

**Draft Programme of Co-operation  
between  
The Government of the United Arab  
Emirates and UNICEF  
2007 – 2009**

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**The Government of the United Arab Emirates UNICEF**  
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**Workframe:**

- To develop the joint agreement and cooperate to meet the CRC.
- To build on the experience attained and progress achieved from the previous cooperation programme.
- To start a new stage of cooperation during 2007-2009.
- To announce that those responsibilities will be fulfilled in a cooperative brotherly manner between UNICEF and the UAE.

Accordingly, the following has been agreed:

**Section 1: Relationship Background**

The Basic Agreement between the Government and UNICEF in (.....) is the cornerstone of the relationship between the Government and UNICEF. The refore, the Country Action Plan for 2007-2009 will be explained and executed in accordance with the Basic Agreement.

**Section 2: The Current Status of Children in the UAE**

**Demography:** The past forty years in the UAE have witnessed considerable social changes. A large proportion of the population shifted from a Bedouin lifestyle with extended families to an urban lifestyle characterised by the small family structure. With this in mind, and in an endeavour to strike a balance between tradition and modernity, both individuals and organisations in the UAE have launched research and studies on the development in the UAE as a result of the introduction to different world cultures by means of the mass media as well as the information technology revolution and through the existence of a foreign workforce, required to meet the economic and development needs of the market. The studies are used to evaluate the positive and negative aspects of development and adapt the m to THE UAE values and its social and cultural legacy.

In 2004 the Ministry of Economy and Commerce in the UAE estimated the total population to be approximately 4,320,000 with a 6.9% increase compared with 2003, while workers number rose from 2,334,000 in 2003 to 2,459,000 in 2004 symbolising a 5.3% increase.

The close connection between population and workforce was evident in the 2004 census; workers represented 57% of the total population. Since the UAE attracts a large workforce, males represent 70% of the total population. Numbers of male and female children however are equal. 85% of the UAE populace live in urban areas and as a result of the economic and social development over past decades the fertility rate has declined to approximately 2.5 children per woman by 2004.

**Socio-economic situation:** The 2004 socio-economic status report issued in August 2005 by the Ministry of Economy and Commerce indicated economic prosperity in the UAE and an increase in crude oil and gas revenues. The state's GDP (in fixed prices) increased to 7.4% in 2004, which is high in comparison with that of 2003 Gross Domestic Product and is largely due to the rise in oil prices and the growth of other sectors. In 2004 GDP increased to approximately 379 billion Dirhams in current prices, and 324 billion Dirhams in fixed (actual) prices, which represents a 17.7% increase over 2003. Prosperity in other sectors is represented by the increased quantity and rate in the gross national product. In 2004 other sectors' revenues reached 256 billion Dirham and with a growth rate of 11.3% in current prices, thus it represented 67% of the GDP in 2004. The UAE Ministry of Finance's latest published statistics indicate that the per capita share of the GDP is US\$ 19,700 placing the UAE in the lead, ahead of the Gulf states. According to the development indicators mentioned above, the development indicator of the UNDP ranked the UAE the 41<sup>st</sup> from 177 countries and second among the 22 Arab countries.

**Legislations and policies involving children:** Laws and regulations in the UAE are drawn from Islamic Law and Arab traditions. The UAE endorsed CRC in 1997 as a proof of the UAE commitment to work towards child's rights including the child right to live, have an identity, parental care, education, health care, social security, a private life, social condition, freedom of thought and expression and protection against all forms of violence and exploitation, in addition to the rights of the mentally and physically disabled in accordance with the CRC. The CRC also stresses the importance of countries commitment to childcare in their activities and policies based on four basic principals: gender equality, the child's best interest, child's right to live, survival and growth and respecting children's opinions.

It should be mentioned that the UAE carries out in depth reviews of national laws including martial laws, administrative regulations and judicial rules to ensure that they correspond with international human rights standards as well as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and to make these laws available for the public.

**Survival:** The UAE witnessed considerable improvements in child healthcare over the recent decades. The infant mortality rate for under-5s has declined from 223/1000 in 1960 to 8/1000 in 2003. Despite the difficulty of obtaining accurate statistics due to the lack of reports, the latest reports show that at birth the mortality rate has dropped to 3/100,000: that is 10 deaths yearly. 99% of births are supervised by specialists. On the other hand, mothers' mortality rate, resulting from pregnancy, birth and puerperal reached 0.01/100.000 for all women of pregnancy age.

The large coverage of child health services through hospitals, basic health centres and awareness campaigns has contributed to the low mortality rate at birth. In the area of death causes, injuries and patterns of disease, the UAE has witnessed a health shift: mortality rates and injuries related to diseases, accidents and lifestyle type have increased. According to an analysis of the situation of the children in the UAE, traffic accidents are the second largest cause of death. However, immunisation coverage for children in the UAE has reached 95% or more for all vaccines.

Yet, despite the UAE obvious accomplishments in healthcare, it is difficult to accurately determine nutrition rates due to the absence of indicators in this area. This

calls for more efforts to establish those indicators, which should be an easy task due to the high per capita income of the UAE. Compared to other Gulf countries, the UAE enjoys relatively high rates of nutrition and breastfeeding. In 1994, MOH established the nutrition division to serve as a link between all nutrition activities within the MOH and outside. The division focuses on the positive influence of mothers on all family members' nutrition in general and on children and pregnant mothers in particular. Towards this end, five nutrition clinics were established from which nutrition specialists provide advice and guidance for families. Among the important programmes in this area is the monitoring of child growth and development, introducing mothers to correct weaning practices, encouraging mothers to breastfeed rather than bottle feeding and providing care for health problems related to feeding practices including anemia, obesity and tooth decay.

