

**Draft Programme of Co-operation**

**between**

**the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and  
UNICEF Gulf Area Office**

**2007-2009**

# **Draft Programme of Cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UNICEF Gulf Area Office for (2007-2009)**

## **Framework**

- \* Implementation of the treaty and cooperation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- \* Building on the experience and progress already achieved during the implementation of the previous cooperation programme.
- \* Starting a new cooperation programme for 2007-2009.
- \* Mutual declaration that responsibilities included herein will be met through close cooperation.

Accordingly, both parties have agreed on the following:

### **Part 1: Basis of Relationship**

The core Cooperation Agreement signed in 1961 between the Saudi government and UNICEF shall serve as the basis for relations between the government and UNICEF. The country work plan for 2007-2009 will be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the core agreement.

### **Part 2: The Current Status of Children in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Demography:** Of a total population of 22673538 in 2004 (72% Saudis and 27.1% non-Saudis) children represent 10.5 million, or 44% of the populace. The fertility rate in 2004 was the highest in the region at 2.9 children. The expected rise in children's numbers forms serious challenges for economic and social policies as there will inevitably be a need to provide increased employment opportunities for youth. 90% of the population live in urban areas.

**Economic and Social Status:** The World Bank estimate of per capita income in Saudi has risen to 10,430 USD in 2004 as a result of the rise in oil prices in recent years. Yet income diversity and an expansion of its production base characterises the Saudi economy, decreasing its dependence on the oil industry. The contribution of the non-oil industries to GDP has risen from 44% in 1970 to 76% in 2000. Still, the Oil industry accounts for 75% of the budget. In 2000 foreigners represented 61% of the workforce in the private sector. This has been a matter of growing concern especially so due to the fact that there is a large number of unemployed Saudi youth. The process of creating employment opportunities for the Saudi workforce is still underway. On the other hand, social care policies, accompanied by strong family

solidarity have decreased abject poverty levels to the minimum. Saudis are striving to strike a balance between traditional and tribal values on the one hand and the influences of the media, modern world economics and geopolitical considerations on the other.

**Child-related legislation and policies:** Islamic Sharia guarantees the conferment of rights. This means that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is practically and politically committed to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child as long as it complies with the Sharia. This is apparent in obligatory health and social policies. Efforts have been made to live up to the commitments made in the Convention on the Rights of the Child in terms of the rights to name, nationality, family care, participation and the minimum age to practice some activities. Yet, an analysis of the current situation makes it obligatory to revise social policies associated with the most vulnerable groups of children. The Child Rights Committee noted that many laws related to children's rights including personal status, the penal code, civil and penal proceedings laws are yet to be written. The committee recommended a comprehensive revision of both the civil and basic laws including administrative and legal procedures and rules. The committee also noted that the right of non-discrimination was not entirely included in legislations. (References to Child Rights Committee should be updated after the January meeting in Geneva)

The National Committee for Childhood was formed in 1979. Presided over by the Minister of Education, the Committee is the governmental institution responsible for planning child policies as well as for coordinating the implementation of these policies. In the last four decades the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia made noticeable progress in providing social and health care for children. However, the weakness in data collection and analysis systems in addition to the inability to conduct surveys and make assessments, curb the possibility of improving quality based on facts on the ground.

**Survival:** The past three decades have witnessed great achievements, manifested in the decreasing mortality rates and in the prevention of contagious diseases. The mortality rate for the under 5 fell from 250 per thousand in 1960 to 21.1 per thousand in 2004. Child mortality rate was estimated at 21 per thousand in 2004. According to the Family Health Survey for the Gulf region in 1996 mortality rates were very high in the rural and southern areas. Analysis of the current situation attributes this to the lack of education among mothers as well as an absence in awareness of health issues, climate and local geography. Though it is extremely difficult to check the mortality rate of mothers a survey carried out by UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA suggests that the mortality rate – amended to cover potentially unrepresented cases – is 23 per thousand births. This rate accounts for 150 maternal mortality cases annually. These cases partially result from a lack of prenatal care. 91% of births are supervised by a skilled person. This percentage is lower in rural areas as well as in the Southern province. Home births are mainly attributed to cultural and social reasons.

Healthcare is free for Saudis and there are healthcare policies which support children. 99% of the population are included in the basic health coverage. This is the fruit of the cooperation between the Ministry of Health and WHO which began in 1964. The Ministry of Health share of GDP is 6-8%. In 2003, 35% of this budget was allocated directly to basic healthcare services. KSA has witnessed a change in the causes of

death, types of diseases and afflictions. There has been a rising numbers of deaths and injuries resulting from diseases related to lifestyle, like traffic accidents and others. The 1996 Family Health Survey for the Arab Gulf states shows that 1% of children under-five were subject to severe traffic injuries in the year preceding the survey. The survey also shows that severe respiratory diseases and diarrhoea are the most common diseases. This necessitates proper childcare practices. In cooperation with UNICEF, the Ministry of Health is currently preparing a programme for the integrated management of childhood illnesses.

Vaccination coverage levels in KSA exceeds 95% for all types. As a result of the changes the Kingdom has witnessed in terms of health, malnutrition and obesity co-exists in Saudi society. The most recent rates, though low compared to international rates, are still higher than expected in light of the higher per capita income. KSA, UAE and Kuwait have the highest rates of malnutrition in the Arabian Gulf. The Gulf Family Health Survey of 1996 cites reasons for this: poor nutritional practices, lack of knowledge of proper weaning practices and insufficient nutrition offered for babies especially during seasonal variations in food diversity and during illness. In contrast, KSA, Bahrain and the UAE have the highest rates of breastfeeding among the Gulf States. 31% of Saudi babies were exclusively breastfed during the first three months of their lives. Yet, this rate is below average compared to the rest of the Arab world. Complementary feeding, on the other hand, was promptly used after early childhood. The rate of breastfeeding alongside complementary food starting from the sixth month is a little higher than that of other Arab states. The child-friendly hospitals initiative has been supported in KSA.

