

# **UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)**

## **Support to NEPAD**

**Period of Report: 2005 to 2006**

### **Advocacy work in support of African development**

UNICEF continues to advocate for a child-centered development in Africa. UNICEF and the AU have an ongoing joint advocacy programme on all aspects of children's issues. As NEPAD and AU merge their programmes, UNICEF is providing support to both to ensure that youth and children's issues remain high on the agenda. For example, following the adoption by the AU summit in Abuja of a resolution on child survival in Africa, UNICEF, jointly with WHO provided support to the AU Commission to draft a Road Map for Child Survival and Development in Africa.

Similarly, UNICEF is working with the Commission to support the mid-term review of the Cairo African Common Position adopted in preparation to the UN Special Session on Children in 2002, which feeds into the review of implementation of the MDGs in Africa.

UNICEF is providing support to the AU in elaborating a biennial report on the situation of African children, to be examined by the AU summit. The first report was presented to the July 2004 summit.

At the global level, UNICEF supported directly and indirectly advocacy efforts for children's rights in Africa. UNICEF's annual flagship publication "The State of the World's Children Report" of 2005 is devoted to childhood under threat from poverty, HIV/AIDS and conflicts, all topics relevant to Africa. On the international scene, and in the major continental forums, UNICEF has been the lead voice (and one of the main partners) for many of the key issues in the social sectors: Education in Africa, particularly Girls' Education, Children Orphaned by HIV/AIDS, Child Trafficking, Children in Armed Conflict, etc.

At the sub-regional level, UNICEF is supporting ECOWAS in its efforts to hold a Peer Review on the situation of children. UNICEF is also supporting the Child Protection Unit of ECOWAS.

At the country level, through the various programmes of cooperation, UNICEF is advocating with its partners, in particular governments, for an increased attention to the rights and well-being of children. All our programme areas include important advocacy components.

## **Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD**

UNICEF continues to chair the Human Resource cluster, and in this capacity continues to coordinate and collaborate with sister UN cluster members (UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, IOM, ILO, WHO, WFP, OCHA) in support of NEPAD. The cluster is the main forum for the Agencies to coordinate their activities in the areas of Health, HIV/AIDS, Education, Labour, Youth and Migration. It is also an effective mechanism to working with the NEPAD Secretariat on substantive issues.

There is good and improving collaboration and coordination among UN Agencies at country level through the various programming and coordination mechanisms (CCA/UNDAF, Joint Programmes and Projects, UN Theme Groups, Resident Coordinator Systems, etc). UNICEF also participates with other UN Agencies in the elaboration of PRSPs in many countries.

UNICEF is a key partner of the Simplification and Harmonisation efforts at country level, with our UNDG partners. These efforts will help countries implementing the NEPAD to cut down on transaction costs and simplify procedures for UN assistance. UNICEF along with UNDP and other UN agencies, is supporting the roll-out of the "Africa Info" database for monitoring of and reporting on MDGs.

## **Financial support to NEPAD programmes and projects**

UNICEF supports NEPAD programmes and projects through country programmes of cooperation in all African countries, centered mostly around five priority areas:

- Child survival and development ;
- Girls' Education;
- Combating HIV/AIDS ;
- Promotion of adequate legal and policy frameworks for children;
- Child Protection.

UNICEF is mandated by its Executive Board to allocate 50 % of its Regular Resources to Sub-Saharan Africa, and that objective has regularly been met since 2004.

## **Institutional support to NEPAD Secretariat**

Through its programmes of cooperation with African countries, UNICEF supports the implementation of the MDGs, six of which are at the core of its mandate. UNICEF's support to NEPAD Secretariat has been mostly in technical assistance in the area of its mandate to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD's objectives, which are consistent with the MDGs.

UNICEF continues to work with the NEPAD Secretariat, in particular in the framework of the Human Resource cluster, to support the fine-tuning of the various strategies in the different sectors covered by the cluster (Health, HIV/AIDS, Education, Employment, Social Affairs, and Migration).

UNICEF and other members of the cluster continue to provide the AU and NEPAD Secretariat with expert advice, in support of the development of their strategy papers on Health, Social Affairs and HIV/AIDS. In addition, UNICEF/UNAIDS and WHO are providing the NEPAD Secretariat with technical assistance and expertise to identify HIV/AIDS indicators for inclusion in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).