In the areas of sexual and reproductive health and in relation to HIV/AIDS, local cultural centres in UAE have made significant efforts in maintaining a low HIV/AIDS rate. However, the lack of statistics and the movement of foreign workers are points for concern in this issue. In 1985, the National Programme on HIV/AIDS was established, the focusing on the importance of laboratory-based blood tests, and the necessary funding required to examine foreigners when renewing residence permits. In addition, a healthcare programme for adolescents was established in 1996. These efforts go hand in hand with the CRC interest in granting adolescents access to reproductive health services and psycho-social consultations.

**Development:** Free education through all its stages is available to all UAE citizens, while education from the first to the ninth grade is compulsory. The UAE encourages early education through the expansion of its preschool system. This comes as in response to the increasing fears of housemaids and nannies' influence on child rearing and the linguistic capabilities of children. In 1991/92, with UNICEF and AGFEND support, the Kindergarten Development Centre was founded, and its activities have included the development of kindergarten curricula and training preschool workers.

The gross enrolment rate (GER) in primary school reached 98% for males and 95% for females, with 93% of children remaining until fifth grade. However, GER in secondary schools reached 77% for males and 80% for females. This indicates that children stop going to school before completing their secondary education, especially in relation to male students due to the work opportunities available through technical and vocational education including religious, industrial, agricultural and business education, in addition to technical training institutions associated with oil companies and the Ministry of Defense and others. The UAE has made a considerable effort to eradicate illiteracy; and through the establishment of literacy and adult education centres, the illiteracy rate has dropped to 7%.

The UAE also made considerable efforts to enhance the integration of disabled children in the educational system as well as in society. However, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern about the focus on a learning by rote education system rather than on developing children analysis skills, and about the absence of awareness on human rights from the educational curricula.

**Participation:** The UAE sponsors school councils (PTAs), camps, clubs, and school contests to encourage student participation and develop their leadership skills. In

addition, recreation centres, museums and sport and cultural clubs were created to enhance child development, and a children's parliament was formed in Sharjah. However, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child hopes for more action to enhance children's knowledge and participation in policy-making to influence their situation in society and school.

**Protection:** Child involvement in camel races in the UAE has been an obsession for UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. In 2003, a decree imposing imprisonment or physical penalties on people using child jockeys in camel racing was issued. The UAE has worked hard to provide transit care centres for these children in preparation for their rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration with their families; indeed the Social Support Centre in Abu-Dhabi provides the required transit centres and childcare experts. In line with these efforts, an agreement between UNICEF and the UAE was signed in May 2005. According to this agreement, the UAE was provided with US\$2.7 million to protect the children involved in camel racing. Consequently, within two years, the large majority of those children were repatriated and reintegrated with their families in their countries of origin including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sudan. UNICEF offices in the concerned countries have played an efficient role in this inter-country project. It should also be mentioned that UNICEF and the Gulf RO supported the capacity building process in the Social Support Centres in the UAE. These centres have ever since been providing care for the trafficked children during their transit period before repatriation.

With regards to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's concern regarding the criminal accountability of children aged from the age of 7 and the potential conviction and trial of children under 18 as adults. The first article of the UAE 1976 Juvenile Law No. 9, on juveniles, delinquents and vagrants identifies the juvenile as a person who was under 18 at the time of the criminal act in question or when caught in vagrancy. Article 6 of the same law forbids criminal suits against children under 7. The UAE juvenile law states that the criminal liability for children and youth young people between 7 and 18 years , differs from that of adults and that they cannot be punished as adults or by the use of financial penalties (article 9). If the juvenile crime in question requires confinement, the time of confinement shall not exceed the maximum time first determined and shall be executed within a special environment in which social and education services are available (10/2/3).

The Adult laws do not apply to juveniles and they are not subject to subsequent or complementary penalties such as confiscation, shutting down and discharge. Juveniles are subject to other measures such as:

1. Reprimand
2. Placement under the custody of a parent or guardian
3. Judicial examination
4. Banning from certain places
5. Banning from certain jobs
6. Committing to a therapeutic shelter, habilitation, educational or reform institution as appropriate
7. Deportation for foreigners

In Law No. 43 of 1992 on reform and the systems of correctional institutions and their executive regulations, the separation between juveniles and adults and between males and females in prison was maintained. In the case of pregnant mothers (in prison), the place of birth shall not be mentioned in the birth certificate nor any reference to the imprisonment of his mother.

A number of specialised committees in the UAE have designed habilitation and educational programmes for convicted juveniles as well as the children of mothers in confinement. Juveniles have been taken into consideration in the correctional facilities' procedures through visitation permits on holidays and special occasions, and also by allowing them education and work outside the facility. These are some juvenile care centres that implement such specialised programmes including/ sharjah

- The Social Support Centre in Abu Dhabi
- The Social Support Centre in Al Ein
- The Comprehensive Care Institution

Juveniles are also provided with a follow up care for one. Abu Dhabi was the first to separate juvenile care centres from the Ministry of Social Affairs and to re-associate them with Social Support Centres in order to provide excellent care to this sector.

In Sharjah, Law No. 9 of 1985, designates the Social Affairs Department in Sharjah as the specialized body responsible for all affairs of children of unknown parentage.

As for correctional facilities' systems and their executive regulations, the separation between juveniles and adults and between males and females in prison has been maintained. In addition, committees specialised in designing rehabilitation and educational programmes for juveniles and children of mothers in confinement were established. Juveniles are also allowed to visit their parents on holidays and special occasions and to work and learn outside the correctional facilities. On the other hand, there is no adequate information available on children who suffer from violence and abuse in the family, school and other institutions.

