



CHILDREN AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CHILDREN AT THE CENTRE

A delegation of 64 adolescents from the G8 countries – Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States – descended upon St. Petersburg (Russian Federation) in July 2006. For nearly two weeks, they grappled with pressing issues – education, HIV/AIDS, energy and tolerance. Nearby, leaders from the G8 countries also debated these topics.

On 16 July, Junior 8 (J8) delegates addressed world leaders at a G8 Summit for the first time, bringing to the table their suggestions for building a future of hope and peace. Their proposals, informed by young people from developing countries who had gathered at videoconferences in Bangkok, Cairo, Johannesburg and Mexico City, called for equal access to free, quality education, immediate action for children and young people affected by HIV/AIDS, urgent measures to protect the environment, and an end to violence and discrimination. The idealistic, energized teens devised specific projects that could bring their goals to fruition. They dismissed ethereal visions and instead called for concrete action and accountability.

This historic meeting, supported by the Morgan Stanley International Foundation and UNICEF, is emblematic of the way forward, where young people are key development partners and children are at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals. It also mirrors UNICEF's blueprint for achieving the promise of the Millennium Declaration.

As this annual report demonstrates, the road to achieving the Millennium Development Goals is strewn with obstacles – intractable poverty, ingrained gender discrimination, a paucity of basic sanitation and safe water, rampant disease and generations of illiteracy. But the review of 2006 also illustrates how steadfast determination, strong partnerships, smart investment and precise accountability carve out impressive inroads and models for sustainable development.





A STEADY EYE ON CHILDREN

Once a solid hunch, today it is an absolute certainty that children are central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Progress towards ending extreme poverty and its deadly effects can be accurately measured by monitoring the status of children. Midway through the first decade of the 21st century, there is cause for alarm, as young people throughout the developing world are in grave danger.

If the entire population of Seoul (Republic of Korea) died within one year, shock waves would reverberate throughout the world. Yet, the more than 10 million deaths each year of children under age five barely evoke a tremor. The fact that two thirds of these deaths are preventable makes this statistic even more tragic. Like a canary in an oxygen-deprived coal mine, the deaths of children across the globe are a stark warning that, at the current pace, the world will fail to meet the deadlines for the Millennium Development Goals.

Nearly 4 million infants do not survive their first month of life. Half a million women die in pregnancy each year, leaving countless infants and children motherless. One child in six is severely hungry. One in seven receives no health care. More than 1 billion people do not have access to potable water, and 40 per cent of the world's population live without basic sanitation. Some 115 million primary-school-age children do not attend school, with girls

disproportionately excluded. Even though vaccine-preventable diseases are on the decline, acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, child and maternal undernutrition, unhealthy home environments and accidents cut down unfathomable numbers of children.*

HIV/AIDS continues to devastate communities, countries and continents. An estimated 2.3 million children are infected with HIV, millions more are affected due to parental illness, and 15 million have been orphaned. School systems have been decimated as qualified teachers and school administrators have fallen sick or died from AIDS.

Children continue to be disproportionately affected by war, whether recruited as soldiers or displaced and left homeless by armed conflict or other disasters, and they are frequently victims of violence. Young people are trafficked as chattel, fall prey to commercial sexual exploitation and are entrapped in the worst forms of labour.

The deadline for the Millennium Development Goals is rapidly approaching. The urgent need to meet time-sensitive benchmarks drives UNICEF's dedication to children, its commitment to efficiency and accountability, its recognition of the synergy of the goals themselves and its ongoing partnerships with the public and private sectors.

* All data throughout this report are based on the most recent available estimates.

THE BODY SHOP: BREAKING SILENCE

Sometimes the best-kept secret turns out to be the worst-case scenario. That is the situation for an estimated 275 million children worldwide who witness domestic violence. Often feeling alone, terrified and invisible, their childhood secrets are not accompanied by shared giggles and joyful whispers of innocence, but by panic, shame and the emotional scars of trauma.

