



# **COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN**

**Between**

**The Government of Guyana**

**and**

**The United Nations Children's Fund**

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## THE FRAMEWORK

The Government of Guyana hereinafter referred to as ‘the Government’, and the United Nations Children’s Fund, referred to as ‘UNICEF’, sharing the aim of:

- **Furthering** their mutual agreement and cooperation for the fulfilment of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- **Building** upon the experience gained and progress made during the implementation of the previous Programme of Cooperation (2001-2005); the national development strategies and priorities and the objectives identified in the United Nations Development Framework for Guyana (UNDAF);
- **Entering** into a new period of cooperation from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010;
- **Declaring** that these responsibilities will be fulfilled in a spirit of friendly cooperation;

Have agreed as follows:

### Part I: Basis of Relationship

- 1.1 The Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 3 March 1994 provides the basis of the relationship between the Government and UNICEF. This Country Programme Action Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 is to be interpreted and implemented in conformity with the BCA. The programmes and projects described herein have been agreed jointly by the Government and UNICEF.

### Part II: Situation of Children and Women in Guyana

- 2.1 According to the 2002 Census, Guyana has a population of 751,223, which after a dramatic decline between 1980 and 1990, shows a growth of less than 4 per cent over the last 15 years.<sup>1</sup>
- 2.2 The Government is pursuing a development policy giving high priority to poverty reduction and the progressive realization by all Guyanese of their Constitutional rights to an adequate living standard. This involves the pursuit of complex political, Constitutional, and economic reforms addressing policies that can ensure children’s and families’ access to health, education, social protection services and interventions aimed at reducing the vulnerability to and mitigation of the impact the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- 2.3 However, the first progress report on the Millennium Development Goals<sup>2</sup> depicted a mixed performance, highlighting the extraordinary challenges faced by Guyana in the implementation of policies favouring macroeconomic stability and sustained social development towards the achievement of the MDGs and the outcomes of the World Fit for Children (WFFC). One challenge highlighted is the fragility of the economy, which is compounded by rising oil prices, changes in terms of trade, especially for sugar, and limited investment in economic diversification. In the last

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<sup>1</sup> Guyana Poverty Reduction Strategy, Progress Report, Government of Guyana, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Millennium Development Goals progress report, October 2003.

two decades, the large-scale emigration of skilled labour has furthermore significantly reduced institutional capacity, debilitating particularly the education and health sectors.<sup>3</sup>

- 2.4 With a per capita Gross National Income (GNI) of US\$900, Guyana is one of the poorest countries in the Americas. Poverty decreased from 43 per cent of total population in 1992/3 to 38 per cent in 1999. The proportion of people living in absolute poverty declined from 28 per cent in 1992/3 to 19 per cent in 1999<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, poverty in the rural areas reportedly remained stagnant during the same period with 71 per cent of persons living in absolute poverty.<sup>5</sup> Among the Amerindian this percentage is as high as 85 per cent. A large part of this population is under 18 years. Inequality is also evident in income distribution and land ownership.
- 2.5 The recent return to positive growth has been insufficient to reduce household poverty and unemployment. A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) study in 1999 estimated unemployment at 9 per cent, but also concluded that around 50 per cent of the working population was under-employed.<sup>6</sup> The severe floods of January 2005 further challenged the economic vulnerability. Close to 300,000 persons were affected; over half of them women and almost one third children under nine years old.<sup>7</sup> Most of the affected people belonged to the low-income strata. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)<sup>8</sup>, the damage amounted to close to US\$500 million (60 per cent) of current GDP for 2004, causing a serious blow to the economic recovery started in 2004.
- 2.6 The country is saddled with an external debt of 135 per cent of gross domestic product and with contingent public-sector liabilities. In November 2000, Guyana qualified for the enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative, opening the door for significant debt relief to be used for poverty reduction, improvements in health care and education services, and the strengthening of institutions under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme.
- 2.7 Social expenditure has increased substantially over the last 15 years, and grew faster than Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and total public spending. The share of education and health in public spending more than doubled and increased by 50 per cent respectively in the 1990s, but in absolute monetary value it remains insufficient.
- 2.8 The often delicate political and security climate contributes to slow policy reform and realignment of social investment. The ethnic diversity in Guyana, with Afro- and Indo-Guyanese as the dominant groups, contributes to tensions weakening social cohesion. The response to the recent flood emergency, however, demonstrated the potential for greater solidarity across traditional divides.
- 2.9 Guyana has ratified six out of seven major international human rights instruments<sup>9</sup>, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and all international human rights instruments are incorporated into domestic legislation. However, the concluding remarks of the committees on the CRC and CEDAW

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<sup>3</sup> Common Country Assessment, United Nations, 2004.

<sup>4</sup> World Bank Living Standards Measurement Survey for 1992/3 and Guyana: Report of the 1999 Living Conditions Survey, United Nations Development Programme, cited in Guyana Poverty Reduction Strategy, Progress Report, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Guyana: Report of the 1999 Living Conditions Survey, United Nations Development Programme, 1999, cited in Common Country Assessment, United Nations, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> Guyana: Report of the 1999 Living Conditions Survey, United Nations Development Programme cited in United Nations Common Country Assessment.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Emergency Flash Appeal, February 2005.

<sup>8</sup> ECLAC study

<sup>9</sup> The only one not ratified is the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their families.

note that there is a weak public awareness of rights, partly due to the lack of mechanisms to inform citizens of the existence, practical meaning and enforceability of these treaties.

