

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: Limited
26 April 2007

Original: English

For action

United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Board

Annual session 2007

4-8 June 2007

Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Draft area programme document****Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory***Summary*

The draft area programme document for Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of \$8,170,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$24,900,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2008-2009.

* E/ICEF/2007/8.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2006/19 (E/ICEF/2006/5/Rev.1), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF website no later than six weeks after discussion of the CPD at the Board session. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 2007.

Note: Submission of this document was delayed for technical reasons.

<i>Basic data† (2006 unless otherwise stated)</i>	<i>Occupied Palestinian Territory^{aa}</i>	<i>Palestinians living in the Syrian Arab Republic</i>	<i>Palestinians living in Lebanon</i>	<i>Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA in Jordan</i>
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	1.9	0.2	0.2	0.7 ^j
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	23	28***	31	26* ^f
Underweight (% , moderate and severe)	3	10***	5	3 ^j
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	100 ^c	46*** ^a	150* ^c	18 ^j
Primary school attendance/enrolment (% net, male/female)	91/92 ^b	87/88***	94/93	99/99* ^d
Primary schoolchildren reaching grade 5 (%)	98 ^{c+}	98***	97	99* ^c
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	92 ^g	73***	91	97* ^g
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	0.3 ^j	0.02* ^f
Child labour (% children 5-14 years old)	..	1.5***	1.5**	..
GNI per capita (US\$)	1 120 ⁱ	1 380 ⁱ	6 180* ⁱ	2 500 ⁱ
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	99	94***	92* ^f	99 ^j
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	99	91***	96* ^f	99 ^j

† More comprehensive country data on children and women are available at www.unicef.org.
Compiled from various official and United Nations sources.

* Denotes host-country data.

** UNRWA camp facilities only.

*** Denotes data on Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA.

^{aa} MICS 2005-2006 data: U5MR is 28.2 per 1,000 live births, safe drinking water is 87.8%, DPT3 is 98.7% and measles is 96.7%.

⁺ Denotes retention rate to grade 4.

^a 1994.

^b 2000.

^c WHO/UNICEF 2000 adjusted estimate.

^d 2002.

^e 2003.

^f 2005.

^g 2004.

ⁱ Denotes host country's 2005 data, the World Bank's database, Atlas method (US\$).

^j Denotes UNRWA data.

The situation of children and women

1. Palestinian children and women inside Gaza and the West Bank have been living under occupation for the last 40 years. The movement of these people is restricted by the Separation Wall and checkpoints on routine, daily basis. When incursion occurs and violence erupts, checkpoints and whole cities are closed, and this further restricts freedom of movement and access to schools, health facilities and employment. In the year that followed the January 2006 legislative elections won by Hamas, the transfer of funds to the Palestinian Authority ceased. As a result, the Palestinian Authority failed to pay the salaries of civil servants, large numbers of whom went on strike. These events further deprived the Palestinian children and women in occupied territories of basic services. The internal conflict and fighting

between Fatah and Hamas not only complicated the lives of people more but also resulted in children's deaths and severe injuries. Malnutrition, which is the underlying cause of infant and under-five mortality and severe morbidity, worsened in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the Gaza Strip. One in ten children is stunted. The stunting rate has risen continuously over the past eight years, from 7.2 per cent in 1996 to 9.9 per cent in 2004. The preliminary results of a 2006 multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS) show that moderate and severe stunting have reached 10.2 per cent. The rise has been more significant in the Gaza Strip, where 13.2 per cent of children are stunted. Iodized salt consumption stands at 85.7 per cent in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with Gaza faring better than the West Bank (86.9 per cent and 85 per cent, respectively).

2. Schools in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are affected by the surrounding violence, incursions and restrictions on access and movements. From September 2005 to May 2006, some 64,712 students in 144 schools lost 215 school days as a result of security interruptions of access. The quality of education is declining, and Palestinian children are showing increasing signs of psychosocial distress, manifested by low school achievement, nightmares and bed-wetting.

3. The proportion of the population below the poverty line rose from 23 per cent (1998) to 34 per cent (2001) and remains high at 31 per cent (2004). Most affected is the Gaza Strip, where the percentage of the population below the poverty line increased from 37 per cent (1998) to 52 per cent (2001), and remains high at 42 per cent (2004).

4. Until the current difficult political and security circumstances change inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, UNICEF-supported interventions will focus primarily on preventing a worsening of all basic indicators, mitigating the impact of violence and strengthening development capacity.

5. The situation of refugee Palestinian children in Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon is different, although programmatic concerns exist in varying degrees in all locations.