For these hidden victims of household brutality, the effects of seeing their parents or caregivers battered, bruised and bullied can last a lifetime. For this reason, The Body Shop International, UNICEF and the Secretariat for the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children teamed up to shine a spotlight on a pandemic that is cloaked in secrecy.

The Body Shop International, the skin- and body-care retailer, has long championed humanitarian causes. In 2004, The Body Shop launched 'Stop Violence in the Home', an ongoing global campaign to raise awareness. Although documentation of the devastating effects of domestic violence on women has improved in recent years, far less is known about the damage done to children who witness the abuse. Consequently, The Body Shop looked to UNICEF when its focus turned to the smallest victims of this huge problem.

In August 2006, The Body Shop's 'Stop Violence in the Home' campaign was launched in 50 countries. Through more than 2,000 stores around the world and The Body Shop At Home businesses in the United States and the United Kingdom, the campaign raised awareness and funds to support local partners working to prevent domestic violence and to provide treatment.

Behind Closed Doors: The impact of domestic violence on children is a joint UNICEF/The Body Shop publication that

identifies a strong link between domestic violence and child abuse. Among child survivors of abuse, 40 per cent reported domestic violence within their homes. The report also reveals that children from violent homes often exhibit learning problems, limited social skills, aggression, low self-esteem, depression and anxiety, and are more likely to experience domestic violence later in life, as victims or perpetrators.

UNICEF distributes *Behind Closed Doors* through its National Committees and field offices. The Body Shop coordinates the campaign through its worldwide markets. The goal is to raise awareness and foster dialogue about this largely ignored pandemic – and to encourage governments to enact legislation that criminalizes domestic violence and establish programmes to help children recover. In addition to visibility, the in-store campaign's brochures and leaflets are used to raise funds for non-governmental organizations that work with child survivors of domestic violence.

"Thanks to the support of UNICEF and the passion and determination of The Body Shop store staff, the campaign has played a vital role in taking what is a very challenging and difficult issue from behind closed doors and out into society," said Christopher Davis, Global Campaigns Manager of The Body Shop International. "Creating *Behind Closed Doors* and launching the findings across the world gave the campaign a great profile and support – our ultimate objective of making a real difference, raising awareness and funds for children around the world."

The Body Shop and UNICEF are committed to achieving long-term results from the *Behind Closed Doors* campaign. And they are working together to pry open those doors behind which frightened children wait to be rescued.

MEASURING RESULTS

Good intentions do not substitute for measurable success. Analysis of data allows UNICEF to scale up programmes that are effective and invest in campaigns that will produce high returns.

UNICEF developed the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 1995 to generate precise data in a timely, cost-effective manner. This household survey is a key tool for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Survey results contribute to the accuracy and thoroughness of *Progress for Children*, UNICEF's series of 'report cards' on the Millennium Development Goals. The two reports issued in 2006 focus on nutrition, and water and sanitation.

A Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 2006 found the under-five and maternal mortality rates in the Central African Republic to be unacceptably high. The survey's results are helping to generate a proposal for a national child survival and development programme. In Niger, a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey allowed the country to monitor its progress in decreasing under-five mortality and promoting exclusive breastfeeding by comparing figures from 2000 and 2006. And in Thailand, the 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey is helping the government quantify educational disparities between the general population and ethnic minorities, migrant children and other vulnerable groups. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey is utilized



in 55 countries and, starting in 2006, will be conducted every three years, an increase from the previous five-year time frame.

In addition to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, UNICEF generates data through Demographic and Health Surveys and has invested in the creation of DevInfo, software that can assist countries in monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other development benchmarks. Solid data form the backbone of UNICEF's annual flagship publication *The State of the World's Children*, which is a vital resource for development specialists and child rights advocates.



POWER OF SYNERGY

UNICEF celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2006. Throughout its history, UNICEF has formed solid partnerships. In 2006, UNICEF strengthened long-standing collaborations and forged new alliances.

