



**PROGRAMME OF CO-OPERATION  
FOR  
PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AND WOMEN  
IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY  
MASTER PLAN OF OPERATIONS FOR 2004-2005**

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**PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

**and**

**THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND**

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## PREAMBLE

The Palestinian Authority hereinafter referred to as the PA, and the United Nations Children's Fund, hereinafter referred to as UNICEF, being desirous of furthering their cooperation in support of the realization of the rights expressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child for all Palestinian children in OPT for the period from 01 January 2004 to 31 December 2005, declaring that these responsibilities shall be fulfilled in a spirit of friendly co-operation HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

### ARTICLE 1: Basis of Relationship

This Master Plan of Operations presently signed by the Palestinian Authority and UNICEF provides the basis of relationship between the two parties in this programme of cooperation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In addition, the Agreement between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed in 1994 provides UNICEF the opportunity to implement the programme within the UN system.

In June 2003, the UNICEF Executive Board approved a Programme of Cooperation for Palestinian women and children in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory for the period of 01 January 2004 to 31 December 2005. This Master Plan of Operations (MPO) elaborates the programme for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The MPO covers the period of 01 January 2004 to 31 December 2005 and is to be interpreted and implemented in conformity with the above noted agreement and the endorsement by the Palestinian Authority Minister of Foreign Affairs by letter dated June 29, 2003 (Annex A).

The programmes and projects described herein have been agreed jointly by the PA and UNICEF and have been guided by the mutual commitment towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring the rights of children as set out in the Conventions of the Rights of the Child (CRC). The high level of official concern for and commitment to children that has characterized the PA will continue to be the foundation for the UNICEF co-operation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

### ARTICLE 2: The Situation of Children and Women in Occupied Palestinian Territory

<b><i>Basic data</i></b> <i>(2001 unless otherwise stated)</i>	Occupied Territory	Palestinian
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	1.9	
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	27	
Underweight (% , moderate and severe)	4 (2002)	
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	37	
Primary school enrolment and/or attendance (% net, male/female)	93/94 (2000)	
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	99 (2000)	
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	94 (2000)	
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%)	..	

Children in the labour force, unemployed (% 10-14 year olds)	18.8 (2002)
Children in the labour force, actually working (% 10-14 year olds)	0.6 (2002)
GNI per capita (US\$)	930 (2002)
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	96.5 (2002)
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	93.7 (2002)

This document addresses issues facing approximately 1.7 million Palestinian children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Most of these children remain vulnerable to the unstable political and economical situation and in particular, the ongoing conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Of the 3.46 million inhabitants of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 2.2 million live in the West Bank and 1.26 million in Gaza. A total of 1.6 million are registered as refugees. At 3.7% the annual population growth is high and as a consequence the population below 18 years is 1.9 million. The economy has sharply deteriorated since September 2000. As a direct result of the closures and curfews, the unemployment rate peaked at 36% in the third quarter of 2002, and dropped back to 27% in December 2002. Including 'discouraged workers' i.e. those who no longer seek work, unemployment had reached 37% by the end of 2002. By the end of 2002, 59% of the population was living on less than US\$2.1 per person per day, which is double the percentage of 2000. In parallel, the Palestinian Authority is facing a fiscal crisis, which further compounds its efforts to maintain access to basic services.

### Survival

Significant progress was made for service delivery to children during the 1990s. The 2000 MICS estimates the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) for Palestinian children at 29 per 1000 live births in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The leading causes of infant deaths are low birth weight/premature birth and congenital malformations. The Maternal Mortality Ratios (MMR) is 37 per 100,000 live births among Palestinians in OPT.

Immunisation coverage in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is over 90%. This is attributed to the persistent demand for vaccinations from parents combined with a joint effort of the MOH, UNRWA and UNICEF to provide vaccination services.

Malnutrition remains low however recent surveys indicate that the nutritional status of children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has been deteriorating. A survey conducted in 2002 showed increasing levels of anaemia among children. Consumption of iodised salt is 37% in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where a high level of goitre prevalence (14.9%) among primary school students has been observed. Fairly low levels of exclusive breastfeeding of children between 0-3 months are found, approximately 29% in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

No representative data exists on HIV/AIDS prevalence in OPT however the number of recorded cases remains low. The 2002 Annual Report of the Ministry of Health reports a total of 53 cases of HIV/AIDS in the Territory. According to the report no new cases were reported in 2002 however, there is a strong need for raising awareness. For example, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory only 50% of women know about mother to child transmission, 34% know how HIV/AIDS is prevented and 21% know where they can be tested for HIV.

### Education

OPT has maintained strong figures on net primary school enrolment which is above 90% with no significant gender or geographical (urban/rural) disparities. However, a decade of efforts to improve the education of children in OPT has come under serious threat as the situation has deteriorated over the past 3 years. Mobility restrictions have undermined the basic right of all Palestinian children to access quality education. Learning in the present environment has proved extremely difficult. The current situation is affecting close to one million students and over 39,000 teachers in some 1,900 schools, with severe disruptions to the entire educational system. Students are missing valuable time being away from the classroom, while teachers cannot make it to schools and class schedules are thus severely disrupted.

For the 2002/2003 school year, most Palestinian children have either returned to school or are/will be involved in Remedial Education. Nonetheless one month after the school started in September 2002 more than 226,000 Palestinian children (that is 23% of children attending school) and over 9,300 teachers (that is 36% of Ministry of Education teachers) were unable to reach their regular classrooms and at least 580 schools were closed due to military curfews, closures and home confinement. At least 197 schools have been damaged since the beginning of the *Intifada*, and 275 schools are in the direct line of confrontation. This is reflected in an UNWRA study, which shows that passing grades in Arabic and Mathematics in UNWRA schools had dropped by about 50% in 2001 as compared to 1999-2000.

### Protection

Since the beginning of the Intifada in September 2000, more than 584 children have been killed including 480 Palestinian children and 104 Israeli children. More than 9,000 children have been injured, many suffering permanent disabilities. In 2001, 75% of Palestinian adults living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory felt that their children were experiencing growing emotional problems. Physical and verbal violence in schools is reported to be common in the Occupied Palestinian. Adolescence among girls is often compromised by early demands for domestic tasks or for marriage before reaching adulthood. Approximately 13% of all 18 year old girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory already have a child or are pregnant.

### Participation

Youth are not encouraged by traditional family settings to develop and express their own views. Besides the effects of violence, poor socialising, entertainment and sports opportunities, limited access to information, alongside reduced mobility and employment opportunities leaves youth very few opportunities to use their free time to develop their skills and personalities. In a context of conflict, when normal support structures usually become weaker, opportunities for youth participation in constructive activities become even more important as it can reduce the probability that they engage in various forms of risk taking behavior, including exposure to armed violence.

### Child Legislation and Policies

The Palestinian Child's Rights Law (PCRL) sets the general framework for children's rights in OPT. Nonetheless there is a need for specific legislation establishing an independent body, such as the Higher Council for Childhood and Motherhood in order to monitor compliance with the PCRL and CRC, and to report and document any violations of child's rights in OPT by any party. This will also contribute to developing national policies that protect and promote children's rights.

### Juvenile Justice

The legal system in OPT is a compilation of legislation from the Ottoman, British Mandate, Jordanian, Egyptian and Israeli military rules. The juvenile justice laws and legislation applicable in Gaza Strip are different than those applicable in the West Bank. In addition, these legislation are out dated and do not meet the internationally recognised minimum standards in the area of juvenile justice. Noting that anecdotal evidence indicates the number of children coming into conflict with the law is increasing, developing juvenile justice legislation that are in line with the CRC and the PCRL is becoming increasingly important.

### CRC Reporting

Israel sent its first report to the CRC Committee last year - 7 years late. Preparation of the report was done by a private research institute, supervised by a government committee. The State of Israel invited active review of the report by the NGO community. All social issues in Israel benefit from active public debates, and the CRC report drew an extraordinarily and highly critical NGO response – both from Israeli and Palestinian NGOs. In many aspects criticism of government policies and the report were stronger in the report by Israeli NGOs than Palestinian NGOs.

The CRC report was thorough and comprehensive, with a major exception - it completely ignored the situation of Palestinian children living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Moreover, the State of Israel signed many Optional Protocols and Conventions but is yet to ratify them. These include: The Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, The ILO Convention 182, and The Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Moreover, the government budget cuts have adversely affected many sectors, including children and women. The Ombudsperson – an independent body to monitor and evaluate progress of children’s rights does not exist in Israel despite the fact that Israel was one of the first countries in the world to establish an Ombudsperson (which was later abolished).

