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### United Nations Children's Fund

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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

### **Draft country programme document\*\***

### **Belize**

#### *Summary*

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Belize is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$3,000,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$3,500,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2013 to 2016.

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\* E/ICEF/2012/9.

\*\* In accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/19, the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website, along with the results matrix, no later than six weeks after discussion of the CPD at the 2012 annual session of the Executive Board. The revised CPD will then be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the second regular session of 2012.



<i>Basic data</i> <sup>†</sup> (2010 unless otherwise stated)	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	0.1
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	17
Underweight (% , moderate and severe, 2006)	4 <sup>a</sup>
(% , urban/rural, poorest/richest)	2/6, ../..
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, 2008)	94 <sup>b</sup>
Primary school enrolment/attendance (% net, male/female, 2006)	95/95 <sup>c</sup>
Survival rate to last primary grade (% , male/female, 2006)	98 <sup>c</sup>
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	98
Use of improved sanitation facilities (%)	90
Adult HIV prevalence rate (% , 15-49 years of age, male/female, 2009)	2.3
Child labour (% , 5-14 years of age, male/female, 2001)	40
Birth registration (% , under 5 years of age, 2006)	94
(% , male/female, urban/rural, poorest/richest)	94/95, 92/97, 93/98
GNI per capita (US\$)	3 740
One-year-olds immunized with DPT3 (%)	96
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	98

<sup>†</sup> More comprehensive country data on children and women can be found at [www.childinfo.org/](http://www.childinfo.org/).

<sup>a</sup> Underweight estimates are based on the WHO Child Growth Standards adopted in 2006.

<sup>b</sup> The reported estimate is 57 deaths per 100,000 live births (2008), as presented in the Belize Basic Indicators, Volume 6, Ministry of Health, 2009. The estimate of 94 deaths per 100,000 live births was developed by the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank, together with independent technical experts), adjusted for underreporting and misclassification of maternal deaths. Additional information is available at [www.childinfo.org/maternal\\_mortality.html](http://www.childinfo.org/maternal_mortality.html).

<sup>c</sup> Survey data.

## Summary of the situation of children and women

1. The long-term growth performance of Belize has been good compared to that of its Central American counterparts. Belize has demonstrated strong growth (4 per cent on average but with sharp fluctuations), starting in 1960 when it was the second-poorest country in the region. By 2006, the country had risen to the 'top tier', with a gross domestic product per capita near that of Costa Rica and Panama. Belize weathered the recent financial crisis fairly well when compared to Caribbean Community countries. However, the Government will be faced with important economic challenges designed to break the fluctuations in growth rates. The Government of Belize remains committed to maintain its investment in its human capital.

2. The 2010 census estimates provisionally a population of 312,000: 158,000 males and 155,000 females. The total number of households is about 79,272, with an average household size of 3.9. Among this population some 50 per cent are Mestizo, 21 per cent Creole, 10 per cent Mayan, 4.6 per cent Garinagu and 14.4 per cent includes East Indians, Mennonite, Lebanese, and Taiwanese. In addition to a

downward trend household size, another demographic trend is the continued immigration of persons who tend to arrive as single adults or smaller family units. In 2008, almost half the population growth rate came from immigration, compared to one quarter in 2006. Much of that immigration has occurred in Belize and Cayo districts and is visible in Stann Creek district. In 2009, 60 per cent of these immigrants came from Guatemala and El Salvador, and 19 per cent came from Mexico. There is a notable trend of an increase in the proportion of female-headed households, from 27 per cent in 2002 to 30 per cent in 2009.

3. According to the 2010 Census, although both the urban and rural populations grew between 2000 and 2010 by 23.7 per cent and 36.7 per cent, respectively, more people live in rural areas (171,000 persons) than urban ones (138,000). This situation may result from immigration.

4. The Belize economy and social conditions are influenced by its geo-political context. Belize borders Mexico and Guatemala, and is a member of the Central American Integration System. It also shares the British colonial connection with the English-speaking Caribbean through its history and membership both in the Caribbean Community and the Commonwealth. Like its neighbours, Belize faces vulnerabilities such as natural disasters and climate change. Along with demographic changes including immigration, the Government will be confronted with important social demands for adequate physical and social infrastructure, health, education, media, and information and communication technology services to meet the needs of a population with changing cultural and globalized influences and expanding life expectancy.

