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Draft country programme document**

Eastern Caribbean multi-country programme, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

Summary

The draft country programme document (CPD) for the Eastern Caribbean multi-country programme, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of $12,800,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $20,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2008 to 2011.

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* E/ICEF/2007/8.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/19 (E/ICEF/2006/5/Rev.1), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website no later than six weeks after discussion of the CPD at the Board session. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2007.

Note: Submission of this document was delayed for technical reasons.

The situation of children and women

1.   This subregional CPD covers 12 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands, and British Virgin Islands managed by the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean; and Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago covered by the UNICEF Guyana Office. The 12 countries are included in three separate United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs): (a) a draft 2006-2011 one for Eastern Caribbean countries that are not yet part of a harmonized United Nations programming cycle; (b) one for Suriname; and (c) one for Trinidad and Tobago. By 2012, all 12 countries in the subregion will be part of a harmonized UNDAF programme cycle. Therefore, this programme will have a four-year programme cycle. To ensure the coherence of the programme with these frameworks and to facilitate the involvement of UNICEF in the current initiatives for a more robust United Nations presence, UNICEF will sign, on the basis of the proposed CPD, three different Country Programme Action Plans: for the Eastern Caribbean countries, for Suriname and for Trinidad and Tobago.

2.   While the political situation of the 12 middle-income countries covered is stable and democratic, all countries face increasing levels of social and economic disparities affecting the development of rights of children and women. The total population is almost 2,700,000, of which 30 per cent are children. Up-to-date data on poverty trends are not widely available. However, there is some indication that extreme poverty has decreased while poverty has increased, as in the case of Saint Lucia, where extreme poverty decreased from 7.1 per cent in 1995 to 1.6 per cent in 2005. In Trinidad and Tobago, the poorest 20 per cent have only 5.5 per cent of the gross domestic product. Poverty levels per capita range from 14 per cent in Barbados to 38 per cent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, thus underscoring significant economic disparities and the potential long-term impact on the social stability of these countries.

3.   The Composite Commonwealth Vulnerability Index[1] lists these Small Island Developing States among the most vulnerable in the world as a direct result of the prevalence of natural disasters, global warming, and the susceptibility of the economy to external factors such as unfavourable trade agreements, fluctuating oil prices and the unpredictability of income from tourism. These volatile economic conditions contribute to high migration rates, which in turn affect social services, since many skilled teachers and nurses leave, as well as the cohesion of families and communities. For example, in Dominica, 55 per cent of all households have a close relative living overseas.

4.   According to their Millennium Development Goals progress reports, Barbados, Eastern Caribbean and Suriname are most likely to achieve Goals 1, 2, 4 and 5. Nevertheless, the reports indicate that additional resources and efforts are needed to achieve 3, 6, 7 and 8. Trinidad and Tobago is yet to produce its first Millennium Development Goals progress report. Unless urgent attention is given to prevention of HIV/AIDS, child protection, quality and relevant education, social inclusion and violence, and chronic malnutrition in Suriname, the fulfilment of children's rights will remain in jeopardy.

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[1] Small States: A Composite Vulnerability Index, Commonwealth Secretariat/World Bank Task Force on Small States, 1999.

5.   Addressing the high vulnerability of the subregion is hampered by important data gaps on key social policy indicators, as a consequence of a continuing lack of institutional capacity in collecting, analysing and applying disaggregated quality data. This limits the capacity to undertake evidence-based policy planning. There is a need to bring the social and child-rights dimension more explicitly, consistently and effectively into the formulation of national and regional poverty reduction and development strategies, including those dealing with structural adjustment, macroeconomic policy design or trade agreements, and for a stronger involvement of civil society in social policy design.

6.   Various countries' governments have made substantial efforts in investing in basic social services, as agreed by the 20/20 initiative. Still, there is evidence that in various countries, expenditure allocated to basic services has been decreased. The high level of debt burden in many countries, ranging from 43 percent in Antigua and Barbuda to 99 percent in Grenada, hampers sustainable public funding for social sectors. With relation to rising costs of living, certain physical structures have deteriorated, and there is evidence of a persistent brain drain as the skilled human capital continues to migrate. Analysis of gender- and child-related investment, currently a challenge, may lead to a clearer understanding and mainstreaming of the rights of children and women in government budgeting.

7.   There is weak institutional capacity for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social policy programmes. Evaluation is often reduced to financial monitoring, and qualitative data are lacking for a better understanding of the different dimensions of social inequities. There is little documenting and sharing of the different social intervention models, despite the growing South-South cooperation in the framework of subregional integration.

8.   While the Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are increasingly reflected in certain National Plans of Action, children's and women's rights issues are still not adequately integrated in national legislation and policies. In almost all countries, the Concluding Remarks of the Committees stressed the inadequacy of legislative reform on such issues as non-discrimination based on age, the obligation for the best interests of the child to be a primary consideration in judiciary and administrative processes, the continuing access problems of children and women to juridical and legal services and the need for enhancing national policies from a child perspective.

9.   Social policy innovations are critically needed in the fields of early childhood development (ECD), inclusive and relevant education, child protection, HIV/AIDS, youth and life skills, and emergency preparedness.