Israel’s report to the CRC admitted major discrepancies between government policies and reality with regard to services for certain groups. Largest of these gaps is between the Jewish population and Israeli Arabs (i.e. Arab citizens of Israel). The most extreme gaps are in services for the Bedouins. Other gaps concern differences in quality of health care and education for Arabs in general. Other gaps exist between Jewish ethnic groups, in particular Ethiopian Jews. All of the above challenges should be tackled by the State of Israel for the best interest of all children – Israeli and Palestinian alike.

### National Goals

Overall national goals with regards to children have been laid out in the “National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children”. The NPA, which is based on a 7-year strategy, focuses on health, education, advocacy, participation, protection, culture, media and capacity building. The NPA gives an overview of the shortfalls in the rights of children in these areas, enlists the existing institutional capacities and sets out a number of strategic goals to be achieved within the 7-year period, which is in line with the World Fit for Children document. UNICEF from the onset has been involved in this process and contributed to the establishment of the plan.

## ARTICLE 3: Achievements and Lessons Learned from Past Cooperation

## Key Results Achieved

The 2001-2003 Programme of Co-operation emerged as the result of an intense and broad participatory process guided by MOPIC and UNICEF, and involved a number of line Ministries as well as other institutions, universities, media, NGOs, other partners, and last but not least, adolescents. The Programme of Co-operation took the bold step of moving into a *Life Cycle Perspective* and a *Rights-Based Approach*.

In September 2000, when the Programme of Co-operation was prepared and the process of implementation had started, the *Intifada* began. Whereas the main structure of the programme remained the same, the deteriorating situation required a very flexible approach in general, and due adaptations in specific programme interventions. Obviously, the consequences of the *Intifada* have also affected the possibilities of reaching the quantitative part of the objective, as well as the possibility of measuring the actual changes. In parallel, the deteriorating situation has influenced the type of key results achieved, mixing results aimed at long term goals with those addressing short term needs.

### ***Promoting and Monitoring Children and Women's Rights***

Within the *Children in Need of Special Protection* project, several target groups of children whose protection rights had been violated were identified. UNICEF in partnership with the Ex-Detainees Rehabilitation Programme (ERDP) ensured free legal aid to Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons as well as provided them with clothes and personal hygiene items. UNICEF also supported awareness raising sessions for children and parents on how to prevent children's non-peaceful participation in the current conflict. Areas particularly exposed to conflict were targeted including Jenin and the Gaza Strip.

In the 2001-2003 country programme UNICEF increased its support to improved child-based services and policy development at the local level. The Child Friendly Cities project was piloted in 4 locations - Rafah, Gaza, Jenin and Jericho. In each location UNICEF supported municipalities and local NGO's to establish a City Plan of Action for Children - putting the rights of children firmly on the municipal agenda. Through comprehensive planning and coordinated interventions at the local level, this project is a step forward towards creating a more conducive environment for child development and participation. Providing alternatives to increasing levels of violence support was provided to establish 15 safe play areas and the provision of weekly activities for over 20,000 boys and girls aged 4-12.

The *Advocacy for Children and Women's Rights* project has included documenting the impact of the *Intifada* on children, as well as conducting regular media activities and press statements. In attempting to develop the capacity of the PA counterparts in their advocacy efforts for the protection for Palestinian children and women, UNICEF supported the development of a national advocacy strategy for the protection of children and women's rights. UNICEF also supported training of key officials on advocacy and media preparedness to enable them to become better spokespeople.

This project also supported the media projects for and by children and young people to enable them to utilize the media in voicing their concerns, fears and hopes. This included supported to the Youth Times magazine as well as "Alli Soutak" TV programme for and by children and young people. These projects provided opportunities for 100,000 children have access to Youth

Times magazine for and by children where circulation rate increased from 7,000 in the year 2002 to 20,000 in the year 2003.

At the national policy level, UNICEF supported the participation of key officials in the participation in the Special Session for Children and supported the development of the National Plan for Children based on the World Fit for Children document. Despite the difficulties in planning in times of crisis, the NPA Secretariat with members of its steering committee managed to complete this 7 year plan for children.

In order to address growing concerns of children exposure to unexploded ordinance and reduce the risk or injury and harm, UNICEF played a pivotal role in developing a national Mine Risk Education Strategy. This strategy included an awareness raising campaign reaching at least 500,000 Palestinian children with key messages on unexploded ordnance and landmine accident prevention. Posters, banners, theatrical plays, stickers, educational books, drawing books for younger children were all developed and distributed among children youth. In addition, 250 teachers and summer camp leaders were equipped with needed knowledge and skills on mine risk education

### ***Psychosocial Care for Children and Women***

The current conflict has had devastating effects on Palestinian children socially and psychologically. As a response, UNICEF's support to ***psycho-social interventions*** has been mainstreamed in each of the four programmes, utilising existing programmes and addressing needs corresponding to various age groups and vulnerabilities, all in an effort to achieve a better impact. Psycho-social components have thus been included in initiatives such as the Integrated Management of Common Childhood Illnesses, the Life Skills Based Education, as well as in the Child Friendly Cities and Schools initiatives.

UNICEF has also supported training of school counsellors; kindergarten and nursery teachers; and social workers in psychosocial support. A particular focus has been given to assisting children support groups through MOSA, and training social workers from MOSA and from other partners including NGOs. In parallel, during 2001 UNICEF assisted in the development of the first Palestinian Code of Conduct for Psychosocial Interventions in partnership with the National Plan of Action (NPA) secretariat, a broad coalition of Palestinian NGOs and universities, and international partners.

Specifically targeting adolescents, a Peer-to-Peer counselling project was piloted in 60 schools during 2001, in partnership with two Palestinian NGOs, PYALARA (Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation) and CCTCM (Community Training and Crisis Management Centre). Psychosocial teams were also set up and supported in Jenin and in the 5 districts of the Gaza Strip and weekly activities were promoted for over 5,000 children in areas most exposed to violence. UNICEF also played, and continues to play an important role the coordination of psycho-social care in OPT.

### ***Early Childhood Care for Survival, Growth and Development***

Despite many difficulties due to military closures of towns, high immunisation coverage was maintained, both through a routine immunisation programme and through polio mop-up campaigns in remote and difficult to reach areas. Annually approximately 100,000 first grade

students received a polio booster dose. A sub-national polio campaign in 2002 reached 200,000 under-5 children. UNICEF and UNRWA assisted the Ministry of Health with both routine and polio immunisation of more than 45,000 children in 2002 mainly located in remote and difficult to access areas of Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem.

The programme supported advocacy and awareness raising campaigns for breastfeeding, consumption of iodised salt, and prevention of iron deficiency anaemia. In 2003, close to 400 kindergarten teachers and nursery caregivers were trained on childhood development and 100 kindergartens and 50 nurseries in the Occupied Palestinian Territory received furniture, educational toys and indoor and outdoor games.

### ***Promoting Learning in Child-Friendly Environments***

A key component of the education programme has been to ensure children's access to uninterrupted and quality education. In 2002-2003, the programme replicated the successful 2001 Hebron Distance Education/Remedial project in five of the most affected areas of OPT. This ensured that 150,000 children maintained educational standards through a catch-up education programme that provides compensatory education for children whose schooling has been interrupted by movement restrictions and curfews. Complementing this project, two hundred schools in the most affected areas, Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Hebron, and Rafah, were provided with stationary and educational games and materials for after school activities ensuring that children are provided with supplemental remedial activities after school hours; and approximately 40,000 primary school children were provided with opportunities to catch up on missed classes in 2003 by attending remedial summer clubs in which remedial classes were provided during the day.

In parallel, and through the Back-to-School component, UNICEF supported a joint effort by MOEHE, MOSA, MOYS, and the NPA secretariat in awareness raising campaigns in order to ensure that one million Palestinian children would be back in school by the beginning of the school year and remain in school throughout the school year. Basic school supplies (uniforms, school bags and stationary) were also provided to 12,000 of the neediest children whose families could not afford to send them to school.