- 2.10 The weakness of data collection hampers the monitoring of progress on child rights and on the Millennium Development Goals and the development of evidence based public policy. The weak civil registration system is also noted. Although considerable openness characterizes discussion on sensitive issues in child rights and protection, there is a need for greater public awareness about the importance of investing in an enabling environment for children, of addressing rights violations and of professional and responsible reporting on problems affecting children.
- 2.11 Guyana submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in August 2003. The Committee, in its Concluding Observations, recognized the progress achieved in Guyana to ensure children's access to health and education and other services. The Committee questioned the slow progress made in Constitutional and legislative reform and the delays in the finalization and enactment of the Children's Bill, the Family Court Bill and the Education Bill. The CRC also expressed concern about the low age of criminal responsibility, i.e. 10 years, and the age at which children are tried as adults, which is 17 years. The Government has responded by accelerating the finalization of the Children's Bill, developing policies in relation to orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) and HIV/AIDS, and making a commitment to legal and judiciary reform that will be reflected in various Government policies.
- 2.12 A significant concern is the persistence of domestic and community violence, often involving children as perpetrators as well as victims. Out-of-school children, including those who live or work on the street, are most vulnerable to violence, abuse and neglect. The use of corporal punishment and the persistence of domestic violence legitimise the use of violence. The 2004 "Voices of Children Study", carried out with the Ministry of Labour and Human Services and involving 4,000 children and adolescents, revealed that 54 per cent of the children interviewed had experienced serious physical abuse from caregivers at home, and 24 per cent from adults in the community. Physical abuse is often the reason children end up in institutions. The narcotics traffic through Guyana contributes to a gang culture, often involving adolescents.
- 2.13 Young people often lack confidence in the future because of poverty and lack of opportunities. A study by Rights of the Child undertaken in 2003<sup>10</sup> indicated 45 per cent of adolescents wished to leave the country and that 24 per cent was not sure whether to stay or go. Crime, violence and racism were cited overwhelmingly among the most prominent negative factors.
- 2.14 The media also plays a role in this perception of insecurity. Sixty per cent of 7 year olds and all children between 15 and 17 years had seen graphic images of real local violence and its consequences. Many adolescents, especially boys, are drawn into negative and violent behaviour. As indicated by the CRC, too many girls face pregnancy at an early age, forcing them to drop out of school. Many young people lack the skills and information to make informed choices about behaviour and risk-taking. This is compounded by gender inequities and cultural norms related to sexuality.
- 2.15 The impact of poverty and HIV/AIDS on the vulnerability of children is detailed in the National Assessment on Orphans and Vulnerable Children, carried out in 2004 by the Government, highlighting the absence of standards and norms for institutional care, lack of alternative forms of care and the stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS.

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<sup>10</sup> Express yourself survey, Rights of Children Newsletter, August 2003 cited in United Nations Common Country Assessment, 2004.

- 2.16 Immunization coverage in Guyana remains high and shows few regional disparities. While measles and polio are no longer present, child health is threatened by illnesses such as malaria, particularly in the interior of the country, and acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea, often in association with poor nutritional status, iodine deficiency disorders and contaminated water and unsanitary conditions. Infant and under-5 mortality rates are among the highest in the region and show little significant change in recent years.
- 2.17 Chronic malnutrition is also a problem and displays significant geographical disparities. National averages for stunting are 10 per cent but rates are as high as 25 per cent among Amerindian Guyanese children.<sup>11</sup> Poor diet and repeated bouts of infectious disease in childhood are considered the main causes. Poor early childhood rearing practices may also be a contributing factor.
- 2.18 More than 4 out of 5 of pregnant women deliver in 5 health facilities, with Georgetown Public Hospital alone accounting for half of the 15-17,000 annual live births. In spite of a relatively high proportion of births attended by trained personnel, at 190 per 100,000 live births<sup>12</sup>, the maternal mortality ratio is above the regional average and one of the highest in the Caribbean. Some of the underlying causes are linked to the quality of ante-natal and obstetric services with other factors such as low literacy rate, malnutrition (50 per cent suffer from anaemia). A high priority for the Government is to improve the detection and referral of women with high-risk pregnancies.
- 2.19 35 per cent of children 3-5 years old participate in some form of early childhood education with hardly any difference in gender parity.<sup>13</sup> There were, however, marked differences between coastal urban (48 per cent) and coastal rural (29 per cent); the latter being even lower than the attendance in the Hinterland Regions (35 per cent). One of the reasons possibly is that attendance in such programmes is not compulsory.<sup>14</sup> To address the low coverage and lack of standards and norms, an early childhood development (ECD) policy and national action plan are being developed.
- 2.20 With almost universal access to primary education and a 95 per cent and 85 per cent completion rates for grades 5 and 6, respectively, Guyana is well on the road to achieve the MDG relating to primary education. However significant geographical disparities persist, such as in region 1, where grade 5 and 6 completion rates are 57 per cent for males and 60 per cent for females. In general, there is little gender disparity and in almost all cases girls do better than boys. In Regions 1, 8 and 9, average repetition rates are 15 per cent for boys and 10 per cent for girls, whereas in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 these are 3 per cent and 2 per cent respectively. The major challenge in Guyana is the quality of education and relevance of the curriculum. An estimated 33 per cent of children completing sixth grade have not acquired basic literacy skills.<sup>15</sup> A sample survey done in 2002 of out-of-school youths aged 14-25 estimated that 20 per cent was absolutely illiterate.<sup>16</sup>
- 2.21 HIV/AIDS prevalence is estimated at 2.5 per cent, one of the highest rates in the Caribbean. AIDS is the leading cause of death among adults aged 24-44. The Government has prioritized reversing the epidemic, paying special attention to three areas: access to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services; care and treatment; and reduction of transmission, especially among adolescents. Recent behavioural surveillance surveys among in-school and out-of-school young people indicated that the level of correct knowledge about prevention and transmission of HIV is

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<sup>11</sup> Guyanese Nursery School and Anthropometric Survey Report, Food and Nutrition Policy Division, Ministry of Health, cited in United Nations Common Country Assessment, 2004.

<sup>12</sup> Reported figure in State of the World's Children 2004, UNICEF, 2005. WHO/UNICEF 2000 adjusted estimate is 170 per 100,000 live births.

<sup>13</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Service, BOS/UNICEF, 2001.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Common Country Assessment, 2004.

