Chapter XI

Children, youth and ageing persons

In 2005, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continued its efforts to ensure that every child received the best possible start in life; was fully immunized and protected from disease, including HIV/AIDS, and disability; had access to quality primary school education; and was protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

Further progress was made towards mainstreaming children’s priorities into national policy. Of the 190 countries that had adopted “A world fit for children”—the outcome document of the General Assembly’s 2002 special session on children—at least 172 had taken action on or planned to initiate policies to put the four major goals of the session into practice.

UNICEF’s 2005 income was 40 per cent higher than in 2004, largely due to the significant increase in contributions, mostly from private sources, in response to the late 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the October 2005 earthquake in South Asia. UNICEF completed the final year of its medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) for 2002-2005 under its five organizational priorities. In September, the UNICEF Executive Board approved the MTSP for 2006-2009 with the same focus areas.

In observance of the tenth anniversary of its adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the Assembly, in October, devoted two plenary meetings to evaluating progress in implementing the 10 priority areas identified in the 1995 Programme of Action and the five new concerns recognized in 2003. The plenary meetings, at which many Member States were represented by youth delegates, culminated in the adoption of a resolution that called for strengthened efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

United Nations efforts to implement the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing continued during 2005. In December, the Assembly called on Governments and the UN system to ensure that the challenges of population ageing and the concerns of older persons were adequately incorporated into their programmes and projects.
The report described the strengths and weaknesses in
the special session follow-up process.

Noting that the Plan of Action of “A world fit
for children” emphasized the importance of
monitoring progress towards the adopted goals,
the report stated that the broad international fo-
cus on the MDGs had led to the improvement
of national monitoring systems. However, mecha-
nisms in national plans of action for children
were more variable, with some not including a
central monitoring mechanism. Also, while many
countries had established systems related to
child health and education, data availability
remained weak in the area of child protec-
tion.

UNICEF and other agencies were supporting a
new round of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
(MICS) to provide the largest single source of data
for reporting on progress towards the goals of “A
world fit for children” and those of the MDGs.
Comparable child-related data would also be pro-
duced by demographic and health surveys.
Nearly 90 countries were engaged in household
surveys during 2005 and 2006 to provide data for
the commemorative plenary meeting devoted to
the follow-up to the outcome of the special ses-
sion for children that the Assembly had decided,
in resolution 58/282 [YUN 2004, p. 1175], to hold in
2007. The surveys would also assist in closing
some of the major information gaps, such as
those related to child protection. Some 44 coun-
tries had adopted the DevInfo database system
for compiling and presenting child-related data.

Following an analysis of progress in the four
major areas of “A world fit for children”, the
Secretary-General concluded that most of the
goals would only be achieved through a major in-
tensification of action. While there were numer-
ous, but often isolated, examples of rapid pro-
gress, many action plans had yet to be fully linked
to national budgeting, implementation and mon-
itoring mechanisms. Ongoing efforts needed to
be expanded and better supported by resource
allocations and at the political level.

The Secretary-General suggested that possible
ways forward could include: the establishment
of high-level national councils for children;
capacity-building of national children’s agencies
and collaboration with parliamentarians and
civil society organizations in the promotion of
child-focused budgets; strengthening local gov-
ernment agencies to assist in the development,
implementation and monitoring of child-
centred programmes; and giving higher priority
to developing structures and processes to facili-
tate ongoing involvement of civil society, includ-
ing children and young people. The Secretary-
General noted that regular reporting to the
public on progress towards the goals was an
important means of encouraging social mobiliza-
tion and strengthening accountability. He also
noted that, at the international level, the Com-
mmittee on the Rights of the Child (see p. 731) had
the potential to promote a closer linkage between
follow-up on the special session goals, the MDGs
and periodic reports by States parties on the Con-
vention on the Rights of the Child. Use should be
made of the Committee’s concluding observa-
tions on State party reports to maintain govern-
ment and public mobilization with respect to
the MDGs for children. The Secretary-General ob-
served that regional mechanisms could be fur-
ther used to facilitate the intercountry exchange
of experience and good practice in child-related
programmes.

With regard to the commemorative plenary
meeting to be held in 2007, the Secretary-General
noted that all countries would be requested to
hold a participatory review with stakeholders
and provide a progress report before the end of
2006.

**General Assembly action.** The Assembly, in
resolution 60/231 on the rights of the child (see
p. 855), taking note with appreciation of the Sec-
retary-General’s report (above), and called for
action on a number of aspects of child welfare. In
resolution 60/1 on the World Summit Outcome
(see p. 48), the Assembly made commitments to
protect children in situations of armed conflict
and to respect and ensure the rights of each child
without discrimination of any kind. The Assem-
by, in resolution 60/3 (see p. 746), encouraged
activities to promote the International Decade for
a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the
Children of the World 2001-2010 and, in resolu-
tion 60/141 (see p. 1257), called for full respect
for the human rights of the girl child.

**United Nations Children’s Fund**

Throughout 2005, UNICEF continued its com-
mitment to achieving the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51]
and the goals contained in the outcome docu-
ment, “A world fit for children”, adopted in reso-
novation S-27/2 [YUN 2002, p. 1169] by the General As-
sembly at its twenty-seventh (2002) special session
on children [ibid., p. 1168] (see above). UNICEF’s
work was also guided by the 1989 Convention on
the Rights of the Child, adopted by the Assembly in
resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560], and its Op-
tional Protocols (see p. 730). Its mission was to
defend children’s rights, help meet their basic
needs, ensure their survival and increase their
opportunities to flourish. It was also mandated to
rally political will and resources to invest in chil-
dren’s well-being; respond to emergencies to pro-
tect children and work with partners to provide a rapid response for those in need; and ensure special protection for the most disadvantaged children, such as victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty and all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities. The Fund further aimed to promote equal rights for boys and girls and encourage their full participation in developing their communities; and work towards the human development goals adopted by the world community and the realization of the vision of peace, justice and social progress enshrined in the United Nations Charter. In 2005, UNICEF continued to focus its efforts on its five organizational priorities: girls’ education; integrated early childhood development; immunization “plus”; fighting HIV/AIDS; and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination.