Towards improving the quality of the learning environment, UNICEF supported MOEHE to define the Child-Friendly School (CFS) criteria in the Palestinian context based on the 2003 UNICEF supported national study that involved students, parents, teachers and administrators in OPT. A CFS training package for training of teachers in child-friendly concepts in OPT was developed and 1,700 teachers were trained in methods for making their schools more child-friendly and creating a more child-friendly environment for their students. UNICEF also supported the MOEHE in the development and printing of the Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) resource manual which includes lesson plans that can be used in other Arab speaking countries. 1250 teachers of 4th graders in the West Bank were trained on the integration of LSBE in the new Palestinian curriculum

### ***Development and Participation of Adolescents***

The programme has assisted in ensuring that summer camps for children would be managed as places of peaceful development for children by supporting the establishment of a CRC-based National Declaration on Summer Camps in 2001. The Declaration insists on principles that

should govern all summer camps, such as equality, participation, non-violence, and freedom of expression and has resulted in greater awareness on the rights of children and in a shift in the structure of summer camps from discipline to active participation, freedom of expression and development. UNICEF expanded its financial and material support to adolescent summer camps from 9 in 2001 to 105 in 2003, reaching approximately 26,079 adolescents. Over 1100 summer camp facilitators have been trained in order to ensure that the Declaration was applied, with a specific focus on provision of psychosocial support. Special attention has also been paid to the establishment of national and international monitoring structures to ensure compliance.

In cooperation with MOEHE, Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) was mainstreamed into the Palestinian curriculum of grades 4 and 9. During 2002, LSBE was mainstreamed in 33 pilot schools (25 secondary and 8 vocational schools) including the training of approximately 675 school staff and 26 trainers, and benefiting approximately 11,000 children. During 2003, approximately 1900 teachers were trained and are implementing LSBE in the classroom. LSBE will ultimately aim at national impact where life skills will be progressively integrated into the Palestinian curriculum.

### ***Outreach and Improved Monitoring of Programme Implementation***

Additional regular resources from headquarters permitted the establishment and staffing of 5 new zonal offices in Hebron, Jenin, Nablus, Rafah and Tulkarem. The establishment of these new offices represents the most profound change in the PA/UNICEF Programme of Cooperation. They have been enthusiastically supported by UNICEF's partners and have allowed for both a greater programme outreach and improved monitoring of activities.

### **Lessons Learned**

Adaptability has been the key to maintaining effective programmes. Mobility restrictions and concerns about staff security limited the possibilities of programme implementation for both UNICEF and its partners. The programme has also addressed the challenge of finding an appropriate balance between short-term emergency interventions and longer-term development objectives.

The lack of accurate data became more apparent during 2001-2003. There is scope to improve the quality and timeliness of data collection mechanisms both by the international community and the Palestinian Authority with regard to the situation of Palestinian children. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics can play an important role in such efforts.

The Hebron distance learning initiative proved successful, largely because local educators were empowered to work independently, with technical and financial support only as needed. Self-help, decentralised efforts with a high degree of community involvement show great promise - not only in the context of political conflict and violence but also as a long-term strategy for providing services under normal circumstances.

Projects where adolescents act as "service providers" such as in peer-to-peer education and psychosocial counselling, have proven successful. Through "learning by doing", adolescents can contribute positively, not only to their peers, but also to the larger community. When adolescents are given the chance to learn, analyse, be creative, self-reliant and responsible, they can have enormous impact. However, to ensure an environment conducive for their participation in

decision making, officials, communities and parents must be made aware of the positive impact of adolescents' participation and its modalities.

To ensure the protection of Palestinian children in OPT programmatic interventions with Israeli human rights organizations should be implemented in coordination with the National Committee for UNICEF in Israel. As highlighted by counterparts in the 2003 Annual Review, working with Israeli human rights organizations to address issues such as Palestinian child detainees can be more effective than current approaches.

Another valuable lesson learned is the decentralization of the programme through the so called "Zonal Offices", which are now in place in Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Hebron, Gaza and Rafah (see section "Zonal Offices"). These offices guarantee an increase in operational capability through international and national staff based in these locations, working throughout times of imposed curfews and closures. On top of this, an overall process of decentralization of the programme has begun. This process proved to be a powerful tool in identifying critical shortfalls and needs for especially vulnerable and marginalized children, like those children affected by the construction of the Separation Wall. Staff in the decentralized Zonal Offices were able to adapt the overall national programme in order to outreach to those children and effectively deliver assistance on the ground.

#### **ARTICLE 4: Relationship of the Programme of Cooperation to National and UNICEF Priorities**

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the programme is built around objectives and strategies formulated in existing National Plans such as the Five-year Educational Development Plan and the National Strategic Health Plan, following the direction spelled out in the latest National Plan of Action for Palestinian Children. The programme has also taken into account adjustments made to these plans as a consequence of the current crisis. As a follow-up to the UN Special Session for Children, the Palestinian Authority will develop and implement a new, seven-year National Plan of Action. The promulgation of the Palestinian Child Rights Law and the development of a National Adolescents Policy will further guide the implementation of the programme. The programme reflects the Palestinian Authority's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and the World Fit For Children document.

In the absence of a CCA/UNDAF in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, co-ordination and consistency in outcomes, strategies and actions with other UN agencies will be ensured through the Local Aid Co-ordination Committee chaired by the UN Special Co-ordinator Office (UNSCO) and through UN Humanitarian Action Plans.

#### **Relationship to International Priorities**

The proposed programme will contribute to the following Millennium Development Goals:

- protecting the vulnerable
- reducing child mortality
- improving maternal health
- eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- achieving universal primary education

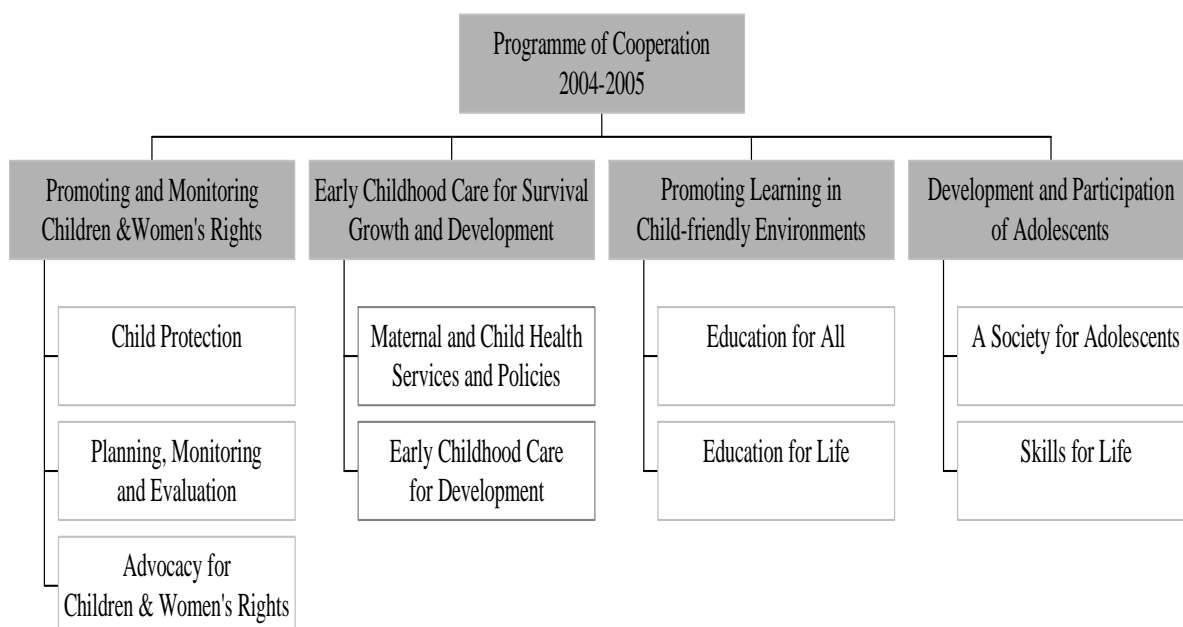
- promoting gender equality and empowering women
- combating HIV/AIDS

It also addresses all priorities of the MTSP with a particular focus on immunisation and improved protection of children from violence. Integrated early childhood development is promoted through both improvement of services and behaviour change of caregivers. Girl's education will be addressed through remedial and life skills education, and back-to-school campaigns. Fighting HIV/AIDS is a priority and will focus on awareness raising among adolescents. The programme's emergency interventions will respond to UNICEF's core corporate commitments in the areas of health and nutrition, education, child protection (including psychosocial support). The programme will also contribute to the four major goals from the World Fit for Children document: protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence, promoting healthy lives, providing quality education, and combating HIV/AIDS.

