Australian Government

AusAID

Progress Report: To the Government of Australia On Grave Violations Against Children In Situations of Armed Conflict

Duration of Project: 01 August 2010 to
31 December 2011

Period Covered: 31 August 2010 to
31 March 2011

Date of Report: 13 May 2011

Contents

A.   EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding from AusAid provided vital support to UNICEF's efforts to monitor, report and respond to grave violations against children in areas affected by armed conflict. This funding supported the work in four countries; Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), Central African Republic (CAR), the Philippines, and Yemen. The funding also supported UNICEF Headquarter-based experts to provide technical support to these countries.

UNICEF trained military observers, members of national militaries and non-governmental organizations on child rights and child protection and worked to prevent grave violations with non-state actors. AusAid assistance increased UNICEF's ability to coordinate the monitoring and reporting work on grave violations with UN partners, civil society actors, and to liaise with governments on these important issues.

In 2011, funds from the Government of Australia will continue to assist the MRM work in these four countries. In oPt, UNICEF will carry on its coordination efforts to prevent and respond to the grave violations and launch a new study on "children in detention". In CAR, UNICEF will build on the lessons learned and provide psychosocial support to more vulnerable children within the community. In the Philippines, UNICEF will engage with the National People's Army (NPA) armed group to seek the development of an action plan on the release and reintegration of children. In Yemen, UNICEF will provide mine risk education through community child protection committees.

Of the USD 858,289 received from the AusAid, USD 658,286.44 has been utilized and USD 200,683 remains to be spent.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC REPORTS

B. 1. OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (oPt)

I. BACKGROUND

Human rights organizations have been monitoring violations in Israel and oPt for many years. Following the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1612[1] in 2005, the need for strengthened and more systematic monitoring of violations against children in situations of armed conflict was widely acknowledged. In 2007, and pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1612, an interagency working group led by UNICEF was established to monitor and report on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

The interagency working group submits bi-monthly Global Horizontal Notes (GHNs) to the United Nations Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG CAAC). In addition to the six grave violations, the working group also reports on the following: i) forced displacement, ii) arrest and detention, and iii) ill-treatment and torture of children.

The persistent violence continues to significantly compromise the protective environment for Palestinian children. This was evident during Operation "Cast Lead" on Gaza, in December 2008, where at least 350 children were killed and more than 2,000 were injured. Across the West Bank, access and movement restrictions caused severe hardship and isolation of families, especially

---

[1] In July 2005, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1612 to establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism to ensure the protection of children affected by armed conflict. The mechanism monitors grave violations committed both by States and by armed groups including killing or maiming of children; recruiting or using child soldiers; attacks against schools or hospitals; rape or other sexual violence against children; abduction of children; and denial of humanitarian access for children.

those living near the Barrier and in Area C. In 2009, an average of 355 children were being detained in Israeli facilities each month, with many more being arrested and interrogated. The continued effort of this Working Group is important to ensure that the protective environment for children is ensured through evidence-based advocacy.

II. PURPOSE

Objectives
The overall goal is to further strengthen monitoring and reporting to ensure timely, accurate, and comprehensive reporting and documentation of grave violations against children, and to ensure appropriate responses, including advocacy and the prevention of violations.

Planned Activities

1. Regular meetings of the working group to coordinate information sharing, data collection, analysis, monitoring, reporting and advocacy.

2. Design, develop and maintain a database information management system on grave violations.

3. Draft and disseminate reports.

Key Partnership & Coordination

UNICEF leads the working group, which include a wide range of UN agencies, and Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations (including Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Save the Children, DCI-Palestine, B'Tselem, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, War Child Holland, OCHA, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRWA and WHO).

III. RESULTS

Main Results Achieved

1. Working Group Coordination
Throughout 2010, the working group met on a monthly basis in both the West Bank and Gaza and spearheaded initiatives to further strengthen the monitoring, reporting and response to violations. Key achievements include:

i. *Strengthened Monitoring of Education-Related Violations*
The working group reviewed and identified indicators for improved monitoring of education-related violations, documented and reported on an increasing number of incidents in which students were hindered from accessing schools, learning was disrupted, or the safety of students was compromised. Access incidents affecting school attendance generally included: 1. closures of roads and checkpoints which prevented students from reaching their schools; 2. searches at checkpoints which resulted in missed school hours; 3.harassment by Israeli soldiers or settlers; 4. flooding of school yards and playgrounds with raw sewage from nearby settlements, and 5. severe cases of settler violence which resulted in injuries to students on their way to school. As a result of these efforts, information on education-related violations are now included in the regular reports presented to the SCWG CAAC as well as the Israel/oPt section in the Secretary-General's 2010 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict

ii. *Workshop on Monitoring and Response in the West Bank*
In the context of an upsurge of settler violence in the West Bank in the spring of 2010, UNICEF organised a workshop on monitoring and response. The workshop was organised in