6. There are 451,000 Palestinians living in the Syrian Arab Republic, (2006 figure from the General Administration for Palestine Arab Refugees, GAPAR), 1.8 million in Jordan, and 394,000 in the 12 refugee camps mandated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and 16 gatherings spread throughout Lebanon. Some 20,000 displaced Palestinians from the Gaza Strip live in the Al-Salleleh camp in Jordan. Palestinians in Lebanon face severe restrictions on opportunities to work. Between 2003 and 2006, the Palestinian population living under the poverty line ranged from 60 per cent in Lebanon (camps) to 22 per cent in Jordan and 7 per cent in Syrian Arab Republic (camps).

7. In Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the situation analysis of the Palestinian refugee children has not changed significantly from that presented in the area programme document approved for the 2006-2007 programme.

The programme of cooperation, 2008-2009

Summary budget table

<i>Programme</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	
Child survival, growth and development	2 450	6 790	9 240
Universal primary education	1 510	6 090	7 600
Child protection	920	3 020	3 940
Development and participation of adolescents	950	4 470	5 420
Advocacy, communication, social policy planning, monitoring and evaluation	940	2 900	3 840
Cross-sectoral costs	1 400	1 630	3 030
Total	8 170	24 900	33 070

Goals, key results and strategies

8. The 2008-2009 area programme continues a multi-pronged approach to promoting the rights of Palestinian children, including those with disabilities. The programme supports national-level interventions as well as selected specific-area interventions in health and nutrition; water and sanitation; education; child protection and adolescent development and participation. The individual approach in various locations will be tailored to specific needs. The programme is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the prevailing operational environment. While the situation of children continues to remain serious, no major shifts were noted in the 2006 MICS findings that would warrant a change in the focus and strategic direction for the 2008-2009 programme.

9. The following are the key results expected to be achieved by end-2009 (and compared with 2006 statistics):

(a) At least 30 per cent more Palestinian children under five benefit from health and nutrition services;

(b) Between 5 per cent and 25 per cent more Palestinian children are benefiting from access to early childhood development (ECD) services, including community-based, family focused and child-friendly approaches and services;

(c) Between 5 per cent and 25 per cent more Palestinian women of childbearing age are enjoying health and nutrition services;

(d) Maternal mortality is reduced by between 5 per cent and 10 per cent;

(e) Between 5 per cent and 36 per cent more Palestinian children and women in refugee camps, and those using health facilities and schools, benefit from access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities;

(f) Access to quality primary education by Palestinian children, especially girls, is increased and maintained at over 90 per cent;

(g) Protection of Palestinian children against violence, exploitation and abuse is improved through the promotion of a protective environment;

(h) Between 5 per cent and 20 per cent more Palestinian adolescents are benefiting from an environment that enhances their development, protection and participation and includes HIV/AIDS education;

(i) An improved knowledge and database on children and a functioning system for monitoring and analysing factors undermining children's and women's rights is available;

(j) Evidence-based policy analysis is conducted in support of effective advocacy for improved allocation of resources for children and the realization of the rights of all Palestinians.

10. In order to achieve these results, the area programme will adopt the following strategies:

(a) **Delivery of basic services**, including health and education, in targeted areas in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the three countries;

(b) **Capacity-building** at all levels for programme management, including ensuring greater accountability in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme and to promote community participation and family empowerment;

(c) **Social mobilization** and communication for behaviour change to promote family and community knowledge on optimal child care practices;

(d) **Partnerships and coordination** to achieve lasting results, leverage resources, share information, including best practices, and avoid overlapping;

(e) **Advocacy** for the fulfilment of the rights of Palestinian children.

Relationship to national and international priorities and the UNDAF

11. The Occupied Palestinian Territory is not included in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process. Nonetheless, the programme is coordinated within the United Nations country team, and is consistent with national goals expressed in the Seven-Year National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children and the 2005-2007 Medium-Term Development Plan, reflecting the Palestinian Authority's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of *A World Fit for Children*. The Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan are aligning their interventions for Palestinian refugee children with Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and UNDAF. In Lebanon, no CCA/UNDAF is currently in place.

Programme components

12. **Child survival, growth and development.** This programme contributes to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4 and to supporting responsible authorities in reducing child and maternal mortality and ensuring that children and mothers can access quality health and nutrition services. Scaling up neonatal and child survival interventions, including neonatal care, immunization and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) will be supported. The key nutrition interventions such as the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, young child feeding

interventions, micronutrient supplementation and food fortification (salt and flour) will be coordinated with other key players such as the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme (WFP). Advocacy measures will be emphasized in order to create an enabling environment for the development and implementation of sustainable mother and child health/nutrition policies. The development and dissemination of child care, nutrition, disability and hygiene messages will be supported. Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for unserved or poorly served communities will also receive priority.