**UN Committee on the Rights of the Child:** UNCRC stressed that the UAE needs to establish a database covering information about children in all sectors covered by the CRC, including the most vulnerable. The database will be used to analyse financial allocations and their effect when employed in the service of children's rights services. Consequently, a systematic approach will be adopted to guarantee societal participation in the execution of the CRC and to promote the CRC to ensure that adolescents have access to education on reproductive health and consultation services on sensitive issues.

### **Section 3: Previous Cooperation and Lessons Learned**

#### **Main Established Results:**

Since signing the Basic Cooperation Agreement in 1972, UNICEF's partnership with the UAE shifted from the direct support for the provision of basic social services into strategic programmes and consultation over policies, capacity development and child rights surveillance to joint efforts towards improving the situation of children outside the UAE. This was in line with the considerable advancement in service provisions

for children in the UAE, which was manifested by the low infant child mortality rates. With this in mind, the 2004- 2006 UNICEF-UAE cooperation programme focused on three sub-programmes: Advocacy, promotion and surveillance of CRC, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Child/youth Participation.

Throughout the duration of the Country Programme, the clear presence of UNICEF contributed effectively in the advocacy of resources for children in the UAE and outside. A strong child-oriented partnership between the UAE, UNICEF, the private sector and NGOs was established for the benefits of the child. In 2005, the 6-hour charitable TV programme under the slogan 'Sending of Iraqi Children back to school' increased donations to US\$ 1.9 million. The UAE also donated US\$ 500,000 to Tsunami emergency operations in Indonesia on behalf of UNICEF, and another 500.000 US\$ for Pakistan emergency operations and delivered basic services needed for the earthquake victims in 2005. In the meantime, Dubai established a special office to support the UNICEF fund, purchasing operations, supplies and emergency aids, in addition to a storehouse for post cards.

### **Learned lessons:**

In view of the fact that it is a donor country which has delivered much generous aid to UNICEF on an international level, the UAE has earned the right to receive UNICEF support for its children. And while UNICEF support of the UAE does not depend on service provisions, it can support and aid the country through advocacy, capacity building and child surveillance, amongst other things. Over the past years, the UAE has made considerable development in capacity building in the area of child rights and in accordance with the CRC which proves the UAE's long term commitment towards this end.

## **Section 4: Suggested Programme**

### **Programme Strategies and Results**

The ultimate objective of the 2007-2009 Cooperation Programme is to support the UAE in ensuring that children and youths, including the most marginalised and vulnerable, enjoy all their rights. The strategic results intended by the end of 2009 include that: a) children and youths participate in and benefit from developed CRC-based policies and laws; b) children and youth have access to high quality care and education to enjoy healthy and energetic lives and achieve their potential; c) children, particularly those with special needs, have better protection from violence, exploitation and abuse.

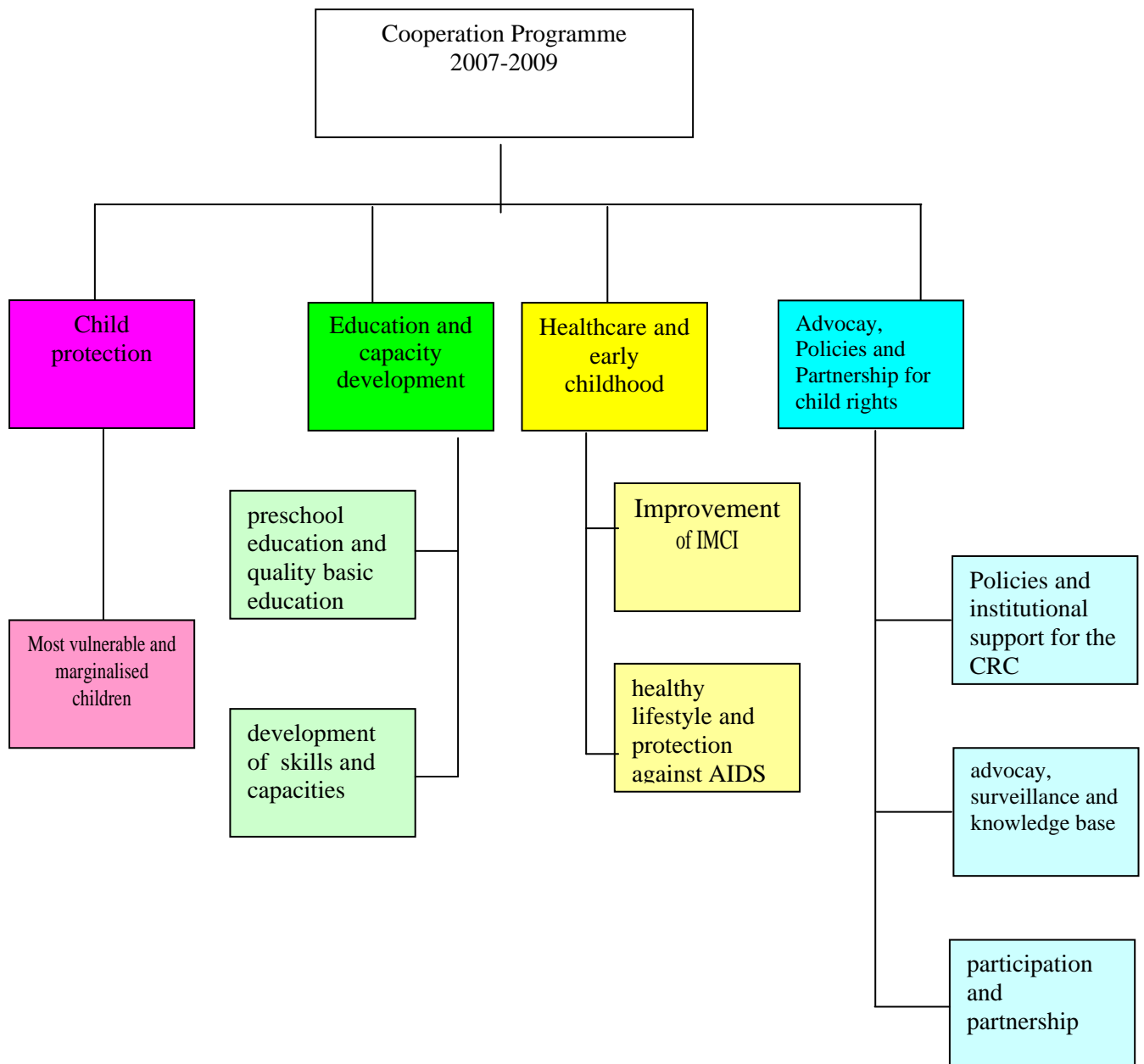
The programmes' basic strategies adopt a human rights approach. In addition to the country's achievements over past decades, the programme will focus on capacity building and launching strategic initiatives. The programme will try to make use of UNICEF's experience in advocacy to set up the main topics in the programme agenda. UNICEF will basically support the capacity building process. The inter-sectoral approach of the programme will guarantee a child-centred and comprehensive perspective. And according to the lessons learned, the timely and new initiatives on child protection which are applicable on a wide scale will be supported. Also, Gulf countries will exchange best practices and employ them to highlight the new

