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Revised country programme document

Malaysia

Summary

The Executive Director presents the revised country programme document (CPD) for Malaysia for final approval by the Executive Board. At the annual session of 2004, the Board commented on the draft CPD and approved the aggregate indicative budget for the country programme. In accordance with decision 2002/4 (E/ICEF/2002/8), the draft CPD has been revised, taking into account, as appropriate, comments made by delegations during that session and a summary results matrix has been added.

Decision 2002/4 also states that the present document will be approved by the Executive Board at the first regular session of 2005 on a no objection basis, unless at least five members have informed the secretariat in writing, by 10 December 2004 of their wish to bring the country programme before the Board.

Basic Data (2002 unless otherwise stated)	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	9.3
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	8
Underweight (% , moderate and severe)	12
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	41
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female)	98/99
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	99
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	0.4
Child work (% , 5-14 year-olds)	
GNI per capita (US\$)	3540
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	96
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	92

The situation of children and women

1. Malaysia has reached development levels where it would not normally qualify for UNICEF programme cooperation. However, some important issues for children and young people remain, and these would benefit from continued cooperation. During the next country programme, **an open dialogue will need to begin with the Government on appropriate institutional arrangements for a new funding arrangement for continuing UNICEF presence in Malaysia.**

2. Children make up 33 per cent of Malaysia's population of 25 million. The country is ranked 58 on the Human Development Index, with per capita income comparable to countries that are about to join the European Union. The proportion of population living under US\$1 per day declined from 7.5 per cent in 1997 to 5.1 per cent in 2002.

3. Malaysia has a strong tradition of public investment in social services, which has engendered considerable progress in health and education. The under-five mortality rate fell from 21 to 8 per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2001, a level comparable with high-income countries. Moreover, communicable diseases are no longer an important factor in child deaths. Instead, an increasing proportion of those deaths are due to injuries and accidents, with injuries being a leading cause. According to the Malaysian Vital Statistics Bulletin, in 2001 road traffic accidents alone killed 1,232 children, including 128 children under five.

4. Almost all children are enrolled in primary school. Girls and boys enjoy equal educational opportunities, with slightly more girls than boys in secondary and tertiary education. However, net secondary school enrolment was only 89 per cent, according to Government data, indicating a significant number of young people being left behind and unable to profit from and contribute to the country's progress. This drop-off in enrolment is clearly linked to other threats faced by adolescents that are discussed below.

5. Malaysia has ratified several key treaties protecting children's rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were ratified in 1995, but the initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child has yet to be submitted. Malaysia also ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 138, in 1997, 182, in 2000, and in 2002 signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

6. Child abuse in Malaysia is increasing, although it is difficult to make an accurate determination of its prevalence. A Forum on Caring for Children of Malaysia, held in 1995, noted a twelve-fold increase in reported cases of child abuse in Peninsular Malaysia from 1981 to 1991, when the number of cases reached 1970.

7. Malaysia has created an enabling environment for children, which includes statutory institutions, a dedicated non-governmental organization (NGO) coalition, and an increasingly aware public. All of them contribute to innovative approaches to combat child abuse. The 2001 Child Act consolidated three previous laws on child protection and juvenile justice and strengthened institutions established in 1991 for child protection under the Social Welfare Department.

8. Nevertheless, more attention needs to be paid to protecting the rights and well-being of adolescents. Many either do not enrol in, or finish, secondary school, and this issue is linked with Government concerns over rising rates of HIV/AIDS infection and drug use among young people. Both concerns were noted in Malaysia's statement to the 6th East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children in 2003. Malaysia's statement to the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly HIV/AIDS in 2001 also highlighted the fact that Government is prioritizing prevention programmes for the young, as 80 per cent of HIV infections occur among the 20-35 age group.

