Safety and Justice for Children

PROGRAMME STRATEGY NOTE
UNICEF BELIZE
COUNTRY PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION 2017-2021
1. Introduction

“National legislation is required to prevent and mitigate violence and other childhood abuses, and the justice, education, public health, security, and other sectors should observe children’s rights to this protection” (Outcome 3, UNICEF Belize Country Programme) The Child Protection programme seeks to address the social norms and behaviours that condone violent and discriminatory practices; the inadequate, poorly delivered, and uncoordinated services; poor legal protection; and weak implementation of laws. The programme intends to support the development of a strong human-rights based child protection system that facilitates development throughout the lifecycle. It will focus on institutional strengthening and delivery of quality services that build just and secure systems of protection with a focus on urban settings where children’s access to justice is weak, impunity prevails, and violence is high. These interventions will put in place wrap around services that ensure that children have an enabling environment to achieve their potentials, and ensure that parents have the skills needed to protect their children from vulnerabilities and risks. Furthermore, violence prevention efforts will be embedded with positive alternatives to violence through the integration of communication based programmes and sports for development which includes music, sports, art, & dance.

The outcome is focused on ensuring that violence and impunity in Belize do not go unaddressed and unmeasured and it ensures that the country makes adequate investments in the justice system in order to protect the rights of children and give them access to freedom and opportunities. Additionally, this outcome will simultaneously strengthen the initiatives under outcome 2 and 3 of the UNICEF Belize country programme by providing technical expertise in the areas of violence prevention and ensuring that the work being done ensures the most vulnerable children are accessing social protection services and lifelong learning services. Furthermore, the work in this programme will specifically support the lifelong learning outcome, by ensuring that professionals working with children 0-3 are trained in understanding violence prevention, and need for safety nets.

The Government of Belize and the social partners recognize that there are challenges within the child protection system and have identified gaps that need to be filled in order to protect children from abuse. The Government and social partners also recognizes that children need to be provided with opportunities that reduce the likelihood of them coming in conflict with the law as both victims and alleged perpetrators. It has been outlined in recent documents, such as the Child Justice Conceptual Model: Promoting Children’s Access to Justice (2015), that the current legal system does not ensure that those who do come in conflict with the law will be given the best opportunity to lead productive lives.

Therefore to achieve the outcomes and maximize the synergies, UNICEF’s investment will complement and leverage the work being done by the programs of the Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation, the Ministry of Education and the Attorney General’s Ministry, Supreme Court, and the national child protection taskforce. Additionally, through this programme, UNICEF will continue to support the efforts of Belize Supreme Court & the Belize Family Court, the Ministry of National Security, Department of Legal Aid, relevant NGOs and CBOs, including indigenous organizations, in identifying and addressing inequities and building capacities and knowledge for the full implementation of child justice and violence prevention programmes.

2. Prioritized issues and areas

The programme area has three outputs that are articulated below. Within the outputs there are three broad areas of priority; child justice, ending violence against children, and systems strengthening. Further articulation of those and the rationale for working in these areas are as follows:

Priority Area 1. Child Justice: In this area the programme will work towards a comprehensive reform of the child justice system. It will ensure that institutions responsible for the delivery of equitable justice are
strengthened, and that child friendly justice spaces, including video-link & child friendly interview rooms are developed. The work that will be done in this area responds directly to the recommendations made in the UNICEF Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Belize (2011) including staffing juvenile courts with trained social workers in each district, expanding Family Courts into the districts, and development of protocols and procedures to take statements from children who are witnesses, victims and alleged perpetrators.

In Belize, legal experts and professionals from the child protection sector have indicated that the lack of legal support tends to exacerbate the reasons why children and families do not come forward to give statements as witnesses nor do they seek justice if they are victims; they fear the legal system and hold the belief that perpetrators will not be penalized for their actions. In addition, according to Family Court judicial statistics\(^1\) in 2015, the most common crime for which juveniles came in conflict with the law was for drug possession, the second most common crime amongst juveniles was burglary. The prevalence of these crimes amongst the youth population of the country further highlights the need for initiatives to juvenile justice that addresses socio-economic and psycho-social factors perversely promoting juvenile crime as well as the inadequacy of the current Juvenile Offenders Act in providing an effective response to continual problem of juvenile crime.