### ARTICLE 5: Programme of Cooperation Goals and Strategies

The overall goal of the new Programme of Co-operation will be the realisation of the rights of Palestinian children and women, including the rights to survival, development, protection and participation.

The programme targets vulnerable Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and is framed by common strategies and managed in close coordination between the partners in the four locations. The shared strategic framework is based on similarities among the situation of the Palestinian populations in the four locations, as well as the results of past UNICEF cooperation. Specific local conditions give final shape to UNICEF cooperation in each of the four locations and are defined in separate MPOs for each of the four countries.



The expected key results in OPT of the 2004-2005 Programme of Cooperation will be:

- Establishment of a set of core indicators to document and analyse the impact of rights violations
- Establishment of child-friendly environments in disadvantaged areas
- Increased and sustained immunisation coverage against seven antigens at above 90 percent
- Universal availability of iodised salt
- Adoption of national policies setting standards for the establishment and licensing of pre-school establishments
- Increased access to quality early childhood care through improved services and practices of caregivers
- Access to remedial education for all primary school-aged children
- Introduction of the life skills based education in the curriculum for grades 4-5 and 10-11, including vocational schools
- Adoption of a national adolescents policy
- Improved attitudes and behaviour vis-à-vis adolescents
- Improved opportunities for adolescent participation

The Programme of Co-operation takes a life-cycle approach and will give priority to critical interventions along the three major developmental stages of childhood, namely early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence. A rights based approach to programming will be further pursued and strengthened, contributing to the sustainability of achievements for children. The CRC will guide cross-sectoral programming in all four programmes, putting the child at the centre. Advocacy, based on the CRC, the CEDAW, International Humanitarian Law and the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention will be a cornerstone in support of the programme and agendas for action.

Monitoring mechanisms will be strengthened. Special attention will be given to underlying causes of the current crisis and data that highlights its impact on the rights of children and women.

Preparedness for rapid response has been built into the programme. At the same time, the programme is dedicated to a long-term developmental perspective. Annual UN Common Humanitarian Action Plans will ensure complementary and co-ordinated efforts with partner UN agencies when responding to emergency needs.

Building on lessons learned during the previous programme, innovative approaches that empower locally available capacities, will be employed whenever possible, including in emergency response. With this approach, impact, ownership and sustainability can be maximised. The programme will give priority to interventions with impact on a larger scale. Under-served areas and particularly vulnerable groups will be identified and targeted through rapid assessments and surveys. Adolescents will be approached as potential service providers, participants and contributors to community development and to programme planning, implementation and monitoring.

## ARTICLE 6: Programme Objectives and Descriptions

### **Programme: Promoting and Monitoring Children's and Women's Rights**

#### **Programme objectives:**

The objectives of the programme are to contribute to:

1. Increasing the commitment and strengthen the capacity of the PA, NGOs and civil society in identifying, addressing, and monitoring violation of children's protection rights.
2. Strengthening the knowledge base of social data on children and maximize its utilization in advocacy, national plans, and programme interventions of the PA and NGOs.
3. Supporting the Palestinian Authority's efforts in improving national policies in accordance with the CRC as well as raising awareness and advocating for its implementation at national and community levels.

#### **Indicators for programme success:**

- ✓ Number of publications on the violation of children's rights to protection
- ✓ Number of interventions by the PA and NGOs related to the effective realization of rights of children in OPT
- ✓ Number of legislation related to child and women protection passed by the PLC

#### **Programme components:**

<b>Components of the Promoting and Monitoring Children's and Women's Rights Programme</b>	
<b>Project One</b>	Planning, monitoring and evaluation of Children's Rights
<b>Project Two</b>	Protection
<b>Project Three</b>	Advocacy for children's and women's rights

<b>Promoting and Monitoring Children and Women's Rights</b> <b>Project One: Planning, monitoring and evaluation</b>
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**Project Objectives:**

1. Establishment of an Ombudsperson for Children's Rights office.
2. Ensure the establishment of a national monitoring system for violations of child rights, capable of generating reports at least twice per year on key child rights indicators.
3. Ensure that development of policies and plans for municipal service delivery in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron) is participatory and based on a set of criteria for child friendly environments.
4. Ensure that UNICEF to the extent its mandate allows, supports interventions identified in the overall city plan of action for children in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron).

**Major Strategies:**

1. Introduce the function of an Ombudsperson for Child Rights with the PA and build consensus for the establishment of an Ombudsperson office.
2. Support the dissemination, implementation and monitoring of the PCRL and its specific subsequent laws and legislations.
3. Establish a minimum set of core indicators to document and analyze the impact of protection rights violations.
4. Build local capacities to improve planning and service delivery for children.
5. Alliance building and improve local level coordination and monitoring of child-based interventions.

**Major Activities:**

1. Assist the PA in establishing the function of an Ombudsperson for Children's Rights and train staff supporting this function.
2. Establish a set of core indicators for a national monitoring system for violations of child rights and train staff to monitor and report on core indicators.
3. Provide technical and financial assistance to develop child friendly policies and plans for municipal service delivery which are based on a participatory approach and meet criteria for child friendly environments.
4. Support municipal councils to undertake a needs assessments and develop a city plan of action for children
5. Provide financial and supply assistance for selected interventions within city plans of action.

**Major Partners:**

- Municipalities of Tulkarem, Nablus, Hebron, Jenin, Gaza, Rafah and Jericho.
- Ministry of Local Governments
- Palestinian Legislative Council
- Ministry of Social Affairs

- Ministry of Justice
- NPA Secretariat

**Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Existence of an Ombudsperson for Children's Rights
- ✓ Number of reports issued on violation of child rights indicators in OPT
- ✓ Number of municipalities out of the 7 selected locations which will meet the criteria of a Child Friendly City by the end of 2005
- ✓ Number of interventions supported by UNICEF in City Plans of Action for Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron and Rafah corresponding to UNICEF's mandate

<b>Promoting and Monitoring Children and Women's Rights Project Two: Child Protection</b>
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**Project Objectives:**

1. Ensure that all Palestinian children and women in Israeli detention have access to legal aid, proper clothing, hygiene items and educational items.
2. Ensure that the percentage of Palestinians as of 6 years of age that can recite 2 out of 6 key protection messages increases by 25% from baseline established through indicator survey.
3. Ensure that the percentage of adult Israelis that can recite at least 1 out of 3 key protection messages increases by 25% from baseline established through indicator survey.
4. Ensure that by the end of 2005 all children and women in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron) have access to psychosocial support services.
5. Ensure that reliable data is available on children and women exposed to domestic violence and violence in schools.
6. Ensure the adoption of a juvenile justice law and law of Higher Council for Childhood and Motherhood based on the Palestinian Child Rights Law to reduce children's exposure to danger.
7. Ensure access to opportunities for out-of-home recreation and play in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron) for 90,000 children 3-18 years, with special attention to girls.

**Major strategies:**

1. Focus on specific target groups of endangered/vulnerable children such as child detainees, children affected and traumatised by the conflict and children exposed to danger.
2. Alliance and capacity building to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and establish databases related to child and women protection issues.
3. Build the capacity of institutions working with child protection and advocacy for adherence to the PCRL, the CRC and other legal instruments.
4. Train psychosocial professionals to provide the needed psychosocial support and treatment for children and families in the focal areas.

**Major Activities**

1. Legal counsel to provide free legal services to child and women detainees; procure clothing, educational material and personal hygiene items for child and women detainees.
2. Advocate with the Israeli Authorities to abolish practice of detention and imprisonment of Palestinian children and improve conditions for detainees in collaboration with the Ministry of Detainee Affairs.
3. Communication campaigns targeted at Palestinians 6 years of age and older to create awareness of children's rights/key protection messages through the educational system, religious and community leaders and through mass media.
4. Training of trainers to psychosocial professionals and social workers to increase psychosocial support to affected children in conflict-prone areas.
5. Conduct base-line study on prevalence of domestic violence and violence in school.
6. Technical and financial assistance to workshops for the finalization of two laws on the PCRL

to reduce children's exposure to danger.

7. Facilitate advocacy sessions for teachers, community leaders and primary caregivers to prevent their children from participating in militant acts.
8. Financial and supply assistance to provide safe recreation and play facilities and activities for 3-18 year olds in conflict-prone areas.