5. One major obstacle to social well-being is poverty. The monetary poverty rate increased from 33 per cent in 1995 to 41.3 per cent in 2009 — indicating that Belize is not on track to achieve the target of 16.8 per cent by 2015 (Millennium Development Goal 1). The northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk have now joined the southern districts of Toledo and Stann Creek receiving more attention from the Government to poverty reduction. The change is linked to the vulnerability of export agriculture to external price shocks, combined more recently with the negative effects on demand from the global economic crisis and natural disasters.

6. To exacerbate the challenge, the indigence rate increased from 10.8 per cent in 2002 to 15.8 per cent in 2009; Belize is not on track to achieve the target of 6.7 per cent by 2015. With a Gini coefficient showing inequality at 0.42 in 2009, Belize is experiencing pronounced inequity in health, education and social protection. This complex situation requires efforts that focus on addressing, in an integrated manner, the following four types of inequalities affecting children. These will be addressed as a continuum across the lifecycle of the child:

- (a) **Economic inequalities** that give increasing power and influence to those with higher incomes and leave excluded groups with fewer assets and opportunities;
- (b) **Spatial inequalities** that reflect the structures and patterns of economic growth and leave excluded groups living in areas that make them harder to reach;
- (c) **Cultural inequalities**, including gender and other forms of discrimination and devaluation that treat excluded groups as inferior to others, thereby perpetuating social exclusion;

(d) **Political inequalities** that reflect the concentration of economic power and influence among a limited group and the lack of voice and adequate participation of the excluded groups and their communities in the decisions that affect their lives.

7. In education (Millennium Development Goal 2), challenges remain in both coverage and quality in all levels of the system. Challenges include inadequate early stimulation, malnutrition and low levels of parenting skills in early childhood development. Although the number of preschool facilities has increased in some districts, major gaps still exist. Despite the survival rate to the last primary grade having increased from 87.2 per cent in 2002 to 91.9 per cent in 2009, the primary school net enrolment rate fell from 90.3 per cent in 1992 to 83.7 per cent in 2009. The repetition rate remains very high, particularly in the first grade (14 per cent), contributing to early dropout and low self-esteem. Some 43 per cent of children 13-16 years olds attending school in Stann Creek, and 38 per cent of those in Toledo, are still in primary instead of secondary schools, where they should be, according to their age.

8. Several bottlenecks hamper the attendance and provision of quality education for all, such as direct and indirect costs for families. While the legal framework indicates that public education is free, insufficient attention is being paid to socio-cultural diversity and to the needs of children with disabilities and adolescent girls who are pregnant. Poor planning and limited monitoring capacity of the education system are also preventing the reaching of the goal of all children attending school. The ratio of girls to boys in primary school (Millennium Development Goal 3) increased from 0.94 in 1995 to 1.01 in 2009, and more girls than boys are participating in secondary and tertiary education.

9. A 2009 assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene education (WASH) in schools indicates that conditions are still poor. Some 22.1 per cent of school water resources are unreliable. Up to 70 per cent (384) of schools nationally do not meet international standards for quantity of toilet facilities.

10. With respect to child health (Millennium Development Goal 4), Belize maintains high immunization coverage, with a rate of 96.6 in 2009. Progress was made in reducing the child mortality rate, from 44 to 17 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2010. The proposed target is 8 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2015. The infant mortality rate dropped significantly, from 35.3 to 14.2 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2010. Maternal health also showed signs of improvement between 1993 and 2010. The maternal mortality ratio decreased from a high of 154.8 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1993 to 55.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010. Another health issue is HIV/AIDS. Belize has the highest HIV prevalence rate (2.1 per cent) of any Central American country.

11. There are a number of challenges faced by Belize relating to child protection. Drug trafficking, crime and violence are common threats to development. The Central American sub-region has been labelled one of the most violent in the world. This phenomenon is a result of multiple factors. Among them is the increasing circulation of small arms and ammunition in the Central America and the Caribbean, drug trafficking that is insidious, and violence propelled by spatial, social, and economic inequalities.

12. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are important guiding frameworks for rights-based development. Since ratifying the conventions, the Government of Belize has made several important legislative and policy developments/reforms to align national laws to international standards. The Education Act 2010 and the Social Services Agencies Regulations prohibit corporal punishment in schools and residential care facilities for children. A new social protection programme, BOOST, is being implemented to guarantee the rights of children to social protection, health and education. The standards and principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child have been expressly enacted into law through the Families and Children's Act 2000, and a National Plan of Action (NPA) has been developed, including the establishment of a National Committee for Families and Children.

13. Despite these important gains, some gaps remain in protection, including the need for a fuller incorporation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into all domestic legislation. Alignment with international standards is required in the Criminal Code and the Summary Jurisdiction Act. Further attention is also required in several areas: to clarify the legal definition of the child, to consider the child's evolving capacity, to address the rights of migrant children, and to remove from the law discriminatory practices related to girls. Plans have been made to promote conditions conducive to the social well-being of children with disabilities as follow-up to the country's recent ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNICEF conducted a specific analysis on children with disabilities in 2011, paving the way for policy and programme development under the committed leadership of the Special Envoy for Women and Children.

14. While the Constitution of Belize guarantees to all persons freedom from discrimination, patterns of discrimination still exist with respect to gender and ethnicity. These patterns affect children's attitudes about exclusion from society and lack of opportunity. Structural and cultural barriers tend to reduce the level of women's participation in high-level political leadership. Women in Garifuna and Creole villages generally play a greater role in community life than women in Mayan communities. With respect to cultural participation, the Garifuna Council operates a programme to train children and adolescents in the history, language and aspirations of the Garifuna people. A similar revival of Mayan culture has taken place with the hard work of the Maya Leaders Alliance of Toledo.

## **Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 2007-2012**

### **Key results achieved**

15. UNICEF has partnered with the Government of Belize to build a sound evidence base, which is used to monitor child poverty and influence national policy formation in favour of the most disadvantaged. This has facilitated increased availability of data on children and women at national and sub-national levels. The availability has been increased through support to the implementation of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and dissemination of the resulting data for use and decision making, and through GenderInfo, NPAInfo, BelizeInfo. Data has helped to

track progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), as well as those related to children with disabilities and of adolescent girls. The Government has adopted concrete national standards for WASH in schools, maternal and child health, and inclusive, quality education, including the introduction of Intercultural Bilingual Education.

16. Exclusive breastfeeding rates (0-6 months) increased from 10 per cent to 18 per cent between 2006 and 2011, largely as a result of the baby-friendly certification of hospitals and clinics. In these safe and friendly environments, appropriate young child feeding practices are promoted. Additionally, mother-to-child transmission of HIV was reduced from 19 per cent in 2007 to 3.2 per cent in 2010, largely because of improvements in clinical protocols and practices, with strong emphasis on capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation.

17. In response to the 2005 Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Secretary-General's study on violence against children, corporal punishment in schools and institutions was abolished by law in 2011.

18. In partnership with the Government of Belize, UNICEF has assisted in increasing birth registration rates by 10 per cent in Southern Belize, and steps are being taken to address the systemic bottlenecks that impede access to birth registration among the most excluded populations.

### **Lessons learned**

19. Serious disparities are masked by national averages. Experience has shown that ongoing improvement of information systems, strengthened data collection and disaggregation exposes, and helps to reduce, these disparities. Using disaggregated evidence and building institutional capacity and networks through local universities promote transformative public governance practices that are integrated and collaborative, thus delivering better results for rights-holders. These institutions include the University of the West Indies Open Campus and the University of Belize. The 2010 midterm review of the country programme provided the opportunity to build a strong life-cycle approach to the overall country programme by limiting the number of core programme areas to three, more closely integrating programmes and inserting a subnational focus directly designed to reach the most disadvantaged children in Toledo and South Side Belize City. This design improved efficiency in resource allocation and use and programme outcomes and is serving as the basis for the new country programme for 2013-2016.