November 2010, in partnership with OCHA, and brought together human rights field workers across the West Bank for the first time. Participants discussed gaps in monitoring, good monitoring practice and the purpose of monitoring with a focus on response. The outcomes of the workshop included a mapping of all human rights agencies operating in the West Bank. Concrete action points were developed to improve coordination of case management at the field level. Recommendations were presented for a comprehensive mapping of service providers to strengthen the response to affected families and communities.
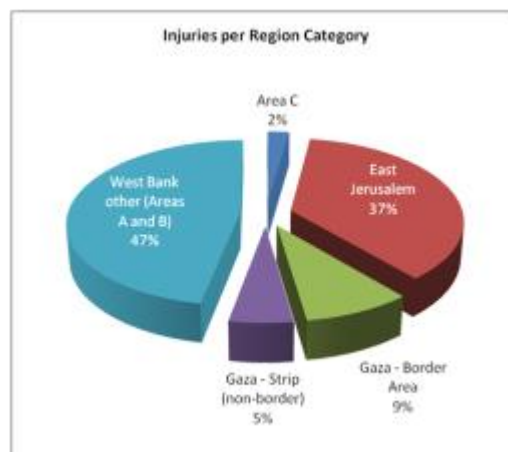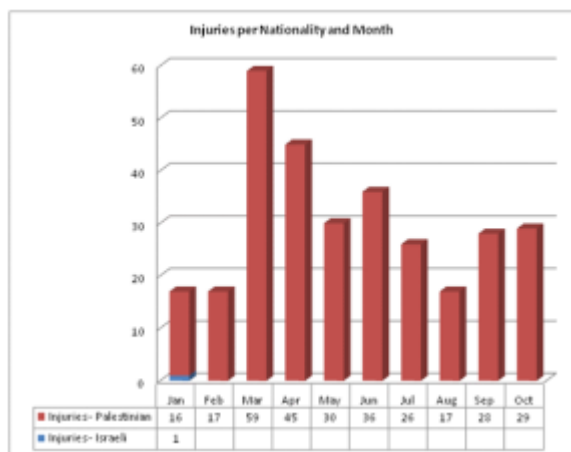
2. Advocacy/Detention Study

UNICEF entered into a partnership with Defence for Children International (DCI) to conduct a comprehensive *Study on Children in Detention*. The study is an advocacy priority for MRM in 2010-11 and will review the Israeli civil and military juvenile justice systems as measured against 25 internationally recognized juvenile justice standards. These standards are based on humanitarian and human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention Against Torture and UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice ('Beijing Rules'). The study tracks the progression of a child through the Israeli juvenile justice and military court systems in chronological order, commencing from the moment of arrest, through the investigative process, court procedures, detention and ultimate release and rehabilitation. The study will be launched in two parts in early 2011 with recommendations for actions to protect children at risk of detention in oPt. It will function as a reference for legal analysis and inform both programme response and evidence-based public advocacy.

3. Database on Grave Violations

In early 2010, UNICEF and the working group identified the need for a Data Management and Reporting System (DMRS), including the establishment of a database to consolidate data from the monitoring and reporting mechanism. The objectives were to support the compilation of information, to strengthen information management, to support in-depth analysis of trends and patterns of violations and overall statistical analysis for reporting purposes.

In the second quarter of 2010, a senior Information Manager and a Database Specialist was seconded by RedR to UNICEF for 3 months to design and develop the MRM database. As part of long term data management planning, a national database manager was recruited in May 2010 based on a tripartite funding agreement between UNICEF, War Child Holland and Save the Children UK to support the data management component of monitoring and reporting.

The database is now producing reports on a regular basis and the data is used for stronger analysis of trends and patterns in violations as reflected in the bi-monthly reports to the SCWG CAAC, and other reports, including inputs to the Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict and the Children and Armed Conflict Bulletin, a public fact sheet issued by UNICEF on a bi-monthly basis that is used for donor briefings and updates to the humanitarian community.

Examples of standard reports generated from the MRM Database and used for reporting of grave violations against children in oPt and Israel.

