

# UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

## Support to NEPAD

**Period of Report: July 2008 to June 2009**

UNICEF continued to convene the Human resources development, employment, health, HIV and AIDS – reviewed and renamed as Social and Human Development (SHD) – Cluster in support of AU and its NEPAD Programme. The SHD cluster is co-chaired by the AU Commission, Departments of Social Affairs and Human Resources, Science and Technology. The collaborating agencies in this cluster are; FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, UNDP, ECA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WFP, WHO/WAC, AU Commission, WIPO and NEPAD Secretariat, represented by the NEPAD Regional Integration Unit.

### **Support to the 10-Year Capacity-Building programme for the African Union**

In a bid to implement the recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> RCM (held in November 2007) which called for aligning the UN cooperation with AU portfolios and programmes including the harmonization of the above with the UN 10 Year Capacity Programme, in July 2008, a joint AU-UN/UNICEF retreat was held providing an opportunity to consolidate the gains of the joint partnership as well as pave the way to aligning the UN collaboration into a consistent and coordinated partnership with the AU Commission and its organs in support of an accelerated implementation of social policies and programmes. The objectives of the retreat were:

- To learn about the AU-UN partnership, overall frameworks and modalities of work.
- To review and discuss the current Cluster arrangement while sharing and brainstorming on modalities to re-arrange the Cluster to reflect the AU priorities and portfolios and the evolving Ten-Year Capacity Development Programme.
- To achieve consensus on a Joint AU-UN 3/5 Years Strategic Plan with concrete priority areas of collaboration in support of the AU Commission and the Human and Social Development priorities.

During the reporting period, there is evidence of increased effectiveness and revitalised clusters with clear enhancement of UN partnerships with regional and sub-regional organisations in Africa. The 10-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union remains the implementation framework for UN support for the AU and its NEPAD Programme.

By the same token a series of consultations continued to be held with the various regional and sub-regional bodies and organs of the AU in support of the above efforts. A series of joint learning sessions were conducted during April-May 2008 with a view to imparting skills to joint AU, NEPAD and UN agencies while providing a common understanding to accelerate implementation of Africa's development.

The outcome of the consultations held with AUC/NEPAD/UN cluster members, Country Team representatives and the Regional Economic Communities enabled the alignment of the 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; strengthening the gender agenda towards attaining MDG 3 on women's empowerment and gender equality in Africa. 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.

AU/UNECA joint activities include good examples on *delivering as one*: technical support to the African Ministers on gender, and to African Development Forum VI (ADF VI) on ending violence against women and its two pre workshops on violence against women and girls and on child and youth participation towards ending violence against children, women and young people, especially in situations of conflict and post conflict reconstruction. A key outcome of the ADF VI was a Consensus Statement, with clear indicators and benchmarks calling for three fold actions: (a) Africa-Wide Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls; (b) Financing for gender equality, women's empowerment, ending violence against women and girls; and (c) Reliable data on gender equality, women's empowerment and violence against women and girls.

### **Financial and Institutional support to AU and its NEPAD programmes**

There is a clear need to boost human, financial and technical resources required to support the implementation of the 10-Year Capacity-Building Programme through joint UN cluster support and UNICEF's direct contributions to Africa's child survival, development and participation agenda. In this context, UNICEF has supported the AU Commission Department of Social Affairs through its Project Cooperation Agreement. Through this agreement, approximately \$500,000 was made available to establish the secretariat for the ACRWC, Human Resources and to boost capacity in human resources, as well as funding various other activities as follows:

- Enhancing participatory planning processes on Child Survival, development, education, protection and participation;
- Supporting advocacy activities on the ratification of the African Charter on the Right and Welfare of Children ;
- Supporting the African Committee of Experts on the Right and Welfare of Children (ACERWC) – holding annual sessions and reporting;
- Supporting the promotion and popularization of the 2008-2012 Call for accelerated action for Africa Fit for Children (AFFC) following the Mid-Term Review on Africa Fit For Children+5 (AFFC+5) conducted in November 2007;
- Provide technical support on the draft convention of displaced populations and returnees ;
- Accelerating advocacy efforts through implementation of a multi-sect oral and multimedia strategy to promote and disseminate AU/NEPAD agenda on Children, young people and women;
- 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 2008 through joint briefings and improved collaboration of UNICEF in the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); i.e. supporting the review of documents; child, youth and women focused indicators pertaining to APRM country assessments as well as high level advocacy with the

Committee of Eminent persons of the APRM.

UNICEF continued to provide institutional support to the AU Commissions on Social Affairs ; Human Resources, Science and Technology ; Peace and Security, Political Affairs, Human Rights and Humanitarian issues and the Women, Gender & Development Directorate. Procurement of supplies and equipment was effected to enable smooth running of Bureaus-AU and NEPAD to the tune of US\$ 1.2 million as of end of April 2009. An additional US\$ 147,000.00 was allocated in support of a study on UNICEF-AU partnership.

Furthermore, high level technical support for planning, policy, advocacy and coordination is consistently provided by UNICEF Regional Offices in Africa 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, evidence based information sharing partnerships and advocacy to bring about results for children, especially in Africa.

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

UNICEF's key advocacy, social mobilization and communication work in support of African development include:

- Developed and supported implementation of a multisectoral and multimedia communication strategy, including the promotion and operationalisation of "Speak Africa" as communication strategy, placing 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, other UN agencies, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Kofi Annan; 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.

Since its inception as an AU-UN recognized preparatory mechanism for the November 2006 African Development Forum on Youth (ADF V) and follow-up platform for implementation of the Africa Youth Charter, UN and NGO *Speak Africa with UNICEF technical and financial support and the support of other partners* has:

- Facilitated children/youth preparatory engagement & critical inputs in high level meetings convened by the AU.
- Generated a number of professional & youth-produced media products including advocacy features on a variety of topics affecting young people and showcasing African history, culture, music, art and sports.
- Initiated partnerships with mainstream media entities for free broadcast of Speak Africa products.
- Established the speakafrica.org website and initiation of virtual and face-to-face discussions facilitating exchange, networking and inputs of young people related to specific continental issues and decision-making events.
- Initiated the development of a Resource Pack with key documents and information related to the children and youth agenda in Africa to serve as a reference guide for children and youth consultations.
- Initiated development of a multi-partner continental training strategy and manual for media and advocacy training for young advocates and media practitioners.
- Developed a growing network of young persons with skills in Advocacy and Media that are currently using mass media platforms to amplify the voice of young people in issues concerning them.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Documentation and Management Information Systems are planned to be developed by the UNICEF AU/UNECA Liaison office 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. Monitoring the “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 were 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 Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC); African Youth Charter and other international and African legal instruments. The ACERWC reviewed the state reports of Egypt and Nigeria at its session of November 2008.