

# UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

## Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: June 2003 to June 2004

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### Orientation of work in support of NEPAD

UNICEF has been most effective at the country level supporting national policies and programmes, consistent with the NEPAD priorities.

### Areas of support for NEPAD

#### **1. Human resources development (health and education)**

UNICEF's work is guided by its Mid-Term Strategic Plan (MTSP) 2002-2005 centered on 5 priority areas: girls' education, integrated early childhood development, immunization "plus", fighting HIV/AIDS, and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination. Children are part of the African development agenda as put forward through the NEPAD. UNICEF supports NEPAD because its priority areas are consistent with the MTSP priorities, and they will contribute significantly to the MDGs. The NEPAD will be implemented at country level through PRSPs, CCA/UNDAFs and the various programmes supported by partners. UNICEF is a major partner in these planning and programming exercises. UNICEF supports the elaboration and implementation of programmes of cooperation with governments which take into account the organizational priorities, global and regional priorities (such as the NEPAD objectives, and the MDGs), government policies and priorities.

UNICEF launched last year with the AU, the NEPAD Secretariat and the ECA a 50-page

white paper entitled, "*The Young Face of NEPAD*"; advocating for a higher priority in investing in African children for a better future for the continent. UNICEF is helping promote, and build support for, the NEPAD.

UNICEF promotes an exchange of experiences within and among regions under the leadership of 2 regional offices (Eastern and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa).

UNICEF chairs the Human Resources Development Cluster of NEPAD, which is the main forum for coordinating activities in all areas of the cluster (health, education, HIV/AIDS, labor, and youth). There is a good and improving collaboration and coordination of activities among UN agencies at country level through the various planning and coordination mechanisms (CCA/UNDAFs, UN Theme Groups, etc.) in which bilateral donors participate. UNICEF also participates in PRSP exercises. All these planning and programming exercises contribute to strengthen the coherence and collaboration among the various partners. The process of elaboration and implementation of the UNICEF supported country programme includes close consultation and coordination with bilateral donors, and other partners.

Through various undg mechanisms, UNICEF is closely involved in the simplification and harmonization of processes and procedures that impact on how the UN system carries out business with developing countries. These actions will help countries implementing NEPAD to

cut down on transaction costs and procedures for UN assistance.

UNICEF, as an active member of UNCT, is committed to strengthening joint programming guidelines as agreed by UNDG Executive Committee Principals.

Through the work of the Human Resources Development Cluster, UNICEF is giving advice for the major thrusts of the human resources development, particularly in the areas of Education, Health, Gender and HIV/AIDS.

## ***2. Participation in regional consultations and clusters***

UNICEF works with ECOWAS, in particular, on the Peer Review, the situation of children in West Africa, child trafficking and the demobilization of child-soldiers.

## **UNICEF's financial commitment to NEPAD**

The total UNICEF programme expenditures for Africa (including the 7 African countries that are part of the Middle East and Africa region) was \$ 589,060,000 in 2003.

## **Recommendations for strengthening NEPAD implementation**

The original NEPAD strategy was not very child focused, hence the rationale for the "Young Face of NEPAD" strategy. UNICEF's support for the implementation of NEPAD was not well understood as the support focuses on the country level, and NEPAD tends to be perceived at the continental level.

UNICEF would like to see the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) include the review of the situations of children. UNICEF suggests that NEPAD strategies match closely with the MDG as well as being more country level oriented.