To date child justice services remain limited, leaving majority of children without the ability to access justice. Of all the cases being reported less than 5% are tried and only 1% of family cases brought to court result in conviction. Currently, the Family Court lacks human resources, equipment, and child friendly spaces, to ensure and provide for full respect for children’s rights. This has led to the re-victimization of children by them having to repeat their testimony on multiple occasions and in intimidating environments without the necessary support from parents, social workers, and legal representatives.

Additionally, gaps exist in the legislation. The current Juvenile Offenders Act does not fully meet or provide for the rehabilitative needs of children who are in conflict with the law. At present, it does not, including a legal mandate for diversion and rehabilitation programs. Moreover, the system often misclassifies children in need of protection orders as juvenile offenders. For example, of the 48 boys at the youth hostel in 2013, 13 of them where there for a behavioural reason or a status offence\(^2\). Of the 45 girls at the facility during the same time 40 of them had been committed for a status offence due to behavioural issues.

Belize has begun to work towards child justice reform; this reform involves ensuring that children are better served and protected by the justice system. It also works towards strengthening rule of law efforts to ensure justice for children. Given the available data and the political will to support child justice this will remain a priority of the programme of the Government of Belize. Since there is limited resources in country to ensure timely implementation, this programme will help to fast track implementation and bring about a required change. It will leverage government’s commitment and help to ensure that young people benefit from judicial reform.

**Priority Area 2: Ending Violence (including Children 0-3):**

Protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation is key to ensuring that all Belizean children have an equal opportunity to develop their fullest potential in a safe and secure environment. In 2011, the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS4) indicated an exponential increase in the number of parents who support the use of physical abuse (70.5%) of children. This suggests a generalized cultural pattern in which physical punishment is considered normal. With respect to sexual abuse, the Belize National Plan of Action for Children Monitoring Report indicates a decrease in child abuse cases from 5.3 per 10,000 in 2003 to 4 per 10,000 in 2011. There are complaints of reluctance to report due to a perceived slow or inadequate response from the Department of Human Services (DHS). Of the cases that were reported and sent to court very few victims were able to have legal representation\(^3\).
The current data from the Ministry of Human Development indicates that sexual abuse for 2015 was 436 (35 males, 401 females). The recent MIC5 (2015) indicates that the percentage of children who experienced any form of violent disciplining method decreased from 70.5% in 2011 to 65% in 2015. However, the number of children experiencing severe physical punishment has increased by 1.5% point to 6.5%. Anecdotally, it is explained that parents are delaying physical punishment but when it does occur it is extremely severe. Given the data regarding violence, the programme will support improving evidence-based VAC, not only on what works, but also on the prevalence, determinants, different types of violence, systemic bottlenecks, ensuring strong prevention mechanisms, institutional strengthening and improvement in the quality of services required to build just and secure systems of protection, with a focus on urban settings where violence is high. Additionally through existing coordination mechanism, UNICEF will also bring together partners and investments needed to make Belize safer for children.

UNICEF Belize will work towards reducing the many factors that make children of all ages vulnerable to violence including children with disabilities especially given the evidence that children with disabilities are 3-4 times more likely to be subject of physical and sexual violence. Violence prevention efforts will target young adolescents (10-17), in and out of school with positive alternatives to violence through community based programmes that include life and livelihood skills, sport for development, and after school support.

In 2011 only 32 per cent of children between 36 and 59 months of age attended an Early Childhood Education (ECE) programme, but this reached 55 per cent by 2015. Disparities however persist as only one in five of the poorest children attend ECE, and the Cayo district sees the lowest ECE attendance rate (36 per cent). Additionally, according to the MIC 5, more than 2 children under 5 are left alone or in the care of another child under 10 years of age for more than one hour during the week. These children under three years old are at greatest risk for unresponsive care, neglect, severe injury and death from abuse, the programme will then, have a particular focus on this age bracket as there is much to gain from empowering actors across multiple sectors who provide services targeting young children and their families. One of the ways in which this programme will provide substantive support to the ECD outcome is ensuring that initiatives such as Care for Child Development have strong prevention messages embedded in the training so that it will strengthen the prevention component of the C4CD intervention.

