

THE INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM ON CHILDREN AND HIV AND AIDS

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO) called for the creation of an inter agency task team (IATT) on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in March 2001. UNICEF was requested to convene a meeting with UNAIDS cosponsors and key partner organizations to discuss how to ensure that more orphans and other vulnerable children receive protection, care and support. The IATT was expected to determine goals, targets and indicators; identify key strategies for scale up; agree on principles to guide programming; and discuss the roles and contributions of UN agencies and other organizations¹

To better reflect the challenges facing orphans and other children made vulnerable by AIDS, the IATT members agreed in October 2004 to support a name change from “orphans and vulnerable children to “children and HIV and AIDS”); It also decided to expand its membership beyond the UN, and further specify the IATT’s terms of reference². In light of the recommendations of the Global Partners Forum 2004 IATT terms of reference were revised and a workplan was drawn up.

During its meeting in London in May 2006 the IATT identified several key activities for follow up, most of them based on the recommendations of the February 2005 GPF. Working Groups on different follow up actions were established and an IATT Steering Committee was formed to increase the involvement and ownership of IATT members and to ensure continuity.³. The Terms of Reference of the IATT on Children and HIV and AIDS were updated in light of the agreements made at the 2006 IATT.

Scope of Work

The IATT will provide a forum for supporting a coordinated, accelerated and expanded evidence based response to protect and promote the rights of children affected by HIV and AIDS. The work of the IATT will be guided by recommendations from the Global Partners Forum. Its goals will be consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS by the High-Level Meeting on AIDS in 2006 as well as the targets of the *Unite for Children Unite against AIDS Campaign*

¹ IATT on OVC – report to the CCO, October 2001

² The Inter-Agency Task Team on Children and HIV/AIDS, Terms of Reference, 18 May 2005

³ UNICEF, Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Team, on Children and HIV and AIDS, May 15-16, London – Report, July 2006

Specific objectives of the IATT are to:

- Promote coordination and harmonization of policy guidance and programming;
- Advocate, both internally and externally for accelerated implementation of evidence based interventions;
- Promote the development and sharing of technical and programming information .
- Support and broaden networking and collaboration

Membership

The IATT will consist of representatives from UNAIDS co-sponsors, donors, NGOs and other organisations that play a significant role in the international response to the needs and rights of children affected by HIV and AIDS. Participating agencies are encouraged to bring the views of their country-based partners to these meetings, and to the extent possible to ensure continuity in their choice of representative.

Structure

The IATT will meet once a year. Communications between meetings will be through email. IATT activities will be conducted and managed through Working Groups with a designated facilitator.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee will be responsible for the coordination of the work of the IATT and monitor the work and performance of the Working Groups. The Steering Committee will be responsible for the organization of the Global Partners Forum and the Task Team meetings. It will hold quarterly teleconference calls and meet as needed.

Members of the Steering Committee will include:

- The Working Group facilitators
- One representative from UNICEF (also IATT secretariat)
- PLUS where there are fewer than 2 representatives of each constituency group (UN agencies, bi/multi-lateral donors, and NGOs), an additional representative from that constituency group.

See annex 1 for an example of what this would mean for the 2006 Steering Committee composition.

Secretariat

UNICEF will act as the IATT secretariat which will facilitate communication between Steering Committee members, Working Groups, IATT members and external institutions or individuals.

Membership of the Steering Committee will be for one year with possibility of extension

Working Groups

The IATT can set up Working Groups to implement and coordinate specific, time bound activities on behalf of the IATT. IATT members can volunteer to be a member of one or more of the Working Groups.

The IATT will identify a facilitator for each Working group. The facilitator will be responsible for submitting an annual workplan for achieving the outcomes of the Working Group in consultation with group members for approval by the Steering Committee. The facilitator will coordinate the implementation of the workplan and be responsible for providing regular updates on progress to the Steering Committee and during the annual IATT meeting.

Links with other IATTs

Coordination and information sharing with other related IATTs, (young people and HIV/AIDS, education, PMTCT, etc) will be encouraged and representatives from other IATTs may be invited to meetings of the IATT on Children and HIV and AIDS.

Funding

UNICEF will assume funding responsibility for convening the annual IATT meetings as part of its global mandate. Member organisations may be asked to provide financial contributions as and when needed and in particular to support the work of the Working Groups.

Work Plan

Annual, time bound outcomes, outputs and activities will be agreed during the annual meetings.

Annex 1: Steering Committee members for Period from July 2006 –2007 IATT meeting

Constituency	Organization
1. Secretariat	UNICEF
2. Working Group Communities' role in the response	World Bank, DFID or OGAC (to be decided by Working Group)
3. Working Group Social Protection package	ILO
4. Working Group National Plans of Action (NPA)	UK OVC Working Group
5. Working Group Global Fund	Global AIDS alliance
6. One additional Multi/Bilateral donor representative	To be chosen by multi/bilateral members of IATT
TOTAL	6