strategy seeks to link early childhood interventions with other community-based interventions that have direct bearing on child survival, growth and development. Such programmes include poverty alleviation and the complementary feeding programmes supported by the Government, NGOs and other UN agencies. The convergence and synergy of early childhood programme with other development programmes at the community level is realized by involving all partners in the planning, coordination and review of early childhood interventions. In addition, the programme works with the Protection Section on prevention of child abuse and domestic violence against women. In 2005, three districts were identified to ensure the convergence of these crosscutting issues.
Future Workplan

- Undertake a study to understand the underlying causes of child under-nutrition
- Reduce neonatal mortality, which contributes to over 70 per cent of all infants deaths in Sri Lanka
- Identify human resource gaps in the north east.
- Strengthen the Health Management Information System
- Undertake operational tests of early childhood development services delivered to children with disabilities, with a focus on early identification at family and community levels and timely referral.
- Rehabilitation/replacement of tsunami affected health facilities
- Coordination and policy development for the water, sanitation and hygiene sector
- Construction of Water Supply schemes in Mullativu, Trikovil and Tangalle
- Establish district water quality surveillance system
- Improve water supply and sanitation facilities in schools and health centers
- Improve water and sanitation facilities for war affected, IDP and returnee families
- Provide hygiene promotion and community capacity building
- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation at different levels

Expected funding for 2006 includes $281,000 from RR, $7.0 million from SIDA, DFID, Netherlands National Committee and AusAID, and $31.4 million for Tsunami recovery and rehabilitation.
4.3. LEARNING YEARS PROGRAMME

Programme Objectives

The goal of the Learning Years Programme is to contribute to the achievement of universal access to quality basic education for all children through increased rates of school attendance and learning achievement in targeted disadvantaged communities.

Education is critical to a child’s development and well-being. It is equally important to social stability and economic development. It is, not least, the right of every child. UNICEF supports many different initiatives that educate children from pre-school age through adolescence. Even in times of conflict, we make sure that children have the chance to learn.

Program objectives are to: (1) increase the percentage of children completing the primary cycle in UNICEF focus districts to at least 95 per cent; (2) improve achievement of Essential Learning Competencies (ELC) to at least 50 per cent of children in focus districts; (3) standardize Catch-up Education material for Northeast Province; and (4) support completion of sector-wide strategy plan for education sector.

The programme directly supports the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on universal primary education by promoting quality education for all children, particularly war and tsunami-affected children, children who do not attend school regularly and other children in vulnerable situations. As Sri Lanka’s education statistics show no significant gender disparities, the programme does not specifically address the MDG goal on Gender Equality.

The implementing partners for the Learning Years Programme are: the Ministry of Education (MOE) at the national, provincial and zonal levels and other agencies involved in the education sector.

Resources used (amount in US$)

<table>
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<th>Requisitioned US$</th>
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</table>

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Results Achieved

The three annual objectives for 2005 were to: (1) improve achievement of Essential Learning Competencies (ELC) by 50 per cent among children in communities of programme focus, (2) reduce non-attendance of children between 5 and 14 years of age by 50 per cent in communities of programme focus; and (3) build capacity of at least 30 per cent among Government officials at zonal and provincial levels in coordination, monitoring and evaluation. However, due to the tsunami, the programme had to focus on emergency response for the first half of the year delaying implementation of the regular programme.

UNICEF contributed to the achievement of objectives in the following ways:

- An initiative was taken to establish **Child Friendly Schools** in order to improve quality of education in focal districts (Badulla, Moneragala, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Hambantota, Galle, Matara, Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Mullaitivu, Puttalam). Main results include:
  - Training of 280 principals in School Based Management in Badulla, Moneragala and Galle districts.
  - National Institute of Education (NIE) conducted a study on implementation of ELC, reviewed learning standards and published 5,000 guidebooks.
  - Longitudinal study on understanding the Sri Lankan child completed by NIE, which will help in developing national education system.
  - Training programme of quality improvement criteria for 300 in-service advisors conducted under capacity building of provincial staff at national level.
  - A total of 18,400 children were supported to achieve mastery levels in ELC.
  - A total of 600 teachers were trained on Child Friendly Schools concept, multi-grade teaching and English language in north east
  - A total of 350 students were trained in leadership.
The Painting on the Wall Points to a New Child Friendly Approach in Schools

Sri Lankan children are having their say on how to build back their tsunami-damaged schools through innovative child participation programs promoted and supported by UNICEF. As part of its commitment to rebuild and restore 26 schools island-wide, UNICEF has initiated a series of child participation workshops that bring students, teachers, and parents together to start planning what kind of school they want for themselves, their communities, and their children.