20. Combining an equity-focused policy approach with concrete support to institutional capacity-building at the sub-national level improves results for the most disadvantaged boys and girls. This has been demonstrated, among others, in the efforts related to increasing birth registration in Southern Belize.

## The country programme, 2013-2016

### Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	
Quality social services with equity	1 000	2 000	3 000
Monitoring child rights	1 500	1 250	2 750
Cross-sectoral	500	250	750
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 000</b>	<b>3 500</b>	<b>6 500</b>

### Preparation process

21. The CPD was developed through a participatory process. Two Common Country Assessment (CCA) workshops provided the forums for partners to review the UNICEF-mandated areas and inequities related to children. Two United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) prioritization workshops were held to ensure that the UNDAF, CCA and CPD meet national priorities and mobilize national ownership. The launch of the UNICEF Situation Analysis and the Annual Review helped to sharpen the focus on sub-national needs and responses related to boys and girls. Discussions with boys and girls nationwide who were actively engaged in youth policy development provided important input to guide prioritization.

### Programme components, results and strategies

22. The overall goal of the 2013-2016 country programme is to contribute to the realization of the rights of boys and girls by focusing on reduction of disparities and inequalities. This will be done by supporting efforts towards the attainment of an equitable standard of living for the people of Belize, in line with the international human and child rights and as stated in its national development plan, Horizon 2030. The country programme will have a special focus on building the national and sub-national institutional capacity to address the bottlenecks and barriers that systematically impede the realization of the rights of the most at risk, excluded and disadvantaged children. It will contribute to the improvement of the situation of all children and adolescents, with special attention given to Southern Belize (Toledo and Stann Creek districts) and South-side Belize City.

23. The programme of cooperation will support the achievement of the following key results by 2016: (a) boys and girls from excluded and disadvantaged targeted communities benefit from the implementation of effective and inclusive national and sub-national policies and integrated programmes on child protection, early childhood development (ECD), and education; and (b) boys and girls benefit from the application of stronger domestic legislative framework meeting international standards, and a child rights monitoring system that includes social budgets and social expenditure assessment at national and sub-national levels. These results will support the country's response to the observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Recommendations included promotion of gender equality as an integral part of national development, institutional capacity-strengthening, birth registration, child-

friendly budgeting, establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and enforcement of protection legislation. The programme's main strategy will focus on institutional capacity-building, particularly related to ECD, education and nutrition services. Moreover, the programme will support policy assessment and implementation of regulatory frameworks, with an equity and gender focus. Targeted advocacy strategies will capitalize on evidence-based knowledge generated through studies and evaluations and regular monitoring and assessment of the situation of children. Policies will be promoted that promote equity, including in the four key areas outlined in paragraph 6. This country programme will contribute to and benefit from multi-country initiatives for the Caribbean in the areas of education, child protection and data collection and management.

### **Programme components**

#### **Quality social services with equity**

24. This component takes a lifecycle, gender-perspective and human rights-based approach focusing on the development of capacities of government, institutional and other partners and quality services favouring the most excluded boys and girls, 0-18, with special focus on most disadvantaged communities. This component aims at ensuring that the most excluded boys and girls are reached by policies and integrated programmes with a gender perspective in child protection, ECD and education. Within this component, UNICEF will support the Ministries of Education, Health, Human Development and Social Transformation, the TumulK'incentre of learning (a Maya non-governmental organization) and the Congress of Maya Teachers in identifying and addressing inequities, building capabilities, and knowledge for the full implementation of the ECD and education policies and services.

25. Institutional capacity will be built through District Education offices to strengthen educational institutions, preschool to secondary, with improved school-readiness practices and increased access to quality learning through establishing a network of child-friendly schools that meet standards. Capacity-building will be supported for an increased coverage (with a focus on Toledo, Stann Creek and Belize City) of an integrated package of improved care and nutrition practices. Institutions at national level will be strengthened to design, manage, and evaluate policies and programmes geared towards quality education and building protective assets (competencies that promote the well-being of children and facilitate their protection and the reduction of risk).

