

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)

Collaboration with other UN agencies in support of NEPAD

UNICEF continued to convene the Social and Human Development cluster in support of AU and its NEPAD Programme. In January 2009, the UNICEF Liaison Office (LO) to the AU and UNECA was officially set up as a formal autonomous office to actively and directly engage the AU, UNECA and other key partners. As a new office throughout the year 2009, the LO made several analysis on the value added in its participation within the various clusters and concluded that it will actively participate in clusters that have the overall impact of fulfilling its mandate on children, women, youth and gender within the wider UN system. There are nine UN clusters that support eight AU Commissions and Portfolios.

NEPAD is currently being integrated into the AU structures and processes and this has posed difficulties for UN agencies, including UNICEF (LO) to the AU and UNECA (LO), as the agencies are still uncertain about how the integration will impact their support to the AU and its NEPAD programme in line with the "Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union."

UN collaboration with AU, NEPAD, regional and sub-regional organisations in support to the 10-year Capacity-Building Programme for the AU

Throughout 2007 to 2010, a series of joint consultations and actions were carried out as part of strengthening UNICEF/AU/UNECA joint partnership programme, resulting in the development and implementation of joint activities that have now brought about unprecedented opportunities for accelerated actions for children. The UN support to the AU and its organs and programmes is realised within the framework of the UN Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme in support of AU and its NEPAD Programme. The operationalization of this support is effected through the Joint AU-UN cluster system arrangement aimed at promoting coherence, coordination and to avoid duplication, while sustaining the "Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness" commitments.

From 2007 to 2010, UNICEF has been re-aligning its work methodology in support of the AU and its NEPAD programme. Since January 2009, after the formal set up of the office and eventually operational in April 2009, the LO has performed well in collaborating closely with the AU through joint initiatives and programmes.

Financial and institutional support to AU and its NEPAD programmes

Resource mobilisation efforts were initiated in support of AU and NEPAD programmes through technical support from UNICEF ESARO, WCARO, MENARO, NYHQs, bilateral donors and National Committees for UNICEF. Dialogue with international and AU institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank (AfDB) have been sought from 2007 to 2009. In 2009, the LO received a financial allocation of approximately 318,000 USD to fund its interventions and engagements. In July 2008, UNICEF commissioned a study to inform the

organizational and corporate responsibility towards an enhanced UNICEF-AU partnership. In 2010, the LO sought a thematic fund allocation of 140,000 USD to support the establishment of *AfricaInfo* database, an Extraordinary Session of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the launch of “*The State of Africa’s Children Report – 2010.*”

UNICEF support to the AUC Department of Social Affairs was re-energized through a 500,000 USD Two-Year Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), signed in December 2005. The funds helped establish the Secretariat of the ACERWC in 2007 along with its two sessions; as well as boosted the human resources capacity; supported planning and implementation of key and selected activities jointly between the AUC and UNICEF.

From 2008 to 2010, the LO supported annual sessions and pre-sessions of the ACERWC and its work of reviewing country reports. UNICEF country offices were fully involved and engaged in consolidating and making comments/observations that were useful to the pre-session review and deliberations. By 2010, 11 country reports were received by the ACERWC Secretariat.

Between 2007 and 2010, technical and financial support as well as partnerships from UNICEF strengthened the AUC and its NEPAD programme. However, in 2009, other partnerships were developed and/or enhanced with the EU, other UN agencies, Pan African Parliament; Permanent Representative’s Committee; Executive Council of Ministers; RECs Secretariats; ECOSOC; Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA); Private Sector/African Diaspora/CSOs, the academia, media, children and young people; Goodwill Ambassadors; donors; multilateral bodies, and G8, among others.

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) resulted in reaching consensus, as well as the adoption of the “*2008-2012 Call for Accelerated Action for Africa Fit for Children*” in Cairo on November 2007, by the AU Ministers Responsible for Children. This meeting agreed to produce a bi-annual Progress Report on the Status of Africa’s Children. The preparation of “*The State of Africa’s Children Report – 2010*” commenced in late 2009 and concluded in June 2010, and is expected to be released at the AU Heads of State and Government Summit in Uganda in July 2010.

In 2007 and 2008, technical assistance was provided largely to the Departments of Social Affairs of the AUC; however, in 2009 and 2010, the LO diversified its support to other key departments such as Human Resources Science and Technology, Agriculture and Rural Economy; Political Affairs (IDPs), Economic Affairs and Peace and Security.

The LO also promoted the implementation of the declarations of the Africa Development Forum VI (ADF VI). This resulted in a demand to create a platform for young people to dialogue and participate in decisions for Africa Fit for Children and Young People. In 2010, the LO is part of the technical committee to implement ADF VII, which is focusing on climate change. In January 2008, over 200 young people and adolescents convened in Addis Ababa, supported by UNICEF, for training on how to move year 2008 forward as the Year of the African Youth. In addition, the LO gave input to the AU’s draft Plan of Action for Youth Development and Empowerment (2009-2018), which was adopted in April 2010 in Zimbabwe, during the Conference of Ministers of Youth.