“This is the first time that we have been allowed to have a say in decisions at our school”, says Jeruba, 15 years old, who recently participated in a workshop in Trincomalee. “This is the first time we are listened to.”

The workshops are part of the Child Friendly School (CFS) approach which has been supported by UNICEF in the wake of the December 2004 tsunami that wiped away or damaged many schools in Sri Lanka. The CFS concept has been integrated into the Government’s guidelines for the reconstruction of all 182 tsunami-damaged schools in Sri Lanka.

The Child Friendly School concept sets out standards for the “hardware” of schools, such as bigger and better ventilated classrooms, better sanitation facilities etc. as well as the “software”, which includes child participation.

As a first step in the child participation process, 25 school students gathered at a tsunami-affected school near Trincomalee in December 2005 to produce a mural painting for their school.

It is a creative process that allows students not only to influence their school environments, but make it more attractive and more child friendly, says Gabriela Elroy, head of UNICEF’s office in Trincomalee.

“The fact that children are engaged and allowed to influence the process from the beginning to the end promotes their overall ownership of the final result”, she says.

“This is empowering for the children themselves, but it also sends a strong message to the adults both in the school and the community of the gains we all can make when allowing children to truly engage in processes and decisions affecting their lives”.

Several steps were taken in Non-formal education and catch-up education to ensure all children in focus communities are back to learning. Main results include:

- 25 types of books on standardized language and mathematics instruments were printed and distributed.
- 50 senior teachers trained in concepts of catch-up education.
- 26,738 children, who are considered as low achievers received catch-up education using standardized material.
- 53 Literacy Centers became functional in Nuwara Eliya district and 10 centres in Kilinochchi district resulting in 1,200 dropped-out children re-enrolled in formal education. Returning children were provided with school kits.
- Semi permanent buildings were constructed for 88 schools, and re-thatching of 158 temporary classroom buildings was completed.
- Parents were encouraged to ensure their children’s regular attendance at school.

In October 2005, the Ministry of Education established the Education Sector Development Framework Programme (ESDFP) in Sri Lanka to address policies on access, quality, efficiency of resource allocation, governance, service delivery and monitoring and evaluation. The ESDFP is expected to be implemented in 2006. UNICEF and other partners in the sector have contributed to the development of the ESDFP.

UNICEF, partners and counterparts had to respond rapidly and effectively to the needs of tsunami affected children. This was the major constraint in 2005 for the regular programme as limited time was available in the early part of the year to work on planned targets.

Partnerships
UNICEF has been the focal point for UN inter-agency collaboration in education and played a crucial role during the response to the tsunami. Key partners in this effort included the Government Ministries, WFP, UNESCO, CARE, Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, Rotary International, World Vision, FORUT, Plan Sri Lanka, GOAL and GTZ. UNICEF was also a partner with the Government and the World Bank in the planning of the ESDFP.

**Future Workplan**

Priorities for 2005 will be improving the coverage and quality of the Child Friendly Schools Initiative and the Catch-up Education Programme to improve quality of education, reduce the number of out-of-school children and to ensure retention in school during the compulsory education period among the most vulnerable children in disadvantaged communities. Staff capacity building in education quality improvement and in improving monitoring and evaluation capabilities is another priority area of focus. Major UNICEF support in 2006 will be aligned with implementation of the Education Sector Development Framework Programme of Sri Lanka.

Available funds for 2006 include $82,000 from Regular Resources and approximately $2 million in Other Resources from donors, including New Zealand, German National Committee and SIDA.
4.4. ADOLESCENCE AND HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

Programme Objectives

The adolescent years (from 10 to 19 years old) are an important period for every individual’s development. Young people comprise 20% of Sri Lanka’s population and face range of risks to their health and development. In this context, the main objective of the Adolescence and HIV/AIDS Programme is to improve the life skills of 30% of adolescents in focus areas to prevent HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), substance abuse, unwanted pregnancies, conflict and suicide.