<sup>15</sup> Education For All-Fast Track Initiative Country proposal/Credible Plan, Government of Guyana, September 2002 cited in United Nations Common Country Assessment, 2004.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

fairly high, especially among the in-school youth, and around 60 per cent of young people reportedly used a condom at first sex. However, even though many of them know some one living with HIV and said they would not mind caring for an HIV positive friend or relative, they revealed high levels of stigma and discrimination. Financial support from the GFTAM<sup>17</sup>, the World Bank and other donors has been mobilized, and efforts must be sustained to provide preventative and care services to all children and their families. Guyana is one of two countries in the region that are part of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

## **Part III: Past Cooperation and Lessons Learned**

### **Key Results**

- 3.1 The previous Country Programme (CP) accomplished several key achievements. Firstly, it resulted in a greater public awareness of child protection issues, especially relating to violence and abuse. A pioneering highly participatory study on children and violence, involving 4,000 children and adolescents, provided cogent evidence on children's experience of violence, abuse and neglect in the home, school, institutions and community. This led to a public education campaign "Growing up without Violence", development of a Child Protection monitoring system within the Ministry of Labour, Human services and Social security (MOLHSSS), and capacity building of front line staff. After the campaign, a 50 per cent increase in reporting of child abuse cases was noted.
- 3.2 Secondly, a PMTCT pilot project succeeded in leveraging results and resources for this important intervention, increasing PMTCT services from 8 health centres in 2 Regions in 2002, to 47 sites in 8 Regions across the country. Similarly, support for 'Escuela Nueva' in the hinterland led to the model being part of the Education for all Fast Track Initiative.
- 3.3 Thirdly, a 2004 assessment of OVC resulting in a draft policy and action plan drew on collaboration with a number of ministries and key civil society partners. Partnership with the Linden Care Foundation in developing a community care and prevention service for children at risk is also considered a model for the Caribbean.
- 3.4 Lastly, the previous programme of cooperation has successfully promoted the development of cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial collaboration on children's issues. Examples include a Coordinating Committee on OVC, an Advisory Board on Child Protection and a Core Group on Early Childhood Development.

### **Lessons learned**

- 3.5 The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the previous country programme identified problems and constraints needing to be addressed in the design of the new country programme. A first lesson is that demanding procedures and weak institutional capacity as well as a lack of strategic information lead to slow policy development and legislative reform. For example, the Children's Bill has taken three years to reach final draft status. Further constraints exist in relation to implementation and monitoring of policy changes. The expected results of the new CP will therefore be planned more realistically, cognisant of these issues and institutional capacity.
- 3.6 Secondly, lack of social statistics, effective data management systems and the public dissemination of data is a severe constraint for evidence-based policy, planning, monitoring and implementation. The new country programme addresses this through various components of the programme.

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<sup>17</sup> Global Fund to Fight TB, AIDS and Malaria.

- 3.7 In order to ensure relevance and ownership, the participation by children and adolescents in all aspects of programmes, including analysis of information contributes to sustainability.
- 3.8 The MTR concluded that intensified networking and cooperation between Ministries working for children is essential for quality and sustainability of programmes. The experience with multi-sectoral Advisory Boards and Core Groups has shown that UNICEF has a role to play in facilitating this process. The promotion of inter-sectoral planning and implementation will be one of the main country programme strategies.
- 3.9 Finally, the devastating floods of 2005 showed the importance of preparedness both at a national and community level. The new country programme will address disaster preparedness at community level and sectors such as health and education.

#### **Part IV: Proposed Programme**

- 4.1 The country programme addresses the risks as well as opportunities for Guyana's children as outlined in various national policy documents, the reports of the CRC and the CEDAW Committees and the Common Country Assessment (CCA). It focuses especially on early childhood development and survival, basic quality education, and the protection of children at risk (e.g. orphans and other vulnerable children and children in conflict with the law).
- 4.2 It further reflects UNICEF's normative mandate as outlined in the CRC, especially in supporting policy, legislative and administrative reforms, capacity building service providers, parents and communities and of children themselves. The programme also seeks to enhance and mobilise partnerships that include Government, donors and civil society as well as children themselves.
- 4.3 Building on national policy instruments such as the National Development Strategy (NDS), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the HIPC Initiative, under the overall framework of the MDGs, the CCA/UNDAF adopted a sustainable human development approach: capabilities, empowerment and opportunities. The UNDAF thus has three outcomes: (a) increased access to quality services, essential to strengthening capabilities and enriching people's capacities to maximize available opportunities for their betterment; (b) the empowerment of individuals and groups, the strengthening of institutions and an enabling Constitutional and human rights framework; and (c) poverty reduction through stimulation of economic growth and job creation.

#### **Goals and Key Results**

- 4.4 The country programme goal and key results contribute to the achievement of all three UNDAF outcomes and are fully aligned with the MDGs and UNICEF's 2006-2009 Medium Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) with following five Focus Areas: (1) Young Child Survival and Development; (2) Basic Education and Gender Equality; (3) HIV/AIDS and Children; (4) Child Protection: Preventing and Responding to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse; and (5) First Call for Children in Policies, Laws and Budgets. It will support the Government in the follow up to *A World Fit for Children* (WFFC) and the Concluding Observations and Comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- 4.5 The overall goal of the new country programme is to ensure that all children in Guyana enjoy greater respect and realization of their human rights to survival, development, participation and protection because of improved capabilities and increased opportunities, in accordance with the Convention on

the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Emergency preparedness and response will be intrinsic to this goal.