initiatives' results. In addition, the programme will develop surveillance mechanisms for a better understanding of the nature and size of the problems facing children and youth in UAE.

UNICEF will continue building partnerships with the government, development funds, the private sector, and NGOs to mobilise resources for children in the UAE and other countries. Based on the lessons learned, UNICEF will make every effort to create a high quality programme for UAE children, enhance partnerships and mobilise funds for the most vulnerable and marginalised children worldwide.

## Programme Structure

The country programme includes four sub-programmes and nine projects as shown below:



## Programme Structure and Project Objectives

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

The country programme's objective	Programme	Programme Strategic results	Project	Project Output
Helping United Arab Emirate's government to ensure that children and youngsters, including the most vulnerable and marginalised, enjoy their full rights	Advocay, policies and partnership for child rights	children and youth participate in and benefit from the developed CRC-based policies and laws	Policies and institutional support of the CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UAE National Child Committee enhanced</li> <li>• Legislations, policies and guides of some main areas improved in accordance with the CRC</li> <li>• CRC-related surveillance and reporting system improved</li> <li>• Adoption of optional protocols in view of the CRC</li> </ul>
			Advocay, surveillance and knowledge base on CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A facility to support the Dev Info programme established</li> <li>• Basic indicators of child rights in the UAE developed</li> <li>• Heightened advocacy for the Implementation of the CRC</li> <li>• The number of parents and teachers with an awareness of child rights increased</li> </ul>
			Participation and partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for adolescents' participation enhanced</li> <li>• Consult with adolescents through existing institutions enhanced</li> <li>• Percentage of parents/teachers/decision-makers who employ adolescent rights-related messages increased</li> <li>• Resource advocay for children increased</li> </ul>
	Early childhood care and	children and youth have access to	Improving rearing and IMCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caregivers familiar with 8 practices of early childhood according to</li> </ul>

	education	high quality care and education to enjoy healthy and energetic lives and develop their potential		<p>IMCI increased</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early child development-centred strategies adopted/improved</li> <li>• Nutrition and breastfeeding policies according to WHO guidelines adopted</li> </ul>
			Preschool education and quality basic education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preschool education standards in the UAE improved</li> <li>• A strategy to encounter refraining from basic education developed</li> <li>• Life skills, civil education and gender equity incorporated in basic education curricula revised accordingly</li> </ul>
			Healthy lifestyle and protection against HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of adolescents practices and activities improved</li> <li>• Percentage of adolescents familiar with basic lifestyle messages increased</li> </ul>
	Child protection	children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised, have better protection from violence, exploitation and abuse	Most vulnerable and marginalised Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation/investigation skills on child rights violations enhanced</li> <li>• Reporting system enhanced and child abuse cases pursued</li> <li>• Minimum child rights violations indicators for UAE set</li> </ul>

### **The Programme's Link to National Priorities and the UNDAF**

#### **Link to National Priorities**

This programme will help meet MDGs in UAE. It will focus on qualitative and quantitative achievements as well as the continuity of these achievements through the implementation of appropriate measures in legislation, policies and planning. This programme will work towards the protection of the most vulnerable children, the reduction of CMR, granting access to basic education for all children, promoting gender equality, women empowerment and the combat of HIV/AIDS. The programme will also contribute to the 'A World Fit for Children' Action Plan, which aims to

develop healthy lifestyle, provide quality education, fight HIV/AIDS and protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence.

The programme will participate in every aspect of the 2006 -2009 UNICEF medium-term strategic plan. In light of the UAE's great achievements in providing children with social services, the focus will be on consultations on child rights-related policies and partnerships. On the other hand, the programme requires that the UAE continues to focus on child protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse as well as combating HIV/AIDS. In addition, the main issues of child survival and development, gender equality and basic education will be pursued.