UNICEF’s annual flagship publication, The State of the World’s Children 2005, focused on how poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDS threatened the ideal of childhood as a time for children to grow and develop to their full potential. It observed that the rights of over 1 billion children, as enshrined in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, were violated because they were denied one or more of the basic services required to survive and develop. It noted that millions of children were severely deprived of nutrition, water, sanitation facilities, access to basic health care services, shelter, education and information, while tens of millions were victims of exploitation, violence and abuse. In conflict situations, children who were not killed or injured could be abducted, orphaned or left with psychological and psychosocial distress, or suffering in conditions of inadequate shelter and from disease and poor nutrition. The HIV/AIDS pandemic had left some 15 million children under the age of 18 orphaned by the end of 2003, affecting their safety, health and development. The report stressed that children’s rights would only be fulfilled when the world reaffirmed its moral and legal responsibilities to children; applied a human rights–based approach to social and economic development; adopted socially responsible policies that kept children specifically in mind; and invested additional funds in children, through increased official development assistance and improvements in national public finances.

UNICEF cooperated with 157 countries, areas and territories: 43 in sub-Saharan Africa; 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 35 in Asia; 20 in the Middle East and North Africa; and 22 in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States.

Total expenditures, including write-offs, amounted to $2,197 million (compared to $1,606 million in 2004), of which 95.7 per cent ($2,103 million) was for programme assistance and support; 4 per cent ($88 million) for management and administration; and 0.3 per cent ($7 million) for write-offs. UNICEF operations in 2005, including an update on the mid-term review of the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP), were described in the UNICEF Annual Report, covering the period 1 January to 31 December 2005; the annual report of the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2006/11]; and the report of the Executive Director on results achieved for children in support of the Millennium Summit agenda [YUN 2000, p. 49] through UNICEF’s 2002-2005 MTSP [E/ICEF/2006/11].

In 2005, the UNICEF Executive Board held its first regular session (17-20 and 24 January), its annual session (6-10 June) and its second session (28-30 September), all in New York [E/2005/34/Rev.1], during which it adopted 20 decisions. At its first regular session, the Board paid tribute to Carol Bellamy, whose second term as UNICEF’s Executive Director expired on 30 April. She was succeeded by Ann Veneman.

By decision 2005/230 of 20 July, the Economic and Social Council took note of the Board’s report on the work of its first, second and annual sessions of 2004 [E/2004/34/Rev.1]; the Board’s report on the work of its 2005 sessions [E/2005/34/Rev.1]; and the annual report of the Executive Director covering the year 2004 [E/2005/6], which was transmitted in accordance with a January decision of the Board [E/2005/34/Rev.1 (dec. 2005/1)].

On 29 September, the Executive Board adopted the programme of work and dates for its 2006 sessions [dec. 2005/17].

Programme policies

In her annual report to the Economic and Social Council covering 2005 [E/2006/6], the Executive Director described UNICEF’s contribution towards implementing the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 91], the Secretary-General’s reform programme and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 54/250 [YUN 2004, p. 866]. She described UNICEF’s working relationships with UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donor and programme countries as they collaborated in order to achieve the MDGs; gave an update on the funding of operational activities for development of the UN system; provided information on UNICEF’s support for national capacity-building in the context of the MDGs and “A world fit for children” targets [YUN 2002, p. 1173]; and outlined efforts to strengthen the role of resident coordinators. She noted that, by
the end of 2006, all countries, except those in crisis, were expected to have introduced the common country programming process, which planned UNICEF assistance in the context of the MDGs and national plans to achieve them, and indicated that UNICEF remained involved in training and technical support for countries implementing the new processes. The Executive Director also addressed the use of common premises and services with other UN organizations; monitoring and evaluation; gender mainstreaming; collaboration with the World Bank; and the follow-up to the Assembly’s special session on children (see p. 1281).

Medium-term strategic plan (2002-2005)

In her third annual report on the 2002-2005 MTSP [E/ICEF/2005/6], the Executive Director provided information on progress, partnerships, constraints and key results achieved in 2002-2004 in the five organizational priority areas of the MTSP (see p. 1283), on cross-cutting strategies and on UNICEF income and expenditures for 2004.

On 10 June [dec. 2005/8], the Executive Board welcomed the 2006-2009 MTSP, which identified five focus areas for the five-year period: young child survival and development; basic education and gender equality; HIV/AIDS and children; child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and policy advocacy and partnerships for children’s rights. The MTSP described UNICEF’s support to the implementation of the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 31]; elaborated on the links between the MDGs and the focus areas; gave details regarding the strategies, key results and targets for each of the focus areas; referred to the plan’s major cross-cutting strategies; and outlined the plan’s resource implications, fund-raising strategy and financial targets.

Medium-term strategic plan (2006-2009)

The UNICEF Executive Board had before it a July report [E/ICEF/2005/11] on the 2006-2009 MTSP, which identified five focus areas for the four-year period: young child survival and development; basic education and gender equality; HIV/AIDS and children; child protection from violence, exploitation and abuse; and policy advocacy and partnerships for children’s rights. The MTSP described UNICEF’s support to the implementation of the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 31]; elaborated on the links between the MDGs and the focus areas; gave details regarding the strategies, key results and targets for each of the focus areas; referred to the plan’s major cross-cutting strategies; and outlined the plan’s resource implications, fund-raising strategy and financial targets.

