

**UNICEF Executive Board
First Regular Session 2004
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Item 8 of the agenda**

**Oral report on the implementation of the UNICEF
monitoring and evaluation plan for 2004:
Background paper**

I. Monitoring and evaluation in UNICEF

1. Monitoring is performed at two main levels in UNICEF. The first is the monitoring of the situation of children and women in the world. Databases are maintained on a number of indicators and provide input for measuring progress towards the targets of *A World Fit for Children* and the Millennium Development Goals. The information is gathered in collaboration with countries by means of household surveys and other statistical activities. The flagship report is the annual *State of the World's Children* report.

2. The second level of monitoring concerns organizational performance and results, which takes place on an ongoing basis. Country programmes set expected results and use the Programme Manager System (PROMS) and programme and management reviews to track progress. The Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) sets out the indicators to be used by the country programme. Key indicators have been identified for monitoring performance against the programme and management targets of the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP). These are generated by regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms. A system is being developed to consolidate the key indicators for management decision-making and will be operational in the course of 2004. The Executive Director's annual report, complemented by other reports, presents aggregated results and analysis of progress against the MTSP to the Executive Board.

3. Country offices, regional offices and the Evaluation Office conduct evaluations. The IMEP, which is incorporated in the country programme management plan, provides the framework for the selection of evaluations conducted by country offices in collaboration with programme countries. Regional offices identify their respective evaluation work during the preparation of the biennial budget. The Evaluation Office submitted its multi-year evaluation plan to the Executive Board in June 2001.

II. Monitoring plan for 2004

4. Monitoring of the situation of children and women in the world will be reported in the *State of the World's Children* report covering country-specific, regional and global estimates of indicators (published in December 2004). Household-based multiple indicator cluster surveys are planned for 2005 in more than 60 countries.

5. Organizational results and performance will be reported to the Executive Board by means of: (a) the Executive Director's annual reports to the Economic and Social Council (first regular session) and the Executive Board (annual session); and (b) the report on the mid-term review of the MTSP (second regular session).

6. For evaluations, the secretariat also plans to report to the Board through: (a) the report on the Evaluation function (annual session) and (b) regional reports on mid-term reviews and major evaluations of country programmes (second regular session).

7. Policy considerations include:

(a) Monitoring of the situation of children, and the need for support for the use of *DevInfo*;

(b) In terms of performance monitoring, refinement of key indicators and strengthening of system for monitoring organizational performance and progress against the MTSP;

(c) Regarding evaluation, during the first two years of the MTSP period, emphasis has been given to strengthening of the evaluation function within UNICEF. There has been some delay in the work programme of evaluation studies due to shortage of resources.