

Highlights of the Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council

(E/2011/6 - E/ICEF/2011/3)

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Introduction

- **Prepared in compliance with GA resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR), and UNICEF Executive Board decisions 1995/5 and 2009/2. Also prepared in close consultation with UNDP and UNFPA.**
- **The Report provides analysis of progress towards MTSP results for children and women as well as UNICEF's contributions to achieving MDGs with Equity, with sister UN agencies, in the TCPR framework.**
- **All of the 90 UNICEF TCPR Action Plan commitments are now completed or underway.**

Funding for Operational Activities

- **4 per cent drop in UNICEF annual income in 2009 due to reduced core and non-core contributions.**
- **Proportion of core/regular resources to total resources was only 32.7% in 2009, compared to 38% in 2006, the first year of MTSP.**
- **Notable 16% increase in income from Pooled funds and Inter-organizational arrangements.**
- **Efforts increased to enhance strategic partnerships with emerging donors, global public-private partnership programmes and Bretton Woods Institutions.**

Strategic Partnerships

- **As of mid-2009, UNICEF is a formal member of 77 Global Programme Partnerships. UNICEF plays a governance role in 42 of these partnerships, and in 5 either hosts the partnership secretariat or provides secretariat / coordination services.**
- **Cooperation increased with the World Bank in crisis and post-crisis countries and with the Bank and IMF on the impact of economic recession on vulnerable children and families.**
- **UNICEF also strengthened its work with Civil Society, including faith-based organizations, sports agencies, international non-governmental and community-based organizations.**

Capacity Development (CD)

- **The approach of UNICEF to Capacity Development is based on the UNDG common approach. It addresses gaps and disparities related to the realization of the rights of children and women in development and humanitarian contexts (see *Oral report, E/ICEF/2010/ CRP.20*) .**
- **A more systematic, holistic approach to CD is sought through enhanced UNICEF capacity, programme guidance and support.**
- **Ensuring adequate and equitable focus on the most vulnerable children and women by addressing capacity gaps.**
- **Strengthening monitoring of capacities and more effectively evaluating and sharing lessons from CD initiatives, together with UN and other partners.**

South-South Cooperation (SSC)

- **UNICEF has more systematically contributed to SSC through improved guidance to staff, more systematic reporting and the fostering of learning and understanding of good practices.**
- **Promoted the exchange of learning and the sharing of knowledge, including the dissemination of lessons learned and good practices (e.g. experience on social cash transfer programming in 79 countries).**
- **Increased ability to convene Southern and inter-regional partners on issues related to children.**

Transition from relief to development

- **Played a key role in advocating for and developing a long-term vision for recovery and reconstruction in Haiti.**
- **Support provided to national recovery planning in the aftermath of crises in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere.**
- **Supported early recovery approaches in more than 60 countries through cluster leadership.**
- **Strengthening our role in reducing risk, including disaster risk reduction and peacebuilding globally**

Gender mainstreaming

- **Following revision of the Gender Policy, focus on a comprehensive 3-year Strategic Priority Action Plan (2010-2012) for the promotion of gender mainstreaming and gender equality results.**
- **Launched a joint UNICEF/UNDP Community of Practice on Gender to facilitate the exchange and acquisition of knowledge.**
- **Enhanced organizational capacity for mainstreaming gender equality through Gender Reviews of Country Programmes, Gender Equity Marker to track resource allocations and expenditures towards gender equality results, and cross-regional exchanges.**
- **Supported UN-Women through staff support for initial work and discussions on potential high priority areas of cooperation.**
- **Partner in the UN Adolescent Girls Task Force on “Accelerating Efforts to Advance the Rights of Adolescent Girls”.**

Coherence, effectiveness and relevance of operational activities

- **Contributed extensively to guidelines for and the roll out of a new generation of UNDAFs, joint funding arrangements/MDTFs, simplification and harmonization of business processes and joint programming.**
- **Worked closely with UN sister agencies to increase impact and coherence through the new UNDG strategic priorities and contributions to the RC System.**
- **Issued a comprehensive Guide on UN Coherence for field staff.**
- **Supported UNDG-HLCM High-level Mission on Business Practices and followed up on recommendations.**

Evaluation of operational activities

- **Quality reviews of all completed evaluations were undertaken and findings shared with originating offices.**
- **The biennial MTSP evaluation plan 2010-2011 of 15 strategic evaluations was adopted; 9 are underway.**
- **Provided technical support to the methodology used and conduct of the country-led evaluations, which were presented at the High-level Tripartite Conference on Delivering as One.**
- **New guidance on how to prioritize major evaluations was disseminated at all levels; significant investments were made in the Evaluation Community of Practice.**

Follow-up to international conferences

- Engaged with G-8 and G-20 at the policy level to ensure the priority issues of the poorest children and women are addressed ... including work with Government of Canada in developing the G8 Muskoka Maternal & Child Health Initiative.
- Held Copenhagen Children's Climate Forum and follow-up for broader youth engagement as "Climate Ambassadors".
- Supported XVIII International AIDS Conference to leverage HIV responses for children and women and securing a generation of children free of AIDS.
- Led the preparation of 7 UNDG inter-agency Thematic Papers to the GA High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs.
- Contributed to "*Keeping the Promise*" and UNDG follow-up.¹¹