13. **Achieving universal primary education.** The programme contributes to the achievement of Millennium Goal 2, creating school environments that encourage children, including girls, to enrol and complete school, improving education quality, and enabling young children to benefit from pre-school education. The programme seeks to ensure that children's right to education is recognized and promoted by all duty bearers. The focus includes improving school access and quality of learning by increasing enrolment, attendance and learning achievement rates for primary-school children. Girls' enrolment rates would be sustained to ensure full access to education, including at higher grades. Institutional capacity-building interventions for teacher education, including for pre-school teachers at the national and district levels, will also be a priority. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) in basic education will be strengthened through the development of a strategy and action plan for the collection of education statistics at national, district and peripheral levels.

14. **Child protection.** The child protection programme seeks to ensure that effective mechanisms are in place to detect and address the physical, psychological and social impact of violence, abuse and exploitation on children. The programme will support the establishment of a national system to monitor abuse, exploitation and violence against children as well as the situation of children in conflict with the law. National legislation will be reviewed to bring it in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Support will be given to the Palestinian Authority to build the capacity of officials in social protection, education, law enforcement and health to detect and manage child abuse. Parents will play a central role in child protection.

15. **Development and participation of adolescents.** The programme seeks to create an environment that empowers children and adolescents, enabling them to be proactive and to participate in decision-making processes. Both at school and in their communities, adolescents will be encouraged to participate in decision-making that affects their lives. Additional efforts will be made to increase the number of adolescent-friendly spaces and programmes and improve them so that adolescents, especially girls, can engage in after-school learning, recreation, sports, socializing and participation in community development activities. Emphasis will be placed on mainstreaming gender-sensitive, life skills-based education in the educational system, including curricula at all levels. Adolescents and caregivers will have increased access to life skills-based education, including information on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The programme will support the establishment of a monitoring and coordination body to support implementation and evaluation of work related to youth.

16. **Advocacy, communication, social policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation.** The programme seeks to improve the knowledge base, advocacy efforts and social policies in support of children's rights and to strengthen the institutional

capacity of partners in results-oriented, participatory and community-based planning and in improved performance-monitoring and evaluation. The programme will support the Government, through social policy analysis and guidance, in developing national, district and sectoral plans for reducing poverty and fulfilling the rights of the poorest children and women, as well as in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the country programme. Emphasis will be placed on developing effective advocacy and communication strategies for the fulfilment of child rights at all levels.

Major partnerships

17. In the four locations, cooperation between UNICEF and various line Ministries and key counterparts, such as GAPAR in the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, will continue. UNICEF will also continue its close coordination with agencies in the United Nations country teams, including UNRWA, and expand coordination and cooperation where possible, based on windows of opportunity concerning action for children. Frameworks and/or strategies will evolve in tandem with the requirements and challenges of the operational environment.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

18. The management of the area programme will continue to follow a decentralized approach, with oversight provided by the UNICEF office for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Monitoring and evaluation activities will be coordinated through integrated monitoring and evaluation plans, and a database to systematize monitoring. DevInfo will be used to monitor progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Summary Result Matrix for 2008-2009 Area Programme for Palestinian Children and Women in Jordan, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

<i>UNICEF MTSP Focus Area</i>	<i>Expected Key Results (by end-2009, compared with 2006 statistics)</i>	<i>Key Progress Indicators</i>	<i>Means of Verification of Results</i>	<i>Major Partners, Partner Frameworks & cooperation Programmes</i>	<i>Expected Key Results in this component will contribute to:</i>
1. Young child survival and development	1. At least 30% more of Palestinian children under five benefit from health and nutrition services (30% Occupied Palestinian Terr., 25% Syria, 1% Lebanon, 13% Jordan).	% of primary health-care facilities implementing the elements of the integrated maternal and child health approach, including the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness and growth monitoring; % of infants exclusively breastfed for 6 months; complementary feeding rate	Routine data Surveys	Ministry of Health, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), WHO, Palestinian Red Cross/Crescent Society, NGOs, General Administration for Palestine Arab Refugees (GAPAR)	WFFC: Promote Healthy Lives and Combat HIV/AIDS MDG: Goal 4
	2. Between 5% and 25% more Palestinian children are benefiting from access to ECD services including community-based, family focused and child friendly approaches and services (30.8% Occupied Palestinian Terr., 25% Syria, 5% Lebanon, 8% Jordan).	Existence of early childhood development (ECD) standards % of children benefiting from ECD services	Policy documents Periodic programme reports	Ministry of Education, UNRWA, UNESCO, NGOs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, women, GAPAR	WFFC: Provide Quality Education and Promote Healthy Lives MDGs: Goals 2 and 4
	3. Between 5% and 25% more of Palestinian women of childbearing age enjoy health and nutrition (25% Occupied Palestinian Terr., 25% Syria, 5% Lebanon, 10% Jordan).	Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15-49 % of pregnant women attending 4 antenatal/postnatal care visits	Routine monitoring reports	Ministry of Health WHO, UNRWA, UNFPA, NGOs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, GAPAR	WFFC: Promote Healthy Lives and Combat HIV/AIDS MDG: Goal 1, 4 and 5