4.Reporting

The working group, with UNICEF in the lead, prepared the following reports in 2010:

  i. Six Global Horizontal Notes, which serve as a tool for countries to provide regular updates on the situation of children affected by armed conflict to the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

  ii. Drafting of the Israel/oPt input to the Secretary-General's 2010 Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict. The submission highlighted the increasing number of attacks on schools and incidents related to access to education in oPt, resonating a growing area of concern for many UN agencies, NGOs, member states and SCWG members.

  iii. The Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Bulletin, provides since November 2010, an overview of grave violations monitored by the Working Group. The CAAC Bulletin is available on the UNICEF oPt website and is widely circulated to humanitarian actors and the donor community. The report can be found at: http://www.unicef.org/oPt/protection_6447.html.

  iv. Various submissions were made to relevant treaty bodies and committees, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as part of the review of Israel's report on the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) as part of the Committee's meeting with the Government of Israel, as well as to the EU-Israel subcommittee on Political Dialogue and Cooperation.

Constraints and Lessons Learned

UNICEF's long-term commitment to lead the working group and manage the database has resulted in equal commitment and engagement from partners. This has proven essential to the efforts of the working group, which has received global recognition for its strong analysis and reporting. The political sensitivity of monitoring and reporting has restricted with respect to factional fighting in Gaza and the West Bank. Efforts will be enhanced in this area in order to ensure the comprehensive documentation of all grave violations affecting children.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In September 2010, UNICEF commissioned an audit on the database of grave violations, which yielded a valuable set of recommendations. Thi led to adjustments of key aspects of the data management and reporting system and ensured continued quality for evidence-based reporting and response.

IV. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

Of the $165,328 received by AusAID, UNICEF oPt spent $154,516.

Country/Region	Fund Received (USD)	Fund Utilized (USD)	Funds Remaining (USD)
oPt	154,516	154,516	0

V. FUTURE PLANS

UNICEF oPt recognizes that continued investment in monitoring and reporting on grave violations is essential for generating objective and verifiable information on trends and patterns related to grave violations against children and evidence-based program and advocacy initiatives.

In 2011, the monitoring and reporting activities will build on the achievements outlined above and focus on the following activities:

i. Continued leadership of the working group and further strengthening of monitoring capacity as well as the response linkages through development of referral pathways.

ii. Continued database management and further development of the database.

iii. Comprehensive reporting to the SCWG CAAC and the SRSG CAAC and relevant Treaty Bodies and Commissions.

iv. Continued publication of the CAAC Bulletin to facilitate access to reliable and credible data on grave violations for humanitarian actors and for the international community.

v. Launch of the *Study on Children in Detention*.

B. 2. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

I. BACKGROUND

In the Central African Republic (CAR), insecurity continues to hamper progress in child protection. Serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are being perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including the *Forces Armées Centrafricaines* (FACA), rebel groups, self-defence groups, and criminal groups. Sporadic fighting between government forces and armed groups, widespread banditry, and extreme poverty all contribute to a protection crisis, which disproportionately affects women and children. Civilians have suffered from physical and sexual violence and the loss of property and livelihoods. During the reporting period, many civilians in CAR's conflict affected areas fled their villages and homes, following or in anticipation of attacks by armed groups.

UNHCR indicates that, at the end of 2010, there were approximately 192,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and close to 24,700 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and Chad. There is an estimated 162,000 Central African refugees in neighbouring countries. OCHA estimates show that since February 2010, over 25,000 civilians have been displaced by attacks or fear of attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the south-eastern prefectures of Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou. Throughout the country, displacements have greatly affected residents of towns where displaced populations have regrouped. In some instances, the presence of displaced populations has a significant impact on local populations, where resources and social services are limited or scarce.

While UNICEF acknowledges efforts made by the Government to meet international standards, limited progress was made in the area of child protection due to the persistence of armed conflict, attitudes associated with gender-based violence, gender discrimination, abuse and exploitation of children. In addition, low rates of birth registration (49% of births were reportedly registered in 2010) have restricted identification of grave violations against children.

II. PURPOSE

The programme proposal focused on support and field level implementation to address grave violations against children, including sexual violence against both children and women.

Main Outcomes

UNICEF has assumed a coordination role in addressing grave violations against children and women. Through the MRM country task force, UNICEF has reported through the submission of bi-

monthly reports (Global Horizontal Note), the LRA Global Horizontal Note and by contributing to the UN Secretary-General's Report on Children and Armed Conflict in CAR.

Main Implementing and Strategic Partners
- Bureau Intégré des Nations Unies pour la consolidation de la paix en République Centrafricaine (BINUCA)
- CARITAS International
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- International Commission of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Medical Corps (IMC)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)

III. RESULTS

Planned Outcomes and Outputs Assessment
In June 2010, UNICEF supported the Government of CAR and armed groups, to participate in the regional conference on ending recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, in Ndjamena. The objective was to obtain a commitment from the government to adopt and implement international standards for the protection of children in armed conflict. The Government of the Central African Republic and other participating countries (Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Sudan) signed the N'Djamena Declaration and committed to ending the recruitment and use of children within their armed forces. In October 2010, UNICEF hosted a follow-up meeting on the N'Djamena Declaration in Bangui, which resulted in a proposal to establish a regional monitoring and information-sharing mechanism on violations committed against children. Another UNICEF-led advocacy resulted in the Government of CAR signing the two Optional Protocols to the CRC and the government is currently taking steps towards ratification of the Optional Protocols.