9. According to Ministry of Health data, the adult HIV prevalence rate in 2001 was 0.4 per cent, and by June 2003, the total reported HIV infections were 54,914. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates the number to be between 120,000 to 200,000, and when non-reported cases are factored in, the Ministry of Health estimates the number to be only around 90,000. In 2002, 76 per cent of reported new infections occurred among drug users, who according to the Home Ministry numbered nearly 32,000 people.

10. Although the epidemic is still concentrated among those adopting high-risk behaviours and in vulnerable situations, it has begun to spread to the mainstream population. Though absolute numbers are still small, they still show a steep rise in infections among heterosexuals and women. In 2002, a reported 1,218 cases of HIV infection among heterosexuals represented an increase of 46 per cent over the number of cases in 2001. Moreover, HIV infections in women, comprising 1 per cent of all infections in 1990, rose to 9 per cent in 2002. UNAIDS estimates that by end of 2001, AIDS had orphaned 14,000 children.

11. Another issue affecting adolescents is their lack of voice in matters that concern them. In a 2001 opinion survey of children and adolescents 9 to 17 years old in East Asia and Pacific entitled, "Speaking Out", indicated that less than half of the Malaysia's respondents said they felt that their opinions were highly valued in their home. A similar proportion said their opinions were ignored in community matters affecting young people. The survey suggested that there is less attention paid to children's views in Malaysia than elsewhere in the region.

12. Malaysia has a high proportion of refugees and displaced persons. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, displaced persons (the definition includes legal and illegal immigrants, foreign-born workers and refugees) comprise around 10 per cent of the population. Only a minority of them are officially recognized refugees. Many foreign-born people in Malaysia are from Indonesia and Myanmar, and a high proportion is in the country unofficially, without an automatic right to public services.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 1999 – 2003

Key results achieved

13. Malaysia has met all the Millennium Development Goals, with the exception of reversing spread of HIV/AIDS. UNICEF has advocated making this rich experience available to other developing countries. A joint project by the United Nations country team and the Government of Malaysia is currently under way to document the key factors and generic lessons to be learned from Malaysia's successes in poverty reduction, basic education, gender equality and women's empowerment, maternal health, and child mortality reduction. The document will be completed by late 2004.

14. This advocacy is also leading to a broadening of Government of Malaysia's existing technical cooperation programme (TCDC) to provide support to countries in the region in primary health care and primary education. The Ministry of Health and UNICEF will collaborate in an initial TCDC pilot in maternal health and in sanitation.

15. Many efforts have supported information exchange. At the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit, held in Malaysia in 2003, UNICEF and the Government shared key information with all OIC participants, and UNICEF presented a report demonstrating Malaysia's relative strengths in girls' education, maternal health and reduction of infant mortality.

16. In two study tours during 2002-2003, UNICEF also enabled two Ministries to learn from other countries in their experiences with rehabilitation of children with special needs and with early childhood education. The Ministry of Health used the information to improve the capacity of rehabilitation staff working with children with disabilities. Similarly, using information from their study tour, the Ministry of Rural Development created new training modules in early childhood education and used its resources to train all teachers in this field.

17. Another important information tool undertaken in 2003 was the National Survey on Sexual Abuse among Adolescent Students. The survey, which included 32,000 respondents, was organized by the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development, two NGOs, the HELP Institute Centre for Psychology and UNICEF. Malaysia's first nationwide study on the issue, which is a widespread concern in the region, the survey will provide baseline data and serve as a framework for policy-making and service provision by NGOs and the Government.

18. Other surveys conducted, on HIV/AIDS, showed that out-of-school young people are less knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS and are more inclined to engage in risky behaviour than their school going peers. Using the results of the surveys, UNICEF successfully advocated for extending the Healthy Lifestyles without HIV/AIDS (ProStar) project for young people in school to those out of school. UNICEF is also supporting the Government in piloting a model for out-of-school young people that features training in life skills and entrepreneur skills, peer outreach programmes, and youth participation. Launched in two states, the model is expected to be replicated in additional states with funding from the Government and others.