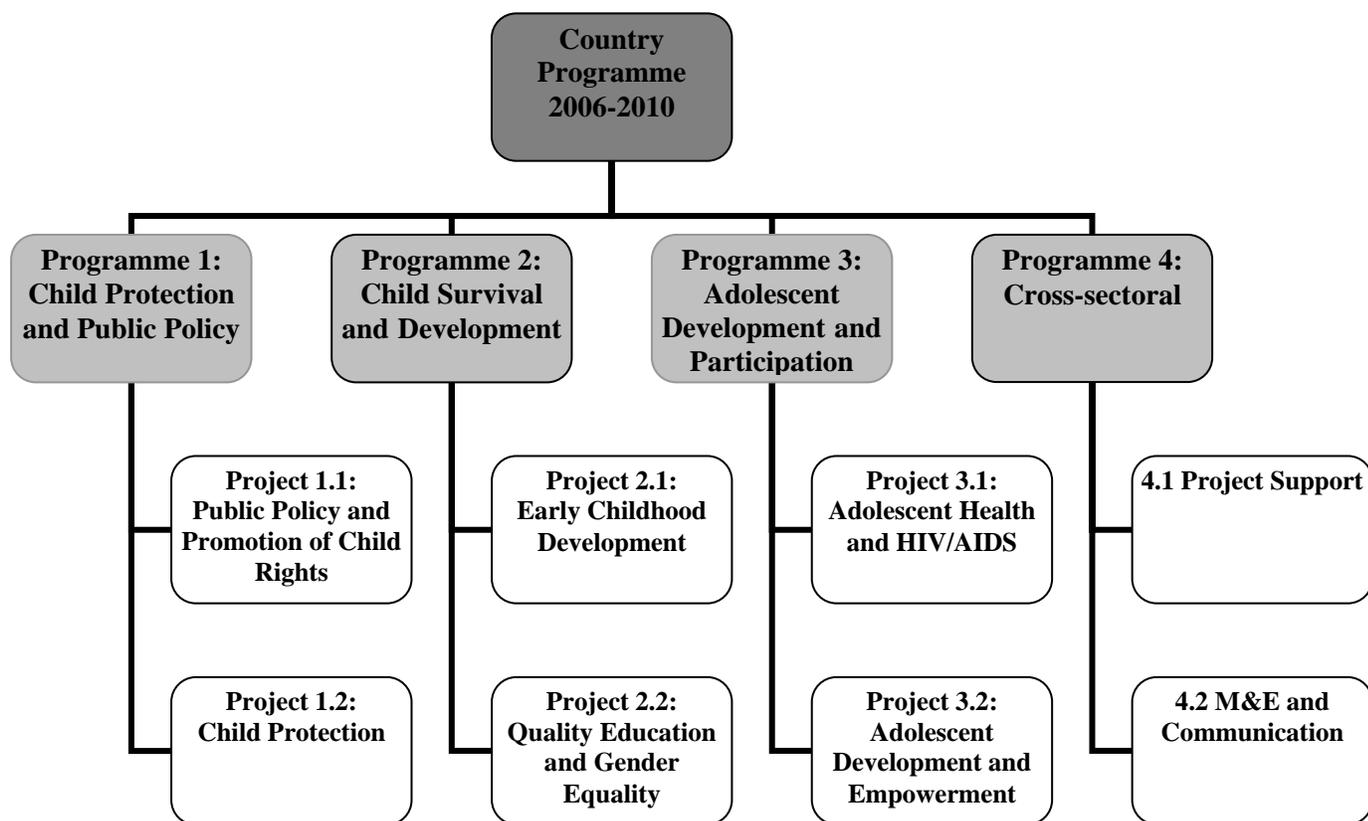
- 4.6 The programme contributes to several areas: (a) public policies and investment reflecting the rights and priorities of children regarding their survival, development, protection and participation; (b) the protection of children against abuse and violence; (c) improved access to quality health and education services for children, regardless of sex, religion, ethnicity and geographic location; and (d) the reduction of the threat of HIV/AIDS among young children and adolescents.
- 4.7 This translates into three Strategic Results: (1) rights of all children and women in Guyana are monitored and protected by effective and efficient legislation, policies and programmes in accordance with national and international development and human rights commitments; (2) all children in Guyana receive a healthy start of life in a supportive and child friendly environment and complete basic education of good quality; (3) all adolescents in Guyana have opportunities to fully develop their individual capacities in safe and enabling environments and are helped to participate and contribute to the society they in which they live.

### **Programme Strategies**

- 4.8 The country programme will pursue a number of key strategies to contribute to the UNDAF goals and country programme strategic results, which are guided by the principle of human rights programming and gender equality in keeping with the Conventions mentioned above.
- 4.9 The country programme will promote evidence-based policy development to ensure an effective prioritisation of children in public policy and reform by strengthening data collection and monitoring systems highlighting disparities and social exclusion and capacity building of policy makers.
- 4.10 Secondly, while the programme will have national coverage, particular attention will be given to reducing disparities between geographic regions such as the hinterlands and rural coastal areas to ensure equal opportunities for all children in Guyana.
- 4.11 A third strategy is capacity building at the level of service delivery but also to ensure children and adolescents have an active voice through meaningful participation in public and private decision-making and all aspects of programme implementation.
- 4.12 Fourthly, the programme favours a strategy to continue to build on inter-sectoral approaches and strengthened coordination mechanisms. This strategy includes mobilising partnerships with the private sector, including the media, non-governmental agencies, and the donor community thus leveraging resources and results in favour of children and women.

### **Programme Components**

- 4.13 The programme has three components: (a) public policy, promotion of child rights and child protection; (b) child survival and development; and (c) adolescent development and participation. Underpinning these programmes is technical support to the Government, capacity building and the development of good-practice models contributing to policy development, advocacy and public awareness of child rights and issues affecting children. None of the programmes and their projects are expected to have a negative impact on the environment.
- 4.14 The country programme structure is shown diagrammatically below.



### Public policy, promotion of child rights and child protection

- 4.15 The challenge for fulfilling child rights and the protection of children is to ensure that macro-economic frameworks, national development strategies and evidence based policy development reflect priority issues for children, putting them at the centre of socio-economic policy agendas and decision-making, including Poverty Reduction Strategies and Sector Wide Approaches. The programme therefore addresses strategic information, policy research and analyses as well as advocacy and dissemination of public information in relation to children and women. It will also focus on improving the protective environment for vulnerable children, such as those in orphanages; children affected by HIV/AIDS as well those who are victims of abuse, violence and exploitation, as well as adolescents in conflict with the law. While this component will deal with the specific challenges of policy reform and implementation in relation to the special protection of children most at risk, policy issues specific to other sectors will be addressed in the other two programmes.
- 4.16 The programme will contribute to the UNDAF outcome 3 on reducing poverty through stimulation of growth and job creation as well as UNDAF outcome 2 on empowering individuals and groups, strengthened institutions and an enabling constitutional and human rights framework. It comprises two projects: 1) **Public Policy and Promotion of Child Rights** and 2) **Child Protection**, which directly relate to the UNICEF MTSP Focus Area 4 on Child Protection: Preventing and Responding to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse and Focus Area 5 on First Call for Children in Policies, Laws and Budgets.
- 4.17 The **Public Policy and Promotion of Child Rights** project has two key results: (a) establishment of national and regional information and advocacy systems that provide quality social data and monitor evidence-based public policies adequate to achieve the Millennium Development Goals; and (b) the creation by media of public awareness of children's and women's rights through accurate and balanced coverage of children's and women's issues.