On 30 September [E/2005/34/Rev.1 (dec. 2005/18)], the Executive Board welcomed the 2006-2009 MTSP and approved: the organizational focus areas; the financial plan, including $697 million in programme expenditures from regular resources, to be submitted in 2006; and the transfer to the funded reserve of $20 million per year for after-service health insurance for 2005 and 2006 and $10 million per year for 2007-2009. The Executive Director was asked to assess progress towards the key results established in the MTSP in her annual report to the Board.

Evaluation system

In her report on the 2002-2005 MTSP [E/ICEF/2005/6], the Executive Director informed the Executive Board that the scope of the evaluation function had expanded in 2004 through reviews of organizational performance and testing of methodologies for country programme evaluations. Studies were completed on immunization “plus”, the African Girls’ Education Initiative and external support to basic education. Evaluations were also undertaken of UNICEF preparedness and initial response in Iraq and Liberia.

On 10 June [dec. 2005/8], the Board recalled its 2004 decision on evaluations [YUN 2004, p. 1180], which requested that key findings be presented and discussed at the Board’s meetings and that they be fully integrated into the Executive Director’s annual report.

Emergency assistance

During the 2002-2005 period [E/ICEF/2006/11], approximately one third of the countries with which UNICEF cooperated were responding to crises and emergencies. In 2005, emergency funding reached $1 billion, in large part for the response to the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 (see p. 1024) and other emergencies.

As a result of UNICEF’s contribution to the tsunami response, child deaths from preventable diseases were avoided, most students were able to return to school rapidly and early fears of trafficking and exploitation were allayed. The crisis demonstrated the vital role of the private sector in providing funds, supplies and technical assistance and the importance of investing in early warning and preparedness at national and local levels. The earthquake that struck Pakistan, India and Afghanistan in October 2005 (see p. 1034) killed more than 75,000 people, over half of them children. Pre-positioned stocks enabled UNICEF to provide large-scale assistance within 48 hours. By the end of 2005, there had been no major disease outbreaks in Pakistan and systems were put in place to monitor the health, nutrition and protection status of affected children. UNICEF supported the Indian Government in immunizing children against measles, providing vitamin A and oral rehydration salts, water storage and treatment supplies for about 50,000 people.

In 2005, the Caribbean was affected by 14 hurricanes, three of which were classified as Category 5. UNICEF provided early assistance with water and sanitation materials, emergency kits,
advocacy for child protection and psychosocial support. The Fund also provided technical support and supplies to families affected by Hurricane Katrina in the United States. In the Sudan, UNICEF and its partners reached 2 million people, some 60 per cent of the affected population, with essential health-care services, and it provided 900,000 people with safe water supplies. The Fund led the nutrition response to the emergency in the Niger, where insufficient rainfall and locust invasions placed nearly 3.3 million people in a situation of acute food insecurity.

In 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for the coordination of humanitarian assistance agreed upon a “cluster lead” approach, with UNICEF assuming the lead role for nutrition, water and environmental sanitation and data communications. The Fund also assumed a leadership role in some aspects of child protection and an important implementing role in health. The cluster lead approach was being tested and its initial performance reviewed. The Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies (CCEs) guided UNICEF’s humanitarian response. The Fund continued to play a key role in building the capacities of Governments to protect children against natural disasters.

UNICEF programmes by region

In 2005 [E/ICEF/2006/11], UNICEF regional programme expenditure totalled $1,966 million, of which $872 million (45 per cent) went to sub-Saharan Africa (including programme assistance for Djibouti and the Sudan); $687 million (35 per cent) to Asia; $181 million (9 per cent) to the Middle East and North Africa; $99 million (3 per cent) to the Americas and the Caribbean; $62 million (3 per cent) to Central and Eastern Europe and CIS; and $64 million (3 per cent) to inter-regional programmes. Programme support costs amounted to an additional $137 million.

Programme expenditures were highest in countries with low income and high, or very high, under-five mortality rates. The 60 lowest income countries—defined as those with a per capita gross national income of $763 or less—which had a total child population in 2003 of 1.02 billion, or constituting 52 per cent of all children worldwide, received 62 per cent of total programme expenditures.

In September, the Executive Board considered summaries of midterm reviews and major evaluations of country programmes in Eastern and Southern Africa [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.25], West and Central Africa [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.24], Americas and the Caribbean [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.25], East Asia and the Pacific [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.26], South Asia [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.27], and Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.28]. The reports reviewed the results achieved, the lessons learned and the need for adjustments in the country programmes.

(For information regarding the UNICEF country programme approval process, see p. 1293.)

Field visits

On a visit to Ethiopia (17-22 April) [E/ICEF/2005/CRP.5], Executive Board members observed that the implementation of UNICEF’s country programmes focused on six areas: health and nutrition; water, sanitation and hygiene education; HIV/AIDS; basic education, with special interventions for girls’ education; gender and child protection; and capacity-building of regional and woreda (district) institutions in programme monitoring and evaluation. Addressing emergencies that jeopardized food security and providing humanitarian assistance had become a major component of UNICEF operations in Ethiopia. The Board concluded that there was a need for more comprehensive, objective-oriented and clear-cut programming regarding children who lived or worked on the street, child trafficking, female genital mutilation, HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children. There was also an urgent need to scale up the focus on maternal health, since more than 80 per cent of women lacked adequate access to health and reproductive services.