Lessons learned

19. The 2002-2004 country programme attempted to achieve results on a broad range of project initiatives while at the same time orienting activities towards setting up a successor entity. This was an ambitious goal, given the fact that UNICEF has much to learn about how to make the transition

to carrying out advocacy, partnerships and fund-raising after UNICEF programme support ends. Only one professional post was established in the office to cover both sets of activities, and this was not enough to carry out the intensive partnership-building necessary. Therefore, the proposed country programme will focus on a few strategic initiatives aiming for highly visible outcomes regarding child rights issues, and it will be better staffed.

20. An assessment of the ProStar HIV/AIDS project conducted by UNICEF regional staff underscored the importance of introducing specific targeted prevention approaches to help those young people who are, or could in the future be, engaged in high-risk behaviours. This is very relevant to the Malaysian context, as the epidemic is still primarily confined to high-risk behaviour groups. Therefore, arrangements are being made at the project planning stage to obtain necessary resources for advocacy and interventions.

The country programme, 2005-2007

Summary budget table

<i>Programme</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular Resources</i>	<i>Other Resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Fight against HIV/AIDS	350	500	850
Child Protection	250	500	750
Prevention of Child Injury	200	300	500
Successor Entity	100	0	100
Cross-sectoral costs	600	200	800
Total	1,500	1,500	3,000

Preparation process

21. The decision to seek an extension of the Malaysia country programme was taken in August 2003. The preparation process began following discussions with the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department. The country Programme Strategy was distributed to all key Ministries by the EPU and a strategy meeting, organised by the EPU and attended by Government Ministries, endorsed the direction and main programme components of the proposed programme.

Goals, key results and strategies

22. The overall goal of the programme is to develop innovative models to cope with emerging threats to survival, development, protection and participation of children while at the same time beginning the process of ensuring a well-managed transition building towards a new funding arrangement, ultimately leading to the establishment of a National Committee.

23. The new programme will limit programming interventions to a few key child rights priorities. The programme will help build national capacity to reduce marginalization and abuse of children, enhance the life skills of young people, particularly to prevent HIV infection, and promote the rights of all children.

24. Recognizing the capacities of the Government of Malaysia, and of Malaysian society as a whole, to support the full realization of children's rights, UNICEF inputs will continue to focus on advocacy and technical cooperation for policy and institutional development and formulation of a

few innovative models for potential replication by the Government. Service delivery will continue to be a responsibility of the Government and its private and civil society partners. The key results to be achieved through the programme by 2007 are:

- (a) Up to 60 per cent of out-of-school young people in selected states will have acquired knowledge and skills to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and drug use, and state capacity to develop necessary psychosocial competencies will be increased;
- (b) Up to 80 per cent of secondary-schools clubs in selected states (described in “Programme components” below) will have annual plans of activities, and regular teacher-student consultations, with clear plans for nationwide application;
- (c) Up to 70 per cent of families nationwide will have received information leading to reduction in the incidence of accidents and injuries;
- (d) In the selected districts, 70 per cent of families will have received information and education leading to reduction in the incidence of child abuse;
- (e) Support preventive measures against child abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, including: raising awareness at local level to make such practices unacceptable, promoting education and training opportunities for children and young people at-risk, and strengthening partnership with the private sector to this end.
- (f) Under the Government leadership, develop and strengthen monitoring and reporting systems of child abuse and sexual exploitation at national/state/district level.
- (g) At least three TCDC events will have disseminated information about Malaysia's success in child survival and development;
- (h) In consultation with EPU, civil society stakeholders, and the UNICEF Geneva Regional Office, a proposal for transition will be developed.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

25. The country programme deals with key emerging issues, while building a transition entity for channelling Malaysia's experience and resources into continued protection and caring of children. The planned interventions and intended outcomes are consistent with the concept of building a caring society - a key principle in Malaysia Vision 2020. They are also linked to some main thrusts of the Eighth Malaysia Plan 2001-2005, which include: provision of adequate and quality social services that are accessible to all, especially the lower-income groups, the disadvantaged and those with special needs; an increase in enrolment rates at secondary level; developing the capacity of young persons to promote healthy life styles and to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, smoking and drug use; and to foster harmony and unity in a multi-ethnic society.