The UN proclaimed 2010-2011 as the International Year of Youth, with the LO actively engaged in promoting youth initiatives across Africa, as well as participated in AU pre-conference consultations and the World Youth Conference, in Mexico, in August 2010.

As a member of the Africa Steering Committee, the LO provided technical input to the Africa-wide Campaign on Violence Against Women, as well as the preparation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) +15 from 20-23 October 2009 in Addis Ababa and Beijing +15 from 16-19 November 2009 in Banjul, The Gambia. While UNICEF was very involved in the planning process of these two key conferences, strong AU and NEPAD participation was recorded.

Advocacy work in support of African development

Political advocacy aimed at the survival, development, education, protection, and participation of African children, women and young persons is once more gaining a strong momentum within the concerned major international, regional, sub-regional and national institutions. Commitments made to children by African leaders and partners collectively constitute a consensus for action. UNICEF's advocacy and programming commitments are geared towards fulfilling these commitments. In collaboration with other UN agencies and CSOs, UNICEF is well positioned to create good synergy with the AU and its NEPAD Programmes, as a result of commitments between African and international institutions.

The LO advocacy has been elevated to high levels with the AUC and its NEPAD programme since 2007, as well as with AU Member States so as to draw attention to key legal instruments requiring ratification, domestication, implementation, monitoring or reporting. This has taken place largely with the ACERWC with six ratifications noted in 2009. Equally, advocacy from the LO led to more ratifications of the African Youth Charter and which eventually came into force on 8 August of 2009. Further advocacy has been engaged at key ministerial meetings with relevance to UNICEF, including coordinated participation with Regional Directors and UNICEF Country Offices (COs) to ensure team and coordinated Government/UNICEF/UN support at country level. The January and July 2008 and July 2010 AU Summits saw technical preparations and participation by AU-UNICEF-UN.

Further, UNICEF's work with the thematic Ministerial Bureaus enabled to influence and contribute to shaping various agendas related to food and nutrition, water and sanitation, agriculture and rural development, youth, HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, gender, among others. In 2009, the AUC launched the Africa-wide Campaign to Reduce Maternal, Infant and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). This campaign, with support from UNICEF Country Offices, has been launched in 12 countries so far and another 9 countries have planned to launch in 2010, and hence, generate a lot of visibility and advocacy.

In the July 2010 AU Summit, the LO coordinated input from all the Regional Offices in Africa and NYHQ to contribute to the theme: *“Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa.”* Contributions included discussion papers, translations into the AU languages, supporting participation of regional health organizations into key meetings and influencing

discussions and agenda during these key AU Summit-related meetings. Furthermore, the Day of the African Child has been commemorated successfully from 2007 to 2010 and proved as an advocacy platform to rally key messages on children issues.

Monitoring and evaluation

Between 2007 and 2010, UNICEF has been conducting consultative, participatory and joint planning sessions with the AUC and its NEPAD programme, resulting in joint identification of key milestones and activities implemented that result in creation of strategic partnerships, with children at the centre of plans and solutions.

In 2009, the LO initiated support to the AUC and its NEPAD programme, to produce a bi-annual *“The State of Africa’s Children Report – 2010,”* to be launched during the Heads of States and Government Summit in July 2010. Towards the end of 2009, the LO initiated assistance to the AU and its NEPAD programme to establish *AfricaInfo* database to enable African countries and organizations access data on children and other development indicators with ease and more coherence. *AfricaInfo* is expected to roll out in 2010 as a performance tracking and monitoring tool that will monitor commitments made by African governments, MDGs, NEPAD, national goals, and so on.

Lessons learned during 2007–2010

A number of lessons during the past years have been learned. These include:

- Leadership and accountability at all levels (AU-UN) is crucial to successful partnership
- The need to align UNICEF’s global policies and initiatives to AU and its NEPAD programmes and policies
- The need for systematic and strategic consultations, as these facilitate joint AU/UN/UNICEF planning, implementation and monitoring progress of commitments made for Africa’s children
- Improved cooperation and collaboration owing to support from UNICEF Ethiopia CO Team and currently the LO team. The support from the ROs, especially ESARO, is commendable and recognized
- The AU values the UN partnerships and joint efforts to mobilise human and financial resources to transform and make Africa fit for children through accelerated child survival, development, protection, education and participation
- Joint UNICEF-AU-EU learning processes provide an opportunity for common understanding and opportunities that all institutions have to attain common goals and results for children, women, young persons and their families in Africa
- The need to focus on selected key, strategic and high impact interventions and actions in support of the AUC and its NEPAD programme