With cross border collaboration, UNICEF repatriated and reunified 16 children with their families in DRC, Sudan and Uganda. Nine children were reunited with their families in CAR. Prior to repatriation and reunification with their families, the children were cared for in UNICEF-supported transit centres (Action Chrétienne pour la Compassion and La Voix du Coeur) in the capital, Bangui. ICRC worked on family tracing, and the children received psychosocial and medical care, education and life-skills training.

UNICEF contributed to the Secretary-General's Report on Children and Armed conflict and to the bi-monthly Global Horizontal Notes. UNICEF also participated in the Cross Border Coordination Meeting of UN Child Protection focal points in Kampala in January 2011, and in March 2011 contributed to the production of the first LRA Regional Consolidated Report. UNICEF co-chairs the MRM task force and also assumed a lead role in the Child Protection Sub-cluster, which brings together child protection partners to ensure a coordinated response to the grave violations.

Main Activities and Achievements
- UNICEF participated in the June 2010 N'Djamena conference on ending the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups. This conference provided a platform for advocacy and led to the signing of the N'Djamena Declaration.
- UNICEF trained military observers of the Mission de Consolidation de le Paix en Centrafrique (MICOPAX) on the rights of children.
- UNICEF trained 50 staff from CARITAS International on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children.
- UNICEF and BINUCA, reactivated the MRM Task Force.
- In December 2010, UNICEF trained members of the national army, the police and the gendarmerie on the rights of children before, during and after conflicts. The week-long training

led to the elaboration of three action plans by each corps for the promotion and protection of children within their respective groups.
- UNICEF, under recommendation from the Protection Cluster, established a Child Protection Sub-cluster, bringing together 18 actors to ensure coordinated responses to grave violations.

Implementation Constraints, Lessons Learned and Knowledge Gained from Evaluations and Studies

Efforts to prevent and respond to grave violation against children have been hampered by continuous fighting between armed groups, and between armed groups and the national army. This atmosphere of insecurity exacerbated an already dire humanitarian situation and presented a major constraint to undergo much needed programme implementation. UNICEF evaluations recommended the establishment of child-friendly spaces as a priority.

Frequent LRA attacks in the Southeast and in the Northeast, hampered humanitarian efforts aimed at preventing and responding to grave violations, and significantly limited humanitarian presence in those areas. In addition, regions with some of the most urgent protection needs are located in remote areas not easily accessible.

UNICEF and its partners provided psychosocial support to children released from armed forces and armed groups, but not to other children within the community. As a lesson learned, psychosocial support should be inclusive and extended to other vulnerable children affected by the conflict. Programme evaluation suggested establishing a follow-up mechanism to ensure the effective reintegration of children released from armed forces and armed groups.

Furthermore, the limited presence of INGOs in the Southeast and the Northeast regions affected by LRA attacks made it difficult to properly implement the MRM. An increase in humanitarian presence would facilitate the MRM work in these areas.

Key Partnerships, Inter-Agency Collaboration, and Impacts
- UNICEF co-leads the MRM Task Force with BINUCA. The Task Force is comprised of UNICEF, BINUCA, OCHA, UNFPA, and UNHCR.
- CARITAS International has provided educational support to children released by armed forces and armed groups, and to other children affected by the armed conflict, and also provided medical care to survivors of sexual violence.
- The International Medical Corps (IMC) has been instrumental in providing psychosocial support to children affected by armed conflict and to children released from armed forces and armed groups.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided support for the reintegration of 417 children released in 2010.
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) provided transitory care to children released, and assisted with the reintegration of 108 children into their communities in 2010.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has undergone family tracing for children within and outside of CAR. In 2010 14 children and two infants were reunified with their families in DRC, Sudan and Uganda. Nine children were reunified in CAR.

IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

UNICEF intends to support the provision of psychosocial services, including child-friendly spaces, for children affected by conflict. Children released from armed forces and armed groups have greatly benefitted from the psychosocial support received by UNICEF's implementing partners. Children showed signs of becoming more confident and assertive, and successfully reintegrating into their communities. Building on this achievement and drawing on lessons-learned from the previous year, the provision of psychosocial support would be extended to reach other vulnerable children affected by the armed conflict.