26. Since the CCA/ UNDAF process does not apply to the Malaysian context, UNICEF uses the United Nations country team as the main mechanism for working closely with other United Nations agencies towards achieving the goals of the United Nations system in Malaysia.

Relationship to international priorities

27. The Programme will focus on the few goals and targets of Millennium Agenda yet to be achieved, including the Millennium Development Goals, which also overlap with the priorities of *A World Fit for Children*, UNICEF's medium-term strategic plan, and the Bali Consensus of the 6th East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children. These key elements are HIV/AIDS, youth development, protection of children from abuse, and prevention of child accidents and injury, an emerging priority in the East Asia and Pacific region. Advocacy will support the establishment of a successor entity for child rights protection in the country as well as the *World Fit for Children* and Millennium goal of promoting global partnerships for development.

Programme components

Fight against HIV/AIDS

28. The programme will address issues relating to drop-out rates in secondary schools, the risks of HIV/AIDS and drug use, and an increasing sense of dissatisfaction expressed by young people. Key factors to receive attention are a) the perception among a substantial number of young people that their opinions do not receive adequate attention; and b) the low level of knowledge and psychosocial skills relating to prevention of HIV/AIDS.

29. The Youth-Friendly Schools project will help secondary-school administrators, teachers and parents create a more youth-friendly teaching and learning environment through increased responsiveness to young people's needs by enhancing administrative and teaching skills through knowledge sharing and technical cooperation. UNICEF will provide funds for developing an appropriate model, technical assistance, and the adaptation of international good practices in this area to the Malaysian context.

30. The HIV/AIDS prevention for Out-of School Young People project will build on and improve the quality of the prevention activities implemented through the current ProStar project, and will provide young people with knowledge and psychosocial skills to protect themselves and their peers from HIV/AIDS and drug use. This will be accomplished by several means: catalysing public discussion on HIV/AIDS prevention, stigmatization, and care for those (especially children) affected by AIDS; the promotion of non-discrimination through policy and media advocacy, including technical assistance with the 'With Hope and Help' advocacy initiative to support compassion and support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS; providing lifeskills-based HIV/AIDS education using peer education methods; and developing pilot interventions for high-risk behaviour groups such as drug users and commercial sex workers and their children, including specific prevention strategies and services. UNICEF assistance will focus on several aspects: policy advocacy creating an enabling environment for young people, through which they can contribute to and co-own the initiative; capacity-building in social research and behaviour surveillance; capacity-building of local resource persons in life skills and psychosocial competencies as well as in monitoring and evaluation of life skills-based training; providing best-practice examples of materials and curricula from other programmes in the region.

31. The two projects will be implemented as models in the two to three selected states. If more resources become available, the models would be replicated in other states. The ultimate goal is for the models to be replicated in all states, under government or NGO funding and management. The projects will be implemented by the Ministries of Education and Health as well as state governments, in collaboration with parent-teacher associations, NGOs, the Malaysian AIDS Council, local universities, the corporate sector, United Nations agencies and young people.

Child Protection

32. The Child Protection project, using the existing institutional infrastructure of Child Protection Teams and Child Activity Centres, will develop a model for establishing a system of prevention, monitoring, counselling system for combating child abuse, for potential replication by Government. The project partners will be the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Women, Family and Social Development, local governments, and the NGO Coalition for Prevention of Child Sexual abuse.