**Priority Area 3: Strengthen Families, Communities and Government Response**

Families and communities play a vital role in the survival, growth and development of children. Therefore a priority of this programme will be to work with families and communities and empower them to identify issues of concern, define viable solutions and multiply their capacity to act on their decisions. Additionally, this priority area includes strengthening all aspects of the child protection response. The current child protection system in Belize focuses heavily on the response and not necessarily the prevention aspect. However, the Government together with UNICEF have committed to addressing the full spectrum of risk factors that impact the lives of children and families which also means that we must strengthen the prevention and continuum of care features of the system. In order to coordinate the system, the Government has created a child protection taskforce that seeks to provide oversight to the Ending Violence against Children - road map. The road map highlights various aspects of child protection that needs support by 2021, such as legislative reform, birth registration reform, stronger prevention messages in school, sexual and reproductive health education and child labour. Therefore, in this area, the programme will continue to support the Child Protection Taskforce whose mandate is to develop strategies to work with lawmakers and opinion-shapers at the national level, while also promoting positive social norms and behaviours at community level. Additionally, a key component within this priority area will be the reduction of the number of children in institutions. Currently, this work will be done by providing support to the government to strengthen their laws and policies to fully integrate the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and assist in the development of social protection services to support and strengthen families to limit
separation, and support family reintegration where possible. In Belize, child labour predominately affects rural communities with over 70% of rural children being involved in work of which 1/3 of them are working in agriculture. The recently published Child Activity Survey for Belize (2015) indicates that child labour is highest in Corozal, Toledo and Orange Walk districts. Therefore the programme will focus on ensuring that children involved or at risk of child labour have access to prevention, withdrawal and protection services, rehabilitation and remediation services, psychosocial counselling, mediation with parents and employers, and legal support. In the area of advocacy the work in child labour will focus on raising families’ awareness of the detrimental effects of child labour. Targeted C4D awareness campaigns (that engage the media, CBOs, NGOs, workers’ and employers’) of actions that can be taken to protect children and the alternatives to help them develop their full potential will be developed. Lastly, UNICEF will work with the relevant stakeholders to eliminate bottlenecks related to universal birth registration. In Belize, non-registration of births of children is more pronounced in communities where access to birth registration facilities is not readily available. MICS data indicate that approximately 6% of children remain ‘outside’ of the system and are not registered at all. Children from poor families and those in rural areas are least likely to have a birth certificate.

3. Theory of Change for Programme Components

The Child Protection agenda in Belize seeks to support government’s efforts to improve the “protective environment” (governmental commitment to fulfilling protection rights, legislation and enforcement, changing negative attitudes, traditions, customs, behaviour and practices, open discussion, including the engagement of media and civil society, children’s life skills, knowledge and participation, capacity of those in contact with the child, basic and Targeted Services, monitoring and oversight) and the systems approach for child protection by facilitating, among other things, collaboration, coordination, cooperation and accountability. Additionally, the programmes agenda relies on greater cross-sectoral programming for the prevention of violence- especially in early childhood development- and through the integration of all programmes to mitigate all forms of violence and exploitation against children in education, health, adolescent development, social protection and other sectors.

Through a combination of outputs and activities (please see section 4 below on the Results structure) which greatly relies on the core corporate strategies of capacity building, evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy, being the voice for children, partnerships- including with CSOs and the private sector, communication for development and, cross sectoral linkages, the expected outcomes and impacts are articulated below:

**Expected Impact:** Children are safe from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, and the country shows a reduction in the percentage of children who experience violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect and who are at risk of offending.

**Outcome:**
By 2020, national legislation is implemented to prevent, mitigate, and address violence and other childhood abuses, and the justice, education, public health, security and other sectors observe children’s rights to this protection.

**Outputs**

*Output 1:* Increased national capacity to promote and ensure justice systems that enable the prevention and treatment of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Rationale
The way children are treated by the national justice systems, Department of Social Services and security institutions is integral to the achievement of rule of law. Despite some progress in the last few years, children are yet to be viewed as key stakeholders in national child justice reform and professionals working in the area of child justice need additional capacity. Work to implement child justice standards is still frequently handled separately from broader justice, and security reform. It is also often undertaken through vertical approaches, aimed at improving either the juvenile justice system or responses to child victims and witnesses, without acknowledging the frequent overlap between these two groups. The Government has indicated that it wants to undertake the necessary reform but needs help to pursue and achieve this important goal. Given the political will to address the situation it is opportune to provide support that will benefit children and families.