### **Programme Components**

#### **Programme 1: Advocay policies and partnership for children's rights**

##### **Summary:**

This programme will deal with: a) institutions; b) legislation and policies; c) surveillance systems and database; d) adolescents participation, especially female; e) partnerships and advocacy for children both within the UAE and outside. UNICEF support includes technical support, training, workshops, sharing knowledge, local studies support, consultation on policies and the advocay of resources.

The strategic results of this programme is that children and youth in the UAE benefit from improved CRC-based laws and policies, through their involvement in their very development.

##### **Programme projects:**

The advocay, policies and partnership for children's rights programme consists of three projects: 1) Policy and institutional support; 2) advocay, surveillance and CRC-knowledge base; and 3) participation and partnership.

#### **Project 1.1: Policy and Institutional Support**

##### **Project outputs:**

1. UAE Child Rights Committee capacities enhanced.
2. Legislations, policies and guides of some main areas improved in accordance with the CRC.
3. CRC-related surveillance and reporting systems improved.
4. Adoption of optional protocols in view of CRC.

##### **Main activities:**

UNICEF will provide technical support, training, workshops and shared knowledge so that the UAE Women's Association can accomplish the following:

1. Trends Surveillance in view of childhood indicators.
2. Advocay for children.

3. Execution of the UAE National Action Plan on Children.
4. Developing a guidebook on laws and policies affecting the child based on CRC.
5. Filing reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
6. Planning to follow up on UNCRC recommendations.

UNICEF will also provide technical support to the UAE for:

1. The creation of an independent and permanent mechanism, for instance, a national foundation for children's right or a conciliation body authorised to monitor and evaluate the progress in executing the CRC.

**Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

**Main partners:**

1. UAE Women's Association.
2. Childcare organisations.

<b>Project 1.2: Advocay surveillance and CRC knowledge base</b>
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**Project outputs:**

1. A mechanism to support the Dev Info programme established.
2. Basic indicators of child rights in the UAE developed.
3. More advocating for CRC implementation.
4. An increase in the number of parents and teachers with a knowledge of children's rights.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF will provide technical support, training, workshops and share knowledge to help aid in:

1. The installment of the Dev Info programme and training workers.
2. The establishment of Setting the main child rights indicators for the UAE, including those required for UNCRC reports and using them to draw up the new MDGs reports.
3. Defining surveillance mechanisms to measure advancement according to child rights indicators.
4. Carrying out studies and surveys to maintain information of child status updated.
5. Raising awareness among decision-makers, the private sector and civil society on the importance of child rights in UAE.
6. Spreading CRC provisions, filing reports to the UN Committee on the Right of The Child and publishing the committee's final notes.
7. Enhancement of the existing partnership on child rights with the mass media.

**Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

**Main partners:**

1. UAE Women's Association
2. Public Information Centre
3. Other relevant organisations (health, education, MOI, childcare centres... etc).

<b>Project 1.3: Participation and Partnership</b>
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**Project outputs:**

1. Opportunities for adolescents' participation enhanced.
2. Consultation with adolescents through existing institutions enhanced.
3. Parents/teachers/decision-makers who use adolescent rights-related messages increased.
4. Resource advocay for children increased.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF will provide technical support, training, workshops and shared knowledge, in addition to supporting local research, consultation over policies and resource advocay:

1. Advocay to enhance youth participation (male/female) in the development of their schools and societies, and encouraging cild/youth participation in national planning, regional and sub- regional forums and the media.
2. Exchanging experiences with other parliaments, including the Sharjah youth parliament and secondary school student councils in order to build on national expertise.
3. Launching awareness campaigns targeting parents, teachers and decision-makers to improve their knowledge, approaches and practices regarding adolescents' participation.
4. Advocay towards adolescent-friendly legislations, policies and guides.
5. Building partnerships with current and new partners to mobilise knowledge and resources for children both in the UAE and outside.
6. Raising public awareness of children's rights, nationally and internationally.

**Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

**Main partners:**

1. UAE Women's Association
2. MOE
3. Scouts and girl guides associations

4. Child and youth centres
5. The media
6. The private sector
7. Development funds
8. NGOs, especially the UAE Red Crescent society
9. UAE Trade and Industry Chambers.

## **Programme 2: Healthcare and Early Childhood**

### **Summary:**

The Healthcare and Early Childhood Programme will discuss the need to improve: a) the main practices in childcare sector; b) the lack of information of adolescents' situation; c) and the inadequacy of adolescents' life skills. UNICEF support includes the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in other Gulf countries, sharing knowledge, launching studies and public awareness campaigns and the provision of technical support through training and workshops. The strategic outcome of this programme is that children and youth have access to high quality care to grow and enjoy healthy lives.

### **Programme projects:**

The healthcare and Early Childhood Programme consists of two sub-programmes: 1) the improvement of rearing and IMCI; and 2) the improvement of healthy lifestyle and combating HIV/AIDS.

## **Project 2.1: Improvement of Rearing and IMCI**

### **Project outputs:**

1. A strategy to develop IMCI adopted.
2. Basics and standards of the IMCI project developed.
3. Nutrition and breastfeeding policies according to WHO guides adopted.

### **Main activities:**

UNICEF support includes the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in other Gulf countries, sharing knowledge, launching studies and public awareness campaigns and the provision of technical support through training and workshops. Support also includes advocacy for the following:

1. IMCI initiative with a special focus on exclusive and complementary breastfeeding, nourishment, micronutrients, child psychological development, protection from child abuse and injuries and the early detection of disability etc.
2. Improvement of legislations, policies and guides on childhood diseases.
3. Development of better rearing and parent education programme.
4. Supporting the child-friendly hospitals initiatives in the UAE.
5. Raising awareness on breastfeeding.