UNICEF will continue to provide training to armed forces and armed groups, as well as community members on the protection of children and women. The lack of knowledge and understanding of child rights in communities where children were being reintegrated posed certain challenges to their reintegration. Future work will include training of community members on child rights and the establishment of child protection committees. UNICEF will also seek to improve the MRM by improving communication networks amongst child protection partners and community based structures. The goal is to expand the MRM in all areas affected by conflict.

V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

Of the $155,961 received from AusAid, UNICEF CAR spent $155,948.

Country/Region	Fund Received (USD)	Fund Utilized (USD)	Funds Remaining (USD)
CAR	155,961.16	155,948.13	13.03

B. 3. PHILIPPINES

I. BACKGROUND

The Philippines is at a critical juncture of political transition. The election of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III in July 2010 marked a significant political change. As the nation braced for the much-awaited national elections, the first half of the year was tumultuous. Meanwhile, the second half was characterised by the vigour of renewed hope for change. The new administration vowed to re-open the peace negotiations with non-state armed groups, and seek political settlement.

Armed conflicts between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have slowly decreased during the reporting period. In turn, the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) has decreased, as more families return to their original communities or resettle in other areas.

Grave violations increased in 2010 from the previous year. 38 children were killed (8 girls and 30 boys) and 40 were maimed (16 girls and 24 boys) as a direct result of the fighting or because of unexploded ordinance (UXO), compared to 12 children killed and 40 injured in 2009. The New People's Army, the AFP, and private militias of local politicians were allegedly involved in these violations. The perpetrators were not identified in 13 incidents of killing and 10 incidents of maiming. In total, 130 incidents of grave violations were documented in 2010. UNICEF has collaborated with the ILO and other UN organizations to monitor, report and respond to grave violations.

II. PURPOSE

In 2007, the Philippines was added to the list of priority countries by the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (SCWG-CAC), due to the festering armed conflicts and the inclusion of three armed groups in the country in the Secretary-General's annexes of parties recruiting and using children. The MRM was established in 2007.

The overall objective of UNICEF's engagement in the Philippines on this issue is to reduce and prevent grave violations against children in armed conflict through a five-pronged approach:

   a. **Coordination:** UNICEF seeks to enhance coordination in order to strengthen the response to conflict-affected children.
   b. **Monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children:** At the country level, UNICEF monitors and reports on grave violations in order to enhance the evidence-base for accountability, prevention and response.
   c. **Advocacy:** UNICEF advocates for the fulfillment of children's rights during armed conflict.
   d. **Response to grave violations against children and sexual violence against women:** UNICEF builds capacities for and develops a variety of responses to address grave

violations against children at all levels, including the reintegration of children released by armed forces and armed groups, the assistance to survivors of sexual violence, assistance to separated and unaccompanied children, psychosocial support and mine action activities.
e. **Prevention:** Responding to child protection in emergencies contributes to an enhanced protective environment and ultimately helps prevent further grave violations against children.

The MRM provided impetus to provide support for children affected by armed conflict and emergencies in the current country programme. A package of recovery and reintegration, and healing services for children affected by armed conflict was developed. This in turn contributed to providing access to protective services for children who are identified as vulnerable or are victims of violence, abuse, and exploitation.

The programme on Children affected by Armed Conflict is in line with the previous UNDAF outcome which states that "by 2009, the level of violent conflict has been reduced, and human security and the culture of peace have been promoted nationwide." It is also consistent with the new UNDAF (2012-2016) statement that declares "by 2016, local and national duty bearers and claimholders have enhanced capacities to build peace and to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts."

Main implementing partners include:
▪ Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
▪ Plan International-Philippines (PLAN)
▪ Institute for Bangsamoro Studies (IBS)

III. RESULTS

Support from AusAID has contributed greatly in the provision of programs, services, and relevant interventions for children in conflict affected areas in the Philippines. In particular, the funds were utilised in 2010 in line with the Action Plan between the UN and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on the issue of the recruitment and use of childrenin Mindanao. This support has been instrumental in reaching the goal to provide a package of recovery, reintegration and healing services for children affected by armed conflict and emergencies.

Support to Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAAFAG):
UN-MILF Action Plan

Following the August 2009 signing of the UN-MILF Action Plan on the recruitment and use of children, significant progress has been made to register children and map children's involvement in the MILF. The Action Plan includes the development of a programme for the registration, release and reintegration of children who may be found in the ranks of the MILF-Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF). The Action Plan also called for the MILF to issue a directive to their forces banning the recruitment and use of children and providing for the establishment of Child Protection Units (CPUs) within the military structure of their armed wings.

In 2010, 180 community monitors have been trained on the monitoring of the Action Plan, support to CAAFAG, and rapid registration of children In Addition, Plan International Inc. (Philippines) provides technical support and support for the registration process.