This programme component is also built on the recognition that a strong human-rights based child protection system will facilitate development across the lifecycle and in all settings where children and youth live and grow. Systemic bottlenecks will be addressed, and institutional strengthening and quality services for building just and secure systems of protection will be supported, with a focus on urban settings where weak juvenile justice systems prevail and violence is high. Systemic bottlenecks include weak capacity regarding skills in child protection, insufficient enforcement of policies and legislation, and the public's lack of awareness of available services. With respect to monitoring of child rights and protection, the programme will advocate, build capacity and influence social norms for a fully-implemented, prevention-oriented approach with accompanying policies so that young offenders can receive early attention and rehabilitation.



26. In rural settings, institutional capacity will be built (for example, through better use of knowledge evidence and data by policy makers and building capacities of claims-holders) to identify and implement changes in policies, programmes and practices to (a) address child labour and the right to education and recreation for migrants and children with disabilities; and (b) to promote social cohesion in small, ethnically diverse communities.

27. Initiatives for child and adolescent development will be prioritized through advocacy, empowerment and by strengthening the know-how and capabilities of public institutions in ensuring provision of quality services in child protection, ECD and education. The component will promote early cognitive stimulation, provide guidance to improve readiness for early childhood education and support parent education. Child-friendly cities and spaces initiatives that address cultural rights and reintegrating communities through the use of information and communication technology, sports, arts and culture will be promoted.

28. To ensure sustainable results, efforts will be made for the establishment and strengthening of sub-national partnerships through local government. For many of these approaches, close coordination will be maintained with United Nations entities as well as civil society partners for addressing health issues, including evidence-based advocacy to reduce the impact of the AIDS epidemic. Where needed, assistance from centres of excellence in Latin America and the Caribbean will be requested for the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building. During periods of emergency, the most vulnerable urban and rural settings will receive support for a quality response in child protection, water, nutrition and education. Safety and preventive practices for periods of disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response will be mainstreamed.

29. The implementation of communication for development strategies to foster sustained changes in behaviour will accompany all programme areas particularly to promote human rights with equity, including gender equality, and for the adoption of preventive practices by rights-holders and duty-bearers.

### **Monitoring child rights**

30. The monitoring of child rights is a core role of UNICEF. This programme component will focus on quality assurance and monitoring for progress, bottlenecks, obstacles and positive practices in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to inform action, advocacy and policy formulation and implementation. This programme component supports capacity-building of country-led monitoring and evaluation by independent monitoring mechanisms, national institutions, and organizations in the social sector. For example, a network of monitoring and evaluation officers and national planners will be established to ensure that policy is grounded in evidence, to assess investments for children and guide policy. The programme will include monitoring of the status of boys and girls and their rights. It will focus on evidence-based policy in early childhood, education, adolescent and youth development. The component will centre on fostering timely reporting by the State to the human rights bodies (Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) and following up on their recommendations. It will also promote regular collection, dissemination and analysis of disaggregated data, including quality statistics (for example, through the

MICS and DevInfo). This will support evidence-informed policy formulation; the monitoring and implementation of social budgeting; and the review of national development plans and legislation for impact on children.

31. UNICEF will work towards strengthening the country-led capacity for monitoring and evaluation, in collaboration in particular with Caribbean partners. This process will cover four core areas of emphasis: (a) ensuring the existence of disaggregated quality and internationally harmonized statistics for children, adolescents and women; (b) ensuring capacity for analysis and evaluation of national policies and programmes related to children, adolescents and women, including the analysis of social budgets; (c) ensuring that there is systematic monitoring of and reporting on the situation of children, adolescents and women, using all types of sources; and (d) ensuring that the work of Belize in monitoring and evaluation is linked sub-regionally to the Caribbean Community and a Caribbean Knowledge Centre on Children to be established in 2012-2013. The component will also support the development of the University of Belize Policy Observatory, to facilitate research, analysis of data with a gender perspective and monitoring of child rights and social budgets.

#### **Cross-sectoral**

32. The cross-sectoral area will cover recurrent costs for activities not directly attributable to one programme, such as travel, equipment, and salaries of staff performing cross-cutting functions, including communication for development and advocacy.