10.   There is an increase in the number of reported cases of physical abuse of children in their homes and communities, as well as in institutions caring for children, and in the number of crimes committed by children against other children. In a recent study on violence in the Caribbean, 10 per cent of the boys and 5 per cent of the girls reported that they had at some time been knocked unconscious in a fight, with similar numbers reporting that they had been stabbed or shot at.

11.   In a survey of Caribbean schoolchildren, about 11 per cent of girls and 9 per cent of all children reported that they had been sexually abused, including through incest. Among adolescents who are sexually active, almost 80 per cent of boys and

50 per cent of girls reported that sexual initiation occurred before the age of 13. Up to 40 per cent of the girls reported that their first sexual initiation was forced. Early initiation and low levels of condom use contribute to high percentages of teen pregnancies and exposure to sexually transmitted infection and HIV, accounting for from 10 per cent to 20 per cent of live births in Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands and Suriname.

12. Juvenile justice systems are still not fully harmonized with international human rights instruments. In most countries, the age of criminal responsibility is less than 18 years of age and ranges from around 14 in most countries to as low as 7 in Trinidad and Tobago. As a result, children who come into conflict with the law are being incarcerated, as programmes for alternative means of sentencing are seldom in place. Since there are usually no separate detention facilities for children, they are often placed in the same facility as adults.

13. In almost all countries, children in residential care facilities are not protected by functional legislation or standards and monitoring mechanisms. Other protection issues include disability, child labour and trafficking. Currently only 5 per cent of students with special needs are accommodated at special schools, and approximately 15-20 per cent of children in regular primary schools appear to need special education. Trafficking of children within and beyond the Caribbean is another emerging child protection issue, at times hidden under migration.

14. HIV/AIDS has emerged as a major development problem for the region, second only to sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS is now the leading cause of death in the 15-44 age group. Estimates for adult prevalence rates range from 0.1 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively, in Saint Lucia and Grenada, to 1.5 per cent in Barbados and 1.9 per cent in Suriname, to 2.6 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago. There is a gender dimension involved, with the annual reported incidence of HIV three to six times higher in girls and women aged 15-24 than among males in the same age group. Children face stigma in schools and society if they or their family members are infected with HIV/AIDS. Being young and vulnerable, such children are poorly equipped to deal with this situation. Studies indicate that while most young people are knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS, this knowledge has not yet been translated into behavioural change, and therefore in many countries infection rates continue to increase as young people engage in risky behaviour.

15. In the 12 countries, average infant and child mortality fell from 25 to 22 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 17 and 14 per 1,000 live births in 2004. Under-five mortality rates vary across the region, from 39 per 1,000 live births in Suriname, to 25 in Grenada, 17 in Trinidad and Tobago and 12 in Barbados. The proportion of infants with low birth weight remains high, ranging between 8 to 10 per cent in the Eastern Caribbean, 13 per cent in Suriname and 23 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago. The incidence of exclusive breastfeeding at six months is very low — 2 per cent and 9 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname, respectively. Care of young children falls heavily on female-headed households, due to the frequent absence of fathers. This situation, combined with the lack of positive male role models, adversely affects the full development and socialization of children, especially boys. The lack of ongoing family support, combined with shortcomings in parenting skills, often leads to authoritarian child-rearing practices and use of corporal and other forms of abusive punishment.

16.   Access to day-care services for children under two varies from 5 per cent to 53 per cent, and pre-school enrolment rates range from 55 per cent to 95 per cent. Although most countries are moving towards universal primary education, there still remain gaps to guarantee that all countries achieve universal access and completion. Currently, regional primary net enrolment rates average around 92 per cent, while completion rates average 85 per cent. As in most of the region, major country concerns are directed towards the low quality and relevance of primary and secondary education, impacting both girls and boys, with more boys dropping out at higher levels. The lack of flexible, child/adolescent-focused learning schemes remains an issue. Teen mothers and disabled children continue to face stigma and discrimination in access to and participation in formal education services, although there is no legal barrier. In almost all countries, the school environment remains authoritarian, with corporal punishment legal (with the exception of Suriname) and prevalent.

17.   In Suriname, significant disparities remain between urban/rural and interior areas. These disparities are mainly related to the socially and economically deprived living conditions in the interior, where 95 per cent of the population is Maroon or indigenous. Data in 2006 show that more than 50 per cent of boys and girls in the interior district of Sipaliwini repeat the first grade of primary school, compared with 27 per cent countrywide. Exam results for the school year 2004/2005 showed that only 17 per cent of the boys and 34 per cent of the girls in the interior Brokopondo district passed the secondary school entrance exam compared with 56 per cent and 58 per cent of boys and girls nationwide, revealing a serious gender gap.

18.   Significant disparities exist between the prevalence of malnutrition in urban, rural and interior areas, with 18 per cent of the under-five children in the interior moderately and severely stunted, compared with 10 per cent nationwide in 2000. The interior's inaccessibility compounds the inequalities because it makes supply of goods and services difficult. The same disparities are seen in the immunization status of the children, with dropout rates high in the interior and in certain socially deprived areas of Paramaribo. Morbidity data (2002) from clinic visits in the interior show that children (0-4 years) are the most recurring visitors (61 per cent) of the health clinics and that they suffer most from respiratory infections (60 per cent), diarrhoea (23 per cent) and malaria (15 per cent). Despite recent declines, maternal mortality remains high in Suriname, at 150 per 100,000 live births.

