

# **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

## **Support to the AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2010 to June 2011)**

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

The UNICEF Liaison Office to the AU and UNECA (UNICEF LO) continued to support the African Union Commission (AUC) and its NEPAD programme throughout 2010. This reporting process, however, needs further clarification, as currently NEPAD has been fully integrated into the AU structures and processes. UN agencies have been collectively supporting the capacity enhancement of the AUC through the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) assuming the secretariat role. This has ensured closer inter-agency collaboration and cooperation that has reduced duplication of effort and promoted joint action plans. This is in line and within the true spirit of the *Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union (TYCBP-2006-2016)*.

As an active member of the RCM, which is jointly co-chaired by the AUC and UNECA, the UNICEF LO's point of convergence with other UN agencies is through the contribution and implementation of the joint Business Plans of the Clusters and Sub-Clusters. In the 2010 programme, the UNICEF LO was a member of the Social and Human Development (SHD) Cluster and its Sub-Clusters, including, Gender and Development, Education and Youth and Health, HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other Infectious Diseases. UNICEF LO is also a member of the Infrastructure Development Cluster and its Water and Sanitation Sub-Cluster, as well as a member of the Peace and Security Cluster. Thus, the UNICEF LO has been closely collaborating with all UN agencies that are part of these clusters and sub-clusters.

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

The UNICEF LO has been implementing the provisions of the TYCBP for the AU and its NEPAD programme, jointly with other UN agencies within the RCM framework. In 2010, a consultant was recruited by the RCM secretariat to review the implementation of the TYCBP among UN agencies, as well as capture the status of capacity enhancement within the AUC and its NEPAD programme. UNICEF LO gave input to the review process, of which the report was finally presented during the annual RCM meeting in November 2010, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As a consequence, UN agencies have been urged to work towards the theme of the annual RCM for 2011 which shall focus on capacity building for the AUC. At the regional level, UNICEF LO has been connecting its three Regional Offices (ROs) in Africa<sup>1</sup> with the RCM framework at the implementation stage, and closely involved the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the process. For instance, the development of *AfricaInfo* database involved COMESA, ECOWAS, UNICEF NYHQ, the three UNICEF ROs in Africa and the SHD cluster of the RCM. This has ensured a good success rate as the NYHQ and ROs have been providing technical and financial support.

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<sup>1</sup> The three UNICEF Regional Offices in Africa are: Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), Western and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) and Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO)

Other joint collaboration efforts between the UN agencies included; the commemoration of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2010 in Addis Ababa, in which UNICEF LO made a statement at the panel discussion; the commemoration of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa and International Day of Peace on 21 September 2010, with a strong rallying call to cease hostilities in all conflict areas and observe a one-minute silence; marking the Africa Youth Day and launching of the International Year of Youth on 1 November 2010 in Addis Ababa, with UNICEF LO youth participant included at a high level advocacy panel on youth empowerment in Africa; the International Day on Zero Tolerance to FGM/C, on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010 in Addis Ababa, in which the UNICEF LO presented a speech and issued a solidarity statement; and International Women's Day symposium, on 16 March 2010 in Addis Ababa, where UNICEF LO made a presentation on "*Ending violence against women and girls as a tool for ensuring equal opportunities and rights for women in Africa.*"; among other joint initiatives.

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

Resource mobilisation efforts were initiated through support from UNICEF ESARO, WCARO, MENARO and NYHQs. In 2010, the UNICEF LO supported the AUC and its NEPAD programme with approximately US\$ 200,000 of technical, capacity, financial and human resource assistance. The broad range of support included:

- Department of Social Affairs (DSA): In Nutrition meetings, consultancy for *The State of Africa's Children Report-2010*, technical and financial support to ACERWC, technical and financial support to anti-human trafficking, support to CARMMA, technical papers on the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS, and the July 2010 AU Summit on Maternal Mortality in Africa.
- Department of Political Affairs (DPA): Technical support through the production of Reports on the humanitarian situation in Africa.
- Department of Peace and Security (DPS): Technical support through the production of Reports on the peace and security situation in Africa and technical paper at the Open Session of the PSC.
- Department of Economic Affairs (DEA): Technical, capacity and consultancy support to the development and management of *AfricaInfo* database at the AUC, as well as on the Birth Registration, Climate Change and Budgeting for Children components.
- Department of Human Resources Science and Technology (DHRST): Consultancy support for the IPED and CIEFFA<sup>2</sup>, and technical, human and financial support to the African Youth Forum at the July 2010 AU Summit in Kampala, as well as mobilization youth to attend the African Youth Day.
- Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA): Technical and financial support in organizing the Food and Nutrition side event during the July 2010 AU Summit in Kampala, jointly with strong NEPAD technical involvement.