#### **Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF**

33. The UNDAF has been shaped by Horizon 2030, the long-term national development plan. The CPD was developed under the leadership of the three partner Ministries of Human and Social Development and Transformation, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to ensure that national priorities served as a framework. It is grounded in the UNDAF priorities, namely: (a) Advancing human rights with equity; (b) Promoting economic and social well-being, citizen security and justice; (c) Environmental and Natural Resource Management, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change mainstreamed into public policies and development processes; and (d) Democratic Governance, Capacity Development, Effectiveness and Responsiveness enhanced. All UNDAF priorities will support improvements in the 'ecology' for boys and girls (conditions conducive to their well-being in all settings), reducing risks that prevent fulfilment of children's rights. Strengthening cross-sectoral linkages across districts in any of these priority areas will have a major influence on human well-being and equity in Belize.

#### **Relationship to international priorities**

34. The Millennium Development Goals provide a higher-level international framework for the CPD. The recent Millennium Development Goal scorecard for Belize highlighted a number of gaps in basic services (water and sanitation, nutrition, education) and high levels of poverty that require urgent attention. As poverty represents the underlying cause and obstacle to the achievement of rights and well-being, the CPD 2013-2016 will support the national effort to overcome challenges. The UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP), 2006-2013, and the

Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action continue to provide relevant frameworks to guide national efforts around the core areas of ECD, education, protection and disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response to emergencies. These frameworks together advance a number of indicators and targets in support of achieving gender equality and human rights across programme areas, guide progress and align national efforts with those in neighbouring Central America and the Caribbean. Such alignment creates the opportunity for south-south collaboration and partnership-building for children. Outstanding recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be addressed using a number of strategies to build capacity and remove bottlenecks for rights-based social policy development, and to strengthen the legal framework for child protection. The 2010 UNICEF study, “Narrowing the Gaps to Meet the Goals”, provides sound evidence for advocacy regarding the need to adopt an equity-focused approach to address lagging progress on Millennium Development Goals. The effects of climate change deserve high-priority attention. UNICEF will complement the lead role played by the United Nations Development Programme, for example by empowering young people to act as agents of change.

### **Major partnerships**

35. UNICEF will continue to play a pivotal role in building a network of trustworthy and technically strategic partnerships for children and women’s development in Belize. The University of the West Indies Open Campus will collaborate with UNICEF to provide capacity-building to partners to help advance operational aspects of programme management, public finance management and to provide guidance on human rights programming at the institutional level. Partnership arrangements will be strengthened with the University of Belize to monitor child rights through a Public Policy Observatory (with links to a Caribbean Knowledge Centre for Children). The Observatory will serve as an important resource to the Government of Belize in shaping social policies that would ensure that children, women and poor families are not marginalized in public sector allocations. In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF will work closely with non-governmental organizations and the Government of Belize to identify core areas for budgetary allocation, implementation and policy priorities. The programme will continue to strengthen the collaborative relationship with other members of the United Nations country team and other international donor partners.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and programme management**

36. A four-year Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will outline support to national and regional monitoring systems, studies and evaluation activities. The Representative, with the support of the Programme Specialist, will be responsible for the overall coordination of the country programme. Progress will be monitored through joint annual programme reviews with the counterparts and partners based on the implementation of multi-year work plans. The midterm review of the programme will be carried out in 2014 in parallel to the UNDAF midterm review and will take into consideration the new UNICEF MTSP, 2014-2017. The data from the MICS completed in 2011 will serve as baseline data, disaggregated by sex, district and urban/rural areas. Some key indicators to be monitored will include the under-five mortality rate, the proportion of underweight children, the maternal

mortality ratio, access to improved water and sanitation, infant immunization (DPT3), rate of birth registration, mean years of schooling, boys and girls reaching grade 5 of primary school, the male and female literacy rate and HIV prevalence. UNICEF Belize will conduct another MICS in 2015, which will be used to monitor progress by the end of 2016. Over the period 2013 to 2015, UNICEF staff and counterparts will make field visits in order to qualitatively monitor programme progress and to advocate for social change as part of the overall monitoring and evaluation plan. To monitor resources invested in the country programme, where necessary UNICEF will conduct small surveys to identify gaps and assess progress.

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