19.   The main underlying barriers to the full realization of children's rights in these countries include economic and emergency-related vulnerabilities, insufficient prioritization of children's and women's issues at the institutional level and increasing disparities. In addition, limited human resources and a limited resource base in policy, planning, data collection and analysis, combined with the weakening of traditional community and family support systems, further constrain progress for children.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2003-2007

Key results achieved

20. Some of the key results achieved in the 2003-2007 multi-country programme cycle include the development of four draft model family law bills for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) region in collaboration with the OECS Supreme Court, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) the Commonwealth Secretariat and the NGO, NCH Action for Children. The first-ever adoption of the model bills will facilitate the alignment of national laws with international standards.

21. Through the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the country programme has been able to contribute to the development of policies in ECD, which are now being adapted at the national level and translated into improved standards. By means of continuous UNICEF-driven advocacy and technical support for life skills and Health and Family Life Education (HFLE), three countries have approved National Policies incorporating these elements, and three other countries have draft policies awaiting formal adoption.

22. The knowledge base on children has been enhanced through vulnerability studies in three OECS countries, a report on the *World Fit for the Caribbean Child*, and studies on the scope and impact of violence among children and young people in Barbados and Dominica. The vulnerability study highlighted food insecurity among children and has prompted new policy formulations and plans of action to reduce vulnerability among children. UNICEF has established close collaboration with CARICOM on enhancing the generation and use of data for regional and national policy-making, using DevInfo as a platform.

23. In **early childhood development**, vulnerable children have been reached through the piloting of the Roving Caregivers Programme in Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in collaboration with the Caribbean Support Initiative. In education, other model initiatives that have been supported are 'second-chance' education programmes for teen mothers in Grenada and in Saint Kitts and Nevis. These are now documented and being used for advocacy with policy makers in the other countries of the region.

24. In **HIV/AIDS and life skills**, the HFLE programme has been lauded in the region and adopted and promoted at the CARICOM level through the development of a joint training manual on HFLE and other activities. In the Eastern Caribbean and Suriname, the programme is being implemented in seven countries among children 9-14 years old. HFLE's most important features are the expansion and enhancement of life-skills education in the formal system through the development of curriculum, capacity-building of teachers, teacher support material, and monitoring and evaluation of activities.

25. The UNICEF response to Hurricane Ivan in Grenada in 2004, which contributed to education and psychosocial interventions reaching over 35,000 children, was widely recognized. UNICEF also responded promptly to the flooding in the interior of Suriname in 2006.

26.   As part of the Amazon Programme, in Suriname, vaccination coverage in the interior with measles/mumps/rubella 2, yellow fever, HepB 3, and measles/mumps/rubella 1 vaccines increased by 13 per cent, 9 per cent, 6 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, as a result of the strengthening of the cold chain and several mop-up vaccination campaigns. The programme also improved the birth registration system and strengthened the parenting skills of vulnerable groups of women in the interior.

Lessons learned

27.   While the current multi-country programme succeeded in supporting the formulation of policies in various areas, actual implementation of those policies has varied across the sectors. Policies formulated within CARICOM in the area of ECD have been successful at influencing national priorities, budget allocations and standard-setting at national levels. As a result, most of the countries are now striving to achieve universal access to early childhood education. Key factors contributing to this achievement were evidence-based policy formulation showing the clear benefits of investment in the early years of childhood; effective partnerships at regional, national and local levels; South-South cooperation; and the existence of proven and locally acceptable models ready to be brought to scale. Some of the constraints for other policies were the lack of routinely collected data; insufficient use and generation of regional knowledge; insufficient communication of policies to the public; and the absence of participatory monitoring systems that would ensure broad-based accountability for achievement of agreed-upon results.

28.   While UNICEF has been involved in the formulation of sectoral policies, its input has been limited with respect to the analysis of the impact on children of high debt ratios, national development plans, including Poverty Reduction Strategies, and regional trade agreements. The active engagement of UNICEF with these processes can result in more child- and gender-focused data collection and analysis. For example, a UNICEF-supported vulnerability study in three Eastern Caribbean countries, Barbados, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, highlighted formerly unknown areas of child vulnerability, such as food insecurity among children, ranging from 13 per cent in Barbados to 46 per cent in Grenada.

29.   Despite the complexity and sensitivity of the issues around HFLE, the programme has been widely accepted, and used in 8 out of the 12 countries. This is largely because of the strong regional and national commitment and ownership, facilitated by a participatory planning and implementation involving the major stakeholders, duty bearers and rights holders. This lesson will be applied to HFLE's roll-out across all countries in the coming years.

30.   An important lesson learned pertaining to the Amazon Programme in Suriname is that poor communities deal with myriad, interrelated challenges. Hence, strategies to develop communities must be comprehensive, focusing on health, education and other issues in an integrated manner. Community actors need to be involved and supported to develop and strengthen practices and strategies that benefit children in a culturally sensitive manner. Continuous technical guidance and coaching are necessary to accompany those change processes at the community level.

31.   In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, a weak UNICEF presence has limited the organization's capacity to influence the national development agenda and

progression towards child rights. Therefore, a more robust presence in the next programme cycle will be required to achieve the planned results in that country.