The programme supports life-skills based education, youth friendly health and counselling services and communication programmes through available media networks and religious channels. It focuses on building capacity of educators to improve knowledge and skills to influence attitudes and behaviour of adolescents. The programme consists of two main projects: Life skills based education and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Fighting against HIV/AIDS is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals, to which the Government is committed, and is a Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) priority.

Partners

The main implementing partners for the Adolescence and HIV/AIDS Programme are the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Ministry of Education (MOE), National STD AIDS Control Programme, Plantation Human Development Trust and the National Youth Services Council and Sarvodaya. The programme is implemented through a national work plan and as a component of the 11 district work plans.

Resources used (amount in US$)

<table>
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<th>Requisitioned US$</th>
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<td>Other resources –</td>
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</table>
Results Achieved

Specific Results of Main Activities Undertaken in 2004

- The National Survey Report on Adolescence Issues was launched and disseminated to relevant institutions and Ministries. Advocacy activities were initiated based on the findings.
- A total of 2,500 young people were trained by trained peer leaders in life based skills education including HIV/AIDS prevention. A total of 1,000 young people gained skills in communicating HIV/AIDS messages to peers, and 2,000 parents were educated on issues faced by adolescents and HIV/AIDS.
- The MOH has taken a policy decision to establish Adolescence Health Centers. A total of four centers and 10 drop-in centers were established.
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on prevention of substances abuse were developed.
- A total of 100 live radio programmes conducted by adolescents were aired on the national radio.
- A total of 100 media personnel were sensitized on reporting adolescence issues.
- National curriculum on life skills based education and health were revised with increased HIV/AIDS content.
- A total of 600 religious leaders reported their experiences in HIV/AIDS prevention education at a seminar.

A number of constraints hindered achievements in the 2005 Adolescence and HIV/AIDS Programme. When the tsunami hit Sri Lanka, UNICEF and the Government concentrated their efforts on the emergency response to this natural disaster and its effects. The Adolescence Programme staff was reassigned temporarily to Tsunami response work for the first three months of 2005. As a result, 2005 planning and implementation only started in April/May. Implementation was further affected by significant delays in fund disbursements due to unsettled accounts of partner agencies.

Future Workplan

The priority for 2006 will be to develop activities to address key issues identified by the National Adolescent Survey Report, to expand life skills based education in the focus districts and to expand peer education programmes in the focus districts.

Available funds for 2006 include $50,800 from Regular Resources and approximately $150,000 in Other Resources from donors, including SIDA, UNAIDS and AusAID.
4.5. CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME

Programme Objectives

The two overall goals of the Protection of Children and Women Programme are:

- To contribute to the reduction of child abuse and exploitation, especially child domestic labour and sexual abuse and to eliminate gender and family-based violence and exploitation of women.

Every adult bears the responsibility for protecting children from harm. In addition, children must be given the awareness and skills to protect themselves. UNICEF helps create a protective environment for children that fortifies them against abuse in the same way that good nutrition and adequate health care fortify them against disease.

- To protect and support the realization of rights of children and women most affected by armed conflict and to mitigate the effects of conflict on all children and women.

The protection of children and women programme has one national Annual Work Plan and 11 district-level AWPs, which aim to ensure the following:

- National capacity to prevent and act upon cases of commercial sexual exploitation of children strengthened.
- The number of children without primary caregivers staying in children’s homes is reduced.
- The number of children involved in armed conflict is reduced and the number of children successfully reintegrated increased.
- Children and women are benefiting from interventions resulting from increased capacity of Government and NGOs to provide psycho-social support.
- The number of landmines/unexploded ordinance casualties is reduced, and there is improved well being of survivors.

The protection programme is contributing towards the fulfillment of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. Enhanced programmes for women and children who are survivors of abuse, are critical in the context of MDG 3 on gender equality. The area of addressing commercial sexual exploitation of children is also relevant to MDG 6, as combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children helps in the fight against HIV/AIDS. In protection terms, the impact of warfare is particularly relevant on the MDG 4, reduced child mortality, as there have been many child deaths due to mine incidents and involvement as combatant in conflict situations.
Partnerships

Key partners for the protection of children and women programme include the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women’s Empowerment (MOSW); National Child Protection Authority (NCPA); the Ministry of Justice (MOJ); Prisons Department; the Ministry of Labour (MOL); Children and Women Bureau of the Sri Lanka Police; Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission (HRC); National Steering Committee for Mine Action; as well as a range of UN Agencies and INGOs, NGOs and community based organizations. Altogether there are about 150 partnerships country-wide with about 100 partners. The partnership around the Action Plan for Children Affected by War provided an important forum for coordination and joint programming around child recruitment and other child protection issues in the north east.

