

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

In its capacity as the convener of the human resource development, employment, health, the HIV and AIDS (HRDEHA) Cluster in support of AU and its NEPAD Programme, UNICEF facilitated joint planning, thus contributing significantly to Africa's development agenda. The HRDEHA cluster is co-chaired by the African Union Commission of Social Affairs. The collaborating agencies in this cluster are; FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNDP, ECA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNFPA, WFP, WHO/WAC, WIPO and NEPAD Secretariat, represented by the NEPAD Regional Integration Unit.

The HRDEHA comprises three sub-clusters, namely:

- Human Resource Development with UNESCO as the convener (with support from UNICEF);
- Employment, with ILO as the convener; and
- Health, HIV and AIDS with UNAIDS as the convener.

In a bid to strengthen the collaboration with UN Agencies, UNICEF-AU Liaison office led by the UNICEF Representative to Ethiopia, AU and ECA made all efforts to ensure participation of other UN Agencies and the African Union Commission on social affairs, education and human resources development with technical facilitation/guidance from the NEPAD Regional Integration Division. This process proved very crucial, resulting in joint and coordinated activities agreed upon, to be implemented and delivered as "*One United Nations*" in conformity with the UN Reform and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

UN Collaboration with the AU, NEPAD, regional and sub-regional organisations in support of the 10-Year Capacity-Building programme for the African Union

During the reporting period, a series of steps were undertaken to increase the effectiveness of revitalised clusters and enhancement of United Nations partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations in Africa. The implementation framework of this collaboration lies within the joint implementation of the 10-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union.

A series of informal consultations and the organising of all documents pertaining to the UN/AU-ECA-NEPAD cooperation were conducted during the period of February to March 2007. The purpose of such consultations was to provide an opportunity for colleagues at the AU/NEPAD and UN agencies to have a common understanding on the joint priorities and key cluster plans. These consultations resulted in high quality

participatory processes towards holding three major cluster meetings while all three sub-clusters equally met during March, May, June and July. Furthermore, the meetings and consultations resulted in a joint AU/NEPAD-UN/UNICEF work plan, integrating specific deliverables introduced by AU/NEPAD priorities for 2007 (guided by the “10-Year Capacity Building Programme” in support of AU and its NEPAD programme).

The outcome of the consultations held with AUC/NEPAD/UN Country Team representatives and the Regional Economic Communities enabled the human resource development, employment and HIV and AIDS Cluster to align the workplan priorities with AU/NEPAD partners. Key results include the promotion of an integrated rights based strategy focusing on child survival, development, protection and participation of and with children and young people at the heart of all programmes. In sum, this enabled the Cluster to maximize resources, endeavouring thus towards applying the UN reform call to deliver as one, in support of AU and its NEPAD programmes.

Financial and Institutional support to AU and its NEPAD programmes

During consultations with the African Union Commission, it was recognised that there was a need to boost human, financial and technical resources required to support the implementation of the 10-Year Capacity-Building Programme.

In this context, UNICEF supported the African Union Commission Department of Social Affairs through its two-year Project Cooperation Agreement. Through this agreement, approximately \$500,000 was made available for 2006 and 2007 to boost capacity in human resources, as well as funding various other activities. The Project Cooperation Agreement covered the following areas:

- Enhancing participatory planning processes on Child Survival, development, education, protection and participation;
- Supporting the Africa Committee of Experts on the Right and Welfare of Children (ACERWC);
- Supporting the exercise of conducting the Mid-Term Review on Africa Fit For Children+5 (AFFC+5);
- Developing and implementing a multi-sectoral and multimedia strategy to promote and disseminate AU/NEPAD agenda on Children;
- Identifying good practices in the framework of joint learning and Africa’s regional integration, supporting documenting/convening to share such practices and advocating the scaling up of good practices;
- Partnership with the NEPAD Secretariat strengthened in 2007 through joint briefings.