- 4.18 These key results will be achieved through enhancing transparent national and regional data management and dissemination mechanisms for social statistics. The project will support the development of various monitoring systems including a Child Protection Monitoring Information System (CPMIS), a national GUYInfo, and a national Children's and Women's Rights Media Monitoring System (CWRMMS). The project will support the establishment and functioning of national and regional child rights monitoring mechanisms such as the proposed Constitutional Commission for Child Rights and the Regional Committees for the Rights of the Child, including developing the capacity for analysis of budget and social expenditure in favour of children.
- 4.19 To promote reporting respectful of human rights, a network of responsible media professionals recognised as promoters of child rights will be established. Adolescents will be trained in media production aimed at increasing the proportion of media programmes on children and women's issues with participation of adolescents. The Government/UNICEF collaboration will also promote the production by children and for children of radio, newspaper and television programmes dedicated to women's and children's rights in schools and at the community level.
- 4.20 The **Child Protection** project has two key results: (a) vulnerable children, including orphans, in 7 Regions are legally registered and grow up in an environment with reduced violence, abuse and exploitation; (b) a juvenile justice system that protects children as witnesses and in conflict with the law is implemented in accordance with the CRC and other international standards.
- 4.21 These results will be achieved through the development and implementation of an essential package of public policies and legislation for the protection of children, including the Children's Bill, a revised Juvenile Offenders Act and Training School's Act and legislation on foster care. While the project will work towards the reduction of the number of children in institutions, it will also support the adoption of minimum standards for residential institutions and monitoring mechanisms. At the community level, access to essential quality social services that reduce children's vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation—including psychosocial support—will be improved. To achieve this, child care professionals will be trained to identify, prevent and respond to indications of abuse. The project will furthermore support the improvement of the birth registration system and the awareness building of parents on the right of timely registration of their children. In order to ensure compliancy with international human rights instruments in relation to juvenile justice, the capacity of the judiciary, welfare officers and the police will be strengthened to develop the knowledge and attitude to resolve cases involving children with respect for human rights and international standards. The project will promote community based mediation and alternative dispute resolution. It will also improve access to legal aid for adolescents in conflict with the law. In addition, the project will promote the reintegration of adolescents in conflict with the law into their families and communities.
- 4.22 Partners include line Ministries and Government Agencies such as the Bureau of Statistics and the General Registration Office. In addition, the programme will continue collaboration with the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC), Regional Committees on the Rights of the Child (RCRC), the USAID funded FHI-GHARP project and other NGOs working in the area of child protection as well as the University of Guyana and other research bodies in general. Joint programming with other UN Agencies will be explored on social statistics, monitoring of the MDGs and vital registration.

## Child survival and development

- 4.23 Although there have been many gains in terms of maternal and child health in Guyana, the challenge is to ensure sustainability in terms of immunisation and to further reduce under-5 morbidity and mortality due to chronic malnutrition and factors such as the HIV/AIDS epidemic and to ensure all children have the best start in life, including early childhood stimulation and development. There is considerable concern over the high maternal mortality rate and the project will complement other national efforts to ensure safe motherhood. Favourable enrolment rates indicate high access to primary education. However, regional disparities and low skills achievement reflect a major problem with the education and relevance of the curriculum. The project focuses on safe motherhood and nutrition practices, including PMTCT strategies, the effective delivery of child health care and stimulation services and access to quality basic education.
- 4.24 The target age group is 0 to 12 years. The programme will contribute to the UNDAF outcome 1 on increasing access to quality services in education, health, water and sanitation, and housing and comprises two projects: 1) **Early Childhood Development** and 2) **Quality Basic Education and Gender Equality**. These relate directly to the UNICEF MTSP Focus Area 1 on Young Child Survival and Development and Focus Area 2 on Basic Education and Gender Equality.
- 4.25 The **Early Childhood Development** project has the following key results: (a) all girls and boys under 5 years of age and their parents in 7 Regions have access to quality early child development programmes and family support services (b) all pregnant women, nursing mothers and children in Guyana have access to prevention of mother to child transmission services, care and treatment; and (c) all pregnant women and nursing mothers in Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 use quality safe motherhood services and good nutrition practices.
- 4.26 To achieve these results, the project will support a national ECD policy, including the establishing of standards for services and monitor mechanisms. It will also support the improvement of home based child-care practices, including learning and physical challenges and other special needs, through empowerment of primary care givers and training of certified ECD practitioners. In order to reach universal access to PMTCT services, coordination, supervision and referral capacity will be strengthened at both national and regional level. To this effect, PMTCT will be fully integrated into the national Mother and Child Health (MCH) programme. The knowledge base on PMTCT of health professionals as well as parents will be increased. The project will also ensure that all HIV positive pregnant women and children with advanced HIV infection receive appropriate care and treatment. The project will furthermore support the capacity building on safe motherhood and culturally appropriate nutrition practices in 4 Hinterland Regions through training of community health workers. These community level people will transfer their knowledge and skills to mothers and their partners attending health clinics. This will also serve to strengthen the referral system for women with high risk pregnancies in the same 4 Regions.
- 4.27 The expected key result of the **Quality Basic Education and Gender Equality** project is that 80 per cent of all girls and boys in 7 Regions complete quality basic education in gender-sensitive, inclusive and child friendly environments, reducing regional and gender disparities in learning achievements and drop out rates.
- 4.28 This project will provide technical and financial support to the reform process centred around the National Strategic Plan as well as the goals of the Education for All-Fast Track initiative (EFA-FTI). The project will support the development of certification of child friendly schools and the roll out of the initiative in 7 Regions. To support inclusive education, parents and primary care givers will be trained to detect developmental challenges and other disabilities. The capacity of teachers will be built to both recognise developmental lags and provide special needs education. In 6 Regions, the

project will support PTAs and students to jointly develop and implement strategies for violence free learning environments. To ensure the continuation of education during emergencies, PTAs, communities and education professionals will receive support to develop and implement emergency preparedness and response plans.

- 4.29 The principle partners are the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. In addition, the programme will enhance collaboration with the World Bank and other donors, such as CIDA, involved in both sectors. UNICEF will closely collaborate with PAHO and the Ministry of Health on the safe motherhood component. The programme will encourage the multi sectoral approach and the participation of NGOs such as the National Association of Early Childhood Educators, the National Commission on Disability, the Regional Committees on ECD and other national and community based groups. Joint programming with other UN Agencies will be explored on reducing maternal mortality and addressing PMTCT.