A group of UN organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and UNICEF set the stage for a pilot of 'One UN' in Viet Nam. These agencies will work as a team to avoid fragmentation and duplication of services. Viet Nam along with Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay were trailblazers in this reform, with the aim of consolidating the UN organizations into a single presence in their work on the ground.

In May 2006, the executive directors of UNICEF and the World Food Programme made a joint visit to Panama, where they met with heads of country offices in the Latin America and Caribbean region to intensify common efforts to help eliminate childhood undernutrition and weaken the grip of AIDS.

The Millennium Development Goals are mutually reinforcing and drive UNICEF's commitment to cross-sectoral endeavours. For instance, Goal 4, reduce the under-five child mortality rate by two thirds, will not be achieved without also improving maternal health. In 2006, maternal health and child survival took on new meaning as UNICEF brought home-based antenatal and neonatal care to India's Onge tribe. One of four Stone Age 'Negrito' tribes in the Andaman District, the Onge has a population of just 105 people. Keeping mothers and babies alive is more than good health-care practice; it is a fight against extinction.



UNICEF's education programmes demonstrate the efficacy of sectors working together. Girls' education, for instance, is not the sole responsibility of educators. Girls remain out of school for myriad reasons. Improved water supplies, separate sanitation facilities, tighter security, school nutrition initiatives, elimination of fees and uniforms, and cash incentives for sending girls to school are all crucial if gender empowerment and ending gender disparity in education are to be realized.

In Indonesia, sector integration was integral to UNICEF's 'building back better' after the 2004 tsunami, and the first 2 of 367 permanent schools opened in Aceh Province in September 2006. By the end of the year, 10 schools were completed. The earthquake-resistant buildings are equipped with spacious, child-friendly

classrooms, lighting, furnishings, safe running water, separate toilets and outdoor sports fields. These elements coalesce to create schools that draw all children – girls and boys – to the classroom.

In August 2006, the European Union donated 3.7 million euros (\$4.7 million) to a UNICEF project to bring safe water and improved sanitation to 500,000 people in Zimbabwe who are infected with or affected by AIDS. This single largest donation to a UNICEF water and sanitation initiative in Zimbabwe underscores the importance of safe water and sanitation facilities to defend against AIDS-related illnesses. The project promotes hygiene, the construction of latrines in households and schools, nutrition gardens and the drilling of critical new boreholes.

THE STEADFAST GAZE OF CHILDREN

While UNICEF and its allies keep an eye on the status of children, young people are keeping their sights on the future. They have emerged as crucial players in development, actively involved in such international movements as *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS*, the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), the World Water Forum and *Unite for Children, Unite for Peace*.

In Angola, adolescents gathered in its capital, Luanda, during the Youth Music Festival on HIV/AIDS, the culmination of a *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* initiative. The partnership between UNICEF, Angola's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, UNAIDS, provincial governments, non-governmental organizations and young people, engages secondary school students in HIV awareness and prevention. As part of HIV/AIDS and Gender Clubs, students aged 9 to 18 took part in the campaign through reading, writing and drama. Throughout 2006, the clubs wrote and performed songs, culminating in representatives of 18 Angolan provinces competing in national finals on 3 December.

In Nepal, where political upheaval has disrupted everyday life, children have become crucial actors in UNGEI. In 2006, young people's voices continued to be heard during 'Welcome to School' rallies, encouraging parents to send their sons and daughters to school. Along with carrying placards and chanting slogans, children alerted the public to admissions deadlines and distributed cards urging parents to enrol their children in school.

At the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City in March, 110 young activists from 29 countries met with government ministers to share their solutions for the growing water crisis. The youngsters reaffirmed the 2003 Children's Water Manifesto and went further, challenging world leaders about the lack of

concrete follow-up. They reminded the adults that 400 million children do not have enough safe water and stated that failure to produce results "is killing our future." They ended their call to action with "We, the children of the world, are ready to work with you. Are you ready to work with us?"