There is a lack of statistics in terms of adolescences' health, their psychosocial situation as well as vulnerability to accidents and addiction. In particular, there is a lack of statistics on sexual health, re-productivity and HIV/AIDS in KSA. While culture and traditions certainly help limit the levels of AIDS, lack of statistics and the large numbers of pilgrims and immigrant workers are issues of concern. Thus, immigrant workers are tested for HIV/AIDS before issuing them work permits and there is a growing concern of the potential dangers in the future if preventative measures are not taken now.

**Development:** Education is free in all its stages for children in KSA (males, females, Saudis and non-Saudis alike). Primary education became compulsory in 1426 A H and 91% of children who join the primary level reach 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but enrolment rates for this stage have decreased recently, while total enrolment rates remained the same at 68% for males and 65% for females. This indicates a high repetition rate. Equally enrolment rates in secondary education went down. These rates are sharply low comparatively and could be attributed to the fact that primary education has become compulsory only on 1426 AH. Analysis of the status quo indicates that education focuses mainly on theoretical rather than technical or professional aspects. In an international comparative study of educational achievements based on eight criteria, conducted in 2003, only two out of 45 countries scored fewer points than KSA in mathematics. In science, KSA the score was the seventh lowest. Successive development plans admit the need to prioritise education and to improve self-learning as well as heighten problem-solving skills. It is imperative to revise curricula and orient education towards developing children's skills.

The preschool enrolment rate was only 8% in 1999 and is very low compared to the numbers of children. Such low rates necessitate a better understanding of childcare practices at home as well as of children's readiness for school.

**Participation:** Extra-curricular activities face many problems including: a lack of suitable facilities, insufficient funds and staff as well as a lack of awareness of the importance of such activities. However, municipalities are making efforts to turn cities into gardens for children. On this basis, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended the adoption of curricula with the participation of civil society especially child associations and entities that advocate children's causes. This participation should last during all stage of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The committee is concerned that little respect is shown for children's opinions due to traditional social orientations in schools, courts of laws and most particularly within the family.

**Protection:** There is a growing awareness of violence against children and child abuse. Efforts are being made to push this issue higher up on the national agenda. However, there is a general lack of information about child abuse and domestic violence. There are very few established mechanisms to treat or refer abused children. The Committee on the Rights of the Child is concerned about child abuse in schools and within the family and has recommended a number of measures in this regard. According to present regulations children who break laws are kept in special detention centres and then referred to juvenile courts in the presence of a social councillor. As a result, the Committee has expressed concern about the application of adult trial procedures and punishments against an 18 year old.

There is an unknown number of children who are victims of child trafficking. They are smuggled into KSA from Yemen, Nigeria, Somalia, Niger, Chad, Pakistan and other countries to practice begging. While some of them are abused by their own families, others are exploited by organised external gangs. The study which will be carried out in 2006 is expected to provide better information to evaluate the situation. Although there are rules governing the age, safety and living standards of camel racers, and although children are banned from these races there is a need for better information and follow-up mechanisms.

**The Committee on the Rights of the Child Reports:** The Committee on the Rights of the Child Reports have shown, the need for the government of KSA to: develop a mechanism to gather and analyse information systematically about persons below 18 years of age; establish an independent national human rights institution responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; evaluate a systematic approach of civil society's participation in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; disseminate information about the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and develop programmes and policies for adults health including reproductive health education with the full participation of adolescence.

### **Part 3: Previous Cooperation and the Lessons Learned**

**Main results achieved:**

In the last 25 years partnership between UNICEF and KSA has witnessed a transition from the direct provision of basic social services to the introduction of programme strategies based on a consultation on policies, capacity building and the monitoring of children's rights. This partnership has extended to improve the conditions of children outside the Kingdom. This took place in tandem with the great achievement KSA made in childcare services as indicated by low child mortality rates. Accordingly, the cooperation programme between UNICEF and KSA for 2004-2006 focuses on three programmes: the advocacy programme, monitoring and advocacy for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, early childhood care programme and youth development and participation programme.

In response to the final notes of the Committee on the Rights of the Child UNICEF introduced its technical services to the National Child Rights Committee to help it form a national work plan for childhood. In addition to the UN country team, UNICEF has also enhanced the implementation of the DevInfo programme to support KSA to monitor its Millennium Development Goals in general and the status of children in particular. UNICEF also held a two day workshop in September 2005 to train 44 governmental officers on DevInfo offering a full description of the benefits of the programme to them.

The government of KSA realise the growing need to protect children from violence, exploitation and maltreatment. There are thousands of exploited children who are smuggled into Saudi to beg. Hence, UNICEF worked hand in hand with the Nayef Arab University for Security Science to enhance national activities to solve the problem in addition to supporting an exploratory programme in Mecca, run by the Al-Bir Charity. Care and protection have been provided to a number of children on the basis of the current situation. Moreover, capacity building activities included a multi-sector group with 100 local professionals. Representatives of countries from which children are smuggled participated in these efforts to curb child trafficking and to repatriate exploited children to their countries in a suitable way.

In the light of the high child mortality rate due to accidents UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with the Saudi Red Crescent Society in 2005. A survey of the current situation was made with the participation of the community. This survey is expected to guide the planning process of the protection initiative. Suitable messages will be created which will serve both as a basis for awareness campaigns, and as elements in the IMCI project. They will also be instrumental in improving healthy lifestyle patterns for adolescence.