Resources used (amount in US$)

<table>
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<th>Funding</th>
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<td>German Natl Comm</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>5,525,000</td>
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Results Achieved

The first part of the year was dominated by response to the tsunami and the resulting protection issues among tsunami affected children. Institutionalization of children without a care giver due to the tsunami was prevented, and vulnerable children were provided with psychosocial care. Planned activities under this programme for 2005 had
to be postponed or changed significantly. A large-scale development-oriented programme had been planned with focus on strengthening the overall protective environment, for example by introducing child-friendly procedures into each area where children are in contact with the law. Such development-oriented programmes however lagged behind due to the tsunami response. Nevertheless, significant improvements were made. The decreasing trend in casualties caused by landmines was maintained. A downwards trend in terms of child recruitment was observed. The age of recruitment among children by the LTTE has been increased.

It should be noted that essential Government counterparts have a solid understanding of child protection issues and pay special attention to them and the importance of child protection issues is generally appreciated. Such attitudes toward child protection are due to persistent advocacy by UNICEF to keep child protection as a priority.

Following **key results** were achieved in 2005:

**To strengthen the protective environment for children**
- 104 Women sub inspectors, sergeants and constables were trained at 4 five-day residential workshops, out of 300 persons planned to be reached.  
- District Child Protection Committees (DCPCs) in 18 districts, and case management and referral mechanisms were established in Jaffna, Galle, Vavuniya, Mannar, Puttalam, Batticoloa and Ampara, out of 15 planned.

**To support children without primary care-givers**
- Major institutionalization of children following the tsunami was prevented, much due to advocacy efforts by UNICEF and other child protection actors.  
- 6,500 children who were affected by the tsunami and lost either one or both parents due to the Tsunami or earlier due to the conflict were reached with follow-up assessment visits; 1,500 children supported with fit person court orders; 4,150 family kits distributed to families hosting children who lost their parents.

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**Calming Down the Fear In Tsunami-affected Schools**

While the emergency phase is over in Sri Lanka, the psychological impact of the tsunami is still being felt by adults and children around the country. Guidance and counselling programmes in Sri Lankan schools are providing long-term assistance to teachers and students in providing emergency preparedness skills and training people to address and support the well-being of teachers and students affected by the tsunami.

The training programme implemented in 423 tsunami-affected schools around the country is part of the Ministry of Education’s National Plan to Mainstream Psychosocial Wellbeing Through the Educational System, which will support 2500 schools from across the Island.

It provides teachers with the skills to develop supportive relationships with their peers and students, initiate a school based emergency preparedness programme, as well as identifying vulnerable students in need of additional support.

"The psychosocial training we received after the tsunami has improved the level of support we can provide to children. If there is another tsunami – or other disaster – we can overcome fear and anxiety sooner. We can also identify specific problems among individual children, says Guidance Teacher at Devi Balika school in Galle, Ms. K.A. Chitra. "I've found that talking to a child is often the most important, and most effective, approach to the problem."
• Commitment from the Government to revamp the social services infrastructure in Sri Lanka, with projects that look to re-define tasks and terms of reference of social workers relevant to children, as well as putting in place new management systems and structures. An action plan for reform was drafted and significant training activities initiated by end of 2005.

To prevent commercial sexual exploitation of children
• Strong commitment of the Government and Sri Lanka Tourist Board was demonstrated in 2005. As part of the Action Plan formulated by the Tourist Board, tourists and communities will receive information on commercial sexual exploitation of children through a variety of communication channels. A knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) questionnaire will measure impact of messages.