The country programme, 2008-2011

Summary budget table

Programme	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
	Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Social policy, monitoring and evaluation for child rights	**9 200**	**12 600**	**21 000**
- Eastern Caribbean	6 700	5 600	12 300
- Suriname	900	2 000	2 900
- Trinidad and Tobago	1 600	5 000	6 600
Integrated area-based programme	**500**	**3 000**	**3 500**
- Suriname	500	3 000	3 500
Cross-sectoral costs	**3 100**	**3 800**	**6 900**
- Eastern Caribbean	1 300	1 400	2 700
- Suriname	1 000	1 400	2 400
- Trinidad and Tobago	800	1 000	1 800
Total	**12 800**	**20 000**	**32 800**
- Eastern Caribbean	8 000	7 000	15 000
- Suriname	2 400	7 000	9 400
- Trinidad and Tobago	2 400	6 000	8 400

Preparation process

32.   Preparation began with the midterm review (MTR) held in 2006. The MTR process was comprehensive, involving sectoral papers and pre-MTR consultations, with partners representing regional and subregional organizations, governments, United Nations sister agencies, civil society and other groups. The MTR organized in Dominica in June 2006 included senior Government officials and Heads of United Nations agencies, among other participants. Shortly after the MTR, the conceptualization and consultation for the new country programme began, including preparation of a situation analysis on children and women, numerous sectoral consultations, and consultations with donors. Since December 2006, comprehensive multi-stakeholder consultations/strategic meetings in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname approved the key programme areas of cooperation of the new CPD. In February 2007, a UNICEF-CARICOM-OECS-Ministers mission to UNICEF headquarters held a meeting with Ambassadors of the subregion during which this programme was presented.

Goals, key results and strategies

33. The overall goal of the multi-country programme is to contribute to the realization of children's rights by fostering an enabling and protective environment, reducing children's vulnerability to social risks and enhancing their participation. 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) the reduction of HIV among children; (d) ECD; and (e) improved access to quality health and education services for children in socially excluded areas.

34. The programme will contribute to the following key results by 2011: (a) key child-friendly and gender-sensitive legislation, policies and budgets are based on evidence and formulated in accordance with international human rights instruments and are monitored through child-sensitive strategic data and information systems; (b) an enhanced protective environment for children in families, communities, schools and institutions is reducing children's exposure to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation; (c) at least 60 per cent of vulnerable children in at least six countries have access to ECD services; (d) at least 90 per cent of school-going children and at least 50 per cent of out-of-school children demonstrate behaviours which reduce risk and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence; (e) at least 60 per cent of all children and women in the interior of Suriname have access to quality health care; and (f) at least 80 per cent of all children aged 4-14 in the interior of Suriname have access to quality education.

35. Guided by the principle of human rights programming and gender equality in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the following strategies will be used: (a) rights- and evidence-based approaches to advocacy and leveraging of funds with decision makers and donors for improved social programmes and policies for children; (b) public education and behaviour change communication; (c) capacity-building of children, families, communities, institutions and other duty bearers; (d) participation of girls, boys and women through civil society organizations and schools; (e) geographic integration of various sectoral interventions in the case of Suriname; (f) South-South cooperation to enhance cross-fertilization of best practices and to share knowledge within and around the Caribbean region, in particular Central and South America; and (g) partnerships and leveraging of results with regional and subregional organizations.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

36. The proposed multi-country programme is fully aligned with national and regional policy frameworks, such as those of CARICOM and OECS, Vision 2020 and the National Plan of Action for Children in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the multi-annual development plan for the period of 2006 to 2011 in Suriname. As detailed in the results matrix, the multi-country programme contributes to the achievement of several key strategic priorities formulated in the UNDAFs for the Eastern Caribbean, for Suriname and for Trinidad and Tobago. While the United Nations programming cycles for Suriname and for Trinidad and Tobago are harmonized, the ones for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will be so only by 2012.

Relationship to international priorities

37. The multi-country programme will contribute to the priorities identified in the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2006-2009, the Millennium Development Goals and Millennium Agenda, as well as the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. Within the MTSP, special emphasis will be on focus areas related to HIV/AIDS, child protection and policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights. Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have also been considered. Given that the countries covered are middle-income, UNICEF will focus on strategies for sustainable partnerships for children's rights through the strengthening of government and civil society capacity on monitoring and evaluation and evidence-based advocacy for child-focused social policies for children and women.

Programme components

38. **Social policy, monitoring and evaluation for children's rights** will contribute to a reduction in inequalities and social exclusion by promoting better access to affordable and quality social services and a protective environment for the fulfilment of children's rights. This will be achieved by means of advocating and supporting the development of regional and national evidence-based advocacy for rights-oriented social policies, contributing to UNICEF knowledge leadership in middle-income countries.