### **Adolescent development and participation**

- 4.30 Guyanese adolescents face a wide range of challenges such as unemployment, violence and lack of opportunities. The spread of HIV/AIDS is also increasingly affecting youth, especially young girls. Adolescents are more and more victims of violent criminal behaviour and they have limited opportunities for participation in civil society and decision making concerning their own development. Because of poverty and migration, the traditional family and community structures are weakened. Service providers and carers have little understanding of the problem affecting adolescents and often do not encourage their active participation and empowerment.
- 4.31 The programme will focus on the age group 12 to 18 years and will contribute to the UNDAF outcome 1 on increasing access to quality services in education, health, water and sanitation, and housing as well as UNDAF outcome 2 on empowering individuals and groups, strengthened institutions and an enabling constitutional and human rights framework. It comprises two projects: 1) **Adolescent Health and HIV/AIDS** and 2) **Adolescent Development and Empowerment**, which directly relate to the UNICEF MTSP Focus Area 3 on HIV/AIDS and Children.
- 4.32 The **Adolescent Health and HIV/AIDS** project will contribute to the implementation of the National Adolescent Development Policy and the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS, with a special focus on health and prevention of transmission of HIV/AIDS. The expected key results are: (a) in 7 Regions, 60 per cent of adolescents will use youth friendly and gender sensitive community health services, and (b) in 6 regions, 70 per cent of adolescent girls and boys will put into practice appropriate gender-sensitive prevention information and skills to reduce vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- 4.33 To achieve these results quality criteria for youth friendly health spaces will be developed and monitored. The project will also strengthen referral systems for health clinics to ensure adolescents are referred to these certified youth friendly health facilities. These interventions will be complemented by building the capacity and awareness of parents and health workers on how to approach sensitive issues with adolescents. In secondary schools and departments, the project will support the establishment of youth health clubs and peer education mechanisms that promote healthy life styles. HIV interventions will focus on 6 of the less accessible Regions, concentrating on reducing vulnerability of adolescents especially at risk, such as children who live or work on the street, are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, are in conflict with the law, are using drugs, and are living with HIV/AIDS. The project strives to promote leadership and action among

adolescents in order to gain greater knowledge and positive attitudes among their peers, including towards those living with HIV/AIDS and a respect for diversity.

- 4.34 The key results of the **Adolescent Development and Empowerment** project are: (a) children and adolescents participate in cultural and community activities to promote non-violent and peaceful society with respect for human rights (c) all adolescent girls and boys in school have access to gender-sensitive life skills education and peace education programmes.
- 4.35 The main strategy to achieve these results is to empower adolescents through increasing their knowledge and stimulate exchange of negative for positive behaviour, both in school and their communities. The project will therefore promote national adolescents awareness campaigns on rights and responsibilities. At the community level, the project will support the creation of youth led and culturally appropriate learning communities in 7 Regions—through youth and sports clubs, and cultural activities—with a focus on peace building and conflict resolution. In school, the Health and Family Life Education programme will be rolled out on a national scale. Teachers will be trained to teach a comprehensive basic life skills education curriculum. The project will also work to ensure pregnant girls and teen mothers complete their secondary education, and in 5 Regions it will promote opportunities for adolescent girls to opt for non-traditional skills training.
- 4.36 Partners in implementing this programme will include the Ministries of Culture, Youth and Sport, Health and Education, the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC), Regional Committees on the Rights of the Child (RCRC), USAID, FHI-GHARP, CDC, local NGOs and youth arms of Faith Based Organizations. Joint programming with other UN Agencies will be explored on HIV/AIDS and adolescents.

### Summary budget table 2006-2010

Programme	Regular Resources (in US\$1,000)	Other Resources (in US\$1,000)	Total (in US\$1,000)
<b>1. Public policy, promotion of child rights and child protection</b>	900	700	1,600
<b>2. Child Survival and Development</b>	900	700	1,600
<b>3. Adolescent Development and Participation</b>	900	600	1,500
<b>4. Cross-sectoral</b>	645	0	645
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,345</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>5,345</b>

**Note:** The above are estimated amounts, and will depend on the actual availability of UNICEF global resources and specific purpose contributions from funding partners.

### Part V: Partnership Strategy

- 5.1. The Government of Guyana and UNICEF in implementing the country programme of cooperation will seek to mobilise and strengthen a broad based partnership in order to leverage resources and results that benefit children. This includes civil society organisations and donors, both multilateral and bilateral such as the United States Agency for International development (USAID), the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and Family Health International (FHI), PEPFAR, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Department for International Development (DfID), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Union and international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as well as with other UN agencies.

- 5.2. Under the overall framework of the UNDAF and in support of the achievement of the MDGs in Guyana, the country programme of cooperation is complimentary to the programmes of UN agencies in Guyana such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Labour Organization (ILO). UNICEF will continue to actively contribute to the United Nations Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS, Maternal Mortality, and Adolescent Health to promote the rights of children and to achieve national priorities, the UNDAF outcomes and the MDGs. The UN in Guyana is committed to developing joint programmes and programming especially in, improving social statistics and vital registration, HIV/AIDS and adolescents as well as developing phase two of the Social Cohesion Project.
- 5.3. Other key national implementing and collaborative partners include the National Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC), the proposed Constitutional Commissions on Child Rights and Women, the Bureau of Statistics, National Association of Early Childhood Educators, and the National Commission on Disability.
- 5.4. Partnerships with local and international media will build awareness and understanding of issues related to children and women's rights. The role of community based organisations and NGOs is essential in the in reaching communities with rights-based information and community-based interventions.
- 5.5. As the country programme assumes a high level of involvement of children and adolescents, emphasis will be put on developing networks and strengthening links with existing youth organisations in the spirit of the General Assembly Special Session on Children. Collaboration will also be intensified academic institutions, e.g. the University of Guyana, as well as Parliament and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
- 5.6. Guyana participates in several global initiatives like the EFA-FTI, the GFATM, PEPFAR and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). UNICEF will continue to support Government efforts and engagement with these bodies to advance children's rights.
- 5.7. In the crucial area of social statistics and improving the capacity of data collection, UNICEF will work closely with UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank, which is the main donor of a multi-year Social Statistics project.
- 5.8. Collaboration with FHI's GHARP project, the GFATM and UNFPA on protection, care and support of OVC will be further intensified and UNICEF will continue to act as a catalyst to improve coordination, in particular through the national Steering Committee on OVC spearheaded by the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security and the Ministry of Health
- 5.9. Development agencies' contribution to the reversal of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is coordinated through the national Health Thematic group, chaired by the Ministry of Health. UNICEF is an active member of this Group. In collaboration with UNESCO and USAID funded initiatives, UNICEF will assist the Government in the roll out of the Health and Family Life Education programme. With UNFPA and FHI-GHARP, government's aim to set up youth friendly health services throughout the country will be supported.

