

## **UNICEF Executive Board special focus session on the collaboration between the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNICEF**

Wednesday, 9 February 2011 – 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Every year, some 8 million young children die of preventable causes. These unacceptable deaths, including those caused by malaria and HIV/AIDS, can and must be avoided.

To achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNICEF and its United Nations partners are working together in support of country-led health plans, in order to integrate services, increase access to affordable packages of life-saving health interventions and strengthen health systems with sufficient skilled health workers at their core.

This requires coordinated support to countries, which includes collaboration with organizations, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNITAID and the GAVI Alliance. The partnership between UNICEF and the Global Fund continues to be a vital element of UNICEF's efforts to achieve the MDGs. The organizational goals of UNICEF converge with those of the Global Fund, leading to actions that are complementary.

Since the creation of the Global Fund in 2002, donors have pledged more than \$30 billion, with 95 per cent coming from public donors. Almost a billion dollars (\$948 million) in contributions have been provided by corporate partners, private foundations and through innovative financing mechanisms. The Global Fund has approved more than \$20 billion in funding for more than 600 programmes in 150 countries. To date, programmes financed by the Global Fund have saved 6.5 million lives by providing AIDS treatment for 3 million people and anti-tuberculosis treatment for 7.7 million people and through the distribution of 160 million insecticide-treated bed nets for the prevention of malaria.

UNICEF and the Global Fund have maintained a close partnership, globally, regionally and at the country level. UNICEF's engagement with the Global Fund is multifaceted with the organization playing an important role in all stages of the Global Fund grant life-cycle, from providing assistance to countries in preparing their proposals for funding to supporting the implementation of activities: active participation in Global Fund country coordinating mechanisms (a member in 60 countries); procuring commodities (to 43 countries, valued at \$150 million in 2010, as well as 23 cases in support of UNDP as Principal Recipient); contributing to reporting country-level results; being a Sub-Recipient of funding in 10 countries and, in two cases, the Principal Recipient.

Globally, there has been joint advocacy on issues such as prevention of vertical transmission and scaling-up efforts to control and prevent malaria. Hundreds of UNICEF staff members provide significant time and the organization provides financial resources in support of Global Fund grant applications and implementation.

The special focus session is part of the process to inform the Executive Board on the steps UNICEF is taking to achieve the MDGs. The session will start with presentations by the Executive Director of the Global Fund, Mr. Michel Kazatchkine, and by UNICEF Executive Director Mr. Anthony Lake, in which they will outline the collaboration between the two organisations. Following the presentations, there will be an extended discussion, offering an opportunity for Executive Board members to ask questions.

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