6. Raising public awareness through media campaigns that target UAE parents and caregivers to increase their knowledge and improve their approach and behaviour regarding childcare practices.

**Strategy:**

Advocacy and capacity building.

**Main partners:**

1. UAE Women's Association
2. MOH
3. Other childcare organisations.

<b>Project 2.2: Improvement of Healthy Lifestyle and combating HIV/AIDS</b>
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**Programme outputs:**

1. Knowledge of adolescents' practices and activities improved.
2. HIV/AIDS combat strategy executed.
3. Percentage of adolescents familiar with basic lifestyle aspects (AIDS, drugs, accidents) increased.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF support includes the exchange of expertise regarding similar initiatives in the Gulf countries, sharing knowledge, launching studies and public awareness campaigns and the provision of technical support through training and workshops, with special focus on:

1. Promoting IEC materials for better lifestyle for adolescents including containment of HIV/AIDS, spreading information on drugs, accidents and injuries. Coordination with health and youth programmes would be appreciated.
2. The development of a preventative environment and the empowerment of children and youth.
3. Supporting studies, research and surveys on adolescents.
4. Forming partnerships with the media, especially television, with adolescents' participation and the development of life skills related to adolescents' behaviour and practices.
5. Evaluating the role of private hospitals in combating HIV/AIDS.

**Strategy:**

Mobilisation and capacity building.

**Main partners:**

1. MOE
2. UAE Women's association

3. MOH
4. UAE Red Crescent society
5. Public Department of Community Service – Human Rights Management
6. Social Support Centres
7. Child/Adolescent clubs and centres
8. Parents councils.

### **Programme 3: Education and Capacity Development**

#### **Summary:**

The education and Capacity Development Programme will work towards improving: a) the quality of preschool education, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised children; b) the quality of basic education; c) and child skills and capacity development programmes. UNICEF support includes the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in other Gulf countries, sharing knowledge, launching studies and public awareness campaigns and workshops.

The strategic outcome of this programme is that children have access to high quality care and education to enjoy healthy lives and achieve their full potential.

#### **Programme projects:**

The education and Capacity Development Programme consists of two projects: 1) a preschool project and quality basic education; and 2) capacity development and the enhancement of life skills.

### **Project 3.1: Preschool Education and Quality Basic Education**

#### **Project outputs:**

1. Preschool education standards in the UAE improved
2. Basic education curricula revised and life skills, civil education and gender equity topics incorporated.

#### **Main activities:**

UNICEF support includes the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in the Gulf states, sharing knowledge, launching studies and public awareness campaigns and the provision of technical support through training and workshops. Support also includes advocacy for the following:

1. Integration of vulnerable and marginalised children in preschool and basic education, with a special focus on disabled children.
2. Promoting the concept of child-friendly schools.
3. Developing standards and approaches that monitor and guarantee educational achievements.
4. Providing support to improve teachers training.

#### **Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

**Main partners:**

1. MOE
2. Kindergarten Development Centres
3. Educational Districts
4. Educational Councils
5. MOSA.

<b>Project 3.2: Capacity Development and the Enhancement of Life Skills</b>
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**Programme outputs:**

1. Educational institutions capable of developing child capacities and skills established.
2. Child capacity development centres supported.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF support includes the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in other Gulf states, sharing knowledge, launching studies and public awareness campaigns and the provision of technical support through training and workshops, with a special focus on:

1. Developing basic education curricula in terms of topics and methods using quality international education experiences and life skills-based education.
2. Adopting life skills education and civil education, which incorporate human rights, children's rights, health education and preventative methods for accidents and injuries in adolescent educational curricula (in accordance with the current programmes on child healthcare and school health practices).

**Strategy:**

Advocay and capacity building.

**Main partners:**

1. MOE
2. Kindergarten Development Centre
3. Education Districts
4. Education councils
5. MOSA
6. The media
7. Clubs and recreational centres.

<b>Programme 4: Child Protection</b>
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**Summary:**

It is recommended that the Child Protection Programme deal with the violations of the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalised children. UNICEF support includes the provision of international expertise, the exchange of inter-regional practice and expertise, evaluation, technical aid, workshops and advocacy.

The strategic outcome of the programme is to provide protection for at-risk children, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised amongst them from violence, exploitation and abuse.

Main objectives of the Child Protection programme:

- The improvement of woman/child-related legislations in order to protect their rights.
- The improvement of psycho-social welfare of women and children suffering from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Developing the performance of social, security and health institutions for the early detection of violence and abuse cases.
- Establishment of a special department for women/child victims suffering from violence, abuse and exploitation.
- Supporting the reintegration process of children deprived of parental care, children in conflict with the law and special needs children in their families and societies.

The Child Protection programme will adopt the following strategies:

- Establishing effective information networks in all government and NGOs institutions concerned with child protection to allow policy makers to provide services that guarantee children's rights.
- Confirming that national legislations conform to CRC.
- Building local capacity to deal with the needs of children deprived of parental care, and women subject to violence and abuse, in addition to the rehabilitation of disabled children in their communities.
- Supporting the establishment of a department specialising in protection of women and children from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Supporting national dialogue with lawyers, judges, religious figures and NGOs regarding children's rights. Creating a protective environment for children and developing the criminal justice system for children in conflict with the law as well as the implementation of alternative penalties other than confinement.

### **Programme projects:**

The Child Protection programme consists of two projects: 1) the improvement of national policies; and 2) Vulnerable children and children with special needs.