## **Part VI: Programme Management**

- 6.1 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will have overall responsibility for coordination of the UNICEF programme of cooperation in Guyana. The specific functional responsibility for management of

programmes and projects at the national level rests with the Heads of Government Ministries. Each Ministry will have a designated Focal Point responsible for the overall coordination of planning, managing and monitoring of activities as agreed in the Annual Work Plans.

- 6.2 Annual Work Plans, detailing the activities to be carried out, the responsible implementing institutions, and time frames and planned inputs, will be prepared under each of programmes, jointly by the Ministry or Department concerned and UNICEF. These Annual Work Plans, which are based on the expected key results and corresponding outputs as well as on recommendations from periodic reviews, form the basis for all resource transfers to an Implementing Partner and will be reviewed and signed jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF. The Government and UNICEF shall jointly conduct annual (in December) and semi-annual (in July) programme performance and expenditure review meetings for all programmes covered by this Country Programme Action Plan. In the light of such reviews, the need for reallocation of resources between programmes will be determined by the Government and UNICEF in consultation with the appropriate ministries or departments.
- 6.3 Cash transfers from UNICEF may be made a) as a direct cash transfer to the Implementing Partner, b) direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partner, c) reimbursement to the Implementing Partner; or d) UNICEF directly incurs obligations and expenditures on behalf of Government in support of activities agreed with the Implementing Partner.
- 6.4 Direct cash transfers and authorizations to incur expenditure are expected to be requested by the Implementing Partner and released by UNICEF for activities to take place within 3 months after receipt of the funds or fund authorization. Upon completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be reprogrammed or refunded by mutual consent between the Implementing Partner and UNICEF.
- 6.5 Cash transfer modalities, the size and frequency of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by UNICEF may be hired to conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner is invited to participate. Cash transfer modalities, the size and frequency of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be adapted in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.
- 6.6 A strategy will be implemented to maintain the increasing trend in fund raising and to ensure that budgeted resource mobilization targets from Other Resources are met. Priority areas will be identified and proposals will be developed for each, using the expected programme outcomes and outputs as a base. A major priority will be raising of resources from the principal bilateral donors with offices in Guyana and through National Committees of different donor countries. In 2005, Canada included Guyana in its list of priority countries with a focus on Governance and Education. Through its regional programme it also supports HIV/AIDS and health sector reform. DfID's programme is country specific focusing on the areas of water, education and with considerable inputs in law and order mechanism such as police reform and training. USAID, besides the considerable support through PEPFAR in the HIV/AIDS sector, also has a smaller portfolio for Governance. The previous country programme showed the need to diversify funding sources, and new fund raising opportunities with foundations funding projects promoting the rights of the child will therefore be actively explored. Coordinated programme planning with multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank will furthermore be enhanced and joint fund raising with other UN Agencies will also be pursued. Another important strategy will be leveraging of funds and results for children through continued engagement in public policy, such as with the monitoring

of MDGs and PRSP. As Guyana is exploring the development of SWAps, there is an opportunity to advocate for children's priorities. Moreover, engagement with the business community intends to leverage private sector support for children as well as to explore the potential for fund raising.

- 6.7 Additional project staff, if and when required, will be sanctioned by UNICEF as per its policy and in accordance with the relevant donor agreements and consistent with the budget approved by the Executive Board.

## **Part VII: Monitoring, Assurance and Evaluation**

- 7.1 Monitoring, research and evaluation activities for the country programme will be coordinated through the five-year as well as an annual Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP), which are both in line with similar Plans for the UNDAF. In order to ensure quality of monitoring and evaluation activities, the programme intends to dedicate the internationally recommended 7-10 per cent of programme budget to M&E. This will allow adequate funds for documentation and evaluation of programme impact.
- 7.2 The IMEP has two main components; one related to situation monitoring and another concerning performance monitoring. With regards to situation monitoring, it states major research, monitoring and evaluation activities that will contribute to the monitoring of progress towards achieving the national goals included in the NDS, PRSP and MDGs to which the country programme will contribute. Given the lack of quality social data—especially disaggregated by sex, age and geographical area—the establishment of base lines will consequently be a priority during the first year of implementation. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2005-2006 will contribute to these baselines. Additional sectoral surveys and assessments will be conducted in close coordination and collaboration with other organisations undertaking major data collection activities.
- 7.3 The strengthening of data and information systems is one of the priorities of the Government of Guyana. The country programme will contribute to increasing the Government's capacity to collect, analyse, use and disseminate data for programme management and public policy development. In collaboration with UNDP, *DevInfo* will be promoted as a tool for monitoring the national and international goals, as well as for the reporting of the international Committee on the Rights of the Child. The country programme will furthermore expand the existing Child Protection Data Base to become a national data base on children's rights and establish a monitoring system on media and child rights.
- 7.4 The country programme results and resource framework, which includes key indicators, baselines—where available—and specific targets to measure results, will be the main framework to monitor programme performance. The results and resource framework indicates the linkages with the UNDAF results framework.
- 7.5 An annual planning cycle is institutionalized which will include mid-year and year-end reviews. The review processes will be utilized for monitoring programme performance against both Annual Work Plans and country programme expected results.
- 7.6 In order to allow reporting on progress towards planned outputs and outcomes, a results-based funding request and reporting mechanism will be put in place. UNICEF will support continued capacity building in strategic planning and results-based management. Routine monitoring activities such as frequent bilateral progress meetings and field trips, jointly undertaken by Government and UNICEF staff and where relevant other UN staff, during the course of the year will provide information for tracking progress on key indicators.