In 2010, 564 children (472 boys and 9 girls) were registered to receive reintegration support. 252 of these children were determined to be less than 15 years of ageand children range in age from 7 to18 and are involved as direct combatants, as well as in support and auxiliary roles. While challenges remain in identifying and registering children, the MILF continues to collaborate towards completing this phase effectively.

The MILF and the United Nations Country Team agreed to extend the Action Plan for an additional 12 months to 31 July 2011, with an option for further extension pending review. Concrete steps

were taken towards developing preventive response mechanisms for children already registered in the rapid registration process. Five selected community organizers have received training on psychosocial support for children as part of their overall preparation as mobilizers at the community level. The community organizers will work in five selected target areas as a pilot initiative to engage communities in promoting child rights and behavior change. Additional support, however, would be very essential to implement the main components of the UN-MILF Action Plan, specifically on programmes for the release and reintegration of children who may be found in the ranks of the MILF-BIAF, and provide support to other children in the affected communities. The UN-MILF Action Plan, the first of its kind in the country, is expected to complement the peace negotiations that are also underway between the Philippine government and the MILF.

The Government has agreed to increase its actions for the protection of children in armed conflict. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) has been designated as the government focal agency to coordinate reporting and quick response to victims of grave violations. With guidance from UNICEF, CWC has organized an inter-agency group that would serve as the government response network for grave child rights violations, particularly those committed by state forces.

UNICEF supported the initiative of government and non-government partners to provide better protection for children affected by armed conflict through legislative action. The Draft Comprehensive Bill to protect children in situations of armed conflict, which intends to support and codify the requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1612, has been approved by the Committee on the Welfare of Children of the House of Representatives and has been forwarded to the House Committee on Appropriations.

V. FUTURE WORK PLAN
UNICEF Philippines will work to:

1. Expedite the full implementation of the Action Plan with the MILF, including the registration of children, the development of reintegration services, and the establishment of child protection units within the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force. Involve other UN agencies, including ILO and UNDP, for joint programming for children and their communities.

2. Initiate engagement with the New People's Army (NPA) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to come up with similar concrete and time-bound plans to prevent grave violations on child rights in armed conflict situations.

3. Strengthen the MRM within the UN through coordination and task sharing within the Country Task Force, particularly on the verification process. UNICEF will also focus on the establishment of the MRM information management system to better guide the response component.

4. Strenghten the capacity of the government to provide timely and adequate response to grave violations. Technical assistance shall be extended to the CWC to establish a monitoring and response unit within the government.

5. Sustain the support and advocacy to facilitate the passage of a comprehensive law on Children Affected by Armed Conflict.

6. Align the initiatives in Central Mindanao on child protection in emergencies to the Government's early recovery and rehabilitation plans. UNICEF will work for the sustainability of the initiatives by progressively increasing government involvement and integrating them with established public sector services.

VI. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION
Of the $231,773 received from AusAID, UNICEF Philippines spent $43,877.

Country/Region	Fund Received (USD)	Fund Utilized (USD)	Funds Remaining (USD)
Philippines	231,773.41	43,877.73	187,895.68

B.   4. YEMEN

I.   BACKGROUND

The signing of the ceasefire agreement between the government of Yemen and the Al-Houthi armed group in February 2010 resulted in the de-escalation of the conflict in Yemen, with only sporadic fighting between the parties during the reporting period. Despite a ceasefire and on-going peace negotiations, displacement continues as approximately 190,000 children from the Sa'ada governorate and 6,000 children from Shabwa were displaced. The sporadic fighting which followed the ceasefire, significantly reduced access to food, robust shelter, basic services, community support and safety from violence. This led to reports of grave violations against children. The civil unrest in Yemen in the beginning of 2011 has continued to affect children due to the escalation of the violence and exposure of children to exploitation and life-threatening dangers.

II.   PURPOSE

The contribution of the Government of Australia (AusAID) was provided to UNICEF Yemen within the global grant, towards monitoring, reporting and responses to grave violations against children.

III.   RESULTS

a. Coordination

UNICEF in Yemen is the lead agency for the Child Protection Sub-cluster. As part of UNICEF's response to child protection concerns during the current emergency, a child protection sub-cluster with a coordination mechanism was established at central and field levels, to ensure the access of conflict-affected children to protective services, monitoring, reporting, referrals and response to grave violations against children and other child protection concerns, and to ensure appropriate advocacy during the emergency.

b. Monitoring and reporting of grave violations

In Yemen, UNICEF supported a local NGO to monitor and advocate on grave violations against children. The NGO received training to utilize global tools to enhance the evidence-base for accountability, prevention and response purposes. The child protection sub-cluster, supported by UNICEF, also conducted an Inter-Agency comprehensive child protection assessment for the regions in the north affected by the Sa'ada conflict during May-June 2010. Through these interventions, UNICEF was able to strengthen its monitoring of and response to conflict-affected children in Yemen.