<i>UNICEF MTSP Focus Area</i>	<i>Expected Key Results (by end-2009, compared with 2006 statistics)</i>	<i>Key Progress Indicators</i>	<i>Means of Verification of Results</i>	<i>Major Partners, Partner Frameworks & cooperation Programmes</i>	<i>Expected Key Results in this component will contribute to:</i>
	4. Maternal mortality is reduced by between 5% and 10% (10% Occupied Palestinian Terr., 5% Syria, 5% Lebanon, 0% Jordan).	% of deliveries attended by trained attendants; % of women with access to basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care	Survey on maternal mortality ratio Surveys Census 2008	Ministry of Health WHO, UNRWA, UNFPA, NGOs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, GAPAR	WFFC: Promote Healthy Lives and Combat HIV/AIDS MDG: Goal 4
	5. Between 5% and 36% more of Palestinian children and women in refugee camps, and those using health facilities and schools, benefit from access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities (36% Occupied Palestinian Terr., N/A Syria, 5% Lebanon, N/A Jordan).	% of Palestinian children having access to hygiene and environmental education % of children/women having access to functional WES facilities	Routine monitoring reports Programme reviews	Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, UNRWA, Palestinian Water Authority, GAPAR, NGOs	WFFC: Promote Healthy Lives MDG: Goals 4 and 7
2. Basic education and gender equality	6. Access to quality primary education by Palestinian children, especially girls, increased and maintained at over 90% (5% Occupied Palestinian Terr., completion 25% Girls Syria, 5% Lebanon, N/A Jordan).	Net enrolment rate and completion rate (primary) % reaching minimum level of learning achievements	Routine national reporting systems Studies/Survey	Ministry of Education, UNRWA, UNESCO, GAPAR, local NGOs	WFFC: Provide Quality Education MDG: Goal 2
4. Child Protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	7. Protection of Palestinian children against violence, exploitation and abuse is improved through the promotion of a protective (for Occupied Palestinian Terr. and the three countries).	Progress achieved in establishing various components of the system (protective environment) Proportion of reported cases that are followed up	Periodic reports Programme reviews	Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Planning, GAPAR, UNRWA, Ministry of Justice	WFFC: Protect against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence MDG: Millennium Declaration, Section VI

<i>UNICEF MTSP Focus Area</i>	<i>Expected Key Results (by end-2009, compared with 2006 statistics)</i>	<i>Key Progress Indicators</i>	<i>Means of Verification of Results</i>	<i>Major Partners, Partner Frameworks & cooperation Programmes</i>	<i>Expected Key Results in this component will contribute to:</i>
3. HIV/AIDS and children - and - 4. Child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	8. Between 5% and 20% more of Palestinian adolescents are benefiting from an environment that enhances their development, protection and participation, including HIV/AIDS education (20% Occupied Palestinian Terr., 20% Syria, 5% Lebanon, 20% Jordan).	% of adolescents participating in decision-making, life skills-based education, learning and recreational activities % of adolescents with correct knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention	Periodic monitoring reports Programme reviews Knowledge, attitude, behaviour and practice survey (2009)	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, UNRWA, municipalities, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, UNRWA, GAPAR	WFFC: Protect against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence MDG: 6 and Millennium Declaration Par. V. 25, and III 20
5. Policy advocacy and partnership for children's rights	9. An improved knowledge and database on children and a functioning system for monitoring and analysis of factors undermining children's and women's rights is available (Occupied Palestinian Terr. and the three countries).	Use of DevInfo to monitor and report progress on MDGs, and national development goals Availability of analysis of factors undermining the realization of children's and women's rights	Rapid Assessments (2007, 2009) Policy analysis reports	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, UN Agencies, line Ministries, GAPAR, UNRWA	WFFC: Promote Healthy Lives; Provide Quality Education; Protect against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence and Combat HIV/AIDS MDGs: All Goals
	10. Evidence-based policy analysis is conducted in support of effective advocacy for improved allocation of resources for children and the realization of the rights of all Palestinians (Occupied Palestinian Terr., Syria, N/A Lebanon, Jordan).	Availability of budget analysis and monitoring systems to promote improved resource allocation for the realization of children's and women's rights. Progress achieved in implementing the advocacy and communication strategy.	Programme reviews (2008 and 2009) Government Budget Reports Programme reviews	Ministry of Planning, GAPAR, UNRWA, line Ministries	WFFC: Promote Healthy Lives; Provide Quality Education; Protect against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence and Combat HIV/AIDS MDGs: All Goals