

# FOCUS *A UNICEF Jordanian Partnership*

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## Publications

- *Promoting Adolescents' Participation with a Focus on Girls*
- *The Juvenile Law for the Year 2002 (Arabic & English)*
- *The Situation of Youth, Women and Children in Jordan*
- *CRC & CEDAW Comparative Studies (Arabic & English)*
- *Guide of Organisations Working for and with Youth in Jordan*

## Upcoming Events

- *UN Day (October)*
- *Arab Child Day (October)*
- *Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (November)*
- *State of the World's Children 2004 Report (December)*
- *International Children's Day of Broadcasting (December)*

## Jordan's Third Report to the Child's Rights Committee

**R**epresentatives from governmental and non-governmental sectors and academia participated in a workshop held by the Ministry of Social Development in July in preparation for Jordan's third report on child rights. The report is to be submitted to the Child's Rights Committee in Geneva at the end of this year.



*Preparations of the CRC Report*

The meeting, which was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Council for Family Affairs, and the UNICEF Jordan Country Office, highlighted mechanisms for following up on child rights issues, and reviewed previous reports and guiding principles for the preparation of country reports. The meeting also aimed to discuss and agree on a plan of action and set a timeframe for preparing the report until the end of the year.



*Participants in the workshop*

The mechanism of preparing the reports is just as important as the result itself. The collaborative effort assisted in evaluating achievements, highlighting Jordan's priorities, and linking emerging issues to other development plans in the Country comprehensively.

The pioneering role Jordan has taken with regards to children and youth was highlighted during this venue. Issues included the effort exerted in lobbying for legislative changes, and the Country's leading work in early childhood development, protection, and adolescent participation.

The process does not end by drafting the report, as it is essential to discuss the Committee's comments on the report to complete the process.

# UNICEF Repairs Pipelines Damaged by Explosion

**UNICEF** restored water services to hundreds of thousands of Baghdadis after a rocket propelled grenade ripped through one of the capital's major water distribution pipes: A major water pipeline in Baghdad that was blown up cutting off vital water supplies to over 300,000 people was repaired by UNICEF just 24 hours after it was damaged.

"An explosion left a huge hole in the side of the pipeline more than 1.5 metres across, and hundreds of thousands of litres of water came gushing out flooding motorways," said Sa'eed Hameed, UNICEF Water Engineer. "This deprived many residents of water during the hottest month of the year. It was critical that services were restored quickly."

UNICEF staff and contractors responded to the



*Water gushes out of damaged pipe, filling up the four lane highway underneath.*

explosion and began coordinating with the Baghdad Water Authorities.

For repairs to begin, the seven Nissan Water Treatment Plant, the largest in Iraq, had to be shut down for hours, leaving four million people without water.

"As soon as the pipeline could be isolated and shut down, the seven Nissan plant was reactivated," said Sa'eed. "However, that still left hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need of water."

UNICEF contractors worked up to the 23:00 curfew making repairs, and finished the job by morning. After testing the pipeline for leaks, the water was turned back on at 13:45 the following day.



*The pipeline after UNICEF repairs*

## No Tobacco Day

Under the theme of "Tobacco-Free Films", UNICEF joined the World Health Organisation and the Ministry of Health in observing No Tobacco Day in Jordan in May 2003. International organisations and governments are hoping to get filmmakers on their side in the fight against tobacco use, particularly in the movies where images of usage can have a strong impact on youth.

UNICEF, has worked with the Ministries of Health and Education and the Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society to produce an anti-smoking training kit for school students. The idea is being regarded as a success. "Eliminating the attraction of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship can help children and youth make more informed decisions" noted UNICEF health focal point, Dr. Maha Shadid.

The UNICEF official pointed out that more advocacy material would be produced and be made available at a cessation clinic established in co-operation with the Ministry of Health. The clinic will provide support services to those who want to kick the habit.



# Marking World Breastfeeding Week UNICEF says Breastfeeding Saves Lives Even Amid War

**A**t the launch of the World Breastfeeding Week in Jordan in August 2003, UNICEF called for continued commitment to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

The theme of this year's breastfeeding week was "Peace and Justice," with an emphasis on the enormous benefits of breastfeeding even in the most perilous settings. UNICEF said that even in the midst of war, breastfeeding is a vital avenue to health, nutrition, survival and protection for every young child.

"Breastfed children are the most likely to survive when supply lines are cut, when electricity fails, when homes are destroyed or when epidemics occur," said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy. "As long as the mother and baby can breastfeed, the baby can thrive."

Breastmilk alone is the ideal nourishment for infants for the first six months of life as it contains all the nutrients, antibodies, hormones, immune factors and antioxidants an infant needs to thrive. It protects babies from diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections and stimulates their immune systems.

"Today, it is clearer than ever that exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life and continued breastfeeding with appropriate foods make a significant contribution to the survival, health, development, nutrition and emotional well-being of the young child," Bellamy said.