In addition, UNICEF provided institutional support to the African Union Commission on social affairs, human resources, science and technology, peace and security and the Women, Gender & Development Directorate. Procurement of supplies and equipment was effected to enable smooth running of Bureaus-AU and NEPAD. The approximate total U.S. dollar value of seconded staff, supplies and equipment and full time dedicated UNICEF-AU Liaison staff, amounted to \$1million as of end of March 2008.

Furthermore, high level technical support for planning, policy, advocacy and coordination is consistently provided by all UNICEF Regional Offices and UNICEF Headquarters. This support is invaluable as UNICEF's comparative advantage may not have lied so much in financial support, but rather in leveraging resources through technical assistance, partnerships and advocacy to bring about results for children, especially in Africa.

Summary of advocacy work in support of Africa's development

This section summarises UNICEF's key advocacy, social mobilisation and communication work in support of African development.

- Developed and supported implementation of a multisectoral and multimedia communication strategy, including the promotion and operationalisation of "Speak Africa" as an effective communication strategy, placing children and young people as agents of rapid change and development for Africa in collaboration with the Human Resources, Science and Technology Department of the African Union Commission, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, civil society, children and youth themselves.
- Promoted AU leadership, ownership and accountability, harmonization and coordination, institutional capacity building and human capacity development, resource mobilization, advocacy for results and information for action.
- Organized joint UN-AU special events aimed at public awareness and education campaigns, the learning and sharing of Africa's development agenda, AU leadership procedures as well as conducted briefings and workshops to gain common understanding on Africa's roadmap.
- Participated in key social services experts and ministerial meetings enabling to influence children and the youth agenda, integrating the MTR Process on AFFC.
- Promoted the endorsement by AU of the child survival roadmap, the 365 days integrated action plans to end violence against children and women in Africa, including scaling up good practices such as the South African Model Thuthuzela Care Centers to prevent, respond and manage violence against children and women. The latter was endorsed during the 2nd Gender Justice in Africa Colloquium (held in Addis Ababa - Feb 2008), where the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, Advocate B. Gawanas committed to supporting and leading efforts to promote best practices and successful models that can be replicated in all five regions of Africa by 2012.
- UNICEF collaborated with the Chairperson of Child Network Institutions, Mr. Nelson Mandela, former President of Republic of South Africa, Mrs. Graca Machel, Reverend Desmond M. Tutu, and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors, Ms.

Yvonne Chaka Chaka (for HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria) and Ms. Sarah Jones (for Violence Against Women and Children) to mention a few.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The measurement of key result areas achieved through the joint AU-UN/UNICEF 2007 workplan was effected during the 8th RCM (Regional Consultation Meeting, held in Addis Ababa in November 2007 and attended by Asha Rose Migiro, Deputy UN Secretary General.

Documentation and Management Information Systems are being developed to integrate into AUC/NEPAD-UN/UNECA activities to monitor progress made towards commitments for children - using development information and other monitoring and evaluation tools. The outcome, “Call for Accelerated Action towards Africa Fit for Children” of the Mid Term Review of the implementation of the Declaration and Action Plan of Africa Fit for Children - 2001 will constitute a baseline to measure progress. The Youth Plan of Action and the 10-Year Review of the Graca Machel Study on Children in Situations of Conflict, will continue to be used as benchmarks to report on progress.

Monitoring the realisation of children’s and women’s rights in Africa will be strongly advocated towards inclusion, backup through the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of the AU/NEPAD as well as the African Committee of Experts on the Right and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and other international and African legal instruments.

Conclusion

During the reporting period we have learnt key lessons of the great opportunities present for the United Nations system operating in Africa to add value towards an Africa fit for children, women, young persons and their families and to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

It has been clearly demonstrated that despite complex processes presented towards implementing the recommendations of the 7th RCM meeting, it is possible to jointly deliver as one UN, in support of AU and its NEPAD programmes using existing well established, functional policy and programme frameworks, including the UN 10-Year Capacity-Building Programme in support of AU/NEPAD.