39. **Social policy advocacy and partnerships for children.** In order to leverage results through regional and national partnerships, the timely generation, analysis and dissemination of high-quality, child-focused disaggregated data will be undertaken. This will strengthen knowledge-leadership through enhanced understanding of social disparities and improve the articulation of the claims of rights holders. These efforts will enable child-friendly, strategic, national and subregional evidence-based policy advocacy, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They will also contribute to the progressive building of political will, commitment and leadership for the realization of children's rights. Different initiatives such as 'child' and 'gender' budgeting will also be undertaken for increased and equitably balanced social budget allocations. Through partnerships with regional organizations, international financial institutions, governments, law-makers, other United Nations agencies, the media, universities, civil society and the private sector, child-focused social policy dialogue will be supported. Support will be given to the creation, consolidation and enforcement of a protective and enabling legal environment for all children, adolescents and women. In collaboration with partners, UNICEF will contribute to the empowerment of children and adolescents by encouraging their participation in policy-making, increasing their awareness of their needs and rights, and promoting youth networks and sports for development initiatives. In addition, the component will encourage the qualitative and effective implementation of equitable social planning by documenting, modelling, disseminating and encouraging good practices and lessons learned dealing with the delivery of social interventions. As the middle-income countries are highly vulnerable to natural disasters, the support of effective emergency preparedness capacity is a key cross-cutting determinant of proactive social policy and is in line with UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies.

40.   **Child protection.** Through this element, the harmonization of standards and approaches across the Caribbean will be promoted. Efforts will foster an environment that protects children from violence, abuse, including sexual abuse and incest, and exploitation; and improve accountability at the state, community, school and family levels; and will include children of migrant parents. Efforts will also promote diversion programmes and family/community-based rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law as well as the provision of home/family-based care for children without familial care. In the Eastern Caribbean region, children with disabilities will be mainstreamed in all activities. Existing legal provisions and enforcement mechanisms will be strengthened. As a part of the evidence base, national baselines of statistics on violence against children, including gender-based violence, will be developed. Social protection interventions through improved coordination, monitoring, referral of children in need, and improved access to quality care will be strengthened. Through public awareness and other specially targeted campaigns, attitudes in favour of peaceful conflict resolution and positive disciplining of children will be promoted. This element will advocate for enhanced laws and policies in accordance with international standards and continue to advocate for zero tolerance to physical and sexual violence and abuse against children in institutional care and educational facilities. This will include ending corporal punishment in primary and secondary schools and promoting models for alternatives to corporal punishment. Key partners will include regional organizations, governments, law makers, service providers, the media, universities, civil society, child-focused organizations, and community- and faith-based organizations.

41.   **HIV prevention and life skills.** Using the life-cycle approach, the HIV prevention and life skills element aims to strengthen the capacities of governments, teachers, parents and youth to work together to empower children and young people to make informed positive choices about their health and well-being and to develop personal and peer-support capacity for self- and mutual protection. As with the child protection element, data on risk and vulnerability of young people will be collected to inform curriculum focus, complementary approaches and policy development. Greater emphasis will be placed on fostering environments to facilitate behaviour change in the areas of adolescent and youth participation and the adoption of positive lifestyles by youth. Using the evidence base, UNICEF and its partners will advocate for a commitment to social and educational policies that are holistic, preventative and focused on enhancing capacity of the young to make positive choices about their health and well-being. Key partners will include regional organizations, such as CARICOM, the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS, OECS, other United Nations agencies, governments and national AIDS programmes, the media, artist and sports figures, international funding institutions, and donors.

42.   **Early childhood development.** In line with regional and national commitments, UNICEF will continue to work in ECD, focusing particularly on the first three years as well as school readiness. This will include enhancing policy frameworks, as well as standards, across the region. Within this element, special efforts will be undertaken to strengthen parenting skills, especially those of vulnerable families, female-headed households, caregivers of orphans and vulnerable children, and teenage mothers. South-South collaboration will allow the exchange and dissemination of the rich experiences of this region in ECD. Key

partners will include CARICOM, the University of the West Indies and other universities and research institutes, governments and ministries of education and health, the Bernard van Leer Foundation and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

43.   The **integrated area-based programme component** responds to the challenges specific to the interior of Suriname, and aims to address the continued disparities in quality and access to health and education services between urban/rural districts and the coast and the interior. **Health**: the capacities of staff in health clinics in the interior to deliver curative and preventative health care services will be strengthened in an integrated, community-based and youth-friendly manner. In addition, the capacities of mothers and caregivers will be enhanced to utilize appropriate care and feeding care practices for child survival, growth and development. **Education**: UNICEF will aim to improve access to pre-primary and primary schools, enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of under-qualified teachers in the interior and promote the active involvement of families and communities in the management of schools. Given the high disparity characterizing the situation of education in the interior, an accelerated and high-impact programme is required to rapidly close the gap accompanied at the same time by advocacy at the national level for sustained and continued investment in the education sector in the interior. The accelerated education element will comprise the light rehabilitation of classrooms and teacher housing, the provision of technical assistance for upgrading the skills and capabilities of teachers, and the creation of a child-friendly school environment. Given the high number of out-of-school adolescents in the interior, a 'second chance' education element will be implemented, allowing its graduates to either reintegrate into formal schooling or to acquire at least proficiency in numeracy, literacy and life skills. Key partners will include the Government, Ministries of Health and Education, international and national NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), United Nations agencies, the Catholic and Moravian Churches, universities and donors.

