

Second Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children

Report of Meeting on 12 November 2002

Background

The UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organisations (CCO) called for the creation of an Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children in March 2001. UNICEF is the convenor of this Task Team, which is comprised of UNAIDS Cosponsors and key partner organisations. The first meeting of the IATT was held in August 2001 and subsequently a report was submitted by the IATT and endorsed by the CCO (October 2001), which highlighted goals, targets, and indicators; identified key strategies for scaled up UN system support with and for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS; agreed upon principles to guide programming for OVC; and the roles and contributions of UN agencies and partner organizations.

The second meeting of this IATT was also convened as a *thematic consultation on Orphans and other Vulnerable Children for the Unified Budget and Workplan (UBW) 2004-5*, a new feature of the UBW development process.

The meeting took place on 12 November 2002 at UNICEF headquarters, in New York, and was attended by representatives of *UNICEF, UNAIDS Secretariat, UNDP, UNFPA, World Food Programme, Save the Children Alliance / Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI), USAID, USAID/Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF) and The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)*.

The principal purpose of the meeting was to establish a consensus on the main programme priorities for OVC; assign responsibilities to support expanded actions; and identify what the gaps are, in order to move forward efforts to reach the UNGASS goals on OVC.

This report presents the main conclusions and key recommendations of the IATT on OVC. The meeting agenda, and list of participants are also attached.

Goals

The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS calls for an unprecedented UN system collaborative response. It also sets measurable goals and targets to guide this expanded response to the pandemic. Specifically, the UNGASS goals for children orphaned and made vulnerable children by HIV/AIDS:

“By 2003, develop and by 2005 implement national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to provide a supportive environment for orphans and girls and boys infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, including by providing appropriate counseling and psychosocial support, ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children; and protect orphans and vulnerable children from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, trafficking and loss of inheritance;

Ensure non-discrimination and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights through the promotion of an active and visible policy of de-stigmatisation of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS;

Urge the international community, particularly donor countries, civil society, as well as the private sector, to complement effectively national programmes to support programmes for children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in affected regions and in countries at high risk and to direct special assistance to sub-Saharan Africa”

Introduction

Mark Stirling opened the meeting by emphasising the challenges and difficulties of working in the area of orphans and other vulnerable children, especially since we are talking about children’s lives falling apart, which includes the loss of love and care. He underlined the importance of the UNGASS goals and that they address all of the key needs of orphans and other vulnerable children.

He also emphasised that we have a normative framework in the area of OVC, including overarching goals, strategies and principles to guide programming, and the partnerships in place to move forward. The challenges, he said, are that these in themselves have not significantly improved the quantity and quality of support for children.

Finally, Mark emphasised that the focus of efforts and actions should be to scale up existing programmes (with quality) and that the goal of the meeting should be focussing on what to do next, in 2003 and 2004-5.

He also highlighted 4 challenges:

1. Mobilising **leadership**, particularly at the local level, on care and support for families.
2. Building up organisational **capacities** among NGOs, FBOs, service providers and other grass-roots organisations.
3. **Resource mobilisation**, both at the global level and at the community level.
4. **Monitoring** and reporting our work and progress, so that we can learn from the past and measure success.

Presentation on Africa Leadership Consultation – Urgent Action for Children on the Brink

Mark Connolly made a brief presentation of highlights from the Africa Leadership Consultation – Urgent Action for Children on the Brink, convened by UNICEF and UNAIDS, and held in Johannesburg, in September [*presentation available*]. After the presentation there was a suggestion of creating a common slide show for all the partners that could be widely distributed.

Taking stock of activities accomplished – or not, since last meeting

This exercise focussed on a review of critical challenges, including indicators and scaling up, methods and modalities that were discussed at the last meeting. A special request was also made to resurrect last year’s issue of focussing on one country for a scaled-up response among IATT members. [refer to previous meeting report for details].

Some of the critical challenges identified in 2001 were met, while many others were not fully accomplished. Details on the review of specific challenges are available. Much of the “unfinished business” was reflected in the discussion on the planning and priorities for 2003 and the 2004-05 UBW, and are included in the 7 consensus priorities.

