

## **UNICEF follow-up to recent consultations of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board: oral report**

### **Introduction**

1. The issues of relevance to UNICEF that were discussed at the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) meetings<sup>1</sup> include:

- The development of a 2007-2010 strategic framework to support countries in their efforts to scale up towards universal access for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;
- The status of implementation of the Global Task Team (GTT) recommendations and the report of the GTT independent assessment;
- Strengthened collaboration with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and
- The 2008-2009 Unified Budget and Workplan.

### **I. The 2007-2010 Strategic Framework UNAIDS support to countries' efforts to move toward universal access<sup>2</sup>**

2. Based on the recommendation of the 18<sup>th</sup> PCB, UNAIDS developed a four-year framework that will guide joint United Nations support to countries moving towards universal access and the fulfillment of other commitments made in the 2001 Declaration and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. The 19<sup>th</sup> PCB endorsed the framework as the principal guide of UNAIDS support to global, regional and country action from 2007 to 2010.

3. In accordance with the UNAIDS Technical Division of Labour, UNICEF's areas of responsibility to support universal access are reflected within the Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2006-2009 and the *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* four programmatic areas ("four P's"): prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT); provision of paediatric treatment, prevention of HIV among adolescents; and protection and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Across each of the four Ps, UNICEF is working to provide programmatic leadership, to advocate on behalf

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\* E/ICEF/2007/13.

<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> PCB (June 2006), 19<sup>th</sup> PCB (December 2006) and 20<sup>th</sup> PCB (June 2007), held in Geneva, Switzerland.

<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda item 2; 19<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda item 4.1

of children, to meet supply and resource needs, to build partnerships at all levels, to convene stakeholders and to track progress.

## II. Implementation of the Global Task Team (GTT) recommendations<sup>3</sup>

4. UNICEF provided an update on the implementation of the GTT recommendations at its Executive Board's annual session in June 2007. Progress since then has been made in the areas outlined below.

5. **PMTCT.** As the Executive Board will recall, in March 2007, the UNITAID Board voted to provide UNICEF and WHO in 2007 and 2008 with just under \$21 million to support PMTCT scale-up across eight countries that had hosted joint technical Inter Agency Task Team (IATT) missions. UNITAID recipient countries met in Nairobi and Dakar to jump-start the preparation process for receipt of commodities for PMTCT scale-up. In addition UNICEF and WHO have conducted joint technical follow up missions to Burkina Faso, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia to review progress on previous IATT recommendations and provide technical support for the implementation of PMTCT scale up associated with UNITAID funding.

6. **Children affected by HIV/AIDS.** UNICEF has completed a literature review on *The Impact of Cash Transfers on Children Affected by AIDS in Malawi, South Africa and Zambia*. The objectives of the review were to increase the understanding of the role of cash transfers in mitigating the impact of AIDS on children and households; to demonstrate whether cash transfers targeting poverty level rather than HIV and AIDS status made sense in heavily HIV and AIDS affected communities; and to identify evidence gaps and define an operational research agenda to expand the social protection evidence base. The main conclusions of the study indicate that HIV/AIDS affected households are on average poorer than other households. Schemes that target households with no adult fit for productive work or with a high dependency ratio reach more HIV/AIDS affected households than schemes that do not use this criterion. Schemes that target abandoned, neglected and abused children (many of whom are orphans), such as the Foster Care Grant, have a relatively high proportion of HIV and AIDS affected households. This information will be used to inform the development of national policies on social protection in Africa.

7. **Prevention of HIV among adolescents.** UNICEF continues to support UNFPA and UNESCO, along with other United Nations partners, in preventing HIV among adolescents, focusing in particular on adolescents most at risk. UNICEF participated in the UNAIDS coordination meeting on young people and HIV/AIDS (25 May 2007) and is actively involved in the follow-up on the meeting's outcomes. The recommendations require the Cosponsors to look at the composition of the current interagency task team on young people; review the role and functioning of all current IATTs; develop a more explicit division of responsibilities on young people within the existing UNAIDS technical support Division of Labour and undertake an internal review on mainstreaming and coordinating around young people and HIV and AIDS.

8. Through the IATT on young people, UNICEF is supporting programming with and for adolescents most at risk, in partnership with the joint United Nations teams on AIDS in Brazil, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Viet Nam. Plans are under way for an IATT-led technical consultation with the above-mentioned countries to support scale up of programmes.