33. The interventions will include raising awareness about child abuse and strategies for prevention among communities covered by the Child Activity Centres; training of Centre staff and volunteers on prevention education, and development of abuse-monitoring mechanism; empowering children served by the Centres in their own protection and reporting; capacity-building of relevant local government and national Government officials, Child Protection Teams, and staff of the NGO Coalition on programming for child sexual abuse; monitoring and evaluation; and research. The project will also mobilize mass media to increase public awareness.

34. UNICEF will provide funds to develop the model, focused on providing technical assistance for the following areas: training of staff and volunteers; research, monitoring and evaluation; and international networking for sharing of knowledge on global best practices in the prevention of child abuse.

Protection of Children from Injuries

35. The programme will address these two threats to children, which persist despite Malaysia's development successes. Several East Asian countries have undertaken accident and injury surveys in the past year, and a major conference on the subject **was** held in Bangkok in April 2004. The conference will cover protection of children from death and disability due to a wide variety of accidents, including drowning, injuries from road traffic and home-based accidents. Malaysia's experience in preventing road accidents and protecting from major injury can serve as an example for other countries in the region dealing with **similar** issues. The findings of a planned national survey on childhood accidents and injuries, should provide a clearer understanding of the causes and circumstances of accident-related morbidity and mortality, and help with the design and implementation of preventive programmes.

Successor Entity

36. This programme will build a strong constituency of intellectual, moral and financial support from Malaysian society to ensure a viable and lasting UNICEF entity, using opportunities generated by Malaysia's progress in meeting the commitments of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals. The programme will also enable other developing countries to share experiences and learn from Malaysia's successes in basic social service policy and programme delivery.

37. The project aims to establish a successor entity committed to protecting rights of children – in Malaysia and the world – through creative mobilization of Malaysian people's commitment to children as well as the leadership of the Government, religious and business groups and civil society. The eventual successor entity will remain within the broader UNICEF family in terms of mandate, mission and objectives. The project will use market research, brainstorming sessions,

national consultations, experience-exchange visits to successful National Committees, public information campaigns, goodwill ambassadors, round tables with key leaders and professionals, and policy advocacy initiatives to evolve a mandate, structure and operational procedures for the entity. The project will be coordinated by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department. UNICEF will also work closely with other key Ministries, religious leaders, Malaysians leader and experts, the corporate sector, and young people dedicated to protecting child rights.

38. The TCDC project will support the expansion of the Government's current initiative to include programmes on basic social service delivery, particularly programmes involving maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and basic education. The project will be implemented by the EPU of the Prime Minister's Department in close collaboration with Ministries of Health and Education and selected universities and institutes studying development. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to conduct research, develop monographs, case studies, training modules and web materials, and to organize experience exchange visits.

39. Cross-sectoral costs will cover the expenses of Programme Officers and other support staff to ensure not only that programmes can be implemented smoothly but also that lessons from the programmes are culled and communicated. Some office expenses will also be paid from this funding.

Major partnerships

40. UNICEF will work closely with the Government at federal and state levels on policy development and programme implementation **as well as with religious organizations**. UNICEF will continue to work closely with other United Nations agencies in the United Nations country team, especially with UNDP on the TCDC project and WHO on HIV/AIDS, and child accidents and injuries. UNICEF will promote financial/technical partnership with potential donors, civil society organisation such as Malaysian Human Rights Commission and local NGOs for prevention of child sexual abuse. Teachers, youth leaders, in-school and out-of-school young people will be important partners in implementing young people's participation initiatives in secondary schools and promoting healthy lifestyles. The programme will also work in partnership with religious leaders, NGOs, the corporate sector, and professional organizations for advocacy and public education, in prevention of accident and injury, child abuse, and establishment of a successor entity to UNICEF. Media will be an important ally for advocacy and public awareness-raising for all aspects of the programme. Child Protection Teams, staff and volunteers in Child Activity Centres, children, parents and community groups are key partners in prevention of child abuse and injury. The UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and Malaysian universities and research institutions will assist in providing technical assistance in areas of TCDC, HIV/AIDS, research, and monitoring and evaluation.