Discussion on OVC in the context of 2003 and 2004–05 UBW: Priorities and Planning

The entire afternoon session of the meeting was dedicated to developing the following consensus on the main priorities for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children:

1. **Develop a collaborative process to gather evidence (research) on programme implementation effectiveness models.**

Responsible: UNICEF to lead, UNAIDS, USAID, World Bank and other partners.

2. **Expand collaboration on Children on the Brink 2004. Include data of children up to 18 years of age.**

Responsible: UNICEF, USAID, UNAIDS, ILO and World Bank.

3. Strengthen advocacy through presentation materials and tool-kits.

Responsible: UNICEF, UNAIDS, USAID, Informal Technical Donor Group, AFXB, WFP, UNESCO, IFRC, UNAIDS, Save the Children Alliance, HACI, HIV/AIDS Alliance and others.

4. Develop and implement costing of specific programme approaches.

Responsible: USAID to lead, UNICEF, UNAIDS, World Bank, Family Health International, Save the Children Alliance, and HEARD.

5. Develop and implement a collaborative monitoring and evaluation framework to measure progress towards UNGASS Goals. Include indicators, survey instruments, and special studies (i.e. children outside of family care)

Responsible: UNICEF and USAID to lead, UNAIDS, WHO, MERG, and IFRC.

6. Demonstrate serious OVC response scaling-up effort in one or more “expanded partnerships” country.

Responsible: UNICEF and all others.

7. Mobilise and sustain significant scale-up of OVC responses (inclusive of children without family care) by strengthening collaboration and organisational capacity development for long-term management of OVC response processes and programmes at local and national levels.

Responsible: UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, USAID, UNAIDS, WFP, Save the Children Alliance, IFRC, HACI, and HIV/AIDS Alliance.

Conclusions

We agreed upon these seven top priorities, with an overall emphasis on scaling-up OVC responses and maintaining quality. We felt that only serious efforts to pursue these priorities would genuinely enable us to identify the critical gaps. The IATT also recognised that increasing numbers of children without any family care (abandoned HIV+ children, street children, etc....) present some unique challenges that need to be further addressed within these priorities.

These programme priorities are to be reviewed by all members of the IATT and considered in all aspects of programme considerations in 2003 and preparations of the Unified Budget and Workplan 2004-05. Other Inter-Agency Task Teams (such as Care and Support, Education, etc..) should consider these priorities in their respective deliberations and all Cosponsors should indicate their commitment to specific priorities in order to support expanded OVC actions in the UBW 2004-5.

ANNEX 1

Second Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Tuesday 12th November 2002, 9:30-17:30
UNICEF House – 12th Floor Conference Room
3 UN Plaza NY NY

- 9:30** Opening of the meeting, introductions, and adoption of the agenda
- 9:45** Presentation on Africa Leadership Consultation - Urgent Action for Children on the Brink
- 10:45** Taking stock of activities accomplished – or not, since last meeting (review of critical challenges, including indicators and scaling up, methods and modalities. Resurrect last year’s issue of focussing on one country)
- 11:45** Update on follow up to UNGASS
- 12:00** Overview of the UBW preparation process: responsibilities and expectations
- 12:30** Lunch (*brought in*)
- 13:30** Discussion on OVC in the context of 2004 – 2005 UBW: Priorities and Planning
- Updates on roles and contributions of UN Agencies and partners: current involvement and future perspectives
 - Determining the main priorities
 - CoSponsors’ and partner organizations’ responsibilities
 - Critical challenges, gaps, and resources
 - Follow-up activities: Agency’s core budgets and UBW funding for 2004-5
 - Next Steps
- 17:00** Summary and Wrap Up
- 17:30** Close of Meeting

ANNEX 2
Inter-Agency Task Team on Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Participants List

Organisations Invited

All UNAIDS CoSponsors
Displaced Children's and Orphans Fund/USAID
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Save the Children Fund / Hope for African Children Initiative
USAID
World Food Programme
UNAIDS Secretariat

Participants List

Nestor Arias, UNDP
Mark Connolly, UNICEF
Adama Diop-Faye, WFP
Trine Eriksen, UNICEF
David Hughes, IFRC
Aurorita Mendoza, UNAIDS
Roeland Monasch
Judy Polsky, UNICEF
Namposya Serpell, Save the Children Alliance / HACI (Hope for African Children Initiative)
Mark Stirling, UNICEF
Linda Sussman, USAID
John Williamson, Displaced Children's Fund/USAID