To end child recruitment
• Monitoring and reporting system for child recruitment is in place and a Security Council Task Force is about to be established. 734 children were released in 2004; whereas only 188 children were released in 2005 (There were a large number of releases in Batticaloa in April 2004 following the Karuna split from the LTTE). Children released were referred to Save the Children in Sri Lanka and were followed-up to ensure their successful reintegration.
• 585 cases of child recruitment were reported to UNICEF by end November 2005 (including 90 children re-recruited) compared to 1,101 reported cases in 2004. Among the reported cases, approximately 36 percent are girls. Average age of recruitment has increased from 14 in 2002, to 15 in 2003 and 2004, to 16 in 2005.
• The Government and donor countries’ engagement in addressing child recruitment was increased, including statements by the NCPA and the HRC on child recruitment, as well as the European Union’s (EU) adoption of targeted measures against the LTTE because of continued recruitment of children.

To provide effective psychosocial support to children in need including the tsunami affected children:
• Staff from 480 schools (teachers and school advisers) were been trained on psychosocial approaches by mid December. They have positive influences to the learning environment in their schools.
• Policy guidelines for supporting children affected by tsunami, for camp management, for conducting needs assessment and guidelines for people working in tsunami affected areas were developed through UNICEF’s support to CHA; Coordination networks were supported and strengthened in 6 districts.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Lado Leskovic from Slovenia meets tsunami affected children near Batticaloa. Photo: UNICEF/GEKERKE/2005
Over 45,000 children have had access to psychosocial initiatives, exceeding the target of 25,000 children.

1,239 Government staff were trained (NCPA, MOE and MOH), out of 1,600 planned.

To prevent mine casualties and support landmine/unexploded ordinance survivors

Activities for mine action have resulted in casualties dropping from 154 in 2002, to 110 in 2003, 56 in 2004, and 30 in 2005 as of end of November. This is the result of:

- On-going mine risk education activities and support to mine action weeks: including intensive awareness campaigns during the 3rd quarter of the year when most of the casualties happen.
- Around 80% of the teachers in the north east and north western provinces trained in mine risk education since 2003.
- 544,000 persons (equal gender distribution) were reached by mine risk education implementing agencies by October 2005, out of 300,000 planned for the year. This total number includes those who participated in “mine action week”.
- 472 home visits were conducted in Jaffna to provide counselling and referral service for people with disabilities.
- 263 prosthesis were produced at the Mannar and Kilinochchi rehabilitation centres.

Challenges

In order to support children affected by the tsunami, it was not possible to implement a number of activities according to the original plan. There were many staff changes during the year as several staff had started about the same time following the signing of the cease-fire agreement. A new team had to be built with about 15 new staff.

Monitoring, study and evaluations

Two evaluations were carried out in 2005 that included a focus on child protection: a review of programmes for conflict-affected children in cooperation with DFID, a UNICEF regional office documentation exercise to record the response to the Tsunami, and a UNICEF evaluation to review the Tsunami response. A Tsunami Validation Workshop was also conducted and documented based on the Regional Office Documentation Study.

In the process of writing up UNICEF Sri Lanka’s experience on the monitoring and reporting system for child recruitment and on the broader child protection efforts for conflict-affected children, remaining challenges were recognized:

Future Workplan

The programme focus, ensuring a protective environment for children, commercial sexual exploitation, children without primary care-givers, mine action, child recruitment and psychosocial response remains the same. The thrust of the programme rests in building capacities within the Government so that sustainable protection infrastructure will be put in place. Special attention will be paid to improving measurable targets for each project, as well as improving monitoring systems for programmes. Based on observations from studies and evaluations in 2005, the 2006 Annual Workplan will also address the need to train staff on
An estimated 300,000 child soldiers - boys and girls under the age of 18 - are involved in more than 30 conflicts worldwide. Child soldiers are used as combatants, messengers, porters, cooks and to provide other services. Some are forcibly recruited or abducted, others are driven to join by poverty, abuse and discrimination, or to seek revenge for violence enacted against themselves and their families.

Focusing on emergency and humanitarian assistance and promotion of peace and social cohesion, this programme relates directly to one of the three strategic goals for the UN agencies. The programme also contributes to seven Millennium Development Goals on extreme poverty, health, education, water & sanitation, gender equity and HIV/AIDS.
The programme is largely implemented by the Government of Sri Lanka and NGO partners and administered by UNICEF’s five zonal offices in the North and East. Links with the North East Provincial Council (NEPC) have improved significantly and led to the establishment of a specific Coordination Committee for UNICEF-supported activities.