Major partnerships

44.   At the national level, UNICEF will work with the respective Governments, the Ministries of Justice, Finance, Planning, Youth, Social Development, Women and Children, Education and Health, Sports and Culture, the Offices of the Attorney-General as well as with the National Committees of the Rights of the Child, media, political parties, universities, trade unions, NGOs, faith-based organizations and CSOs. The programme will encourage inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral consultations for children, adolescents and women.

45.   In addition, UNICEF will partner with other United Nations agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, UNECLAC, UNIFEM, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Food Programme, and actively participate in UNDAF processes and the United Nations country teams. It will seek collaboration with development actors such as the NCH Action for Children and CIDA on violence prevention and juvenile justice.

46. On the regional and subregional level, major partnerships will be developed with CARICOM, OECS, the Pan American Health Organization, UNECLAC, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, the Caribbean Development Bank and other development organizations.

47. UNICEF will continue fund-raising with donors, the private sector and National Committees, as well as sporting organizations and the Caribbean Diaspora.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

48. Monitoring and evaluation will be integral to the country programme, with its focus on evidence-based and rights-oriented social policy advocacy. The different projected activities and progress indicators will be detailed in the results matrix of the country programme and the integrated monitoring and evaluation plans of the three UNDAFs.

49. The programme will monitor and evaluate both outcomes and processes and will be guided by human rights principles. Results and indicators have been developed in order to assess changes over time in the ability of children and women to enjoy their rights and to secure them through regional, national and local policy and governance-building processes. UNICEF will contribute to the knowledge base for children and utilize data and studies, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities. This will serve to highlight children's vulnerabilities at the regional and national level, contribute to evidence-based advocacy for child-focused policies and inform programme development, behavioural change communication and social mobilization.

50. In Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, the results of the multiple indicator cluster survey will contribute to baseline social data and will allow the measurement of disparities in terms of gender, age, geographic area and ethnicity. Routine monitoring activities, such as field trips and half-year reviews with Government, will complement and update these baselines.

51. DevInfo has been accepted by CARICOM and some of its Member States as the main social statistics management platform, and is expected to be rolled out to all CARICOM Member States.

52. The building of capacities of rights holders and duty bearers in monitoring and evaluation will permit their active participation in these activities. Innovative qualitative and participatory monitoring techniques, in keeping with the UNICEF commitment to human rights and participation, will be explored. These will include longitudinal studies, learning champions, and advisory groups.

53. Partners in monitoring and evaluation activities include youth-based organizations, CARICOM, OECS, universities, specifically the University of the West Indies, research institutions, other United Nations agencies, governments, international financial institutions, bilateral donors and CSOs.

54. The results matrix will be the main tool used during annual reviews and the midterm review scheduled for 2009. In addition to results from studies and evaluations detailed in the UNDAF and country programme matrices, these reviews will consider local data reporting on human rights attainment and the recommendations of the Committees on the Rights of the Child and on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

55. The country programme activities will be coordinated by the appointed Ministries of Government in the Eastern Caribbean region; the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation in Suriname; and the Ministry of Planning and Development in Trinidad and Tobago. Coordination and collaboration with the OECS and CARICOM secretariats will continue.

Summary results matrix
Eastern Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname - UNICEF country programme 2008-2011

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
Programme Component 1: Social policy, monitoring and evaluation for children's rights					
Element 1.1: Social policy, advocacy and partnerships for children **Key child-friendly and gender-sensitive legislation, policies and budgets are based on evidence and formulated in accordance with international human rights instruments and are monitored through child-sensitive strategic data and information systems**					
Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights	**Eastern Caribbean:** Children, youth and women's issues are progressively integrated into key policy and public finance budgeting initiatives such as the PRSPs, National Plans of Actions and Poverty Assessments - in at least 4 countries from the Eastern Caribbean Countries and at the subregional level. **Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname:** Public budget allocations and expenditures for social and economic policies and services at national and decentralized levels adequately integrate and address the rights of children and women	Child-friendly policy initiatives and programmes Number of countries participating in child and gender budgeting analyses More targeted budget allocations for vulnerable children and women	Official publications Child and gender budgeting reports Disaster preparedness documents Sectoral development plans	UN agencies, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), national and other regional development banks, donor community. National Governments and relevant line Ministries Political parties, trade unions, civil society organizations (CSOs), media, universities and other research institutions, teachers union NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations, families, schools and communities	**(Eastern Caribbean) UNDAF** Outcome 1, 2, 3 and 4 **(Trinidad and Tobago) UNDAF** Outcome 1 **(Suriname) UNDAF** Outcome 1 **WFFC:** "Promote healthy lives", "Provide quality education", "Protect against abuse, exploitation and violence", "Combat HIV/AIDS" **MDGs:** 2, 3, 6 and 8
	Eastern Caribbean: New sub-regional and national policy and legislative initiatives dealing with ECD, child protection (including initiative against sexual abuse, justice for children), HIV prevention and life skills are enforced.	Number of new child-focused policies being ▪ developed ▪ finalized ▪ adopted Number of legal instruments approved with corresponding	Official publications of new legislative instruments Institutional reports Sectoral development plans Gender assessments		