The Board emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration between UNICEF and the entire UN country team, the regional government and NGOs to combat chronic water shortage; low health indicators; poor sanitation; high rates of school dropout, especially among girls; food insecurity; and gender inequality.

Members of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) made a joint field visit to Azerbaijan (8-15 May) [E/ICEF/2005/CRP.6]. They concluded that the UN country team should continue its advocacy with the Government to protect vulnerable groups through policy change. A pressing requirement was to increase and rationalize resources for health, education and child protection.

In Morocco (18-25 June) [E/ICEF/2005/CRP.11], UNICEF Executive Board members noted that the country programme comprised: support to national policies in education and health; support to children in rural environments; child protection; and promoting and monitoring implementation of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child [YUN 1989, p. 560] (see also p. 730). They concluded that UNICEF added value in Morocco, not
only because of the organization’s financial contribution, but, more importantly, because of its strategic and policy contribution, technical cooperation, advocacy efforts, work in child rights, research activities and the development of intervention models and innovative tools.

UNICEF programmes by sector

In 2005, UNICEF programme expenditures, which were linked to the five organizational priorities established in 2001 under the 2002-2005 MTSP [YUN 2001, p. 1093], totalled $1,966 million [E/ICEF/2006/11], a 46 per cent increase over 2004. The largest share of total expenditure, $746 million (38 per cent), was spent on early childhood development (ECD), followed by $432 million (22 per cent) on girls’ education; $367 million (19 per cent) on immunization “plus”; $196 million (10 per cent) on child protection; and $165 million (8 per cent) on HIV/AIDS. Some $60 million (3 per cent) was expended in other areas. Programme support costs amounted to an additional $137 million.

The shares for the five priority areas of the MTSP as part of total expenditure for programme assistance mostly remained stable during the four-year period. However, total programme spending for all five priority areas increased rapidly between 2002 and 2005, with ECD experiencing the highest percentage growth, followed by girls’ education, HIV/AIDS, child protection and immunization “plus”.

Early childhood development

In response to the findings of the 2004 MTSP mid-term review [YUN 2004, p. 179], UNICEF worked increasingly with national partners in 2004-2005 to emphasize the convergence of initiatives for young children and to facilitate the efforts of national partners working across the social sectors. The focus on developing the capacities of families and communities to improve young child survival, growth and development was also strengthened.

In the area of child mortality reduction, UNICEF continued to implement the Accelerated Child Survival and Development Strategy (ACSD) in 11 African countries. It was estimated that the Strategy, which covered 17 million people, was preventing over 18,000 child deaths per year. Major gains were seen in the use of insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs) and routine preventive health services (immunization, vitamin A supplementation and antenatal care). UNICEF programme assistance for the ACSD strategy in the 11 countries came to less than $0.50 per beneficiary per year and the approximate average cost in ACSD districts was $407 per life saved. The low cost was attributed to a dramatic increase in vitamin A supplementation, measles immunization and ITN coverage in very poor areas with very high mortality rates. In July, the African Union requested UNICEF and other partners to extend the programme to the whole continent, and called for its member States to integrate it into their national health policies, poverty reduction strategies and health sector reforms.

Child mortality reduction efforts also included parenting programmes and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) approach. An independent review in 2004 and 2005 in Malawi, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda showed that the IMCI approach had led to improved knowledge and family care practices in all areas. UNICEF-assisted parenting education programmes combined interventions for child survival, development and protection.

UNICEF doubled its annual resources for fighting malaria during the MTSP period, accelerating the coverage of known effective malaria prevention and control interventions. In 2005, UNICEF procured 17 million ITNs; played a lead role in bringing Roll Back Malaria partners [YUN 1998, p. 1384] together in support of country-led action plans; expanded household access to ITNs in a number of countries; and procured $10.5 million in antimalarial drugs, including $8.5 million worth of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT).

UNICEF also supported the introduction of improved formulations of both oral rehydration salts and zinc as part of the diarrhoea treatment package. Diarrhoea and pneumonia remained the two main killers of children. UNICEF’s support for diarrhoea prevention was closely linked with water and sanitation programmes and the training of community health workers, and formed part of integrated approaches.

UNICEF’s efforts to promote breastfeeding and complementary feeding during the MTSP period included the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, advocacy for the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and community approaches. By the end of 2005, 19,798 hospital and maternity facilities had been designated as “baby friendly” since the Initiative was launched in 1991 [YUN 1991, p. 693], compared to 15,165 in 2001. In 2005, UNICEF supported efforts to increase the registration of births in 83 countries.

In 2005, 23 per cent of Governments had a comprehensive policy on early childhood development, compared to 22 per cent in 2004; 22 per cent had an official national coordinating structure or mechanism for ECD, compared to 48 per
cent in 2004; and 61 per cent had a national system for monitoring young child growth and/or development, compared to 53 per cent in 2004.

UNICEF continued to assist countries in reducing maternal mortality, supporting over 3,500 facilities in nearly 70 countries to provide emergency obstetric care services for pregnant women. The UNICEF contribution included: national-level advocacy; support to emergency obstetric care assessments and programme design; upgrading facilities with equipment, medications and staff training; support for communities in recognizing danger signs and providing transportation; and promoting integration with health sector plans. UNICEF was working with Governments to identify ways to integrate efforts for newborns into emergency obstetric care efforts, IMCI and community programmes, and had joined UNFPA and WHO to assist Governments in Africa to develop "road maps" for improving maternal health.