The Action Plan for Children Affected by War was approved in 2003. As the coordinating agency for the Action Plan, UNICEF has leverage to promote a wide range of rehabilitation and re-integration activities in the north and east along with a host of partners including international agencies like ILO, UNDP, UNHCR, a bilateral agency such as GTZ and INGOs like CARE, Oxfam, FORUT, WUSC, World Vision, ZOA and SCiSL, more than six local NGOs, as well as the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO). UNICEF has also been able to raise funds for other UN agencies and INGOs. This wide range of partnership has been a key to the massive efforts to provide the large release of child soldiers with re-integration opportunities. 2005 has seen continued progress in coordination among Action Plan partners.

The Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project (4R) was also developed in 2003/2004 with support from Denmark to address the immediate needs of target conflict-affected IDP and host communities, enhance their protection and support them to move towards sustainable development. The project contributes to the stabilization of populations in 22 conflict affected communities in Batticaloa, Kilinochchi and Mannar Districts. Six core areas of interventions have been identified to address different needs in targeted areas: protection and human rights, livelihoods and income-generation, community infrastructure and shelter, health, water and sanitation, education, local governance and capacity building. The 4R programme is being implemented through joint planning and programming of UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and ILO.

### Resources used (amount in US$)

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<th>Approved Budget US$</th>
<th>Allocation US$</th>
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* Funding was allocated to specific sectors.
Results achieved
This section will specifically focus on the achievements of the Action Plan for Children Affected by War and the Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (4R) Project.

The context is important to note. The ceasefire between the Government and the LTTE remained in place during 2005 despite a number of violations and a failure to resume peace talks. In the north east, the human rights situation deteriorated following the violent split within the LTTE in April 2004. A dramatic increase in politically motivated killings was observed, particularly in the East. Continued killings and intimidation created an atmosphere of fear, especially amongst civilian population in the east, and strained the fragile ceasefire agreement.

Action Plan for Children Affected by War
Key achievements from July 2004 to June 2005 include:

- Social service assessments of 9,955 children and their families affected by war, including former child soldiers were conducted by Save the Children in Sri Lanka and the Tamils Rehabilitation Organization. Of those children, a total of 2,863 children and their families were assisted.
- Catch-up education was provided to 31,000 children and a total of 1,000 children were re enrolled to school.
- 293 school buildings and 74 health facilities were repaired or reconstructed.
- Water and sanitation facilities at 239 schools and 80 health facilities were improved.
- 5,052 people received training on child rights.
- 814 young people were enrolled in vocational training supported by the ILO and partners.
- Micro-credit loans were provided to 479 families and an additional 374 beneficiaries entered into loan schemes through the assistance of UNDP.
- Special assistance was provided to 218 extremely vulnerable families by UNHCR.
- Psychosocial assessment of 1,061 children and their families was conducted by 87 counsellors. Consequently, a total of 1,925 children and family members received support.
- Support was provided to 265 children's clubs that enabled the participation of more than 10,500 children.

During the same period, UNICEF registered reports of LTTE recruitment of 812 children into its ranks and the release of only 308 children. For the period from January to October 2005, the recruitment figure stood at 550. It is encouraging that the November 2005 monthly statistics revealed 21 new recruitments, which is the lowest number of monthly recruitment of children for the last four years.

The Action Plan tenure ended in June 2005. However, activities have continued with agreement of both the Government and LTTE pending completion of the comprehensive review that will provide a basis for design of the next phase.
Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (4Rs) Project in the north east

The mid-term review of the project held in mid-2005 and subsequent district progress review exercises re-affirmed the validity of the approach and Agencies’ commitments to accelerating progress. Joint assessment missions have been undertaken by partner agencies in December to monitor progress and to assess needs to be addressed in 2006 workplans. There is an on-going effort to develop a plan for how to integrate this approach within the UNDAF framework. The project was initially scheduled for completion in June 2006, but has been extended to September 2006.

Surveys
A children’s opinion survey\(^\text{15}\) was designed and sponsored by the Children as Zones of Peace (CZOP) Project. A total of 1,500 children from 9 to 16 years from all religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in different parts in Sri Lanka participated in the survey between February and April 2005. The findings will be used as an advocacy tool to enable children’s views about peace to be considered by civil society and in peace-building efforts; and to guide development of additional interventions to enable greater participation of children in peace-building. The survey found children give priority to alleviating poverty, improving education and bringing peace to Sri Lanka. Children are clear on the dividends that peace will bring and urged for increased attention to be paid to their voice.