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

As of end of 2010, 45 out of 53 AU Member States had ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). This effort has been realized through strong advocacy efforts at the country and regional level though more work is still required to ensure the

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<sup>2</sup> Pan African Institute for Education for Development (IPED) and International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa (CIEFFA).

remaining eight countries<sup>3</sup> ratify it. There were advocacy opportunities to promote the ratification of the ACRWC during the July 2010 AU Summit in Kampala, when the Secretariat of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and UNICEF LO wrote letters and sought to meet the ambassadors of the concerned countries prior to the summit. Also, celebrations to mark the Day of the African Child offered opportunities to sensitize and lobby governments to ratify the ACRWC. The ratification is not the end result, as governments need to domesticate the provisions of the ACRWC into national laws, formulate programmes of actions, implement legislation and apportion adequate budgets to the action plans.

In collaboration with the DSA/AUC and with the involvement of other partners through a consultative process, UNICEF LO concluded successfully an Evaluation Report on the ACERWC, as well as the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan for the ACERWC. The recommendations of this evaluation activity translated well into favourable decisions at the July 2010 AU Summit in Kampala.

Further, with a view to strengthening the working modalities between the ACERWC and UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the UNICEF LO supported a joint working Group session between the two committees, as this is beneficial to the work of both, and to the children in Africa. The working group session was held on 18 and 19 March 2010 in Addis Ababa, under the auspices of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the ACERWC. This joint session identified systematic information sharing as a means to foster cooperation, as well as the need to capitalize on advocacy opportunities. The UNICEF LO further sustained its advocacy work jointly with the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) through their fora held prior to the Sessions of the ACERWC.

As a follow up to key issues affecting women and children in Africa and to influence political action and through high level advocacy, the UNICEF LO has been collaborating with other partners including; the AUC and its NEPAD programme; the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AUC; the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC), which is a grouping of ambassadors based in Addis Ababa; the Executive Council of Ministers through their numerous sectoral meetings across Africa; and the HoSG Summits. Further, cooperation has been extended to the RECs through closer connection with the three UNICEF Regional Offices of ESARO, WCARO and MENARO in Africa, as well as the NYHQ and other strategically placed Country Offices (COs).

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

***AfricaInfo database:*** Following three key preparatory and consultative meetings in February, June and September 2010, and in close collaboration with the three ROs in Africa, DevInfo Support Group, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and UNECA, the *AfricaInfo* database was launched formally at the meeting of Director-Generals of NSOs, from 14 to 16 December 2010, in Yaoundé, Cameroon. *AfricaInfo* is an AUC database, developed with UNICEF's technical and financial support and modelled from DevInfo. The DEA is now responsible for the management of *AfricaInfo* in 2011 and beyond, with continued support from UNICEF and other partners such as AfDB, UNECA and RECs. This is a best case example of capacity building for

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<sup>3</sup> The eight countries are" Central African Republic, Djibouti, DRC, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe, Swaziland and Tunisia.

the AUC and its NEPAD programme. *AfricaInfo* shall monitor commitments made by AU Member States to implement targets they agreed to in various declarations.

The overall technical, material, financial and human support to the DEA for *AfricaInfo* included: Transferred *AfricaInfo* prototype from ESARO to AUC, along with an M&E technical staff support from ESARO who supported AUC in December 2010; Seconded a UNICEF/DSG-supported technical personnel to the AUC from October to December 2010 to assist with the management of *AfricaInfo* database; Launched *AfricaInfo* in Cameroon at the meeting of Director-Generals of NSOs; Enabled online the draft *AfricaInfo* at [www.devinformo.info/AfricaInfo](http://www.devinformo.info/AfricaInfo); Prepared a draft five-year (2011-2015) *AfricaInfo* Strategic Plan; Promoted *AfricaInfo* through brochures, posters, banners, CD folders and stickers; and Procured a desktop computer to house *AfricaInfo* database at AUC.

***The State of Africa's Children Report – 2010:*** The Executive Summary of *The State of Africa's Children Report–2010* was officially launched by the AUC during the July 2010 AU Summit in Kampala. This was following the successful conclusion of the Report through a UNICEF LO-recruited consultant who undertook the year-long preparation process. The report, which addresses nine key chapters<sup>4</sup>, was produced with technical and financial support from UNICEF LO, ROs and NYHQ. Further input was received from a cross-section of UN agencies and organizations through a consultative process under the SHD Cluster of the RCM. The Report has been extremely well received from all quarters. To this end, the AUC and its NEPAD programme, UN agencies, CSOs and UNICEF offices have expressed strong desire to use the contents of the Report for advocacy with concerned governments, programmatic purposes in 2011 and resource mobilization based on the facts outlined in the Report.

### **Lessons Learned during 2010**

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

- Leadership, ownership and accountability by AU-UN is crucial to successful partnership.
- 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.
- Close support from the ROs and NYHQ has ensured successful implementation.
- 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.
- The need to focus on selected key, strategic and high impact interventions and actions in support of the AUC and its NEPAD programme.
- There needs to be a clear understanding between the AU and UN on the definition of "Capacity Building."

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<sup>4</sup> The report is a follow up to the Cairo +5 Mid-Term Review of the Africa Fit For Children held in Cairo, Egypt, in 2007 and addresses nine key chapters, key among them include; the African child rights framework; Enhancing the life chances of African children; Overcoming HIV and AIDs for African children; Realising the right to education of African children; Realising the right to protection of African children; Realising African children's right to participation; and Strengthening the institutional framework and policy responses.