UNICEF has been an active partner in activities aimed at increasing public awareness of HIV/AIDS for many years. With the vital participation of the Ministry of Health, UNICEF played a major role in forming an objective group specialised in AIDS in 2002. Supported by the UNDP, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and UNICEF, the WHO held a two-day seminar on AIDS patients in the Gulf and related human rights in November 2005. Among other subjects, recommendations stressed the need to enhance the health education programme and to include HIV/AIDS in school curricula. This will undoubtedly lead to a continuous and automatic participation of UNICEF in these fields.

In the last few years Partnership for Children has been enhanced. This partnership has included governments, development funds, the private sector and NGOs. While the Saudi government continued its annual support of UNICEF worldwide, it also showed great generosity in supporting UNICEF programmes for children when more funds were needed. For instance the 5 million USD donation made in 2005 to eradicate polio. AGFUND has also shown continuous support for UNICEF. Furthermore a 3.6 million USD agreement was signed in October 2005 by the Saudi Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People, UNICEF and the Palestinian Authority in support of Palestinian children to guarantee their right to education and national survival. The new partnership with the Saudi Red Crescent Society led to advocacy of resources for children.

### **Lessons learned**

Due to its geopolitical status, KSA has always attracted millions of immigrant workers and pilgrims. International networks take advantage of this and exploit children by making them beg on the streets, or by practising other forms of child exploitation. These networks operate internationally. This necessitates a transnational response and the involvement of these children's respective countries. Due to its presence in all of these countries as well as in the Gulf region, UNICEF gains a special status which allows it to offer quick support to the KSA government in tackling child protection issues.

Since KSA is a dedicated and generous donor to UNICEF, its children deserve UNICEF support. After an initial transition from providing of services, UNICEF can support KSA by providing consultation in areas like policies, institutional capacity building and the monitoring of child rights etc. Recent years have shown that building institutions and capacities to respond to child rights challenges is a long-term process which requires an equally long-term partnership.

KSA is a full contributor to UNICEF. It is also one of the biggest donors to public and private resources in support of UNICEF internationally. UNICEF, in return, contributes to the welfare of Saudi children via carefully-orientated programmes. It is also a trustworthy and reliable partner in terms of allocating generous donations to the most needy children in the world.

## **Part 4: Suggested Programme**

### **Country Programme Strategies and Results**

The final objective of the cooperation programme for 2007-2009 is to support KSA in a way which ensures that children and young people, including the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, are given their full rights. The strategic objectives expected to be met by the end of 2009 include a) providing children and young people with advanced laws and policies based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the formation of which children and young people should participate; b) providing high quality care and educational opportunities to children and young people enabling them to grow and realise their full potential within healthy and active lives; and c)

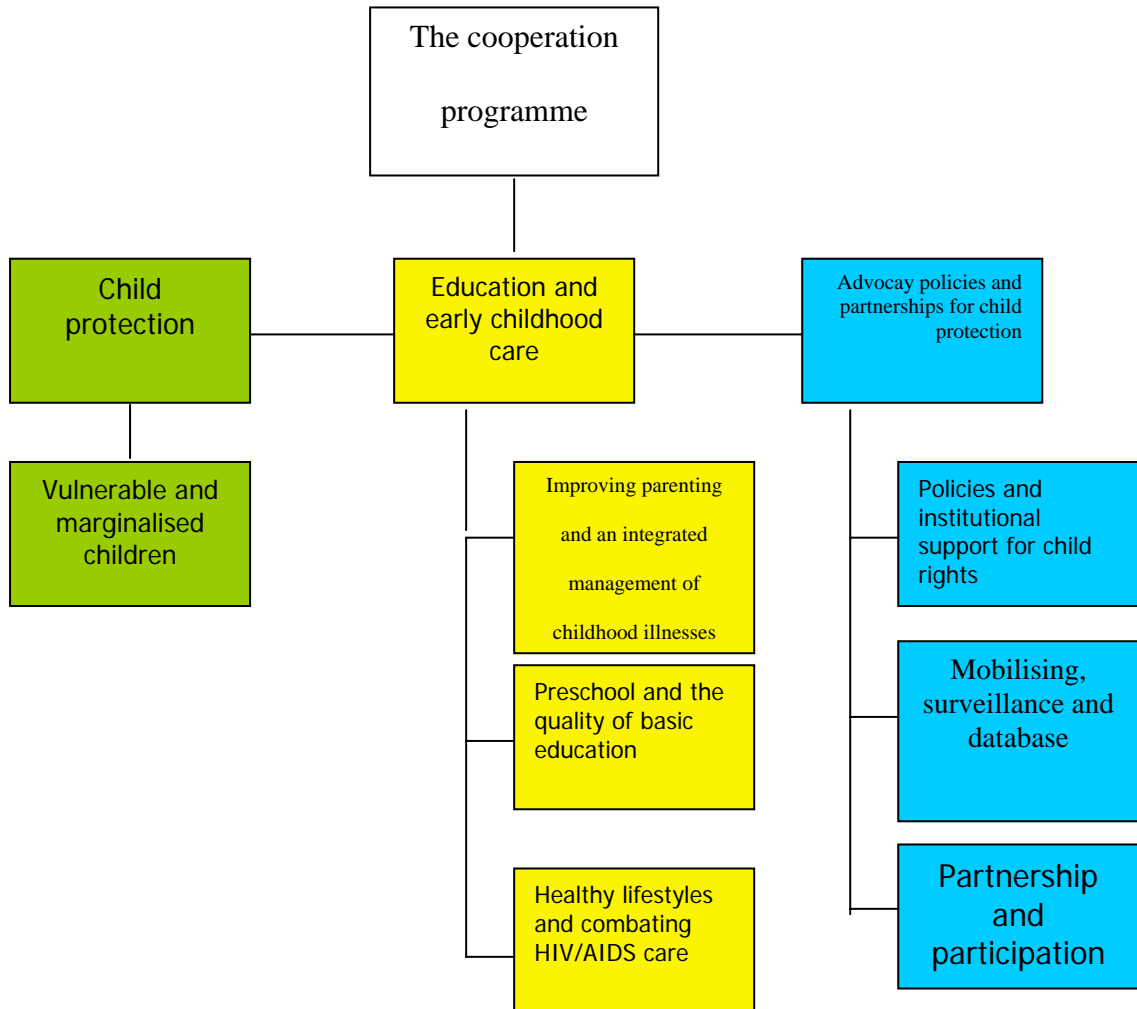
providing better protection from violence, exploitation and abuse especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised children.

