Recovery from the global economic slowdown confronts governments everywhere with the challenge of protecting social spending even as fiscal resources remain limited and unemployment persists. This is especially true in developing countries just emerging from the global recession and coping with volatile food prices. In order to ensure that recovery is inclusive and benefits children, women and poor families, these governments will need to take decisive steps in 2010 and beyond to support economic recovery while protecting vital human development programs related to health and education. Haiti represents an extreme case of the threats to child health and development faced by countries emerging from the compounded effects of food price volatility, economic slowdown and natural disaster.

Recovery with a human face requires adequate resources be channelled to effective programs targeting children, women and poor families. This conference will focus on three main policy areas:

1) Ensuring budget transparency and citizen participation and engagement in order to ensure that enough resources are allocated and these are effectively channelled;

2) Implementing robust countercyclical social spending programs in response to crises and to support social services and minimize harm to children;

3) Building and financing child-sensitive social protection systems that address both longer term structural poverty as well as crisis-response.

This meeting brings together development practitioners, researchers and other experts to discuss emerging empirical evidence and deliberate on key policy responses, notably those related to social budgets and public finance policy.

*For further information on this event, please contact the organizers: Darryl McLeod (mcleod@fordham.edu) and Ronald Mendoza (rmendoza@unicef.org).*
Day 1: Children in Crisis: Impact, Challenges and the Role of Social Budgets

LOCATION: Fordham University Lincoln Center, McNally Amphitheater (West 62\textsuperscript{nd} Street and 9\textsuperscript{th} Avenue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30-9:00am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-9:15am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Busch / Msgr. Joseph Quinn / Dr. Stephen Freedman* (Fordham University)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15-9:45am</td>
<td>UNICEF’s Social and Economic Policy Work on Recovery with a Human Face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isabel Ortiz (UNICEF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45-11:15am</td>
<td><strong>Budget Situation and Policy Responses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair: Sophie Mitra (Fordham)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|               | *Social Spending and Social Protection in Times of Crisis: The Philippine Experience*
|               | Cielito Habito (Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development)     |
|               | *Budgets for Children in India: Policy Responses to Disasters and Crises*
|               | Enakshi Ganguly Thukral (HAQ Centre for Child Rights)                    |
|               | *Reaching the Marginalized in the Aftermath of the Global Economic Crisis: Education Challenges in Low Income Countries*
|               | Samer Al-Samarrai (UNESCO)                                               |
|               | Discussants: Shantanu Mukherjee (UNDP); Ali Zafar (World Bank)           |
| 11:15-11:30   | Coffee Break                                                             |
| 11:30-1:00pm  | **Evidence on Crisis Impact**                                             |
|               | Chair: Luis Felipe Lopez Calva (UNDP)                                    |
|               | *The Effect of Aggregate Economic Shocks and Household Health Seeking Behavior*
|               | Karen Grepin (New York University)                                       |
|               | *The Impact of the Increase in Food Prices on Children Poverty and the Policy Response in Mali*
|               | Gustave Nebie (UNICEF Mali)                                              |
|               | *Macro-Micro Modelling of the Economic Crisis Impact: Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Ghana*
|               | Leonardo Menchini and Luca Tiberti (UNICEF Innocenti)                    |
Research Centre)

**Real-time Monitoring Systems and Emerging Evidence from East Asia and the Pacific Islands**
Samman Thapa and Mahesh Patel (UNICEF EAPRO)

Discussants: Subha Mani (Fordham); Jingqing Chai (UNICEF)

1:00-2:30pm Lunch Break

2:30-4:00pm **Policy Options to Help Ensure Recovery with a Human Face**

Chair: Gaspar Fajth (UNICEF)

**Financing Social Protection: Addressing Shocks and Structural Poverty**
Nora Lustig* (Tulane University)

**School Fee Abolition: Preserving Investments in Education**
H.Dean Nielsen (Formerly World Bank, IEG)

**Social Protection in Fiscal Stimulus Packages**
Yanchun Zhang and Nina Thelen (UNDP)

**Innovations in Social Budget Work: Bringing the Public Back into Public Finance**
Ronald Mendoza and Gabriel Vergara (UNICEF)

**A Proposal for a Budget Transparency Norm**
Warren Krafchik, Shaamela Cassiem and Vivek Ramkumar (International Budget Project)

Discussants: Enakshi Ganguly Thukral (HAQ Centre for Child Rights); Cielito Habito (Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development)

4:00-4:30pm Closing Remarks for the Policy Forum (Day 1)

Darryl Mcleod (Fordham) and Ronald Mendoza (UNICEF)
Day 2: A Development Practitioner’s Toolkit on Advancing Child Rights

LOCATION: UNICEF House, Labouisse Hall (East 44th Street, between 1st and 2nd Avenues)

9:00-9:15am Welcome and Background on the UNICEF-EC Toolkit for Child Rights Initiative
   Elizabeth Gibbons (UNICEF)

9:15-9:45am Background on the UNICEF-EC Toolkit for Child Rights Initiative
   Rada Noeva (UNICEF)

9:45-10:00am Video Presentation on Child Rights Participation in Brazil
   Ravi Karkara (UNICEF)

10:00-12:00pm Social Budgeting for Children, Women and the Poor
   Chair: David Stewart (UNICEF)
   Presenter: Radhika Gore (Columbia University)
   Discussants:
   • Jingqing Chai (UNICEF) [Presentation of ODI Input]
   • Vivek Ramkumar (IBP)
   • Enakshi Ganguly Thukral (HAQ)
   • Cielito Habito (Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development)
   • Samman Thapa (UNICEF)

12:00-1:30pm Lunch

1:30-3:30pm Integrating a Child Rights Perspective in Poverty and Social Impact Analysis
   Chair: Jingqing Chai (UNICEF)
   Presenter: Margaret Wachenfeld (UNICEF)
   Discussants:
   • Alberto Minujin (New School)
   • Leonardo Menchini (UNICEF)
   • Namsuk Kim (UNDP)
   • Jennifer Yablonski (UNICEF)

3:30-4:00pm Open Discussion on the EC Toolkit and Synthesis
   Moderator: Daniel Seymour (UNICEF)