Baseline surveys have been completed in all the focus districts affected by war, and these surveys’ findings will provide the baseline for programme adjustments and refinement of the programme activities.

Constraints and challenges:
The overwhelming devastation of the tsunami, posed substantial constraints and challenges in the implementation of the Action Plan and 4R projects across all sectors during the reporting period. The tsunami directly affected six of the eight conflict-affected districts in the north east, and also affected the entire country as partner resources, capacity and attention were diverted to the tsunami emergency relief response. Initially, it was hoped that joint action on tsunami response might lead to progress in the peace process, but collapse of the P-TOMS initiative further strained relations between the Government and the LTTE.

Work plan for 2006

The coordinated tsunami response provided a unique opportunity, particularly in relation to education, health, water and sanitation initiatives to improve facilities and services in the North East. The focus will remain to:

- Strengthen advocacy for deployment and retention of key personnel to ensure quality functioning of health and education facilities.
- Strengthen strategies and activities to meet the needs of the remaining 360,000 IDPs.
- End the use of children as soldiers.
- Vulnerability analysis for moving to a community based approach within the Action Plan framework.

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\(^{15}\) The Children as Zones of Peace (‘CZOP’) initiative was established to promote and protect the rights of children affected by the armed conflict in Sri Lanka. It was formed by a group of child rights’ focused local and international agencies, who were inspired by the “Call for Action” specified in Graça Machel’s Report on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children (1996). The ‘CZOP’ member organizations are: Christian Children’s Fund of Canada, Habitat, Lutheran World Relief, Sarvodaya, Save the Children in Sri Lanka, UNICEF, UNHCR, and World Vision.
• Comprehensive review of the commitments and achievements made in the Action Plan and design of strengthened response to issues that have not been adequately focused upon.

• Support strengthening of project and financial management capacity of partners and counterparts in North and East.

Expected funding for 2006 includes approximately $200,000 in OR resources from donors, including DFID, AusAID and SIDA.

4.7. RIGHTS BASED PLANNING, POLICY ANALYSIS, ADVOCACY, COMMUNICATION AND EVALUATION

Programme Objectives

The rights based planning, policy analysis, advocacy and evaluation programme’s objectives are (1) to ensure that reliable data on children and women in the country is available through commissioning and guiding studies and surveys as well as supporting Government counterparts; (2) to provide assistance to the Government in developing policies and resource allocations in the best interest of children and women; (3) to ensure that key issues concerning the rights of women and children are brought to the attention of the public and policy makers as well as policy implementers; (4) to promote key behavioural change among children, their families and others through programme communication interventions including capacity building of partners; (5) to ensure that the country programme is monitored and evaluated; and (6) to support the country office and the Government in disaster preparedness and disaster management.

Major partners are: the Department of Census and Statistics, the Centre for National Operations and media

Resources used (amount in US$)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Approved Budget</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Requisitioned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Other Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Resources – Emerg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thematic (SIDA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AusAID</td>
<td></td>
<td>23,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>AusAID</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,794</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>440,600</td>
<td>311,694</td>
<td>269,402</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results achieved

A number of activities listed in the 2005 annual work plan could not be completed as priority was given to support the tsunami emergency response. The emergency preparedness component of the programme was transformed into an emergency response component. The programme’s staff managed the supply procurement process in the weeks following the tsunami, and supported other programmes in sector coordination.

Data on Situation of Women and Children

• A baseline survey in UNICEF’s focus districts was carried out in cooperation with the Department of Census and Statistics. As no reliable data has been available on key indicators regarding children and women in the conflict affected districts in the north and east of the country, the report will provide essential information for donors, development agencies and the Government and will be of much use to the upcoming CCA/UNDAF process.

• A study on the situation of tsunami Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) was carried out together with UNHCR asking IDP’s own preferences regarding types of assistance and resettlement as well as their levels of knowledge on key Government decisions regarding the implementation of the buffer zone. The study received much public attention and was an important advocacy tool vis-à-vis the Government on IDP related policies.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

• In terms of capacity building in relation to the tsunami, direct assistance was provided to the Centre for National Operations, which was the Government’s initial relief coordinating institution, and to the district authorities in relief management. Political uncertainties ahead of presidential elections towards the end of the year brought difficulties to commit government and research institutions to longer-term studies on the government’s resource allocation policies.