The main strategies of the programme are based on human rights. In light of the achievements realised by KSA in recent decades, the programme will continue to focus on advocacy, advocacy and capacity building. The programme will be restricted to a number of main initiatives in the strategic fields. It will make best and full use of the special status of UNICEF in terms of advocacy and advocacy in order to include main subjects in the national agenda. It has been decided that UNICEF will mainly support capacity building at the central level with a special focus on the National Child Rights Committee with a view to strengthen the partnership with it. The multi-sectoral approach will guarantee the realisation of a comprehensive perspective focused on children. Building on lessons learned, temporary and new initiatives in the field of child protection will be enhanced and applied to the widest extent. A better exchange of information and practices among Gulf states will be sought to monitor results of the new initiatives. Efforts will be made to improve monitoring and information gathering to better understand the nature and gravity of problems facing children in KSA.

UNICEF will continue to build partnerships with governments, the private sector development funds and NGOs to muster resources for children in KSA and elsewhere. Building on lessons learned UNICEF will dedicate itself to the preparation of high quality programmes for Saudi children in addition to its efforts to enhance alliances and mobilising resources for the most vulnerable and marginalised children in the world.

## The programme's structure:

The country programme comprises 3 sub-programmes and 7 projects, as explained below:



## Programme Structure and Project Objectives

The following table is an outline of the organisational structure and connections between the programme and project objectives:

The country programme objective	The Programme	Strategic results	Project:	Description of project results
Supporting the Saudi government in ensuring that children, including the most vulnerable and marginalised, enjoy their full rights.	Advocacy and the establishment of policies and partnerships for the rights of the child.	Providing children and young people with improved laws and policies, in the formation of which children and youth will participate, based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	Support the policies and institutions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defining children's rights and responsibilities.</li> <li>- Improving and enhancing awareness of child-related issues in the media.</li> <li>- Creating programmes that support child participation in social activities (health, education, environment, social etc.)</li> </ul>
			Advocacy, monitoring and creation of a database for information related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating a database about the abuse of children.</li> <li>- Building facilities to support the DevInfo programme.</li> <li>- Developing a basic indicators for child rights in KSA.</li> <li>- Creating stronger advocacy to uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child.</li> <li>- Raising the percentage of parents and teachers with a basic knowledge of child rights.</li> </ul>
			Participation and partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising family and society awareness on the right of the child to play and entertainment</li> <li>- Develop diagnoses programmes to tackle the behavioural and educational difficulties facing children.</li> <li>- Developing teachers skills in communication and human relation for all age groups</li> <li>- Ensuring children receive correct information, expressing their views and respecting them .In addition to their participation in decisions-making process.</li> <li>- Incorporating activities in the educational curricula aiming to encourage children to practice save and positive participation in society's activities</li> </ul>
Early childhood care and education	Providing high quality care and educational opportunities to children and young people enabling them to grow and realise their full potential within healthy and active lifestyles.	Improvement of education and the integrated management of childhood illnesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing natal care and improving practices and equipment provisions in newborn departments.</li> <li>- Encouraging breastfeeding after birth especially in the first hour of a newborn's life.</li> <li>- Spreading health awareness among mothers to enable them to provide proper care to their children.</li> <li>- Increasing awareness of birth spacing.</li> <li>- Increasing awareness of nutrition issues: the importance of nutrition during pregnancy and the dangers of malnutrition to mothers and children.</li> <li>- Supporting a Child Friend Programme in hospitals and care centres to increase awareness and health education.</li> </ul>	

			Preschool education and basic education quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introducing subjects like pollution, its types, relation to human beings, ways of prevention and minimising its dangers in school curricula.</li> <li>- Establishing standards and criteria to test the quality of education in preschool in covering all elements of "Child, teacher, buildings, environment, parents".</li> <li>- Preparing the school's physical environment to attract children.</li> <li>- Developing student activity programmes to guarantee the participation of all students in and outside the school.</li> <li>- Introducing safety and security – in and out of school - regulations in school curricula.</li> <li>- Designing a comprehensive Education Quality System (Criteria for quality in education).</li> <li>- Planning student activities according to international standards in relation to age groups and children's needs in Saudi society.</li> </ul>
			Healthy life patterns and combating HIV/AIDS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improving the skills of health facility staff through continuous training and education.</li> <li>- Spreading health education among parents and promoting premarital tests.</li> </ul>
	Child protection	Providing better protection from violence, exploitation and abuse especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised children.	Protection of the most vulnerable and marginalised children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing programmes to provide educational and psychological support to families of children with special needs via workshops and treatment as well as training sessions.</li> <li>- Developing existing diagnosis and measurement and diagnosis techniques for people with special needs.</li> <li>- Protecting children from the bad effects of the media and internet by increasing parental and family awareness of these bad effects and ways to combat them.</li> <li>- Increasing family and societal awareness of the dangers of child abuse.</li> <li>- Planning programmes and activities to train children to protect themselves from abuse; this is after training child carers to enable them to help him or her.</li> </ul>
			Civil protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing an awareness plan via the media about household accidents, traffic and public facility accidents.</li> <li>- Enacting safety regulations in homes, cars and entertainment facilities.</li> <li>- Enacting a safety programme in student transport.</li> </ul>

### **Relationship to national priorities and Nations Development Assistance framework**

The country programme has been prepared within the framework of the 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2005-2010) with a focus on education and human resources development in order to transform the economy in KSA to a knowledge-based economy. The programme has been developed particularly in the context of preparing a national workplan for children. An analysis of the current situation, which was finalised and approved by the government of KSA in the last session of the programme, has been used as a guide to the present programme. It highlighted main areas that should be addressed.