### **Major Partners:**

- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Palestinian Centre for Helping Resolve Community Disputes
- Ministry of Detainee Affairs
- Save the Children Fund
- YMCA
- Municipalities of Jericho, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, Rafah and Gaza
- Palestinian Legislative Council

### **Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Number of children detained or imprisoned having access to legal aid, proper clothing, hygiene items and educational items
- ✓ Percentage of Palestinians over 5 years of age that can recite 2 out of 6 key protection messages
- ✓ Percentage of adult Israelis that can recite at least 1 out of 3 key protection messages
- ✓ Number of children and women having access to psychosocial support services in Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron and Rafah
- ✓ Availability of reliable and verifiable data on domestic violence and violence in schools
- ✓ Number of specific laws on to reduce exposure of children to violence passed by the PLC
- ✓ Number of children in Gaza, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron and Rafah with access to safe play and recreational activities

<b>Promoting and Monitoring Children and Women's Rights</b> <b>Project Three: Advocacy for Children and Women's Rights</b>
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**Project Objective:**

1. Ensure monitoring of the implementation of the National 7-year Plan for Palestinian children.
2. Ensure that the number of children having access to child-to-child print media increases from 100,000 to 120,000 by 2005.
3. Ensure that the number of children having access to child-to-child TV programmes increases from 250,000 to 450,000 by 2005.
4. Ensure that the number of children having access to child-to-child radio programmes increases from 150,000 to 200,000 by 2005.
5. Ensure the adoption by government and NGOs of national advocacy strategy for promoting children's and women's rights.
6. Ensure that MOP, NPA Secretariat, MoFA, MoI and the Palestinian Child Rights Coalition implement the national advocacy strategy for the promotion of the rights of Palestinian women and children.

**Major strategies:**

1. Capacity building of PA institutions in monitoring the implementation of the 7-year Plan for Palestinian Children.
2. Advocacy with key policy makers, media agencies towards the implementation of the Palestinian Authority advocacy strategy for children.
3. Capacity building of already existing children's media institutions as well as Ministry of Information and NPA Secretariat.

**Major Activities:**

1. Establish a monitoring system and train governmental organisations responsible for monitoring the implementation of the 7-year Plan for Palestinian Children.
2. Participation in Regional and HQ meetings and development of implementation indicators for the National 7 year Plan for Palestinian Children.
3. Training of 100 young people on CRC and journalism.
4. Technical, cash and supply assistance to strengthen young people's media programmes (television, radio, print) including monitoring and evaluation.
5. Technical and supply assistance to the PA in developing a media monitoring system.
6. Technical assistance and supply assistance to governmental organisations in implementing the national advocacy strategy for Palestinian children.
7. Training 20 professionals on advocacy and communication.
8. Training 5 officials on media preparedness.

**Major Partners:**

- Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Planning / NPA Secretariat, Information
- High Council for Childhood and Motherhood.
- PYALARA
- TAMER Institute

- The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation
- Media agencies
- Media research agencies
- PRCS
- UNRWA.
- UNDP
- ICRC
- Private sector

**Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Availability of a yearly monitoring plan for the national 7-year plan for children
- ✓ Number of children having access to child to child print media
- ✓ Number of children having access to child to child TV programme
- ✓ Number of children having access to child to child radio programme
- ✓ Adoption of a national advocacy strategy
- ✓ Implementation of national advocacy strategy for the promotion of the rights of Palestinian women and children by MoP, NPA Secretariat, MoFA, MoI and the Palestinian Child Rights Coalition

## **Programme: Early Childhood Care for Survival, Growth and Development**

### **Programme Objectives:**

The main goal of the programme is to contribute to the reduction of Infant Mortality Rate, Under-5 Mortality Rate, and Maternal Mortality Ratio by 20% of the 2000 Health Survey figures by focusing specifically on under-served areas, as identified during the Programme of Co-operation period.

The programme objectives are to contribute to:

1. Sustaining a national Polio-free and achieve measles and Neonatal Tetanus-free status, and maintaining high (above 90%) immunisation coverage rate with the 7 basic antigens in all districts.
2. Ensuring that by the end of 2005 80% of sick children benefit the integrated management of childhood illnesses at the services and community level;
3. Ensuring increased access, quality and utilisation of maternal and child services through upgrading, expansion and/or establishment of new health facilities in closed or inaccessible areas.
4. Increasing exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months by 10 % (baseline MICS 2000 rates); achieving universal consumption of iodised salt in the OPT by the year 2005; and reducing anaemia prevalence rate among under-5 children by 30% of the rates of the 2002 National Nutrition Survey.
5. Developing and promoting nation-wide policies and standards fostering early childhood development and supporting their implementation in under-served areas identified.

### **Indicators for programme success:**

- ✓ Immunization coverage against the seven vaccine-preventable diseases, at the central level and at the district level; incidence of polio, measles and neonatal tetanus
- ✓ Percentage of children with access to basic health services offering the IMCI package
- ✓ Coverage of immunization, IMCI package, skilled attendance at birth in areas susceptible to closures and curfews
- ✓ Percentage of children benefiting from home-based prevention and care practices, including exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months;
- ✓ Prevalence of anemia in under-5, preschool and school age children
- ✓ Consumption rate of iodized salt
- ✓ Coverage of quality preschool services (kindergarten, nurseries) in closed or inaccessible areas.

## Programme components:

<b>Components of the Early Childhood Care for Survival Growth and Development Programme</b>	
<b>Project One</b>	Maternal and Child Health Services
<b>Project Two</b>	Early Childhood Care for Development

### **Early Childhood Care for Survival Growth and Development Programme Project One: Maternal and Child Health Services**

#### **Project Objectives:**

1. Maintain immunization coverage against the seven diseases of the EPI above 90% at the central level and at the district level in all 15 health districts.
2. Develop and expand at 100% of MCH / PHC services the implementation of implementation of the integrated management of childhood illnesses, and develop the community component, with special emphasis on the underserved, closed or inaccessible areas.
3. Support the development of the harmonized health management information system in areas relevant to integrated early childhood development.
4. Ensure universal salt iodation.
5. Ensure adoption of a national policy for the fortification of flour with iron.
6. Increase from 28 per cent to 78 per cent by the end of 2005 the percentage of mothers aware of the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding up to six months and develop at least one baby-friendly hospital in each district.

#### **Major Strategies:**

1. Support to service delivery through provision of equipments and supplies for upgrading and expanding MCH / PHC services in underserved and closed areas.
2. Capacity building of health care providers from MCH / PHC facilities in , including development of training facilities for IMCI and maternal health in main district hospitals.
3. Social mobilisation and behaviour change communication for the implementation of the key family and community practices for prevention and care of childhood illnesses.
4. Evidence-based advocacy, partnership and networking with the policy-makers, public and private sector for adoption of national policies and standards related to exclusive breastfeeding and infant and young child nutrition, flour fortification with iron and iodisation of salt.
5. Convergence of interventions at the service and community level, especially in closed and/or underserved areas.
6. Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of the intervention.

#### **Major Activities:**

1. Provision of vaccines, vaccination supplies, cold chain equipment and basic equipment for the MCH centers where immunization is conducted.

2. Provision of equipments and supplies for PHC/MCH centres.
3. Training of doctors, nurses and village health workers on immunisation, safety injection, management of common childhood illnesses, monitoring and promotion of child growth and development, maternal health care.
4. Development of behaviour change communication and social communication materials for IMCI community component.
5. National survey on consumption and production of iodized salt.
6. Formative research on community prevention and care of childhood illnesses.
7. Setting up institutional frameworks and provision of technical support for development implementation of national policies and standards for infant and young child nutrition, including breastfeeding promotion.

### **Major Partners:**

- Ministries of Health, Education/Higher Education, Social Welfare, Supply, Trade
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.
- Palestinian Specification Institute
- Higher Council for Youth.
- National Plan of Action Secretariat
- Early Childhood Resource Centre
- Union Of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees
- Professional Associations: medical, Paediatric and Pharmacists Associations.
- UN Agencies: WHO, UNRWA, UNFPA, World Bank and WFP
- International Agencies: Italian Cooperation, Save the Children.
- Private Sector

### **Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Immunisation coverage at district and national level
- ✓ Percentage of children having access to health facilities adopting the integrated management of childhood illnesses.
- ✓ Adoption of national policy on flour fortification
- ✓ Coverage of iodised salt consumption;
- ✓ % of exclusive breastfeeding;
- ✓ Number of baby friendly facilities

<b>Early Childhood Care for Survival Growth and Development Programme</b> <b>Project Two: Early Childhood Care for Development</b>
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**Project Objectives:**

1. Increase availability of information on early childhood care to 50% of parents by the end of 2005.
2. Ensure the adoption of national standards for the establishment and licensing of kindergarten and nurseries, including health and nutrition promotion components.
3. Ensure that by the end of 2005 all children in closed and/or inaccessible areas benefit from appropriate child care in kindergartens and nurseries.

