

PRESS RELEASE

UNICEF Launches the Human Action Report for 2006

Under the patronage of HRH Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Interior, UNICEF launched for the first time an Arabic version of the Humanitarian Action Report and chose Riyadh for this event because of its generosity for children in emergency through UNICEF. UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ms. Rima Salah visited Saudi Arabia to launch this report and to honour HRH Prince Naif for his humanitarian assistance to the children of the world.

In the recent past children in Pakistan and Palestine benefited from these charitable donations. The HAR exists since three years and became one of UNICEF's leading publications. It is today the Executive Director's Appeal for children in emergencies, often in forgotten countries.

This year's HAR includes appeals for 29 countries in humanitarian crisis for a total amount of more than 8.5 million US dollars.

UNICEF is present in 157 countries to work with the governments implementing the rights of the children through development programmes and activities. In 29 countries the emergency in assisting children is nevertheless very high because of natural disasters such as ongoing draughts or other calamities, because of long lasting conflicts also. Children are a priority because the future of their countries depend on the way we support their health, education, nutrition, etc. despite the difficult situation.

The launch of the Arabic version of the HAR in Riyadh should be the initiation of a tradition and a signal or an even stronger partnership of UNICEF with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region.

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