In the absence of a Common Country Assessment document/United Nations Development Assistance framework, meetings held by the UN country team have stressed the importance of inter-agency integration. Accordingly, areas of common interest like HIV/AIDS, violence against children, statistics and database development via DevInfo have been highlighted.

### **Relationship to international priorities:**

The programme will contribute to the realisation of MDGs in KSA. This is not restricted to quantity but also involves quality. It aims to create sustainability by implementing proper measures in legislation, policies and planning. These aspects should ensure programme contribution to the protection of the most vulnerable people, decreasing child mortality rates, the introduction of primary education to all, realising gender equality, empowering women and combating HIV/AIDS. In this quantitative context, the programme will also contribute to the "World Fit For Children" work plan which aims at improving healthy lifestyles, providing quality education, combating HIV/AIDS, protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence.

The programme will contribute to all aspects of the Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2006-2009. Yet, given the great achievements made by KSA in providing basic social services for children, the focus will be on consultation on policies and building partnerships for children's rights. The geopolitical status of KSA requires a continuous focus on protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse and HIV/AIDS. There will be a follow-up of main quality aspect in relation to child survival and development in addition to basic education and gender equality.

### **Programme Contents:**

<b>Programme 1: Advocay, policies and partnership for child rights</b>
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#### **Summary:**

The programme is expected to tackle a) institutional aspects b) legislation and policies c) monitoring and database systems d) adolescence participation especially females e) partnerships and advocay for children in KSA and elsewhere. The support provided by UNICEF will include technical assistance, training, workshops, information sharing, local research support consultation on policies in addition to resource advocacy.

The strategic result of this programme is to benefit children from the implementation of improved laws and polices based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children should be involved in the formation of these laws and policies.

#### **Project components:**

The programme is made up of three projects 1) supporting policies and institutional support 2) advocay, monitoring and database creation for information related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and 3) participation and partnerships.

## **Project 1-1: Policy support and institutional support**

### **Expected results:**

- 1- Defining child rights and responsibilities.
- 2- Improving and enhancing knowledge about children in the media.
- 3- Planning programmes which support children's participation in societal activities (health, educational, social, environmental etc) in a way that befits his/her ability.

### **Main Activities:**

UNICEF will provide technical assistance, training, workshops, information sharing so that the national committee will be able to:

- 1- Monitor childhood indicators.
- 2- Advocacy for children.
- 3- Provide and implement policies.
- 4- Prepare a guide to the laws and policies which affect children and harmonise them with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 5- Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- 6- Follow-up committee recommendations cited in the second stage report discussed in January 2006.

UNICEF will also provide technical support to KSA to:

- 1- Form an independent, separate and permanent mechanism, for instance, a national institution for children's rights, or reconciliatory committee with the capacity to monitor and evaluate progress achieved in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### **Strategy:**

Advocacy and capacity building.

### **Key partners:**

- 1- Ministry of Education.
- 2- The National Committee for Childhood.

## **Project 1-2: Advocacy, Monitoring and Database creation for information related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

### **Expected results:**

- 1- The creation of a database covering information about the child abuse.
- 2- The development of a DevInfo supported mechanism.
- 3- The specification and development of a main group of indicators for children's rights in KSA.
- 4- Good advocacy to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 5- Increasing the numbers of parents and teachers with a basic knowledge of children's rights.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF will provide technical support, training and sharing knowledge to:

- 1- Install DevInfo and train staff.
- 2- Reach an agreement on the main group of indicators for child rights in KSA including indicators necessary to report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. These reports will be used to prepare MDGs report.
- 3- Establish mechanisms to monitor progress made in all of these indicators.
- 4- Launch specific surveys and studies to provide continuous updates and analyses of the current situation.
- 5- Increasing awareness among decision makers, the private sector and civil society about child rights and their importance in KSA.
- 6- Disseminate principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, submit reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and publish the Committee's closing remarks.
- 7- Enhance the existing partnership with the media concerning child rights.

**Strategy:**

Advocacy and capacity building.

**Key partners:**

- 1- Ministry of Planning and finance.
- 2- Ministry of Education.
- 3- The National Childhood Committee.
- 4- Ministry of Higher Education.
- 5- Ministry of Health.
- 6- Ministry of Social Affairs.
- 7- Ministry of Labour.
- 8- Ministry of Rural and Municipal Affairs.
- 9- Ministry of Interior.
- 10- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 11- Statistics Department.
- 12- Council of Health Ministers in GCC.
- 13- Saudi Red Crescent Society.
- 14- Human Resources Development Fund.
- 15- The Media.

**Project 1-3: Participation and partnership:****Expected results:**

- 1- Increased awareness in families of children's rights to play and enjoy entertainment.
- 2- The establishment and development of diagnosis programmes to deal with learning and behavioural difficulties in children.

- 3- The development of teachers' skills in terms of communication and human relationships to meet the needs of all age groups.
- 4- Ensuring children and youth receiving correct information, and enabling them to express their views and respecting it, in addition to their participation on making decisions affecting their lives.
- 5- The introduction of extra activities in school curricula to encourage children to participate safely and positively in social activities according to their abilities.