<b>Project 3.1: Development of National Policies</b>
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### **Project outputs:**

1. Ensuring the establishment of effective information networks on child protection within government and civil organisations (child abuse, child labour, children without parental care, child disabilities, domestic violence, drug abuse and strays/working children).
2. Ensuring that people are aware of the main messages on women/child protection.
3. Ensuring the presence of binding laws consistent with the CRC and other relevant conventions that guarantee the protection of women and children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Main activities:**

UNICEF support includes the exchange of information regarding similar initiatives in other Gulf countries, sharing knowledge, launching studies and public awareness campaigns and the provision of technical support through training and workshops. The support also includes advocating for the following:

1. The development of appropriate indicators approved nationally.
2. Supporting field studies and scientific research to establish a national database on protection measures.
3. Founding monitoring systems for the seven Emirates and in the relevant to government and civil organisations.
4. Training institutions specialised in monitoring and the collation of data for publication.
5. Designing an informational programme to support the programme, and developing IEC materials.
6. Carrying out opinion questionnaires to measure the influence of media campaigns.
7. Holding round table discussions, workshops with parliamentarians , law makers and judicial institutions.

**Strategy:**

1. According to an initial analysis of the role patterns in the area of child protection, UNICEF-supported programmes can bridge the gap in the protection of children deprived of parental care, disabled children, and abused children, which form the least supported segment society compared to the areas of child labour and stray children.
2. In depth analysis of the role of parties concerned about the location of gaps in the service provision system.
3. Capacity building to enhance surveillance mechanisms and the foundation of a database on woman/child protection issues.
4. A field study on policies involving decision-makers in the government to urge them to change administrative systems and regulations child protection.
5. Promotion and advocacy targeting the public to raise awareness of protection issues.

**Main partners:**

1. MOI

2. Zayed Higher Foundation for Humanitarian and Special Needs Care and Palace Affairs
3. UAE Women Association
4. MOSA
5. MOH
6. MOJ
7. UAE Red Crescent society.

<b>Project 3.2: Vulnerable children and Children with Special Needs</b>
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**Project outputs:**

- Ensuring that institutionalized children, such as delinquent juveniles and children deprived of parental care are reintegrated into a family environment serving the child's best interest.
- Ensuring that institutionalised children are reintegrated in suitable family environments and that children in conflict with the law are treated according to international human rights standards.
- Ensuring that children and women in all seven Emirates have access to adequate services for diagnosis, guidance and rehabilitation, in accordance with the standard case management practices on abuse, violence and exploitation.
- Ensuring that children have access to adequate services for diagnosis, guidance and rehabilitation according to the standard case management practices regarding disabilities.

**Main activities:**

1. Building the capacity of workers in the concerned ministries, institutions and organisations.
2. The development of special systems for foster care.
3. Launching media campaigns about children deprived of parental care.
4. Training MOSA workers, probation and interrogation officers, juvenile judges, mental/psychological health professionals in MOH and other professionals in juvenile care related institutions.
5. Developing guidelines on children deprived of parental care.
6. Provision of legal aid for children in conflict with the law.
7. Building capacities in areas related to violence against women and children.
8. Developing protocols to deal with abuse cases.
9. Supporting a guidance programme for disabled children's caregivers.

**Strategy:**

1. UNICEF strategies in this project focus on children deprived of parental care; an area poorly attained to.
2. Analysing partners' capacities to determine the gaps in service provision.
3. Establishing a connection with other UNICEF-supported projects to ensure a convergence of services in child protection aspects.
4. The instigation of a policies dialogue to develop technical and administrative instructions and rules of behaviour for institutionalised children.

5. Advocacy for legislative amendments through a partnership with the mass media and prominent decision-makers.

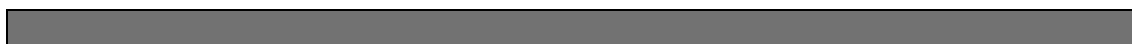
**Main partners:**

1. MOI
2. Sheikh Zayed Foundation
3. UAE Women's Association
4. MOSA
5. MOH
6. MOJ
7. UAE Red Crescent society.

**Budget Outline**

Programme Title	Standard Resources	Amount in thousands US\$	
		Other resources	Total
1. Gathering support, setting policies and partnership for children		300	300
2. Care and education for children and youth		450	450
3. Child protection		450	450
4. Multi-sectoral expenses		300	300
Total		1,500	1,500

**Section 5: Partnership strategy**



**Section 6: Programme Management**

UAE Women's Association will be the national executing body of the programme. A three-year action programme and annual action plans will be designed under the supervision of the Association and in collaboration with the concerned ministries and organisations. The annual revision and evaluation processes will include the action plans in light of changes in priorities and funding. It is suggested that the second annual review scheduled at the end of 2008 be a mid-term review. In this way, the findings could be used as an input in designing the next round of the programme due to commence in 2010.

**Section 7: Surveillance and Evaluation**

The Integrated Surveillance and Evaluation Plan for 2007-2009 will determine the research, studies, surveys and evaluations required throughout the programme's duration. These activities will be detailed in the annual surveillance and evaluation plans. Due to the importance of the development of surveillance and evaluation capacities in the UAE, the programme will support the enhancement of the national surveillance system of children. Being a surveillance mechanism, the Dev info programme will be also deployed.

## **Section 8: UNICEF Commitments**

The UNICEF Executive Council entitled UNICEF to raise the funding (estimated USD 1.5 million) required for the programmes set in the Country Programme's Action Plan, referred to here as 'other resources'. The availability of funds depends on how interested the government, development funds, the private sector and NGOs are in the suggested projects. Therefore, UNICEF is committed to advocacy for national and international donors' support if required.

The above commitments and suggestions include funding delivered in response to emergency appeals from the government or UN organisations.