UNICEF increased its focus on integrated approaches to addressing anaemia, a major cause of maternal deaths and of cognitive deficits in young children. In Bhutan, UNICEF and WFP were supporting girls’ education and iron supplementation in schools. UNICEF promoted food fortification as a strategy to prevent anaemia and deficiencies in vitamin A and other micronutrients. With regard to the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), UNICEF noted that 69 per cent of households in the developing world were consuming adequate amounts of iodized salt; 30 countries had reached the 2005 goal of sustainable elimination of IDD. UNICEF also stepped up its role in responding to nutritional emergencies in the second half of the MTSP period, including in Kenya, Malawi, the Niger and the Sudan, and worked with partners to dramatically expand an integrated package of child survival strategies for emergencies in Ethiopia.

Over the MTSP period, UNICEF expanded its support for water supply, sanitation and hygiene, assisting 95 countries by 2005, compared with 78 at the beginning of the decade. The Fund’s assistance enabled large number of families in poverty to gain access to drinking water from protected sources in a number of countries, including the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria and the Darfur region of the Sudan. More emphasis was placed on water quality, with a dramatic increase in the testing and protection of drinking water.

Immunization “plus”

Immunization was the only public health intervention to have consistently reached over 70 per cent of young children in recent years. It was making a significant contribution towards achieving the MDG on child mortality [YUN 2000, p. 52] and had the potential to prevent some 2.5 million child deaths each year.

In 2005, Governments were financing 100 per cent of routine vaccination costs in 75 countries; 89 countries had a national strategy for immunizing hard-to-reach groups; and 81 countries had a national communication strategic plan for immunization. However, 27 million children under one year and 40 million pregnant women, often among the poorest population groups, did not receive routine immunization services in 2004 and 19 countries had no government funding allocated to routine vaccinations.

Core UNICEF strengths for immunization continued to include its presence and capacities in vaccine procurement, supply management and programme communication. Since 2002, UNICEF and WHO had jointly promoted the Reaching Every District (RED) approach, whereby attention was shifted to low-performing areas based on local data. Evidence from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar and Zimbabwe suggested an almost 50-per-cent fall in the number of unimmunized children after RED implementation.

Global coverage for three doses of the diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine (DTP3) reached 78 per cent worldwide in 2004, compared to 73 per cent in 2001. However, only 38 UNICEF-assisted countries met the target of 80 per cent DTP3 coverage in every district. Strong progress was observed in measles immunization; UNICEF and its other Measles Initiative partners surpassed the target to reduce measles mortality by half by 2005. Global measles mortality declined from an estimated 871,000 deaths in 1999 to 454,000 in 2004, with preliminary estimates suggesting an additional 9 per cent reduction in 2005. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative made significant progress towards the goal of interrupting endemic virus transmission; more than half of the 1,906 polio cases in 2005 occurred in non-endemic countries. India and Pakistan reduced the number of new polio cases by 50 per cent in 2005, setting the stage for possible interruption of transmission. UNICEF facilitated the accelerated introduction of monovalent oral polio vaccines types 1 and 3, undertook targeted communications to reach marginalized children in Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan—the last remaining polio-endemic countries—and, in Nigeria, focused on the northern states, where transmission was still high. UNICEF and the Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) Elimination Partnership reduced the number of annual neonatal deaths from MNT from 215,000 in 1999 to
180,000 in 2002, although uncertainty about funding continued to affect their efforts. In 2005, 2.8 million women at risk received doses of the anti-tetanus vaccine in Ethiopia, 2.6 million in Bangladesh and over 1 million in both Mali and Myanmar.

UNICEF procured and distributed nearly 3 billion doses of vaccines worth $439 million in 2005, a 17 per cent increase from 2004, and an additional $53 million in cold-chain and safe injection equipment. Procurement of polio vaccine alone amounted to 2.1 billion doses, and the Micronutrient Initiative supplied 500 million vitamin A capsules through UNICEF. By improving its vaccine-supply forecasting, UNICEF exceeded 80 to 90 per cent accuracy across 90 countries. Where data was available, the number of countries affected by national stock-outs for any antigen in routine immunization fell to 37 in 2005, compared to 48 in 2004.

UNICEF continued to support safe injection practices, reporting that, in 2005, 85 programme countries exclusively used auto disable syringes for routine immunization, an increase from 72 in 2004.

Global Immunization vision and strategy

The Executive Board had before it a UNICEF secretariat note [E/ICEF/2005/9] on the draft global strategy on immunization, prepared jointly by UNICEF and WHO and presented to the Fifty-Eighth World Health Assembly (Geneva, 16-25 May). The strategy provided Governments and international organizations with a framework for planning and collaborating to meet the immunization challenges of the coming decade (2006-2015). Its aim was to protect people against disease, introduce new vaccines and technologies, and integrate immunization with other health interventions into the health system, with the goal of reaching at least an 80-per-cent immunization coverage in every district of every country by 2010.

On 9 June [dec. 2005/7], the Executive Board welcomed the UNICEF/WHO Global Immunization Vision and Strategy and urged countries to adopt it as a framework for strengthening national immunization programmes between 2006 and 2015. It requested the Executive Director to report regularly on progress in achieving the global immunization targets, and to strengthen relations with WHO, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, and other partners to mobilize resources and support implementation. The World Health Assembly had adopted a similar resolution on 25 May.

Girls’ education

The MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 31] continued to have a galvanizing effect in increasing investments and more efficient national implementation of strategies to meet the target of gender parity in primary education. UNICEF’s role focused increasingly on the use of advocacy and partnerships to influence sector-based policies and to leverage resources. In the second half of the MTSP period, UNICEF played a greater role in helping countries prepare quality plans for support from the Education for All (EFA) Fast Track Initiative. An external evaluation of the African Girls’ Education Initiative concluded that efforts by UNICEF and its partners had influenced the policy landscape and strengthened the profile of gender issues in education in all parts of Africa. The Fund also revitalized the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative for strengthening action on girls’ education at all levels. The Initiative grew from just a few countries in 2002 to at least 25 in 2005.