**Main activities:**

Support from UNICEF includes technical assistance, training, workshops, information sharing, supporting local research, consultation on policies and resource advocacy:

- 1- Advocacy to provide more opportunities to adolescence from both sexes to develop their schools and societies. Adolescents' will be encouraged to participate in national planning events, regional and sub-regional forums and in the media.
- 2- Exchange expertise with other countries like the Bahrain Youth Parliament and Child Municipality Councils.
- 3- Launching public awareness campaigns which target parents, teachers and decision makers to improve their knowledge, orientations and practices towards adolescences.
- 4- Advocacy for legislation, policies and instructions related to adolescence.
- 5- Building partnerships with existing and new partners to mobilise knowledge and resources for children in KSA and elsewhere.

**Strategy:**

Advocacy and capacity building.

**Key partners:**

- 1- Ministry of Education.
- 2- The National Childhood Committee.
- 3- Scouts societies.
- 4- Regional councils
- 5- The media
- 6- The private sector.
- 7- Development funds especially AGFUND.
- 8- NGOs especially the Saudi Red Crescent.

<b>Programme 2: Early Childhood care and Education</b>
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**Summary:**

This programme will address the need to a) improve the main practices in childcare b) introduce quality preschool education, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised children c) provide quality basic education d) address the lack of information on adolescence and e) address the adolescence insufficient life skills. Support by UNICEF will include the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in the region, information sharing, awareness campaigns, research and technical assistance via training and workshops.

The strategic result of this programme is the introduction of high quality care and educational opportunities to children and young people so that they can realise their full potential and enjoy a healthy life.

**Project components:**

This programme is made up of three projects (1) the improvement of education and integrated childhood management of childhood illnesses (2) preschool and basic education quality and (3) healthy lifestyles and the combat of HIV/AIDS.

<p><b>Project 2-1: The improvement of education and integrated management of childhood illnesses</b></p>
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**Expected results:**

- 1- Providing natal care and improving practices and equipment provisions in newborn departments.
- 2- Encourage breastfeeding after birth especially in the first hour of a newborn's life.
- 3- Spreading health awareness among mothers to enable them to provide proper care to their children.
- 4- Increasing the awareness of birth spacing.
- 5- Increasing the awareness of nutrition issues, importance of nutrition during pregnancy and dangers of malnutrition to mothers and children.
- 6 - Supporting Child Friend Programme in hospitals and care centres to increase awareness and health education.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF support will include an exchange of expertise on similar initiatives in the region, information sharing, public awareness campaign, research, technical assistance via training, workshops and advocacy in:

- 1- The integrated management of childhood illnesses with a special focus on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, micronutrients, psychosocial development, child abuse, child injuries, early detection of disability etc through the present childhood illnesses initiative in KSA.
- 2- Improvement of legislation, policies, instructions and standards related to the childhood illnesses initiative in KSA.
- 3- Planning best educational practices and parent education programme.
- 4- Child Friendly Hospitals initiative.
- 5- Public campaigns in the media targeting Saudi parents and other carers to improve their knowledge, orientations and behaviour regarding child care practices.

**Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

**Key partners:**

- 1- Health ministers.
- 2- AGFUND.
- 3- The National Committee for Breastfeeding.

<b>Project 2-2: Preschool and the quality of basic education</b>
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**Expected results:**

- 1- The introduction of subjects like pollution, its types and effect on human beings, prevention methods and how to minimise its dangers in school curricula.
- 2- The establishment of standards and criteria to test the quality of education in preschools to cover all elements of "Child, teacher, building, environment, parents".
- 3- The preparation of an attractive physical environment in schools for children.
- 4- The development of a student activity programme guaranteeing the participation of all students in the school and outside.
- 5- The introduction of safety and security – both in and out of school - regulations into school curricula.
- 6- The design of a comprehensive Education Quality System (Criteria of quality in education).
- 7- Planning student activities according to international standards in relation to age groups and children's needs in Saudi society.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF support will include the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in the region, information sharing, the establishment of a public awareness campaign, research, technical assistance via training, workshops and advocacy in:

- 1- Including vulnerable and marginalised children in preschool and basic education with a special focus on the involvement of disabled children in basic education.
- 2- Establishing standards at the preschool stage in harmony with the Saudi context.
- 3- The introduction of life skills in education including human rights, child rights, health education as well as the avoidance of injuries and accidents etc in the civil education curricula designed for adolescence.
- 4- Applying the concept of child friendly schools.
- 5- The development of standards which guarantee and monitor educational achievements.

**Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

**Key partners:**

- 1- Ministry of Education.
- 2- AGFUND.

- 3- The National Committee for Preschool Education.
- 4- Saudi Red Crescent Society.

### **Project 2-3: Healthy lifestyles and combating HIV/AIDS**

#### **Expected results:**

- 1- The improvement of health facilities' staff through continuous education and training.
- 2- Spreading awareness among parents and promoting premarital tests.

#### **Main activities:**

UNICEF support will include the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in the region, information sharing, the creation of a public awareness campaign, research, technical assistance via training and workshops focusing on:

- 1- Information, education and communication to create a better lifestyle for adolescence, combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and promote messages about narcotics and the avoidance of injuries and accidents.
- 2- Raising levels of prevention and empowerment.
- 3- Supporting studies and surveys related to adolescences.
- 4- Building partnerships with the media especially TV with the participation of adolescence. Efforts will be made to improve life skills based on orientations and the behaviour of adolescence.

#### **Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

#### **Key partners:**

- 1- Ministry of Education.
- 2- National Childhood Committee.
- 3- Ministry of Health.
- 4- Saudi Red Crescent.
- 5- The National Safety Council.

### **Programme 3: Child protection**

#### **Summary:**

This programme will address the rights violations of the most vulnerable and marginalised children. UNICEF support will include the introduction of international expertise, rapid assessments, technical assistance, training, workshops and advocacy.

The strategic result of the programme is in providing protection especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised children from violence, exploitation and maltreatment.