**Major strategies:**

1. Advocacy towards policy makers, health and education professionals on appropriate child rearing practices.
2. Enhancing national policy development related to establishment and licensing of pre-school (kindergartens and nurseries) setting, including health and nutrition component.
3. Ensuring conceptual and operational links with the health facilities and with the community IMCI component.
4. Capacity building of preschool and nurseries teachers and caregivers, including establishing of two reference and training centres.
5. Support to pre-school service delivery through provision of basic equipments and supplies.

**Major Activities**

1. Setting up appropriate institutional framework for supporting the policy and standards development.
2. Production of educational material and implementation of national awareness campaign on early childhood care utilising the national and district TV and radio stations.
3. Training of kindergarten supervisors, teachers, and nursery caretakers at the district level in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron).
4. Provision of basic equipment and stimulation in- and out-door games to 50% of the needy kindergartens and nurseries in the above mentioned 5 districts.

**Major Partners:**

- Ministries of Education/Higher Education, Social Welfare, and Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.
- Palestinian Legislative Council
- Higher Council for Youth.
- The Secretariat of the National Plan of Action
- Early Childhood Resource Centre
- Palestinian Happy Child Centre
- Union Of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees

- Save the Children.
- Private Sector
- The Federation of Welfare Associations.
- Federation of Women in the labour force.

**Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Percentage of parents that can cite at least 6 out of 10 key messages on early childhood care
- ✓ Adoption of national standards on the establishment and licensing of the kindergartens and nurseries.
- ✓ Percentage of children in closed and inaccessible areas benefiting accessing preschool facilities implementing the national standards

## **Programme: Promoting Learning in Child Friendly Environments**

### **Programme objectives:**

The objectives of the programme are to contribute to:

1. Increasing the net enrolment rate for grades 1-6 to 98% by the end of 2005, with special focus on gender, geographical equity, and children with special needs.
2. Increasing the proportion of children with good learning achievement in literacy, numeracy and life skills (score of 80/100) in Grade 4 from the 1999 baseline to at least 50% by the end of 2005.

### **Indicators for programme success:**

- ✓ Primary school net enrollment rate and drop-out rate for grades 1-6
- ✓ Proportion of children with good learning achievement in literacy, numeracy and life skills in Grade 4

### **Programme components:**

<b>Components of the Promoting Learning in Child Friendly Environments Programme</b>	
<b>Project One</b>	Education for All
<b>Project Two</b>	Education for Life (Child Friendly and Life Skills)

<b>Promoting Learning in Child Friendly Environments</b> <b>Project One: Education for All</b>
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**Project Objectives:**

1. Ensure that by the end of 2005 the number of primary school children, from the disadvantaged and/or incursion/curfew prone areas (i.e. In and around the districts of Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, Rafah, ), have access to remedial teaching increases from 230,000 to 400,000.
2. Ensure that primary enrollment does not drop below 95% and that drop-out rates do not exceed 1.5%.

**Major Strategies:**

1. Through provision of self-learning worksheets, teacher/parent manuals, children receive quality education under disrupted situation and environment.
2. Utilize education technology as complementary means to provide basic education to every school age child.
3. Conduct training programme on CFS concepts to teachers, parents and education administrators to improve quality of learning.
4. Through advocacy campaign, to mobilize all possible supports and resources to make learning meaningful in a more child friendly learning environment.

**Major Activities:**

1. Develop and produce relevant teaching and learning materials.
2. Assist newly established teacher training center by MOEHE and improve the quality of teachers through in-service training.
3. Develop and implement extra school curriculum and activities.
4. Conduct assessment on the developed teaching and learning materials such as remedial education worksheets.
5. Procure and provide education materials including stationary items to those disadvantaged children to realize the EFA goals.
6. Strengthen school retention and reduce dropout rates through close monitoring and evaluation.

**Major Partners:**

- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- UNRWA
- UNESCO
- Local NGOs such as Tamer Institute, Popular Art Center, Canaan Institute
- Municipalities
- Local Radio and T.V stations

**Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Number of primary school children, from disadvantaged and/or areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron), having access to remedial teaching.
- ✓ Primary enrollment rate and drop-out rate.

**Promoting Learning in Child Friendly Environments  
Project Two: Education for Life / Part 1- Child-Friendly Schools****Project Objective:**

1. Ensure that the number of primary school children attending a child-friendly school environment increases from 25,000 to 60,000 by the end of 2005.
2. Ensure access to opportunities for psychosocial interventions (creative activities, learning of social skills, self-expression, fun, remedial teaching) to at least 40,000 underprivileged (i.e. Poor, living in remote areas) primary school age children from the areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron).

**Major strategies:**

1. Support 30 child friendly schools (per year) and ensure child friendly status is maintained.
2. Assist the MOEHE in developing standards and indicators for Child Friendly schools based on the National CFS survey.
3. Advocate CFS concepts to/with key policy makers, school principles, educators, community leaders and parents.
4. Establish safe play areas and provide regular training to school teachers and counselors.

**Major Activities:**

1. Supply assistance to designated Child Friendly schools.
2. Conduct in-service training programme to teachers and administrators from designated Child-Friendly schools.
3. Assist MOEHE in developing monitoring and evaluation tools for Child Friendly school.
4. Train monitors to evaluate assistance to Child Friendly schools and conduct evaluation.
5. Supply assistance and training of teachers in psychosocial interventions.

**Major Partners:**

- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- UNRWA.
- UNESCO
- Local radio and T.V stations
- Local NGOS such as Tamer Institute, Center for Popular Art, Canaan Institute
- National Plan of Action for Children (NPA)

**Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Number of primary school children attending a child-friendly school.
- ✓ Number of underprivileged primary school age children from Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, Gaza and Rafah having access to psycho-social relief.

**Promoting Learning in Child Friendly Environment**  
**Project Two: Education for Life / Part 2-Life Skills Based Education****Project Objective:**

1. Ensure that by the end of 2005 all children enrolled in grade 5 have access to gender sensitive life skills based education.

**Major Strategies:**

1. Support the efforts of the MOEHE to finalize the mainstreaming of life skills based education within the grade 5 national curriculum through training of 2,500 teachers in Life Skills Based Education, delivery of stationary and educational materials, as well as supporting an evaluation of life skills based education.
2. Explore with MOEHE opportunities to expand life skills for children outside the school system.

**Major Activities**

1. Assist MOEHE to develop gender sensitive life skills based education curriculum content.
2. Train teachers on the integration of Life Skills Based Education in the curriculum.
3. Procure and provide necessary stationary items and education materials to schools where LSBE is introduced.

**Major Partners:**

- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- UNRWA.
- UNESCO
- Palestine Broadcasting Corporation
- Local NGOs such as Tamer, Canaan, Popular Art Centre

**Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Percentage of children enrolled in grades 5 having access to life skills based education.

## **Programme: Development and Participation of Adolescents**

### **Programme objectives:**

The objectives of the programme are to contribute to:

1. Improve specific legislation and policies for adolescents based on operational research.
2. Increase opportunities for adolescents to participate in, and to influence, community development through structures such as youth clubs, children municipal councils, child parliaments, and adolescents lead small scale projects.
3. Reach adolescents, parents, teachers and policy makers with key messages on adolescents' needs and rights, and to involve them in adolescent lead activities.
4. Assisting adolescents in acquiring life skills that will enable them to adopt healthy life styles, both physically and psychosocially.

### **Indicators for programme success:**

- ✓ A National Youth Policy is developed and adopted.
- ✓ Existence of Children Municipal Councils in the incursion/curfew prone towns (Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, Rafah, Khan Younis) operating according to a set of verifiable criteria.
- ✓ % of Palestinians 12 years and older that can cite at least 3 out of 5 key messages on adolescents needs and rights.
- ✓ Number of underprivileged adolescents aged 12-18 years from incursion/curfew prone and other disadvantaged areas having participated in summer camps offering creative activities, social skills, self expression and fun.
- ✓ Number of adolescents who participated in "sports for development" activities in incursion/curfew prone areas in the districts of Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin, Hebron, Rafah and Khan Younis.