Monitoring/Evaluation of UNICEF Programme

• Within the UNICEF office, initial steps were taken to develop a systematic monitoring and evaluation system. Monthly reporting against key management performance indicators was put in place, and a field monitoring and reporting strategy was drafted.

Raising Awareness and Promoting Behavioural Change

Media and public interest in tsunami related news remained high throughout the year. There were several reasons for this: (1) Tsunamis were relatively unknown. It was a surprise to the general public who are familiar with hurricanes, flood, earthquakes or draughts; (2) the tsunami hit during the Christmas holidays when people were at home watching TV and no other major breaking news existed to compete for air time. (3) Major international media hubs like Bangkok and New Delhi were close to the areas hit by the tsunami. It was easier for the media to continue covering the story. (4) Tsunami victims included a significant number of foreigners. This brought the tsunami disaster closer to home in their respective countries.

During the emergency, the following audience groups were supported: (1) Tsunami affected children and their families needed to be kept informed about what was happening and what kind of support was on the way. (2) Government and partners in the tsunami response to
ensure the rights of children were adequately addressed. (3) National and international media; (4) Donors, including UNICEF National Committees, who needed materials to raise funds and later to inform their donors on the use of funds. To reach the first group, Sri Lanka’s media and the existing communication structure within the Government and those of the partners were utilized. Programme sections and the senior management dealt directly with the Government and partners while the communication section and planning section provided support. Major results included:

- Children’s issues were kept as a priority in the media. A team of professional communication staff were deployed to respond swiftly to media inquiries, including the regional communication adviser, media officer from the regional media hub and two consultants. A total of 25 National Committee visits; four high-level visits from HQs, the regional office, and Geneva; as well as about 20 media field visits were facilitated throughout the year with two peak periods: immediately after the disaster and before the one-year anniversary. In December alone, the section supported a total of 5 donor visits including film crews and more than twenty media inquiries. Several human interest stories were filed on UNICEF’s global website for the use of donors, and a tsunami music CD with selected images from four tsunami affected countries including Thailand, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka was produced. A children’s drawing exhibition about their tsunami experience was held in the spring and later compiled into a book.

- Three training workshops for the media on Reporting on and for adolescents and three training programmes for media and key NGO counterparts on the use of the Facts for Life publication were conducted. A study on the use of children in advertising is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2006.

- The Early Childhood Development integrated communication campaign, covering programme communication, social mobilization and advocacy, was launched in 2005. The campaign integrated the Meena communication initiative into the hygiene promotion component, and a package of communication materials were developed. A package of psychosocial material was also developed, including a training manual, resource book for teachers, activity books for children and choice cards. A tsunami awareness flip chart and facilitator’s guide was produced for use in the coastal areas. In addition, a package of emergency communication material was produced for distribution.
5. Work plan for 2006

- Implement a systematic monitoring and evaluation plan in 2006 based on the results matrixes attached to the annual work plans and the integrated monitoring and evaluation plan. This will involve training workshops and the establishment of a field reporting system.
- Guide an evaluation of the child protection programme and commission a study on resource allocation in the Government’s education sector in light of the constitutional devolution process.
- Support the Department of Census and Statistics in capacity building especially on routine data collection by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.
- Promote utilization of DevInfo by the Government counterparts through technical assistance.
- Support the establishment of monitoring committees at national and provincial levels, which will follow-up and report on the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children.
- Build in-house capacity including a revision to the emergency response and preparedness plan. Assist the newly established National Disaster Management Centre with special emphasis on decentralization of disaster management capacities to districts.
- Strengthening the planning capacities of Provincial Councils in support of the country’s devolution process.
- Develop advocacy and communication strategy on priority issues for Sri Lanka’s children.
- Develop strategic plan covering production of audio/visual materials for the use to the donors and the media in order keep them interested in the tsunami affected children and informed of the progress in 2006.
- Establish a system to document information materials systematically including media reports, stories and photographs.
- Build media/communication capacities internally among staff.
- Develop integrated communication strategies for the protection, education and WASH sections. Also complete and implement emergency communication strategies for the areas as outlined in the Core Corporate Commitments.
- Develop a strategy to promote meaningful child participation with the country programme components.

Expected funding for 2006 includes $140,600 from Regular Resources and $150,000 from Other Resources (SIDA).