Data collected through monitoring of grave and other grave violations against children was submitted to the SRSG-CAAC and included in its 9th Annual Report. In summary, reports in 2010 show that an estimated 20% of the Al-Houthi armed group and 15% of the tribal militia affiliated with the government are considered to be children. There are also reports of child recruitment by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

The Government of Yemen has detained children in prisons for their association with the Al-Houthi armed groups in all six cycles of the conflict. During 2010, a total of 42 children were killed and 55 were injured as a direct result of the fighting between Al-Houthi and pro-government militia. Additionally, 34 children were killed and 24 sustained serious injuries from explosive remnants of war throughout the country in 2010. Furthermore, some 43% of schools in the Sa'ada governorate were partially or completely destroyed due to mortar shelling and cross-fire during clashes between the two parties. In Sa'ada governorate alone, approximately 35% of health care structures were

partially or completely destroyed, and most of the health workforce migrated outside the governorate.

Access by the UN and humanitarian agencies to conflict-affected populations in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf governorates was problematic during the reporting period, due to the government denying access to humanitarian missions or refusing passage to UN staff and aid convoys at checkpoints. Tribal groups have also stopped humanitarian missions from getting through checkpoints resulting in districts under the control of Al-Houthi, denied humanitarian access.

Moreover, Yemen was affected by daily, countrywide protests since mid-February 2011 until the end of the reporting period, greatly affecting the security and livelihoods of women and children. As a result, UNICEF scaled up its efforts to monitor, report and support legal aid on grave violations against children during the civil unrest. Field workers were deployed to 15 governorates and linked directly to an emergency cell operating 24/7. Daily reports and updates were produced. A total number of affected children were reported to be 742 for the period of 18 February until 12 April 2011, of which 24 children were killed. Furthermore, an explosion at an ammunition factory in Abyan resulted in the death of another 13 children and the injury of 31. The total number of children injured by live ammunition is reported to be 36 during the reporting period. 47 children sustained injuries due to physical violence, while 625 suffered injuries caused by tear gas. Moreover, 9 children have been arrested or unlawfully imprisoned.

c. Advocacy

UNICEF has advocated with the Government for the release of child detainees in the central and political prisons for their association with al-Houthi groups. UNICEF's Representative met with the Minister of Human Rights and Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood to advocate for the children's release.

Of the 25 identified children, the Government initially agreed to release three, arguing that while the prisoners may have been children at the time of arrest, they had aged in detention. On 30 December 2010, further progress was made towards peace negotiations when the Government announced that it would release 428 children associated with al-Houthi.

UNICEF also supported the Government of Yemen in preparing Yemen's first report on the Optional Protocol of the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The report will be finalized and sent to the Committee of the Rights of the Child in the coming months. Furthermore, the UNICEF Representative in Yemen along with the UN Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator in Yemen approached the Minister of Foreign Affairs and stressed the concern regarding the use and recruitment of children by pro-government groups as well as Al-Houthi forces. The critical need of setting up a mechanism to end the association of children with armed forces and groups was stressed.

In addition, UNICEF intensified its advocacy within the current civil unrest in Yemen, with a press statement on 9 April 2011 stressing its concern about the protection of children, especially with regards to the increasing number of child casualties, exploitation and exposure to life-threatening dangers. UNICEF urged all parties, including government, opposition groups, security forces, political actors, social and religious leaders, as well as parents, to ensure that children were protected during the civil unrest.

d. Response to grave violations against children and sexual violence against women

UNICEF's responses entail advocacy, monitoring and reporting on grave violations, identification and referral of vulnerable children in need of protective services. Moreover, provision of community-based psychosocial support including recreational activities, capacity building of counterparts, communities and children and awareness-raising activities on core child protection concerns. UNICEF established and is currently running 21 child-friendly spaces, five in Hajjah, four in Amran,

and 12 in Sa'ada. Eight mobile teams in remote locations set up sixteen spaces. The staff in these mobile teams have recorded 283,070 children, of which 128,104 were girls and 154,966 were boys.

Special UNICEF teams working on child protection in emergencies identified 11,813 vulnerable children, including single-parent households and cases involving child protection issues, and other social service needs cases. Around 3% of that number had experienced violence or were separated from their families. Seven out of ten children identified received specialized support.

UNICEF undertook monitoring visits to governorate central prisons. Lists of detainees from children associated with Al-Houthis were prepared and shared with the government. By late December 2010, the children whose release UNICEF advocated for were set free.

e. Prevention

AusAID's contribution was used in part to build the capacity of children/adolescents and professionals from government, local NGOs and local communities on Child Protection in Emergency, to monitor violations against children, to provide needed responses, and to conduct referrals.