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
	Trinidad and Tobago: National policy and legislative initiatives referred in National Plan of Action for Children in line with international human rights instruments are enforced. **Suriname:** Unfinished standards and laws on children are finalized in line with international human rights instruments and with the Convention on the Rights of the Child Observations from February 2007.	Ministry directives and programmes			
	Eastern Caribbean: Disaggregated children's and women's data available and integrated into monitoring and evaluation systems at the subregional level and in at least 4 countries from the Eastern Caribbean countries. **Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname**: Harmonized national child rights monitoring systems provide quality social data and monitor evidence-based public policies	Number of national and subregional child-focused monitoring and evaluation systems operational Number of countries adopting DevInfo as a national platform for data management Number of qualitative and participatory monitoring and evaluation activities.	Monitoring and evaluation reports Evidence-based advocacy initiatives and campaigns reports Media reporting initiatives Quality, relevance and volume of database		

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
	Eastern Caribbean: Development, implementation, evaluation and promotion of child-centred and community-based models in child protection, youth development and HIV/AIDS.	New community-based models being incorporated into national policy Number of case studies, evaluations and training tools describing social policy approaches and good practices	Case studies and studies Training modules Reports and evaluation of training activities and their follow-up		

Element 1.2: child protection
Strategic result 2: Enhanced protective environment for children in families, communities, schools and institutions reducing children's exposure to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights **Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse**	**Eastern Caribbean:** At least 80% of the children in conflict with the law are utilizing improved mediation, legal aid and reintegration/diversion services in at least 4 countries from the Eastern Caribbean countries. **Trinidad and Tobago:** At least 80% of the children in conflict with the law are utilizing improved mediation, legal aid and reintegration/diversion services. **Suriname:** At least 80% of the children in conflict with the law are utilizing improved mediation, legal aid and reintegration/diversion services.	% of children in conflict with law benefiting from community-based rehabilitation programmes Existence of a policy framework on the reform of juvenile justice based on the diversion models.	Monthly reports from the Police and Courts in the four countries. Progress reports on the diversion programmes. OECS Policy Framework Document on Diversion Programming for children at risk of and those in conflict with the law.	Ministries of Social Development, Offices of the Attorney General Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, OECS, Association of Principals of Juvenile Detention Centers in the Eastern Caribbean NGOs, CBOs and CSOs and residential care institutions Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Police, Social Affairs National Committees on the Rights of the Child, Ministry Social Affairs/Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Police	**(Eastern Caribbean) UNDAF** Outcome 4 **(Trinidad and Tobago) UNDAF** Outcome 1 **(Suriname) UNDAF** Outcome 2 and 3 **WFFC:** "Promote healthy lives", "Protect against abuse, exploitation and violence", "Combat HIV/AIDS" **MDGs:** 6, 8

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
				(Office of Attorney General),	
	Eastern Caribbean: All reported cases of sexually abused and exploited girls and boys utilize quality referral services in at least 4 countries from the Eastern Caribbean countries. **Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname:** All reported cases of sexually abused and exploited girls and boys utilize quality referral services	Number of reported victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation receiving specialized care and support (by type)	Data from Ministry of Social Affairs/Social Development, reports, research	Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Police, Social Affairs National Committees on the Rights of the Child	
	Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname: At least 80% of girls and boys in residential/ institutional care benefit from best care practices, monitoring systems and alternative care arrangements in accordance with international standards.	Existence of national protocols/policies for children in residential care in line with international standards No. of children benefiting from alternative care arrangements	Records from residential care institutions, Publications of child-friendly protocols and policies on residential care and alternative care arrangements Data from Ministry of Social Affairs/Social Development, Family court decisions/records	Ministry of Social Affairs/Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Police (Office of Attorney General), CSOs Residential care institutions	
	Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname: At least 50% of primary schoolchildren are equipped to claim their human rights	% of children with understanding of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and human rights principles	Studies Reports from Ministries Social Development / Affairs Reports from National Plan of Action Bureau for the Rights of the Child NGO reports	Ministry of Social Development /Affairs Ministry of Education	

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights **Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse**	**Eastern Caribbean:** At least 80% of schools are using positive disciplinary practices and conflict resolution approaches at least 4 countries **Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname**: At least 80% of schools are using positive disciplinary practices and conflict resolution approaches	Existence of an OECS Policy framework on school discipline that discourages the use of corporal punishment in schools Number of schools and children reporting discontinued use of corporal punishment and applying positive disciplinary practices	Revised OECS Policy Framework Document on School Discipline Ministry of Education/School Reports Reports and evaluation of training activities and their follow-up action. Interview programme with school principals.	OECS, Caribbean Community, UNESCO, UNIFEM Ministries of Education Regional bodies of Churches, Caribbean Teachers' Union, Caribbean Association of Principals of Secondary Schools	
Element 1.3: HIV/AIDS and HFLE **Strategic result 3: At least 90% of school-going children and at least 50% of out of school children demonstrate behaviours which reduce risk and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence**					
Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights **HIV/AIDS and children**	**Eastern Caribbean:** Children have universal access to school-based life skills education programmes to reduce risk and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and violence in at least 4 countries from the Eastern Caribbean Countries **Trinidad and Tobago:** At least 80% of school-going children and 40% of out-of-school children put into practice correct information and relevant skills to reduce their risks and vulnerability to HIV, STIs, substance abuse, violence and suicide	% of sexually active adolescents practicing correct condom use Number of schools delivering life-skills-based education	Knowledge, attitude, practice surveys Ministry of Education Country data Reports on teacher education programmes Availability of current school health data	Ministries of Education, Youth and Sports, National Sports Associations OECS University of the West Indies and Teachers Colleges UN agencies International and regional sports bodies – National Basketball Association (NBA), West Indies Players' Association (WIPA),	**(Eastern Caribbean) UNDAF** Outcome 1 and 4; **(Trinidad and Tobago) UNDAF** Outcome 1; **(Suriname) UNDAF** Outcome 3 **WFFC:** "Promote healthy lives", "Combat HIV/AIDS" **MDG Goal:** 6