41. UNICEF will consult with the Government to seek innovative funding opportunities, including within the country that can augment the country programme budget as well as position the successor entity for its future. These opportunities may include: matching contributions from the Government; corporate or individual in-kind and financial contributions; as well as fund-raising from the general public, including marketing and sales of UNICEF cards and products.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

42. The country programme results framework will be the basis for monitoring progress and planning evaluation of the country programme. An Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) for 2005-2007 will include monitoring methods, an evaluation plan, and suggested studies. The Mid-Term Review will be held in mid-2006. The HIV/AIDS prevention project will be evaluated in 2005 to learn from three years of implementation. A summary evaluation will be undertaken in 2007, to consolidate learning from the programme for Malaysia.

43. The key results indicators include: percentage of out-of-school young people with knowledge and psychosocial skills for HIV/AIDS prevention; percentage of secondary schools with operational student councils; incidence of accidents and injuries in project districts; activities for combating child abuse; and **potential** funds raised **in-country** as a ratio to the annual regular resource budget.

44. The EPU of the Prime Minister's Department will coordinate the preparation of annual project plans and organization of periodic reviews, including mid-term and end-of-cycle reviews, with technical assistance from UNICEF. Designated counterpart Ministries will implement and monitor projects based on annual project plans, in collaboration with state governments and NGOs.

45. UNICEF Malaysia's attempts to build a successor entity in the 2002-2004 programme cycle were critically hampered by lack of human resources and insufficient experience in the process. To support the new country programme, the following key staff have been appointed to the office: (a) an accredited Representative, responsible for overall programme and office management (b) an international Programme Officer to support programme management, advocacy and documentation (c) a national Communication Officer for oversight of key information, education and communication.

UNICEF Malaysia Summary Result Matrix

UNICEF Priority Area**	Key Results Expected in this Priority Area	Key Progress Indicators	Means of Verification	Major Partnership and Cooperation Programmes	The Expected Key Results in this Priority Area will Contribute to*
Fighting Against HIV/AIDS	Existing HIV/AIDS intervention programmes, such as ProStar that deliver more effective and targeted HIV/AIDS programmes have been strengthened	Number and proportion of ProStar clubs and other programmes delivering more effective programmes on HIV/AIDS	Evaluation of ProStar clubs, ProStar club reports, joint review with partners	Ministry of Health and Education, NGOs, UN Theme Group, and Religious Organizations/OIC	MDG Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS World Fit for Children: Combat HIV/AIDS
Child Protection and Protection Against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence	Legislative Frameworks, enforcement and community awareness that support the protective environment strengthened	Number of media workshops and multi-sectoral consultations held; Description of legislation and policy reforms supported	Programme data Joint review with partners	Government of Malaysia, SUHAKAM, NGOs, Academia, Religious Organizations, UNICEF EAPRO	World Fit for Children "Priority Area of Action: Protect Against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence"
Child Injury Prevention (Regional Priority)	GoM/UNICEF/NGOs to strengthen the exiting MOH coordination mechanism to implement various injury prevention projects	Capacity building and raising awareness by holding at least 2 media workshop and at least 3 multi-sectoral consultations.	National Survey on Child Injury	Government of Malaysia, NGOs, Academia, and UN Agencies.	MDG Goal #4: Reduce Child Mortality
Successor Entity (Regional Priority)	Innovative funding opportunities within the country, both through the Government and corporate/private sector identified.	Number of innovative funding opportunities identified Proportion of identified funding opportunities resulting in extra resources	Programme data	Government of Malaysia, prominent Malaysian corporate sector, media and NGOs.	MDG Goal #8: Develop a global partnership for development UNICEF Global Guidelines CF/EXD/2003-024

* Malaysia has no CCA/UNDAF. ** MTSP Priorities, except for HIV/AIDS and Child Protection, are not applicable to Malaysia