Key Areas of Work

1. Establish child friendly courts in at least three municipalities/districts?
2. Use participatory processes to develop and adopt rules and procedures for how young people should be treated when they enter the justice system.
3. Develop and implement extracurricular programs that young people can access to develop social and productive skills
4. Establish social services programs that support and enable youth development
5. Build the capacities of judicial officers including judges, magistrates, police, prosecutors, and lawyers to respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children who come in conflict with the law as both victims and alleged perpetrators

Output 2: Strengthened political commitment and accountability to legislate and budget for strengthening interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Rationale

Cross-sectoral linkages are important for the implementation of a systems approach. UNICEF globally, emphasizes engaging with the health and education sectors, given the opportunities for action around issues such as birth registrations, early childhood development and violence against children. The organization supports system strengthening by building national capacities to budget for child protection. In Belize, stakeholders have identified and in some instances developed legislation or amendments to legislation that would better protect children, however advocacy at the political level is needed. Additionally, advocacy and capacity building of parents and children is needed to show the importance of a strong child protection system that can prevent and where needed respond to the violence and abuse being experienced by Belizean children. The Ministry of Finance is working with UNICEF to undertake programme budgeting that is child friendly. They have embraced the opportunity to provide training to finance officers who work in areas that impact children to develop programme budgets that are feasible. This provides an opportunity to partner with the Ministry of finance and finance officers to develop a commitment to programmes that make a difference in children’s lives.

Key Areas of Work

1. Strengthen the existing national strategy that implements rules and procedures that prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of young people
2. Increase awareness to all stakeholders on the rules and procedures that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children and families
3. Promote the development of legislation that gives provision to the protection of witnesses, and provisions for free legal aid for children
4. Promote the integration of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

5. Promote the budgeting for children project that is being undertaken by the Ministry of Finance and UNICEF, to ensure that Government allocations are directly impacting the lives of children

Output 3: Increased country capacity to ensure that children’s rights to protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect are promoted and sustained.

Rationale

Behaviours and attitudes towards violence, exploitation and abuse of children are key root causes for many of the challenges related to child abuse and violence. Participation by children, families and communities is also important to address the challenges and improve child protection. Ensuring birth registration and providing sound early childhood development programmes can play a vital role in promoting and providing protective environments for children, so support will be provided for the development and implementation of integrated early childhood development approaches. Support will also be directed at reducing the registration gap. Work will also be done to reduce the number of children in need of alternative care.

Key Areas of Work

1. Strengthen existing public education program to increase awareness about the rules and procedures that are in place to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect

2. Strengthen children’s awareness of violence and abuse and empower them to share information among peer groups in all municipalities

3. Build the capacity of national stakeholders to work with families and reduce the need for alternative care for children

4. Build capacity of national stakeholders in the implementation of Care for Child Development for children 0-3 to improve child stimulation practices and parental mental health.

5. Work with Government to increase awareness about the importance of child registration

6. Awareness raising activities and registrar training will become a component of UNICEF’s Birth Registration initiatives. Some strategies will include national mass media communication (TV, radio and print) and community mobilization

7.

Assumptions and Risk Mitigation:

- The government and social partners recognize inequities and existence of unacceptable levels of violence and abuse faced by children and are committed to reduce both the levels and impacts on children and families.
- Global initiatives (Ending Violence Against Children) realize that more resources are required to address the challenges faced by children as a result of violence and abuse and are committed to support
- Social partners are committed to work with Government to reduce child violence and are taking action to demonstrate their commitment for children

The major risk to achieving these outcomes are:

- Funding gaps widen to inhibit or limit the progress on equity
- Slow receptivity of society to behaviour change messages
- Social conditions deteriorate due to poverty, and escalation in availability of illicit drugs and
violence

- Uncoordinated efforts inhibit impact
- Pilots not scaled up

A major assumption for the overall outcome is that Government and other stakeholders recognize that all children have a right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse, and that all stakeholders will see the need to work together to achieve a reduction in violence, abuse and exploitation. They see that more needs to be done to reduce the violence that children face and want to do something about it. The problem is multifaceted and need multipronged interventions. Fortunately, the government is committed to act but it needs help to address the challenges.