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
	Suriname: At least 60% of adolescent boys and girls put into practice correct information and relevant skills to reduce their risk and vulnerability to HIV, STIs, substance abuse and suicide			Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF).	
	Eastern Caribbean: Children participate in an increased number of school-based and out-of-school youth-led programmes. **Trinidad and Tobago:** Children participate in an increased number of school-based and out-of-school youth-led programmes. **Suriname**: At least 50% of all the children who dropped out of school in coastal and rural areas have enhanced basic literacy, numeracy, and social and vocational skills.	Number of youth-led organizations Number of active student councils Number of children participating in youth-led programmes Number of dropout children with certificate of completion	Monitoring and evaluation reports Case studies National statistics	Ministries of Education, Youth, Sports National Sports Associations OECS International and regional sports bodies – NBA, WIPA, CONCACAF	
Element 1.4: Early childhood development **Strategic result 4: Children's development readiness to start primary school enhanced.**					
Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights **Basic education and gender equality**	**Eastern Caribbean:** At least 60% of vulnerable children in at least 4 countries have access to early childhood development (ECD) services. **Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname:** At least 60% of vulnerable children have access to ECD services.	Number of draft ECD standard documents ▪ developed ▪ approved ▪ circulated Number of sites piloting alternative child-rearing models Pre-primary net enrolment rate	Reports on ECD advocacy and training activities and their follow-up Studies Availability of advocacy materials documenting alternative approaches	Ministries of Social Development, Offices of the Attorney General Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, OECS, Association of Principals of Juvenile Detention Centers in the Eastern Caribbean NGOs and CBOs, CSOs and residential care institutions	**(Eastern Caribbean) UNDAF** Outcome 4 **(Trinidad and Tobago) UNDAF** Outcome 1 **(Suriname) UNDAF** Outcome 2 and 3 **WFFC:** "Promote healthy lives",

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
				Ministries of Education, Health, Justice and Police, Social Affairs National Committees on the Rights of the Child, Ministry of Social Affairs/Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Police (Office of Attorney General),	"Protect against abuse, exploitation and violence", "Combat HIV/AIDS" **MDGs:** 6, 8
Programme component 2: Integrated area based programme					
Element 2.1: health					
Strategic result 5: At least 60% of all children and women in the interior have access to quality health care.					
Young child survival and development	**Suriname**: At least 80% of all pregnant women, mothers and children in the interior have access to integrated services for their children under 2 years, with special focus on the reduction of malaria, malnutrition and the increase in vaccination coverage.	Measles and DPT3 immunization coverage rates Neonatal tetanus protection at birth % of children under five with acute respiratory infections taken to an appropriate health provider	Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) data and Government health statistics	Ministry of Health Medical Mission NGOs and CBOs UN agencies, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), International partners	**(Suriname) UNDAF Outcome** 2 and 3 **WFFC:** "Promoting healthy lives", "Combat HIV/AIDS" **MDGs:** 1, 4, 5 and 6
	Suriname: At least 60% of pregnant women, parents and caretakers in the interior utilize appropriate care practices for child survival, growth and development.	Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV counselling coverage PMTCT testing coverage % of girls and boys exclusively breastfed (< 6 months) % of girls and boys under five with diarrhoea who received oral rehydration therapy and continued feeding.			

UNICEF MTSP 2006-2009 focus area	Key results in this priority area	Key progress indicators	Means of verification of results	Major partners, partnership frameworks and cooperation programmes	Expected key results in the priority area will contribute to:
HIV/AIDS and children	**Suriname**: By the end of 2011, 60% of adolescent girls and boys in the interior use youth-friendly and gender-sensitive community and health services.	% of adolescents who visit youth-friendly health centres in the past 12 months Number of adolescents that receive counselling and testing			
Element 2.2: education **Strategic result 6: At least 80% of all children in the Interior aged 4-14 have access to quality education**					
Basic education and gender equality	**Suriname**: At least 80% of girls and boys in the interior of Suriname have access to quality basic inclusive education.	Survival rate (cohort flow) to grade 5 Net enrolment rate Net attendance rate % of trained and qualified teachers in schools in the interior	MICS data and Government statistics	Ministry of Education, Bureau for Hinterland Education NGOs and CBOs UN agencies, UNV International partners: Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance, International Development Bank, National Committees for UNICEF	**(Suriname) UNDAF** Outcome 3 **WFFC:** "Providing quality education" **MDGs:** 2, 3
	Suriname: At least 50% of girls and boys who dropped out of school in the interior are equipped with basic literacy, numeracy and life skills.	% of out-of-school children with basic literacy and numeracy % of out-of-school children completing life skills education % of out-of-school children completing non-formal education with passing score			