

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: 2004 - 2005

Advocacy work in support of African development

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, at the recent AU summit in Abuja, WHO, UNICEF and AU agreed on a joint advocacy exercise in support of the Child Survival Initiative; a much more elaborate joint programme is being planned for the July Summit in the context of the review of implementation of the MDGs in Africa.

UNICEF continues to advocate for a child-centered development in Africa. "The Young Face of NEPAD", a comprehensive strategy, was developed jointly with the AU, NEPAD and the ECA. UNICEF is also targeting its advocacy at country level to influence national policies and programmes around the well-being of children.

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 to 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.

The cluster elaborated its work plan for 2004 to cover HIV/AIDS, Education, Employment, and Health sectors. The work plan was adopted at an Inter-Agency meeting with the endorsement of the NEPAD Secretariat, and is being implemented, with Health, HIV/AIDS and Education being given priority.

The sub-cluster on Health created in 2004 and placed under the leadership of WHO and UNFPA, has assisted NEPAD in the establishment of the Health and Social Affairs desks within the sub-regional organizations, specifically IGAD and ECOWAS. Efforts are underway for the establishment of a similar desk in the SADC.

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:

- Early Childhood Development
- Girls' Education
- Combating HIV/AIDS
- Immunisation "Plus"
- 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.

For the year 2004, UNICEF's total programme expenditure (regular resources and other resources) in Africa is estimated to be over \$566 million, just above 49% of all programme expenditures.

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 have also been providing the AU and NEPAD Secretariat with expert advice in the past six months, 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).

One of the priority areas for the NEPAD Human Resource cluster is the Youth Agenda. We have been assisting NEPAD in developing their programme in this area with expert advice, which is now being articulated in a concept paper. Due to the merger of the NEPAD/AU activities, the Youth Agenda is now being taken up jointly and we plan to finalise preparatory work to hold a workshop on Youth before May 2005.