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<sup>3</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda item 3; 19<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda items 2 and 3; 20<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda items 4.1 and 4.3

9. UNICEF also continues to offer ongoing support to HIV/AIDS and reproductive and sexual health education for adolescents in collaboration with UNESCO and other partners. For example, a multi-agency<sup>4</sup> multi-country initiative is under development with 20 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to improve and take to scale comprehensive life-skills based education (LSBE) to address HIV and AIDS, sexual behaviour as well as issues such as violence and drug use. Currently, 155 countries included LSBE in their country office annual reports for 2006 and/or country programmes for 2007.

10. **Procurement and supply management.** HIV/AIDS-related medicines and diagnostics have been supplied to 79 UNICEF-supported programmes and procurement services partners in various parts of the world. Total procurement for HIV/AIDS-related supplies now stands at almost \$45 million, with \$38.7 million spent on ARVs. However, less than \$300,000 was spent on paediatric ARVs. The top-five recipient countries for HIV/AIDS supplies are Brazil, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

11. **Unite for Children. Unite against AIDS Campaign.** Work is now under way to compile the 2nd Children and AIDS Stocktaking report which is scheduled to be published in January 2008. The report will highlight progress made on each of the 'Four Ps' and will be based on the most recent data. Once published the report will also be presented to the Executive Board.

### **Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS**

12. At the Executive Board's annual session in June 2007, UNICEF reported on its participation in each of the 65 established joint United Nations Teams on AIDS at country level. In Eastern and Southern Africa, the joint United Nations Teams on AIDS have based their domestic division of labour on capacity rather than on the physical presence of a particular agency. For example, in Mozambique, external consultants review the resumés and technical experience of all United Nations staff working on HIV and AIDS, with the aim of identifying which United Nations staff member has the best capacity to provide the technical lead. In Eastern and Southern Africa, more than 18 UNICEF country offices have made progress in nominating team members to the Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS, identifying a domestic division of labour and articulating a management plan.

### **Global Implementation Support Team (GIST)**

13. The GIST<sup>5</sup> assists countries to find solutions for major implementation bottlenecks to large HIV/AIDS grants. Specific GIST actions have included the provision of governance-related support, as well as technical and management support.

14. As a follow-up to the outcomes of the independent GTT assessment, GIST is reviewing its terms of reference to ensure that there is more clarity on how it collaborates or links with existing mechanisms such as the Joint United Nations Teams on AIDS, the United Nations Theme Groups

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<sup>4</sup> UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, WFP and FAO

<sup>5</sup> GIST members include UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, the UNAIDS Secretariat, the Global Fund, the World Bank, DFID, the United States Government, the Department for International Development, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, the Global AIDS Alliance and the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations.

and the UNAIDS Country Coordinators in identifying and solving implementation problems at country level. A finalized document will be available in early October 2007.

### **Independent assessment of the implementation of the Global Task Team recommendations<sup>6</sup>**

15. The 18<sup>th</sup> PCB recommended an independent assessment of the GTT recommendations at country level. Although conducted at an early stage, the assessment clearly underscored areas of progress and provides recommendations to overcome remaining challenges. The 20<sup>th</sup> PCB adopted the recommendations contained in the report of the GTT assessment. The Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat welcomed the adoption of the recommendations and are developing an implementation plan that addresses the recommendations.

### **III. Collaboration with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis<sup>7</sup>**

16. UNICEF will continue to intensify its involvement with the Global Fund on behalf of children affected by HIV and AIDS. UNICEF will increase its support to countries benefiting from Global Fund grants at the regional level, through the Technical Support Facilities where they are in place. For each round of funding, UNICEF is already providing feedback on Global Fund processes, including an analysis of progress in the success rates of country proposals submitted to the Global Fund, identification of the areas that need strengthening and provision of technical assistance. UNICEF also provides information to the Technical Review Panel on issues related to children and AIDS.

### **IV. The 2008-2009 Unified Budget and Workplan<sup>8</sup>**

17. The 20<sup>th</sup> PCB endorsed the strategies and approaches contained in the 2008-2009 Unified Budget and Workplan (UBW) and urged all countries to fully fund the amount of \$469 million. The UBW is organized around seven principal outcomes and 33 key outputs, which incorporate the *Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS* four P's. The UNAIDS Secretariat and the Cosponsors agreed to have PMTCT as a priority area for joint programme action in 2008-2009.

As part of the Cosponsors Evaluation Working Group, UNICEF is working with the Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat to develop indicators to ensure efficient monitoring and results-based reporting of the UBW. The mid-term review of the 2008-2009 UBW will be an excellent stock-taking opportunity, to gain a clear understanding of progress and remaining challenges towards achieving the goals set out in the UBW.

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<sup>6</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda item 3, 19<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda item 4, 20<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda item 4.3

<sup>7</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> PCB agenda item 4.4

<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> PCB, agenda item 2