### **Programme components:**

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#### **Components of the Development and Participation of Adolescents Programme**

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**Project One**                      A Society for Adolescents

**Project Two**                      Skills for Life

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<b>Development and Participation of Adolescents</b> <b>Project One: A Society for Adolescents</b>
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**Project Objectives:**

1. Ensure the adoption of a National Youth Policy.
2. Ensure the establishment of Children Municipal Councils in the areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron), operating according to a set of verifiable criteria by the end of 2005.
3. Ensure that the percentage of adolescents aged 12-18 years in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron), having access to Youth Clubs offering activities relevant to their age group increases from less than 10% to 20% for both boys and girls by the end of 2005.
4. Ensure that the percentage of Palestinians of 12 years and above that can cite at least 3 out of 5 key messages regarding adolescents rights increases from less than 10 percent in 2003 to 25 percent by the end of 2005.
5. Ensure that the percentage of adolescents aged 12-18 years that can cite at least 3 out of 5 measures for the prevention of HIV/AIDS increase from less than 10 percent in 2003 to 25 per cent by the end of 2005.

**Major Strategies:**

1. Technical assistance to support the development, promotion and adoption of the National Youth Policy
2. Creating organizational structures that allow adolescents to influence the decisions that affect their lives and contribute to community development by implementing adolescent led small scale projects
3. Activating existing youth clubs and capacity building of staff of youth clubs to provide gender sensitive activities that enhance development, participation and empowerment of adolescents
4. Linkage to media channels to promote key messages on adolescents needs and rights targeting parents, teachers, decision makers and adolescents
5. Changing attitudes of parents, decision makers and caregivers on the capacities of adolescents as partners in decision making

**Major Activities:**

1. Develop and disseminate National Youth Policy including a plan of action for the implementation of the policy through workshops, printing and distribution of policy.
2. Adoption by key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the youth sector of the National Youth Policy and integration into their sector plans by supporting workshops and providing technical assistance.
3. Establish Children Municipal Councils in the areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron), operating according to a set of verifiable criteria through technical support, workshops and training.
4. Train staff of youth clubs on the planning, implementation and evaluation of adolescent's

projects as per adolescent's needs and concerns.

5. Procure supplies for youth clubs.
6. Train adolescents in life skills and management skills that enable them to implement adolescent led small scale projects.
7. Create media programmes promoting awareness on key messages of adolescent's rights and needs.

### **Major Partners:**

- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Planning /NPA-Secretariat
- Ministries of Health, Education and Higher Education, Labour, and Social Affairs
- Ministry of Local Governance
- Municipality of Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Hebron, Rafah, Khan Younis
- Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation
- Union of Palestinian Youth
- Youth clubs
- PYALARA
- UNFPA
- WHO
- UNDP
- UNESCO
- UNRWA

### **Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Adoption of national policy for adolescents and youth
- ✓ Existence of Children Municipal councils in the areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron), operating according to a set of verifiable criteria
- ✓ Percentage of adolescents aged 12-18 years in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron), having access to Youth Clubs offering activities relevant to their age group
- ✓ Percentage of Palestinians of 12 years and above that can cite at least 3 out of 5 key messages regarding adolescents rights
- ✓ Percentage of adolescents aged 12-18 years that can cite at least 3 out of 5 measures for the prevention of HIV/AIDS

<b>Development and Participation of Adolescents</b> <b>Project Two: Skills for Life</b>
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**Project Objectives:**

1. Ensure that by the end of 2005 all children enrolled in grades 10-11 have access to gender-sensitive life skills based education.
2. Ensure access to summer camps offering creative activities, social skills, self expression and fun, to at least 10,000 underprivileged adolescents aged 12-18 years annually from areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron) and other disadvantaged areas.
3. Ensure the participation of 9,000 adolescents aged 12-18 years (50% girls) in “sports for development” activities in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron), by the end of 2005.

**Major Strategies:**

1. Integration of life skills based education into the newly developed Palestinian curricula of grades 10 and 11.
2. Training of teachers in life skills based education in the MOEHE.
3. Supporting MOEHE in promoting summer camps and sports activities for the development and participation of adolescents and specifically for girls.

**Major Activities:**

1. Inclusion of life skills based education lessons into the new Palestinian curricula of grades 10 and 11.
2. Training of teachers of grades 10 and 11 on life skills based education.
3. Training of sports teachers on how to use sports for development of adolescents.
4. Support sporting competitions organized by student sports committees at the school and district level.
5. Training of summer camp facilitators on facilitation skills, life skills and management skills as per the National Declaration on Summer Camps.
6. Support the implementation of adolescent summer camps that provide the opportunity for the adolescents to develop, participate and play.

**Major Partners:**

- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- National Committee on Summer Camps
- NPA- Secretariat
- Women’s Psychosocial Centre, UPMRC, Ma’an Training Center, Union of Youth Clubs and others
- Palestinian Volleyball Federation
- International Volleyball Federation
- UNFPA

- UNDP
- UNRWA

**Indicators for verification of achievement:**

- ✓ Percentage of children enrolled in grades 10-11 with access to gender sensitive life skills based education.
- ✓ Number of underprivileged adolescents aged 12-18 years from areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron) and other disadvantaged areas having participated in summer camps offering creating activities, social skills, self expression and fun
- ✓ Number of adolescents who participated in sports activities in areas most affected by closures/curfews and incursions (i.e. in and around the districts of Gaza, Rafah, Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron).

## ARTICLE 7: Programme Budget

### Summary budget table<sup>1</sup>

	<i>(in thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>2004/2005</i>	<i>2004/2005</i>	<i>2004/2005</i>
<i>Programme</i>	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other Resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Promoting and Monitoring Children and Women's Rights	470	1,560	2,030
2. Early Childhood Care for Survival, Growth, and Development	590	2,790	3,380
3. Promoting Learning in Child-friendly Environments	216	2,230	2,446
4. Development and Participation of Adolescents	120	920	1,040
5. Cross-sectoral costs	304	100	404
Total	1,700	7,600	9,300

These figures do not include resources that might be received through Emergency Appeals, which in the case of the Occupied Palestinian Territory amounted to about US\$ 3.8 million in 2003. The UNICEF portion of the 2003 UN Humanitarian Plan of Action for the Occupied Palestinian Territory makes an appeal for \$13 million.

## ARTICLE 8: Programme Management

The Ministry of Planning will continue to be the focal point in the Palestinian Authority (PA) for the PA-UNICEF Programme of Cooperation. The Ministry is responsible for coordinating the consultation on the preparation and endorsement of the Country Programme Document (CPD), the Master Plan of Operations (MPO) and the Annual Programme Plan of Action.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Planning will continue to be the focal points in the Palestinian Authority (PA) for the PA-UNICEF Programme of Cooperation. Both Ministries are responsible for coordinating the consultation on the preparation of the Country Programme Document (CPD). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for endorsement of the Country Programme Document (CPD) and the Master Plan of Operations (MPO) while the Ministry of Planning is responsible for endorsing the Annual Programme Plan of Action

A major difference between the 2001-2003 CPD and MPO and the 2004-2005 CPD and MPO is the comprehensive four-country approach by which the area programme encompasses a full response to the needs of all Palestinian children in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and OPT. Another unique feature of the new programme is its geographic focus in implementation and programme delivery through the six newly established zonal offices in West Bank and Gaza.

Responsibilities for the implementation monitoring and reporting on progress of programmes in each of the four countries will be that of respective UNICEF Representatives. However, through a series of frequent consultations, the Special Representative in Jerusalem, who chairs the

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<sup>1</sup> The amounts are estimates which will depend on the availability of UNICEF global resources and specific-purpose contributions from funding partners.

Regional Management Team Palestine Group, will coordinate the overall programme monitoring and reporting. He/she will also coordinate efforts in fundraising in support of the programmes.

It is planned to hold Annual Programme Reviews during the last quarter of each year of the programme cycle. A Mid-Term Programme Review (MTR) will be conducted at the end of 2004. Regular consultations with bilateral and multilateral organizations will be held within the Sectoral Working Group as well as the Operational Coordinating Group (OCG). An effective system of programme management and monitoring will be established to harmonize the programme responsibilities and processes between Jerusalem and the zonal offices to ensure that the PA at the central level as well as partners at the governorate and district levels are fully supported in implementing, monitoring and reporting on programmes. The outcome of field visits and major findings of programme evaluations and studies will feed into the MTR to make necessary adjustments to the programme orientation.

