

FOREWORD



In 2006, UNICEF received the Prince of Asturias Award, one of Spain's highest distinctions, in recognition of our humanitarian work on behalf of children. We were particularly honoured to receive this tribute in the year that UNICEF celebrated its 60th anniversary.

UNICEF has evolved over the past six decades from an organization responding to emergencies to a beacon for children in emergency and non-emergency situations alike. Today, UNICEF works to protect children's rights, while focusing squarely on results.

As the *Annual Report 2006* details, UNICEF – through integrated programmes, strong partnerships and determined leadership – is more accountable, more data-driven and more results-oriented than ever before.

During this reporting period, we convened a meeting of all UNICEF representatives in sub-Saharan Africa to evaluate programme initiatives particularly related to health outcomes, and to strategize ways to scale up successful projects, with a specific focus on integrated, community-based interventions.

UNICEF continues to strengthen its data collection at the country level. In 2006, we began conducting the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey every three years instead of every five years. Statistics and supporting documentation are also generated through the Demographic and Health Surveys and DevInfo software, which assist countries in monitoring their progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In order to achieve results for children, UNICEF expanded and strengthened its partnerships. Global alliances help provide sustenance and basic health care to children and mothers. Sports clubs and leagues have joined UNICEF in promoting education and fighting AIDS. National Committees and Goodwill Ambassadors have helped focus the world's attention on children.

This review of 2006 highlights achievements made on behalf of the world's children. With a collective sense of urgency, it is possible to continue to make significant progress in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann M. Veneman'.

Ann M. Veneman
Executive Director, UNICEF