In Liberia, a comprehensive Girls’ Education Policy was completed with UNICEF support. In Mozambique, Nepal and Nigeria, new national policies to accelerate girls’ education were also developed. In 52 per cent of UNICEF-assisted countries, Governments and/or the Fund had undertaken a gender review of the education sector. By 2005, 81 national EFA plans included explicit measures to help girls who were not in school and to reduce their number. The Governments of 54 countries were taking specific measures to boost the percentage of girls entering post-primary school. Three regions—the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and West and Central Africa—did not meet the goal of gender parity in primary education by 2005; while 125 countries were on course to achieving gender parity, overall enrolment of both boys and girls remained unacceptably low.

Local UNICEF support sometimes took the form of single measures such as supplying learning materials, school meals, construction of classrooms or conditional cash transfers to households. However, those interventions were stop-gap solutions for highly disadvantaged populations. UNICEF also promoted models of good practice that could be adapted to country circumstances: major “back to school” campaigns brought back 38,000 children, 60 per cent of them girls; in Somalia, an enrolment drive registered 114,000 primary-school-aged children; and in Iraq,
4.6 million children received UNICEF-supplied educational kits. In Afghanistan, UNICEF support resulted in the new enrolment of 529,000 girls in schools. In Nepal, the “Welcome to School” initiative went nationwide in 2005, resulting in an almost 12 per cent increase in primary enrolment. The Fund also supported initiatives to increase enrolment in the Comoros, India and Nigeria.

In tsunami-affected countries, UNICEF constructed 223 temporary or semi-permanent schools and provided emergency education supplies to approximately 1.5 million children, helping to bring 90 per cent of them back to school within three months. It also supported initiatives in Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania on sanitation and hygiene promotion in schools, which were associated with significant increases in girls’ enrolment and retention rates. Other UNICEF-assisted education programmes included HIV/AIDS-prevention education and strategies to secure access for orphaned children. UNICEF procured a total of $86 million in education supplies in 2005, up 22 per cent from 2004. That growth was driven by emergency education (especially the “school in a box” and recreation kits, which were used as a first response for the restoration of education in emergencies) and ongoing support to girls’ education activities.

**Protection from violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination**

In 2005, UNICEF continued to expand partnerships with other UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, regional bodies and national partners in order to enhance child protection efforts. It also promoted the close linkages between partners in order to enhance child protection. The Fund led efforts for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of children in many conflict-affected countries, particularly in West Africa, South Asia and Latin America. It trained humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers on child protection and the special needs of women and children in a number of countries. Working with 14 other UN agencies, the Fund led the preparation of an approach on children and DDR as part of the UN integrated system. Its assistance had reached over 2.5 million child soldiers in Colombia since 1999, and nearly 800 child soldiers were demobilized in Burundi and 200 in Sri Lanka.

UNICEF made special efforts to build capacities for child protection in emergencies and supported the establishment of a practitioners’ network to promote learning among humanitarian and academic organizations regarding the needs of children and families for psychosocial support following conflicts or natural disasters. In response to the Indian Ocean tsunami, UNICEF
worked to ensure that all separated and unaccompany- ed children who lost one or both parents were rapidly registered, and nearly all were placed with extended family within a few months.

UNICEF also participated in the development and dissemination of guidelines and training on HIV/AIDS in emergencies. Partly due to its advocacy, the Maputo (Mozambique) Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which prohibited female genital mutilation, entered into force in November. UNICEF observed that in Burkina Faso the incidence of female genital mutilation had decreased from 66 per cent in 1996 to 40 per cent in 2005, and that several states in Nigeria had passed laws against the practice.

Limited growth of regular resources income over the MTSP period and some difficulties in raising other resources continued to affect overall performance in child protection.

On 10 June [dec. 2005/10], the UNICEF Executive Board requested the Executive Director to support Member States in their efforts to combat violence against children and adolescents and decided to consider in 2006 an oral report on activities on violence related to children and adolescents in conflict with the law. (See also pp. 854-67.)

HIV/AIDS

The UNICEF Executive Director stated that a child under the age of 15 was dying of an AIDS-related illness every minute and almost 1,800 new paediatric infections were occurring per day [E/ICEF/2006/11]. Globally, 15 million children had lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS. By 2010, there were expected to be 18 million such children in sub-Saharan Africa alone. In October, UNICEF launched the Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS campaign in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (see p. 1305) and other partners. The campaign promoted a child-focused framework for action around the “four P” imperatives: preventing mother-to-child HIV (PMTCT); providing paediatric care; preventing infection among adolescents and young people; and protecting and supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS. UNICEF contributed to significant expansion of PMTCT services in a number of countries including Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia. It also supported initiatives to increase PMTCT access to isolated and indigenous communities in Nicaragua and Peru. As UNAIDS co-sponsors, UNICEF and WFP moved towards joint programmes for making strategic use of food in support of scaling up PMTCT care and treatment, and UNICEF continued to collaborate with the United States President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and with WHO on PMTCT and paediatric treatment issues.

UNICEF reported that the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic was entering a new era. There was a distinct move from global-level advocacy to strong support for country-level implementation of comprehensive nationally led programmes in which UNICEF offices were increasingly playing a strategic role. In China, UNICEF assisted in the development of the first provincial-level policy on children affected by HIV/AIDS and a number of West and Central African countries established strategic national AIDS plans for 2006-2010.