UNICEF data on child survival presented recently in The Lancet medical journal showed that optimal breastfeeding could save more infant lives than almost any other single measure. Every year more than 10 million children die from mainly preventable causes, including diarrhoea, pneumonia, measles, malaria and HIV/AIDS. If every baby were exclusively breastfed from birth to six months, and continued for

a few months thereafter, an estimated 1.5 million lives would be saved each year.

In addition to this profound impact on child mortality, breastfeeding:

- \* improves maternal recovery and reduces cancers
- \* lowers family expenditures for food and health care
- \* improves micronutrient and protein/energy status thus increasing productivity
- \* contributes to fertility reduction
- \* supports the environment, reducing firewood, pharmaceutical, plastics and dairy industry waste.
- \* decreases absence in the workplace due to decreased family illness.

UNICEF supports optimal breastfeeding by advocating with national governments to adopt favourable policies that protect, promote and support breastfeeding, including the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, baby-friendly hospitals and health care to ensure the best start on breastfeeding, and community support for social change necessary for women to feel secure in breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that governments must ensure that all sectors of society know about the positive benefits of breastfeeding. "Breastfeeding is a right of mothers and is a fundamental component in assuring a child's right to food, health and care," said Bellamy. "Governments and communities should embrace and support this right."

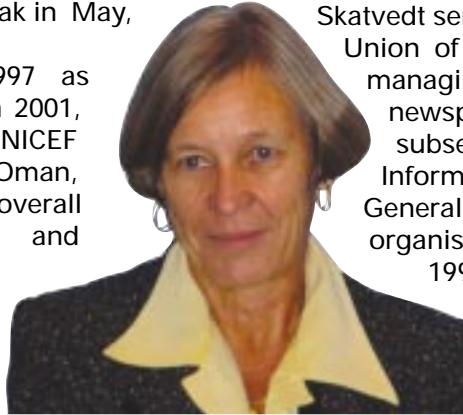
"In emergency and disaster situations, breastfeeding is usually the only way to guarantee safe feeding for infants," Bellamy observed. "Breastfeeding is an invaluable gift that can be given to any child anywhere in the world. Let us protect breastfeeding and protect our children."

# UNICEF Representative to Jordan

**UNICEF** Jordan Country Office new representative, Anne Skatvedt, presented her credentials to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaher Bak in May, 2003.

Skatvedt joined UNICEF in 1997 as Communication Officer in Nepal. In 2001, she assumed the post of UNICEF Representative for the Sultanate of Oman, where she was responsible for the overall planning, coordination and implementation of a broad range of UNICEF programmes to improve the status of women and children in the Sultanate of Oman.

Prior to joining UNICEF, Skatvedt was a journalist for the main daily



newspaper in her home country Norway. In 1979 she was appointed Associate Director for the Institute of Journalism in Norway. From 1984 to 1987, Skatvedt served as President of the Norwegian Union of Journalists. She then worked as managing Editor for a Norwegian local newspaper (1987-1988) and was subsequently appointed Director of Information and Deputy Secretary General of a non-governmental organisation (1988-1992). From 1992 to 1996, Skatvedt served as Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva.

## UNICEF Mourns Loss of Staff Member in Baghdad Blast

**UNICEF** expressed deep sorrow at the deaths of United Nations staff members on 19 August 2003, including one of its own, in the blast at UN headquarters in Baghdad.

The UNICEF Programme Coordinator in Iraq, Christopher Klein-Beekman (32), was killed when the blast tore through the main UN facility in Baghdad. Klein-Beekman held a senior position in Iraq and was Officer-in-Charge for UNICEF at the time of his death.

"The people of Iraq and the entire humanitarian community have suffered a enormous loss today," said UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, who had visited UN staff in Iraq in May. "Chris was an energetic, incredibly talented young man who made a huge impact in Iraq in a difficult time. He was a highly respected colleague and friend, and he cared passionately about children. His loss is deeply mourned by all of us. These deaths are a terrible, terrible tragedy."

UNICEF said that with the tragic exception of Klein-Beekman, all other UNICEF staff are safe and accounted for.

UNICEF, which has had a permanent presence in Iraq

since 1983, maintains a separate office in Baghdad a few miles from the main UN compound. But UNICEF staff regularly took part in meetings at the UN building that was attacked.



*UNICEF Amman Staff Association pays tribute to Chris*

Klein-Beekman, a national of Canada, is survived by his wife, brother and parents. He took up his post in Iraq in May 2002, serving as the deputy of a large UNICEF operation that helped protect the lives of millions of Iraqi children before, during and after the war.

Klein-Beekman was previously a UNICEF Program Officer in Kosovo and before that in Ethiopia. He joined UNICEF in January 1997.

"This is a tragic day for the entire United Nations family," Bellamy said. "But for the families of those lost and injured, it is even more tragic. Our hearts go out to them."

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