The risk is that the poverty gap can widen and this could increase the vulnerability of families and children to violence and abuse. A multi-sectoral approach to solving this problem is required to mitigate this risk. The planned response to this risk is to ensure that, all sectors involved recognize that they must include approaches to violence reduction in their plans of action and they need to coordinate their activities by ensuring that those sectors participate in the child protection taskforce and work together towards common goals. Below are additional risks to achieving the overall outcome and mitigating responses to those risks:

Governments and other stakeholders recognize that all children have the right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse. Mitigating response to this risk is to support partner’s participation in coordinating bodies, such as the child protection taskforce, the juvenile justice taskforce, additionally increasing children’s participation in policy dialogues, so that they can advocate for realization of their own rights.

Data systems on violence are robust and accessible. Planned risk response is supporting partners to implement a holistic approach to child protection and document using data the effect it has on children’s lives.

Strong collaboration between ministries and partners for the advancement of making societies safe for children. A planned response to this risk is to support partners to implement a holistic approach to child protection and advocating for consistent participation in existing coordination and collaborating bodies.

Strategies

In order to achieve the outcome and outputs outlined above, strategies that will be used by the programme include:

- Advocating for social and behaviour change to reject violent discipline and all other forms of violence.
- Strengthen quality and coordination of services for the prevention of violence and access to justice
- Promoting laws, policies and quality standards that are compliant with international standards and best practices
- Develop institutional capacity at the national and subnational level to ensure communities are resilient, especially the most disadvantaged.
- Facilitate south-south, horizontal and triangular knowledge generation and cooperation to identify good practices applicable in the context of the Caribbean to scale up children’s access to justice in Belize
- Generate evidence on child justice, violence against children in all of its dimensions to establish baselines and national definitions in line with SDG 16, and use it to advocate and influence relevant, child-sensitive and rights-based justice policies

Initiatives that support the achievement of the outcome include the global End Violence against Children initiative. This is an important approach to raising the visibility of the issue, and a good example of the potential power of partnerships. This platform could increase advocacy around the Sustainable
Development Goals (especially 16.2), and the call for reduction in the incidence of violence against children.

Partnerships are an important component of successful programme implementation. Being able to partner effectively and efficiently to enhance results for children, based on the UNICEF comparative advantage and shared commitments to common principles and results, has never been more important. Strategic partnerships with members of the United Nations family and international financial institutions will continue to play a central role in advancing results for children with equity. Additionally, partnering with members of the existing coordinating mechanisms, such as the child protection taskforce and the juvenile justice task force is important to ensure that integration of child rights and ending violence against children remains the focus of the agenda. UNICEF will continue its long-standing practice of building capacity through partnerships with national and local governments, civil society, and academic institutions.

**Barriers and Bottlenecks** include: social norms and behaviours that condone violent practices and discriminatory practices, inadequate, poorly delivered and uncoordinated services (such as insufficient coverage for birth registration, social workers carrying excessive caseloads); poor legal protections and weak implementation of laws (such as the social services agencies act, the age of criminal responsibility being quite low, lack of unified child justice police and no guidelines for confining children in institutions). Additionally, lack of data and evidence and inadequate financial and human resources - including adequate resources in the office (please also see above - prioritized issues and areas). To mitigate these barriers and bottlenecks, underlying this Theory of Change are the following key principles:

- The **state has primary responsibility** for action on violence against children. National governments hold the ultimate responsibility for implementing laws, policies and services around violence against children. The state can achieve change by increasing justice for children and decreasing violence against children.

- **Social norms can change** and sustained reduction of violence against children will only occur through processes of significant social change, including social norms, at all levels.