**Project components:**

The project consists of three sub-projects (1) most vulnerable and marginalised children and (2) civil protection

<b>Project 3-1: the most vulnerable and marginalised children</b>
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**Expected results:**

- 1- Preparing programmes to provide educational and psychological support to families of children with special needs via workshops and treatment and training sessions.
- 2- Improving existing measurement and diagnosis techniques for people with special needs.
- 3- Protecting children from the bad effects of the media and internet by increasing parents and families' awareness of these effects and methods of combating them.
- 4- Increasing family and societal awareness of the dangers of child abuse.
- 5- Planning programmes and activities to train children to protect themselves from abuse; this is after training child caregivers to enable them to help him or her.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF support will include the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in the region, information sharing, the creation of a public awareness campaign, research, technical assistance via training, workshops and advocacy to:

- 1- Create the capacity for rapid assessments of specific violations of children's rights.
- 2- Raise the ability to analyse and respond to specific violations of children's rights.
- 3- Develop early warning systems to curb specific violations of children's rights.
- 4- Improve laws, policies and mechanisms which aim to detect and report child abuse.
- 5- Improve consultation systems and the rehabilitation of abused children.
- 6- Promote progressive capacity building for the relevant institutions by reducing the cases of child rights violations.
- 7- Develop detection mechanisms against the exploitation of children in camel races.
- 8- Improve the use of exploratory projects as a method of spreading best practices at the national level.
- 9- Launch public awareness campaigns about issues like child abuse, child labour, domestic violence etc.

**Strategy:**

Advocacy, capacity building and the introduction of services in specific cases.

**Key partners:**

- 1- National Childhood Committee.
- 2- Ministry of Health.
- 3- Ministry of Social Affairs.
- 4- Ministry of Labour.
- 5- Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

- 6- Ministry of the Interior.
- 7- AGFUND.
- 8- Arab Urban Development Institute.
- 9- Nayef Arab University for Security Science.
- 10- Al Bir Charity.

<b>Project 3-2: Civil Protection</b>
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**Expected Results:**

- 1- The Preparation of a media awareness about household accidents, traffic and public facility accidents.
- 2- The enactment of safety regulations in homes, cars and entertainment facilities.
- 3- The enactment of a safety programme in student transport.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF support will include the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in the region, information sharing, the creation of a public awareness campaign, research, technical assistance via training, workshops and advocacy to:

- 1- Design media programmes to increase awareness of safety and prevention measures for children.
- 2- Improve safety and prevention regulations in places frequented by children.
- 3- Focus on improving the means of child transport.

**Summary Budget Table**

Programme	In thousands \$ USD		
	Ordinary resources	Other resources	Total
1. Advocay, policies and partnership for child rights.		300	300
2. Early childhood care and education.		450	450
3. Child protection.		450	450
4. Multi-sectoral expenses.		300	300
<b>Total</b>		<b>1.500</b>	<b>1.500</b>

**Part 5: Partnership strategy**

Over the years, a strong partnership has developed between Saudi Arabia and UNICEF. Although UNICEF has been contributing to the development of health and education for children since 1961, and KSA has maintained its 1 million USD annual contribution to UNICEF. KSA has also donated generously to support other resources for UNICEF for programmes in other countries. The present programme will build on this partnership with mutual respect and trust to join efforts in facing future

challenges. Among other non-governmental donors AGFUND continues its role as a key donor to child-related programmes in many countries. There are also emerging partnerships as shown by the donations offered by the Saudi Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People and the cooperation with the Saudi Red Crescent Society. The new partnership with the Arab Urban Development Institute will be enhanced to be an important alliance especially in cases of studies and advocacy for causes related to child protection. Moreover, partnerships with the Nayef Arab University for Security Science and Al-Bir Charity have proved to be vital in joining efforts to protect children from begging on streets.

Building on lessons learned, partnerships aiming at mobilising resources for children in KSA and other countries can only be fully explored in light of well-designed programmes by UNICEF for the children of KSA. Also, apart from the small contributions from the UNICEF budget, the country programme requires funding from other sources, which will be made available through government contributions, development funds and the private sector. This is due to the fact that KSA is not eligible for standard access to UNICEF resources as income per capita exceeds the levels specified by the UNICEF Executive Board. In addition to its contributions to the welfare of children in KSA through carefully designed programmes, UNICEF is also a reliable and trustworthy partner in terms of allocating generous donations to the most needy children in the world.

The UN country team represents an important tool towards inter-agency harmony and integration and various areas of common interest will be tackled with cooperation.

### **Part 6: Programme Management**

The National Childhood Committee will be the national entity in charge of coordinating the programme. Under Committee supervision and in cooperation with the relevant ministries, a three-year programme and annual workshops will be designed. Workplans can be revised in the light of annual revisions and assessments, emerging changes in priorities and changes in funding. The second yearly revision due late in 2008 is intended to be a mid-term revision and its results will be used as entry in preparation of the second session of the programme due to begin in 2010.

### **Part 7: Monitoring and assessment**

The integrated monitoring and assessment plan of 2007-2009 will define research, studies, surveys and assessments necessary during the programme. The annual monitoring and assessment plans will include details of these activities. Due to the importance of developing monitoring and assessment capacities in KSA the programme will offer necessary assistance to enhance the national child status monitoring system; DevInfo will be used as a monitoring tool.

### **Part 8: UNICEF commitments**

The UNICEF Executive Board makes it obligatory for the agency to seek the necessary funds to support programmes specified in the country programme work plan. These funds are herein referred to as "other funds" and amount to approximately USD 1.5 million. The availability of such funds is contingent upon the interest of

government, development funds, the private sector and NGOs in the suggested projects. To this end, UNICEF is committed to mobilising support within the donor community both locally and internationally.

The aforementioned commitments and suggestions include funds received in response to emergency calls by the government or by the UN in response to a government request government.