Following agreement during the 2004 midterm review [YUN 2004, p. 1179] that HIV/AIDS care and support needed greater attention, UNICEF convened consultations that identified a range of urgent actions: finalization of paediatric diagnosis, care, support and treatment responses; negotiation of price reductions for paediatric formulations; and the development of information and forecasting systems. UNICEF also consulted with major pharmaceutical companies on the production of paediatric formulations for use in poor countries, which were expected to become available in mid-2006. The UNICEF/WHO paediatric care, support and treatment consultations on drug formulations, treatment guidelines and cotrimoxazole helped to provide guidance for implementation.

UNICEF provided leadership in developing a framework to guide the work of partners in assisting children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS (OVCs). It assisted in carrying out surveys of the situation of those children in several African countries, and supported a cash subsidy initiative for OVCs in Kenya; given that initiative’s positive initial impact, a larger pilot was planned for 2006. By 2005, 60 countries had adopted strategies for the care and protection of OVCs, compared to 31 in 2002. However, major challenges remained, including aligning national responses to OVCs with existing HIV/AIDS plans and the weak capacities of social affairs ministries.

The Fund continued to sponsor a wide range of studies and assessments to improve national knowledge of HIV/AIDS, including national situation analyses in Bangladesh and Viet Nam; infant feeding and HIV/AIDS studies in Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania; and studies on awareness in schools in Djibouti and Zambia. At the end of 2005, national situation analy-
ses on HIV/AIDS and children/youth had been conducted in 75 countries, compared to 70 in 2002.

UNICEF almost doubled the value of its antiretroviral (ARV) drug procurement to $33.5 million in 2005, from $18.4 million in 2004, with an additional $8 million spent on other HIV/AIDS-related supplies and equipment, substantially increasing the number of children and adults with access to therapy. The Fund helped to achieve a major reduction in ARV costs in the Russian Federation.

(For further information on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, see p. 1322.)

UNAIDS programme coordination


On 30 September [dec. 2005/19], the Executive Board approved the GTT recommendations and requested the Fund to work with UNAIDS and other co-sponsors to develop annual priority action plans at the country level. UNICEF was encouraged to provide effective technical support to national Governments and to focus on areas of comparative advantage. It was also asked to intensify HIV prevention by developing an action plan based on the UNAIDS policy position paper entitled “Intensifying HIV prevention”.

Operational and administrative matters

UNICEF finances

In 2005, UNICEF income totalled $2,762 million, an increase of $784 million (40 per cent) over 2004, a result of a significant increase in contributions to other resources, largely from private sources and in response to emergencies, which accounted for 71 per cent of total income in 2005. Income to regular resources increased by 3 per cent to $812 million. Total contributions were 20 per cent higher than forecast in the financial plan. UNICEF derived its income primarily from Governments, which contributed $1,472 million (53 per cent), and from private sector sources, which contributed $1,235 million (45 per cent). The balance of $35 million came from other sources.

In January, the Executive Board took note of UNICEF’s financial report and audited financial statements for the biennium ended 31 December 2003 [A/59/5/Add.2], action on which was deferred in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 187]. In September, the Board noted UNICEF’s interim financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2004 [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.4].

Budget appropriations

On 9 June [dec. 2005/4], the Executive Board approved recommendations for the aggregate indicative budgets for 19 country programmes for the period 2006-2010 and a programme for Palestinian children and women for the period 2006-2007, amounting to the following totals for regular and other resources, respectively, by region: Africa, $101,386,000 and $164,385,000; the Americas and the Caribbean, $4,500,000 and $18,170,000; Asia, $208,249,000 and $460,770,000; Central and Eastern Europe, CIS and the Baltic States, $27,094,000 and $76,160,000; and Middle East and North Africa, $4,000,000 and $24,210,000.

On the basis of the Executive Director’s recommendation, contained in a 1 April report [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.21], the Board, on 9 June [dec. 2005/5], approved additional regular resources for 54 country programmes for 2005 and 2006, amounting to $80,397,731. On the same date [dec. 2005/6], the Board approved additional other resources for the approved country programmes of 20 countries, totalling $371,031,000.

On 29 September [dec. 2005/11], the Board approved the aggregate indicative budgets for five country programmes for 2006-2010, and for the DRC and Afghanistan for 2006-2007 for the following amounts from regular and other resources respectively: Swaziland, $3,755,000 and $21,250,000; Cape Verde, $3,300,000 and $2,150,000; Chad, $18,445,000 and $30,000,000; DRC, $43,858,000 and $50,000,000; Guyana, $3,450,000 and $2,000,000; Indonesia, $20,500,000 and $100,000,000; and Afghanistan, $41,397,000 and $126,000,000. For the Cape Verde country programme, the Board only approved the UNICEF portion of the aggregate indicative budget.

The Board also considered a report recommending the allocation of funds to cover overexpenditures for 22 programmes, amounting to $1,061,196,635 [E/ICEF/2005/P/L.38]. On 29 September [dec. 2005/13], the Board approved the funding from regular resources.

Additionally, the Board considered a proposal for a supplementary appropriation for the 2004-
2005 biennium [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.7] of $3 million for security-related costs. It also had before it a note from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.8] recommending approval of the supplementary appropriation. On 29 September [dec. 2005/15], the Board approved the appropriation, increasing security-related costs from $14 million to $17 million.

On the recommendation of the Executive Director [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.37], the Board, on 29 September [dec. 2005/12], approved a five-year extension (2006-2010) of the programme of cooperation with the PolioPlus programme of Rotary International and an increase in funding from other resources of $10 million, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions from Rotary International. The Board also approved a five-year extension of the Vaccine Independence Initiative for the period 2006 to 2010.