UNICEF support for the development and implementation of the Country Programme's Action Plan activities includes technical and financial support, provision of supplies, equipment purchases and transportation services, funding research studies and consultations and programme development, surveillance and evaluation, as well as worker training and support. Some UNICEF support may be delivered to NGOs (civil society) as agreed upon in the designated programmes.

UNICEF pledges to appoint programme staff and consultants to develop the programme and provide technical support, surveillance and evaluation.

According to annual reviews and programme progress, UNICEF funding will be distributed throughout the year according to the Country Programme's Action Plan. These budgets will be revised and detailed subsequently in the annual action plans. According to the government/UNICEF joint agreement, if the execution of any project falls behind the annual estimated timeframe, the donors non-allocated funding could be re-allocated towards similar projects expected to have faster rates of execution.

UNICEF will consult with the concerned ministries and agencies to obtain immediate financial support, supplies, equipment and services.

UNICEF will inform officials about the commodities transportation for quick clearance, storage and the allocation process.

In consultation with the related government agency, UNICEF will have the right to ask for a joint revision of the disregarded commodities: to re-use them in this programme's action plan and in annual action plans.

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

## **Section 9: Government Commitments**

[Upon government approval]: Upon the organisation of a periodic review process and conducting planning meetings, including annual reviews, annual planning meetings and mid-term reviews, the government shall encourage and facilitate the participation

of donors, UN agencies, some UNICEF Executive council members as well as NGOs/civil society, as it deems fit.

Except for the support provided by UNICEF, other UN organisations, international organisations, bilateral agencies, and/or NGOs, the government will provide all staff, facilities, supplies, technical support, funding and permanent/temporary support required for the programme. [Some countries are able to determine the quantity of government contributions. Important expected material contributions should also be mentioned].

[In text]: The government will support UNICEF fundraising efforts to meet the Cooperation Programme's financial requirements. It will also cooperate with UNICEF by encouraging the donor governmental bodies to provide funding for UNICEF to execute the unfunded aspects of the programme, endorsing UNICEF efforts in advocacy of funding from local and foreign private sectors. The government will allow the receipt of contributions from individuals, companies and organisations in the UAE. The donations will be tax-free. [When appropriate, the text must refer to the postcard and products processes].

When asking to open credits for funds or for UNICEF approval to compensate the planned expenses or pay them directly, the executing partners are expected to use the financial approval report and the expenses statement according to the Annual Action Plan's activities. Executing partners will also use the report to determine how money received is then spent.

Executing partners shall present financial statements and appoint the persons authorised to request and receive financial resources. The received financial resources should be used in accordance with the approved national regulations and international standards. The money should be spent on the activities defined in the Annual Action Plans and reports on the full use of funds should be submitted to UNICEF within six months of receipt. [If the UN agencies disapprove the national regulations, the new amended regulation must be publicised].

To facilitate the review processes, each executing partner intending to receive money transfers from UNICEF should appoint a legal auditor. This applies to people authorised by the agencies and partners to have access to financial records on money transfers from UNICEF and relevant documents, as well as the executive partner's internal monitoring staff through whom all money transfers are made.

All review findings shall be filed to the executive partner and UNICEF. In addition, every executive partner shall receive and revise the report issued by the certified auditors and present a statement reciting including his approval or objection to the auditor's recommendations to UNICEF regarding financial resources (If SAL carries out the auditing process then SAL shall be added). This shall be done on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed upon).

In accordance with the basic Cooperation Agreement, the government will be in charge of opening, receiving, storing, allocating as well as the maintenance of records related to the supplies and equipment provided by UNICEF. In accordance with the Country Programme's Action Plan, UNICEF-provided supplies and services shall be

tax/customs/duty free. (When appropriate): UNICEF shall also be exempt from added-value tax on the local provision of supplies and services supporting the programme.

As to the financial contributions for travel and living expenses, in addition to honorary rewards and other expenses, these shall be determined in accordance with national standards, provided that they do not exceed those of the UN (in accordance with the International Committee on Civil Service).

The government shall approve the publication of the Cooperation Agreement's findings and acquired knowledge via all media tools.

According to the provisions of the Basic Cooperation Agreement, the government shall be responsible for dealing with lawsuits filed by other partners against UNICEF, its personnel, consultants and representatives.

UNICEF, its personnel, consultants and representatives shall not be accountable for any lawsuits related to their work under this agreement. However, according to the joint decision of UNICEF and the government, lawsuits on negligence or malpractice of the above parties shall be an exception.

(If necessary): And without violating the above, the government pledges to pay a civil liability insurance or compensation for UNICEF in accordance with UAE law regarding the project cars used by the government.

#### **Part 10: Other Provisions**

This Country Programme's Action Plan (and the attached operation plans, which form the second volume of this agreement) will replace the earlier signed main Operation Plan (or the Country Programme's Action Plan if this is the case). The current plan shall come into effect upon the signature of the parties involved. However, it covers the programme's activities scheduled for execution from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

This Country Programme's Action Plan (and the attached operation plans, which form the second volume of this agreement) may be amended under the joint approval of the government and UNICEF, in accordance with the findings of the annual revisions/mid-term revision or as a result of force majeure.

This Country Programme's Action Plan however does not include an exception from the protection granted to UNICEF under the Agreement of UN Privileges and Immunities adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1946 and endorsed by the government of UAE. (please mention the reference of Government endorsement and the date of the endorsement, if necessary).

Witnessed by, the authorised officials signed this Country Programme today (.../...../.....) on behalf of the government of the UAE.

**For and on behalf of the  
Government of UAE:**

**For and on behalf of  
UNICEF:**

**Name and capacity**

**Name and capacity**