Support by UNICEF to improve and implement activities outlined in the country programme work plan may include technical assistance, financial aid, equipment supply, procurement, transportation and funds needed for advocacy, research, studies, consultations, programme development, monitoring, assessment, staff training and support. A portion of UNICEF support can be dedicated to NGOs (civil society) upon agreement within the framework of specific programmes.

UNICEF is committed to hiring project staff and consultants to develop and support the programme, offer technical assistance and monitor and assess progress.

Contingent upon annual revisions and progress in the programme's implementation, UNICEF funds will be allocated throughout the year and according to the country programme work plan. These budgets will be reviewed and detailed later in the annual work plans. Subject to agreement between the government and UNICEF should the implementation rate of a given project fall sharply below annual expectations, financial aid offered by donors without specific allocation conditions can be re-allocated to similar projects with faster implementation rates.

UNICEF intends to consult with relevant ministries and agencies to muster immediate cash support, supplies, equipment or services. UNICEF will update officers on commodities to ensure efficient and quick clearance, storage and distribution.

In consultation with relevant administrative bodies UNICEF shall retain the right to request a joint revision of the disposal of offered commodities which were not used to the purposes specified in the programme or annual work plans. This will enable the re-distribution of such commodities within the programme framework.

When other UN agencies, apart from UNICEF, support the same partner the programme will be monitored, audited and legally revised jointly with the relevant UN agencies.

### **Part 9: Government commitments**

[Subject to government approval] Upon organising periodical revision of the programme, holding planning meetings including annual revision, planning and mid-term meetings, the government shall encourage and facilitate the participation of donors, UN agencies, a number of UNICEF Executive Board members, NGOs or civil society as appropriate.

The government shall also provide all staff, facilities, supplies, technical support credits, continuous and non-continuous support as necessary for the programme excepting those provided by UNICEF and/or other UN agencies, international

organisations, bilateral agencies or NGOs. [Some countries have managed to specify the governmental contributions in terms of quantity. Any expected significant contributions made in kind should be stated.]

[In text] The government shall support UNICEF's efforts to mobilise necessary credits to meet the financial needs of the cooperation programme. It shall also cooperate with UNICEF by encouraging governmental donors to allow the needed financial credits which enable UNICEF to implement the unfunded components of the programme. The government shall approve UNICEF's efforts in mobilising the credits necessary for the programme from the private sector, both in and outside KSA. Furthermore, the government shall approve UNICEF's receipt of contributions from individuals, companies and institutions in KSA in support of the programme. Such funds shall be non-taxable. [Where appropriate, the text should mention greeting cards and products].

The implementing partner shall use the form of the financial approval report and expenditure certificate in accordance with the activity terms in the annual work plan when they apply for financial credit. Otherwise they must obtain UNICEF's approval that the agency will compensate them or pay directly for the planned expenses. The implementing partners shall use the form of this report to describe disposal of their received cash amounts. They shall provide details of accounts and name officers authorised to order and receive resources. Received cash resources must be used in accordance with national regulations and international standards, especially to ensure that such amounts are spent on the agreed activities defined in the annual work plans. It should also be ensured that reports of the full use of all cash amounts are submitted to UNICEF within six months of date of receipt. [If UN agencies object to any national regulation, the amended regulation should be quoted] .

To facilitate agreed and special revisions each implementing partner intending to receive cash transfers from UNICEF shall name an auditor. The partner and other persons authorised, by agencies or by the partner, to access financial records shall submit a record of cash transfers made available by UNICEF. This includes all relevant documents and officers' name for implementing partner's internal audit structure through which transfers have been made.

Results of each revision will be submitted to the implementing partner with a copy to UNICEF. Moreover, each implementing partner shall receive and revise reports made by auditors and submit immediate acceptance of, or objection to, any recommendation made by auditors to UNICEF in regard to cash amounts (SAI will be added if UNICEF undertakes revision). This will be done on a quarterly basis (or as agreed locally).

Subject to the Basic Cooperation Agreement the government will be responsible for authorising, receiving, storing, distributing and keeping accounts of equipment and supplies offered by UNICEF. In accordance with the country programme work plan no taxes or customs duties will be applicable on supplies, equipment or services offered by UNICEF. (Where appropriate) UNICEF shall be exempt from VAT with regard to local procurement of supplies or services provided in support of UNICEF's programmes.

In terms of financial support allocated to travel, living expenses, honorary rewards and other expenses, however, these shall be determined according to those paid in the country but they must not exceed the UN rates (as stipulated by the International Civil Service Commission).

The government accepts the dissemination of results and experience gained from the programme in both the national and international media.

In accordance with the Basic Cooperation Agreement the government will be responsible for dealing with any claim made by a third party against UNICEF, its staff, consultants and agents. UNICEF, its staff, consultants and agents will not be held responsible for any claims arising from their involvement in this agreement excepting what is agreed upon by UNICEF and the government in case that such claims result from negligence or malpractice on the part of these consultants, agents or staff.

[Where necessary]: and without prejudice to the foregoing generality, the government hereby undertakes to insure or compensate UNICEF against civil liability in accordance with the laws of KSA in relation to cars with owned or used by the government.

#### **Part 10: Other provisions:**

The country programme work plan (and annexed operating plans which constitute the second volume of this agreement) will replace the main operating plan signed earlier (or country programme work plan). Once signed, the present work plan will be valid, but will cover programme activities to be executed from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

The country programme work plan (and annexed operating plans which constitute the second volume of this agreement) can be amended by mutual approval of UNICEF and the government. This will depend on the outcome of annual, and mid-term revisions or force majeure.

There is nothing in the country programme work plan that can be interpreted as an exception to the protection given to UNICEF subject to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1946 which is also signed by the government of KSA (date of government's approval to be mentioned if appropriate).

In witness hereof the officially authorised officers have signed this country programme on (day of the month) of (month and year)

For and on behalf of the government of KSA

For and on behalf of UNICEF

Name and position

Name and position