For each programme, Annual Project Plans of Action will be developed based on the recommendations from the Annual Review, the objectives of the two-year programme and the ICPD. To ensure optimal participation and commitment, these project plans will be first discussed and agreed upon between UNICEF and lead implementing Palestinian ministries. The Minister of Planning and UNICEF will endorse the PPA by formal signing of each programme plan.

#### **ARTICLE 9: Coordination with Development Partners**

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the programme will be implemented through co-operation between the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning and UNICEF. Line ministries will be the main partners in planning and implementing projects. UNICEF will continue to work with community-based organisations, and Palestinian and international NGOs.

UNRWA will remain a significant UNICEF partner, and other strong partnerships will continue with UNSCO, UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, OCHA and the World Bank.

Fundraising will play a pivotal role in the Programme of Co-operation. Our largest donors in 2001-2003 have been the Canadian government (CIDA) and the American government (USAID). These partnerships will be continue during the 2004-2006 Programme of Co-operation along with existing partnerships with United Nations Foundation, AGFUND, Saudi Arabia, various Natcoms, AusAid, the Italian Co-operation and governments of Japan, Ireland, New Zealand and the groundwork for establishing a framework for a Protocol of Cooperation with AGFUND was made in 2002. New opportunities will be explored to cover unfunded activities within areas of Child Protection and Adolescents.

#### **ARTICLE 10: Monitoring and Evaluation**

Objectives and indicators have been formulated and will be the basis for the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plans (IMEP). The annual IMEPs will also identify research, studies, surveys and evaluations that the programme will undertake. The programme will also assist in strengthening the national monitoring systems that will integrate these indicators.

An Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (IMEP) will be prepared to identify research, studies, surveys and evaluations that the programme will undertake.

A number of objectives and key indicators have been identified in the four Programmes. These will be further refined and sharpened within each programme in order to be included in annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plans, which will guide the Programme of Co-operation. These Annual Monitoring and Evaluation plans will spell out the key indicators that will be used in order to *monitor the progress* of the Programme of Co-operation, but also roll out necessary research, studies, surveys and evaluations according to the IMEP.

Another set of indicators will be developed with the assistance of the Programme of Co-operation aimed at monitoring the situation of children in Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Programme of Co-operation will also assist in strengthening the national monitoring system which will provide information on these indicators. The reporting of these indicators will not only be used for improving the target and design of specific programmes and projects, but also for advocacy purposes. If necessary, specific indicators will be included in order to monitor progress towards the targets identified in UNICEF's Medium Term Strategic Plan.

A monitoring system for the Programme of Co-operation will include the IMEP and the Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Plans, but also regular field trips and timely progress reports from governmental and non-governmental counterparts. The Annual Reviews will assist in highlighting priority monitoring and evaluation needs, which together with the two year IMEP will feed in to annual IMEPs.

The establishing of 5 additional Zonal Offices in Jenin, Tulkarem, Nablus, Hebron, and Rafah (in addition to the existing Zonal Office in Gaza City) with its extended geographic focus, as agreed upon in the May 2003 PBR, forms another cornerstone in UNICEF's monitoring and evaluation programme. Offering the benefits of ongoing situation analysis and monitoring of programme activities in locations with protracted curfews and closures, these offices will continue assessing the impact of the Programme of Cooperation throughout 2003 and 2004.

Within the 2004-2005 Country Programme Management Plan, UNICEF has made provisions for the creation of a new post "Planning and Monitoring Officer" at a L-4 level, which will serve as a focal point for monitoring and evaluation of the overall programme. This officer will be responsible for identifying needs for strengthening national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and institutions.

#### ARTICLE 11: Commitments of UNICEF

The UNICEF Executive Board has approved a total commitment not exceeding the equivalent of US\$ 1.7 million from UNICEF Regular Resources subject to availability of funds, to support the activities in OPT detailed in this Master Plan of Operations, for the period beginning 01 January 2004 and ending 31 December 2005.

The UNICEF Executive Board has also authorized UNICEF to seek additional funding to support the programmes specified in this Master Plan of Operations, referred therein as Other Resources, to an amount equivalent to US\$ 7.6 million. The availability of these funds will be subject to donor interest in proposed projects. To this end, UNICEF will undertake to advocate their support within local and international donor community.

The above funding commitments and proposals are exclusive of funding received in response to emergency appeals, which may be launched by Government or by the United Nations System in response to a Government request.

UNICEF support to the development and implementation of activities within the Master Plan of Operations may include technical support cash assistance, supplies and equipment, procurement services on behalf of the government, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of UNICEF support may be provided to Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual programmes.

UNICEF shall appoint project staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, UNICEF funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Master Plan of Operations. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the annual Project Plans of Action. By mutual consent between the PA and UNICEF, if the rate of implementation in any project is substantially below the annual estimates, funds not earmarked to UNICEF for specific projects may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile projects that are expected to achieve faster rates of execution.

UNICEF will consult with ministries and agencies concerned on timely requisition of cash assistance, supplies and equipment or services. UNICEF will keep concerned officials informed of the movement of commodities, in order to facilitate efficient and timely clearing, warehousing and distribution.

In consultation with the PA Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Planning UNICEF maintains the right to request a joint review of the use of commodities supplied but not used for the purposes specified in this Master Plan of Operations and annual Project Plans of Action, for the purpose of reprogramming those commodities within the framework of the MPO.

## ARTICLE 12: Commitments of the Government

The Government represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs will provide all personnel, supplies, technical assistance and funds, recurring and non-recurring support, necessary for the programme, except as provided by UNICEF and/or the private sector, other United Nations agencies, international organizations or bilateral agencies, or non-governmental organizations.

The Government will support UNICEF's efforts to raise funds required to meet the financial needs of the Programme of Cooperation and will cooperate with UNICEF by: encouraging potential donor government to make available to UNICEF the funds needed to implement the unfunded components of the programme; endorsing UNICEF's effort to raise funds for the programme from the private sector both internationally and in OPT; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in OPT to support this programme which will be tax exempt.

No taxes, fees, tolls or duties shall be levied on supplies, equipment, or services furnished by UNICEF under this Master Plan of Operations. UNICEF shall also be exempt from Value Added Tax (VAT) in respect of local procurement of supplies or services procured in support of UNICEF assisted programmes.

With respect to cash assistance from UNICEF, the Government shall designate the names, titles and account details of recipients authorized to receive such assistance. Responsible officials will use cash assistance in accordance with Government regulations and UNICEF regulations and rules, in particular ensuring that cash is expended against prior approved budgets and ensuring that full reports on proper use of Cash Assistance to Government is submitted to UNICEF within four months after receipt of the funds. Any balance of funds not used or which could not be used according to the original plan shall be reprogrammed by mutual consent between the PA and UNICEF. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations System (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

The Government shall facilitate periodic visits and observations of programme activities for UNICEF officials for the purpose of monitoring the end use of programme assistance, assessing progress and collecting information for programme/project development, monitoring and evaluation.

When organizing periodic programme review and planning meetings, including annual reviews, annual planning meetings and the Mid-Term Review, the PA shall encourage and facilitate the participation of donors, United Nations agencies, members of the UNICEF Executive Board, non-governmental organization or civil society organizations, as appropriate.

The PA will authorize the publication through various national and international media of the results of the Programme of Cooperation, and experiences derived therefrom.

As per the Agreement between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed in 1994 which provides UNICEF the opportunity to implement the programme within the UN system the PA will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against UNICEF and its officials, advisors and agents. UNICEF and its officials, advisors and agents will not be held responsible for any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under this agreement, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and UNICEF that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of such advisors, agents or employees.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the PA shall insure or indemnify UNICEF from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of project vehicles under the control of or use by the Government.

## ARTICLE 13: Final Provisions

This Master Plan of Operations shall supersede any previously signed Master Plan of Operations and become effective upon signature, but will be understood to cover programme activities to be implemented during the period from 01 January 2004 through 31 December 2005.

The Master Plan of Operations may be modified by mutual consent of the Government and UNICEF, based on the outcome of the annual reviews, the Mid Term Review or compelling circumstances.

Nothing in this master Plan of Operations shall in any way be construed to waive the protection of UNICEF accorded by the contents and substance of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Master Plan of Operations on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2004** in Ramallah, Occupied Palestinian Territory.

For the Palestinian Authority

For the United Nations Children's Fund

Dr. Nabil Shaath, Minister  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

David S. Bassiouni  
UNICEF Special Representative

Date: 5 February 2004

Date: 5 February 2004