90 specially trained volunteers run the child-friendly spaces and ensure prevention and protection of children. Additionally, UNICEF designed a reporting system that identifies incidence and perpetrators of abuse, violence, abandonment and exploitation of children. This system was shared with the Child Protection Sub-cluster partners.

52,300 females and 60,000 males received awareness raising messages on child protection issues, including information about child abuse and how to prevent it. Up to 50 child protection committees were established, consisting of community leaders, women, adolescents, boys and girls, to monitor, identify and report child protection concerns and assist in addressing them.

Ten people participated in a Training-of-Trainers refresher course on mine risk education based on a package developed by UNICEF. The ten trainers trained 25 additional people, each. This process developed preparedness and supported the presence of resourced core trainers in eleven governorates where the threat of mines is significant.

28,000 people received safety messages on the risk of mines/UXOs/explosive remnants of war in Hajjah and Amran governorates. Public information and education materials were printed/purchased and distributed during the awareness campaigns, including T-shirts, vests, ballpoint pens, posters, stickers and caps. All carried messages of safety around mines and unexploded ordnance.Twenty tents were distributed to three affected governorates to house child-friendly spaces. 160 recreational kits, including toys and recreational materials for children and adolescents, were procured and distributed to the child-friendly spaces and to the mobile teams responsible for awareness-raising and recreational activities.

IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN

In light of the emergency preparedness plan, UNICEF will continue its support to ensure full protection for children from violence, abuse and exploitation. However due to the current civil unrest situation in Yemen, UNICEF stopped its support to the regular programmes, and is focusing on emergency response to meet the needs of affected children. The critical priorities UNICEF has identified are the following:

Child Protection Preparedness
- Train master trainers on Mine Risk Education, Child Protection in Emergency, and other relevant efforts, to be deployed when needed.
- Refresher course delivered to a core group of 15 peer educator trainers to deliver critical messages on HIV and child protection.

- Train and deploy a core group of trainers on prevention/separation of children.
- Pre-positioning of recreational kits in different governorates.

Child Protection Response
- Monitoring and reporting on grave violations and other serious concerns in the Yemeni context, including child trafficking.
- Prevention of separation of children from their families and support to family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children.
- Support the provision of family-based interim care.
- HIV & child protection awareness through peer educators.
- Maintaining and establishing child protection committees to monitor and prevent violence against children and women.
- Ensuring psychosocial support to children and their caregivers (including GBV victims).
- Provide mine risk education through community child protection committees.
- Advocacy undertaken for parties to sign an action plan to address child recruitment by armed groups.

In addition, a feasibility study is planned which is expected to clarify the program and budgetary needs. This will be followed with advocacy efforts at national, regional and global level if needed. To implement the 2011 planned program, it is anticipated that USD 1.5 million will be required, of which USD 300,000 is available.

V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION
Of the $206,020 received from AusAID, UNICEF Yemen spent $204,949.

Country/Region	Fund Received (USD)	Fund Utilized (USD)	Funds Remaining (USD)
Yemen	206,020.87	204,949.41	1,071.46

B.5. STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CAPACITY

AusAid's support strengthened global capacity building for monitoring and reporting on grave violations and response to children affected by armed conflict as mandated by Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1882. UNICEF, in cooperation with DPKO and OSRSG-CAAC, led three regional inter-agency MRM Training of Trainers (TOT). Over 90 UN personnel were provided TOT's on MRM, representing 13 countries currently implementing the MRM and eight other situations of concern. Additionally, over 60 UN and NGO staff received country level MRM training in Afghanistan and in South Sudan. The regional workshops also helped in enabling regional cooperation between countries on this issue. UNICEF, in cooperation with OSRSG-CAAC and DPKO, led in the development of the MRM field manual and training toolkit, which served as the basis for the trainings. Of the total funds received by UNICEF Headquarters 88% has been utilized. Of the total amount of USD 824,887 received by UNICEF from AusAid, 1.21% was utilized for the global support by UNICEF Headquarter and 98.78% was spent in the countries reported above.

Country/Region	Fund Received (USD)	Fund Utilized (USD)	Funds Remaining (USD)
UNICEF HQ	99,887.00	88,183.00	11,703.60

VI. Expression of Thanks
UNICEF is grateful to the Government and people of Australia, for their support to improve the lives of vulnerable children affected by armed conflict. This support has allowed UNICEF to work in partnership with governments, other UN organizations and civil society actors to monitor, report and respond to grave violations against children with a goal to ultimately ending them in the future. We are looking forward to continuing this very important collaboration with AusAID.