- **Multi-sectoral** approaches are more likely to **have impact**. Coordinated interventions operating at multiple levels, across sectors and over multiple time frames are more likely to address the various aspects of, and therefore have greater impact on reducing violence against children.
### Results Structure (Outputs and Outcomes, and the Associated Indicators)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF outcomes</th>
<th>Key progress indicators, baselines and targets</th>
<th>Means of verification</th>
<th>Indicative country programme outputs</th>
<th>Key output indicators, baselines and targets</th>
<th>Major partners, partnership frameworks</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Girls 15-17 who have ever experienced sexual violence  
**Target (2021):** 20% reduction | 2.1 Increased country capacity to promote and ensure justice and systems that enable the prevention and treatment of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect  
2.2. Strengthened political commitment to legislate and budget for strengthening interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect  
2.3.Increased capacity of right-holders and duty bearers to foster positive practices and norms to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect | Ministry of Human Development FamCare database | Existence of functioning child protection systems offering preventive and response services  
**Baseline(2015): 1 (Based on criteria**  
**Target (2021): At least 3 based on criteria** | Supreme Court, Family Court, Legal Aid Department, RESTORE Belize, Department of Human Services, Department of Police, Child Development Foundation, Vital Statistics Unit, Belize Cane Farmers Association, Labour Department |
| Children in detention (per 100,000)  
**Baseline (2015):** 23.7 per 100,000  
**Target: (2021)** 13.5 per 100,000 | Calculated annually from population estimates and administrative records  
Ministry of Human Development FamCare | Existence of procedures and services for children in contact with law that are applied and delivered in line with international norms  
**Baseline: (2015) 1  
Target: (2021) 3** | | |
| Children 0-17 living in residential care, with disaggregated target ages and a specific target for children 0-3  
**Baseline (2015):** 75 males 105 girls(2015)  
**Target (2021): (20% reduction)** | Calculated annually from population estimates and administrative records  
Ministry of Human Development FamCare | | | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Baseline (2015)</th>
<th>Target (2021)</th>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children 2-14 years who experience violent disciplinary practices by an</td>
<td>adult member of the household</td>
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<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster</td>
<td>Parents/primary caregivers reached by programmes addressing child-</td>
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<td>adult member of the household</td>
<td>Baseline (2015): 76% (MICS 2015)</td>
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<td>Survey</td>
<td>rearing practices</td>
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<td>Target (2021): 30% reduction</td>
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<td>Baseline (2015): 10%</td>
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<td>Target (2021): 30% reduction</td>
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<td>Children under 5 whose birth is reported as registered</td>
<td>Baseline 95.7% (MICS 2015)</td>
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<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster</td>
<td>Existence of free and universal birth registration service within the</td>
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<td>Target (2021) TBA</td>
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<td>Survey</td>
<td>civil registration</td>
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<td>Baseline (2015): No</td>
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<td>Target (2021): Yes</td>
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<td>Children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, per sex and age group</td>
<td>(disaggregated by the worst forms of child labour)</td>
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<td>Child Activity Survey</td>
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<td>Baseline (2015): 47%</td>
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<td>Target (2021): 38% (20% reduction)</td>
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5. Monitoring Outputs

UNICEF will continue applying the MoRES framework in its planning, monitoring and adapting its programmatic interventions for the entire Country Programme, including for the actions under this Outcome area. Using the CPD and this strategy note as its main guide, the programme will develop a five-year work plan which will be reviewed on an annual basis. The development of this larger five-year plan will allow the programme to better align its plans to government’s planning cycles and needs and provide for any adjustments. Additionally, the programme will also be subject the global M&E monitoring standards and tools (e.g. on violence and justice) which will be built into the programme. The day to day monitoring will be the responsibility of the child protection officer with support from a programme assistant. Effective use of field visits will be a key avenue for continuous monitoring of implementation towards the realization of milestones. As such, trip reports will be monitored very closely and their quality enhanced.

The formulation of the National Plan of Action for Children 2016-2030, will support the establishment of an inter-ministerial Monitoring and Evaluation Committee which will oversee and coordinate the multi-sector implementation of pro-child policies and monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, the indicators being selected for this programme will be impeded into the Child Protection Taskforce, and the taskforce is embedded into the NPA framework. Both the NPA and Child Protection Taskforce intend to have ‘stock-taking’ exercises once per year in order to review the data and determine if meeting identified targets are on or off track.

Support will be given to the respective government counterparts and partners in routine monitoring, and their reports will be regularly used in determining the progress against specific indicators. The annual mid-year and end of year reviews will be a key instrument for determining the progress in addressing the specific targets outlined in the results framework. Adjustments will be made accordingly where and when necessary.

6. Resource Requirements

UNICEF Belize will continue to rely on thematic funding from the UNICEF Regional Office and Headquarters, along with programme specific investments from a few interested UNICEF National Committees. The resource mobilization landscape for UNICEF in Belize is difficult and the expectation is that resources will be difficult to mobilize, however the country is currently working on a resource mobilization plan and anticipate raising additional funds for some of the child protection priority areas. This programme has three outputs that contribution to the outcome and impact. The proposed resource allocation in the results framework is RR is 250k, and OR limited to 400k annually. It is anticipated that the programme will be managed by a national officer with 50% support from a programme assistant.