- 7.7 Implementing Partners will jointly monitor the activities supported by cash transfers. Implementing Partners agree to periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records in relation to funds received under this Country Programme Action Plan. Special audits may be undertaken of the Implementing Partner's financial management system used to administer cash transfers. The Implementing Partners will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of funds provided by the UNICEF.
- 7.8 UNICEF, in collaboration with other UN agencies and in consultation with the the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by UNICEF, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.
- 7.9 The audits will be commissioned by UNICEF and undertaken by private audit services in consultation with the implementing agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Implementing Partner may select such a public accounting firm from a shortlist of accounting firms pre-approved by the UN system. Audits of non-Governmental Implementing Partners will always be commissioned by UNICEF.
- 7.10 The MTR of the country programme will take place in 2008, for which an update of the situation analysis of children and women in Guyana will be conducted. The MTR will also consider the findings and recommendations of the latest CEDAW report and report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child due in 2008.
- 7.11 Programme evaluations are an integral part of the IMEP. A selected number of specific programme component evaluations are proposed. All programme evaluations will be guided by UNICEF evaluation quality assurance standards. A MICS-4 will facilitate the evaluation of the country programme in 2010. UNICEF will also support the evaluation of UNDAF in 2008, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and national partners.

## **Part VIII: Commitments of UNICEF**

- 8.1 The UNICEF Executive Board has approved a total commitment not exceeding the equivalent of US\$3,345,000 (three million and three hundred forty five thousand United States dollars) from UNICEF Regular Resources, subject to availability of funds, to support the activities detailed in this Country Programme Action Plan, for the period beginning 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 and ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.
- 8.2 The UNICEF Executive Board has also authorised UNICEF to seek additional funding to support the programmes specified in this Country Programme Action Plan, referred therein as Other Resources, to an amount equivalent to US\$2,000,000 (two million United States dollars). The availability of these funds will be subject to donor interest in proposed projects. To this end, UNICEF will undertake to advocate their support within the local and international donor community
- 8.3 The above funding commitments and proposals are exclusive of funding received in response to emergency appeals, which may be launched by Government or by the United Nations System in response to a Government request.
- 8.4 UNICEF support to the development and implementation of activities within the Country Programme Action Plan may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies and equipment, procurement services on behalf of the Government, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies,

consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of UNICEF support may be provided to Non Governmental and Civil Society Organisations as agreed within the framework of the individual programmes.

- 8.5 UNICEF shall appoint project staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.
- 8.6 Subject to an annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, UNICEF funds are distributed quarterly of a calendar year and in accordance with the Country Programme Action Plan. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the Annual Work Plans. By mutual consent between the Government and UNICEF, if the rate of implementation in any project is substantially below the annual estimates, funds not earmarked by donors to UNICEF for specific projects may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile projects that are expected to achieve faster rates of execution.
- 8.7 UNICEF will consult with ministries and agencies concerned on timely requisition of cash assistance, supplies and equipment, or services. UNICEF will keep concerned officials informed of the movement of commodities, in order to facilitate efficient and timely clearing, warehousing and distribution.
- 8.8 In consultation with the Government focal cooperation department, UNICEF maintains the right to request a joint review of the use of commodities supplied but not used for the purposes specified in this Country Programme Action Plan and Annual Project Plans of Action, for the purpose of reprogramming those commodities within the framework of the Country Programme Action Plan.

## **Part IX: Commitments of the Government**

- 9.1 When organising periodic programme review and planning meetings, including annual reviews, annual planning meetings and the Mid-Term Review, Government shall encourage and facilitate the participation of donors, United Nations agencies, members of the UNICEF Executive Board, non-Governmental organisation or civil society organisations, as appropriate.
- 9.2 The Government will provide all personnel, premises, supplies, technical assistance and funds, recurring and non-recurring support, necessary for the programme, except as provided by UNICEF and/or other United Nations agency, international organisations or bilateral agencies, or non-Governmental organisations.
- 9.3 The Government will support UNICEF's efforts to raise funds required to meet the financial needs of the Programme of Cooperation and will cooperate with UNICEF by: encouraging potential donor Government to make available to UNICEF the funds needed to implement the unfunded components of the programme; endorsing UNICEF's effort to raise funds for the programme from the private sector both internationally and in Guyana; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Guyana to support this programme which will be tax exempt.
- 9.4 A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the Annual Work Plan, will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that UNICEF will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received.
- 9.5 The Implementing Partner shall provide the account details and identify the designated officials authorized to request and receive resources. Cash resources received shall be used in accordance with

- established national regulations and international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the Annual Work Plans, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to UNICEF within six months after receipt of the funds.
- 9.6 To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner planned to receive cash transfers from UNICEF will provide designated auditors, and other individuals authorized by the agencies and partner, timely access to: 1) all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by UNICEF; 2) all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed
  - 9.7 The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and copied to UNICEF. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore: 1) receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors; 2) provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UNICEF that provided cash; 3) undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations; and 4) report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN agencies.
  - 9.8 In accordance with the BCA, the Government will be responsible for the clearance, receipt, warehousing, distribution and accounting of supplies and equipment made available by UNICEF. No taxes, fees, tolls or duties shall be levied on supplies, equipment, or services furnished by UNICEF under this Country Programme Action Plan. UNICEF shall also be exempt from Value Added Tax (VAT) in respect of local procurement of supplies or services procured in support of UNICEF assisted programmes.
  - 9.9 Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations System (as stated in the ICSC circulars).
  - 9.10 The Government will authorise the publication through various national and international media of the results of the Programme of Cooperation, and experiences derived from there.
  - 9.11 As per the provision of the BCA, the Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against UNICEF and its officials, advisors and agents. UNICEF and its officials, advisors and agents will not be held responsible for any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under this agreement, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and UNICEF that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of such advisors, agents or employees.
  - 9.12 Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify UNICEF from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of project vehicles under the control of or use by the Government.

IN WITNESS THEREOF THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY AUTHORIZED, HAVE  
SIGNED THIS COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF ACTION

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA:  
The Hon. Dr. Samuel Rudolph Insanally  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Insanally", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: 22 February, 2006

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND:  
Ms. Maria Manuel do Valle Ribeiro  
Representative for Guyana, Suriname  
and Trinidad & Tobago



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Manuel do Valle Ribeiro", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: 22 February, 2006