7. External Risks

An external risk to the programme is the fact that some programmes that are developed to address crime and violence are draconian in nature and do not have a rights based approach, particularly programmes developed for children at risk. This could potentially mean that competing messages to the community and children are being sent regarding violence reduction and justice for children. Coordination around messages and the importance of having a rights based approach to justice interventions for children will aid in mitigating this risk.

Another potential risk to the country programme may result from the limited capacities for results based management and reporting that exist at the country level. As a response, significant efforts will be directed towards identification of international expertise, capacity building, south-south cooperation and technical assistance, which will be put to use in the implementation of all activities, while ensuring that national capacities for RBM and reporting are put in place before the end of the Country Programme.
Additionally, emergency preparedness needs to remain an important element of UNICEF interventions across sectors and in coordination with the National Emergency Management Organization.

Annex 1: Theory of Change Diagram (on the next page)
Safety and Justice (Ending Violence) Theory of Change

Children are safe from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect
Reduction in the percentage of children who experience violence, exploitation abuse and neglect and are at risk offending

National Legislation is implemented to prevent, mitigate and address violence and other childhood abuses and the justice, education, public health, security and other sectors observe children’s right to this protection

Outputs
- Increased country capacity to promote and ensure justice systems that enable the prevention and treatment of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect
- Strengthened political commitment to legislate and budget for strengthening interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse exploitation and neglect
- Increased capacity of right holders and duty bearers to foster positive practices and norms to protect children from violence, abuse exploitation and neglect

Strategies
- Advocate and mobilize for social and behaviour change to reject all forms of violence and discriminatory practices
- Strengthen quality and coordination of services for the prevention of violence and protection of childhood
- Promote laws, policies and quality standards that are compliant with international standards and best practices
- Generate evidence on the incidence of children’s rights violations and the human financial and infrastructure capacity requirements to facilitate comprehensive interventions

Risks
- Funding gaps widen to inhibit progress on equity
- Slow reactivity of society to behaviour change messages
- Uncoordinated efforts inhibit impact
- Pilots not scaled up

Assumptions
- Political support to address inequality is strong
- Recognition of inequities and commitment to reduce impacts of violence on most affected populations
- Global initiatives (Ending Violence Against Children) realize more resources for children
- Efforts to change social norms are supported and not undermined
- Consensus on importance of partnership continues
- Active private sector actively engaged
- Reluctance to share data
- Limited systems and capacity for costing and budgeting
- Low demand for use of disaggregated data for decision making

Barriers and bottlenecks
- Violence, abuse exploitation and offending are societal problems, driven by economic and social inequities. Safe, security and justice for children are at risk due to social norms that condone violence as an acceptable way to resolve conflicts by both adults and children, sanction adult control over children and discrimination. Violence is a burden on people as well as sector performance (i.e., education, health, economic). Violence and injustice are enabled by systems that lack effective policies and legislation, lack accountability, efficacious governance and a strong rule of law to prevent violence, prosecute perpetrators and provide follow up services for victims. Violence and impunity persist when they go unaddressed and unmeasured as a result of inadequate investments in data collection, analysis, lack of accountability, dissemination of findings and programme application.
Endnotes

1 Chief Justice’s Annual Report, 2015, pg 84
2 EVAC Report, 2013,
Definition: A status offense is an action that is prohibited only to a certain class of people, and most often applied only to offenses committed by minors.
3 Legal Aid Feasibility Study
4 Data collection, research; identification, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up; promotion, prevention, treatment and response; human resources; governance and management.
5 Effective child protection depends on the following elements: (i) appropriate policies, legislation and regulations; (ii) well-defined structures, functions and adequate capacities; (iii) supportive social norms; (iv) effective promotion, prevention and response actions; (v) high quality evidence and data for decision-making; and (vi) efficient fiscal management and sufficient resource allocation.
6 1. 1 district court (Punta Gorda) is using child-friendly procedures and approaches for dealing with justice for children (both the criminal and administrative justice activities, including investigative and court procedures). The child justice system is biased towards detention and other custodial remedies.
7 At least 3 district courts are using child-friendly procedures and approaches for dealing with justice for children (both the criminal and administrative justice activities, including investigative and court procedures). 2. The child justice system is using diversion and non-custodial options.