**Budget approval process**

In accordance with a 2004 Executive Board decision [YUN 2004, p. 1187], whereby the UNICEF 2006-2007 biennial support budget would be reviewed at the Board’s January 2006 session, the Executive Director, on 5 August [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.3], recommended that the Board approve an interim one-month allocation for the support budget in the amount of $25,600,000 to cover January 2006, pending its approval of the biennial support budget. On 29 September [dec. 2005/16], the Board approved the allocation.

**Audits**

In an April report on internal audit activities in 2004, the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) stated that it had completed 35 audits in 2004 [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.2]: 29 field audits; four headquarters audits; an audit of the termination of UNICEF activities and handover of assets related to the oil-for-food programme in Iraq; and one global summary report. In its audits of headquarters, OIA found that controls for the administration of travel services and the procurement of supplies and consultancy services were satisfactory. In country offices, controls were generally satisfactory, particularly for fund-raising and donor reporting, with considerable room for improvement in finance, basic programme management, cash assistance and supply assistance. The profile of country offices’ risk-management practices in 2004 was similar to that of 2003, indicating that there was continuing scope for improving the programmatic and operational support from regional offices, and regional and global monitoring of the status of country offices’ practices in areas of common weakness.

The Executive Board took note of the report in June.

In a July report [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.6] to the UN Board of Auditors and ACABQ, UNICEF described steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the Fund’s accounts for the 2002-2003 biennium. The report focused on those recommendations that either were not implemented or only partially implemented at the time of the previous report [YUN 2004, p. 1187].

**Resource mobilization**

UNICEF continued to collaborate with Governments to mobilize both regular and other resources. At the sixth annual pledging event in January, 50 countries pledged a total of $255.7 million. By year’s end, 109 Governments had contributed $469 million in regular resources and $1,003 million in other resources, increasing their contributions to regular resources by 7 per cent, compared to 2004. However, there was a small decline in private sector contributions to regular resources that, combined with the unprecedented response to emergencies, left UNICEF with the lowest ever percentage of regular resources to total resources in 2005 at 29 per cent. The United States remained the largest donor to regular resources, with a contribution of $124 million, followed by Sweden ($55 million), Norway ($47 million), the Netherlands ($37 million), the United Kingdom ($35 million), Japan ($24 million), and Canada ($11 million).

Thematic funding in 2005 increased nearly fourfold over 2004, with the top 10 thematic donors (a mix of Governments and national committees) contributing a total of $495.4 million. The largest increase was for humanitarian response, with most thematic funding coming from the private sector. The number of government contributors to consolidated, flash and humanitarian action report appeals rose from 23 to 47.

**Private Sector Division**

Net income from UNICEF Private Sector Division (PSD) activities for the year ended 31 December 2005 totalled $288.6 million for regular resources, $2.6 million (0.9 per cent) lower than the $291.1 million raised in 2004 [E/ICEF/2006/AB/L.7]. The total included income of $255.7 million from private sector fund-raising activities, $63.6 million from the sale of UNICEF cards and gifts, deductions relating to a negative exchange rate adjustment of $14.3 million and investment fund expenditures of $16.4 million. In addition, $769.6 million ($288.8 million in 2004) was raised from private sector fund-raising activities for
other resources, an increase of $550.8 million.
That large increase was due to the unprecedented donor response to UNICEF emergency appeals for the Indian Ocean tsunami and the South Asian earthquake. Earmarked funding for non-emergencies also increased significantly, with $185.7 million raised in 2005, compared to $143.5 million in 2004. The net consolidated income for 2005, including both regular and other resources, amounted to $1,058.2 million, an increase of $548.3 million (107.5 per cent), compared with the 2004 net consolidated income of $509.9 million.

On 18 January [dec. 2005/2], the Executive Board approved budgeted expenditures of $96.9 million for the PSD work plan for 2005 [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.1]. The Executive Director was authorized to redeploy resources between the various budget lines, up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the amounts approved, and to spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, up to the amount caused by currency fluctuations, to implement the 2005 approved work plan. The Board renewed investment funds with $17.1 million established for 2005; authorized the Executive Director to incur expenditures in 2005 related to the cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for 2006, up to $35 million; and approved the PSD medium-term plan for 2006 to 2009.

In September, the Board took note of the PSD financial report and statements for the year ended 31 December 2004 [E/ICEF/2005/AB/L.5].

Country programme approval process
The Executive Board had before it an April report [E/ICEF/2005/8] containing a review of the modified procedures for consideration and approval of proposals for country cooperation programmes, as requested by the Board in 2002 [YUN 2002, p. 191]. The report gave an update on progress in implementing the modified procedures. A total of 35 country programme documents for new cooperation programmes had been approved by the Board, and a further 27 were expected to be presented for consideration and approval in 2005. The modified procedure supported better quality, result-oriented documents and promoted the harmonized and joint programming process with national partners and among UN agencies at the country level, while giving the Board the opportunity to provide substantive comments on new programmes.

On 10 June [dec. 2005/9], the Executive Board requested the Executive Director to present in 2006 a joint report with UNDP and UNFPA on possible options to further improve and streamline the current harmonized country programme approval procedure.

Joint programming
On 19 January [dec. 2005/3], the Executive Board considered the 2004 report of the Executive Director on the assessment of UNICEF experience in joint programming [E/ICEF/2004/10], which had been deferred in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 189]. The Board requested the Executive Director, in cooperation with the other agencies of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), to ensure that joint programming had an improved impact on development by, where appropriate: further harmonizing country programme preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes and improving communication between UN agencies during the whole programme cycle; effective delivery of programme goals and reduction of transaction costs; and promotion of common monitoring and reporting processes to governing bodies and joint approaches to evaluations. The Executive Director was asked to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of joint programming in 2006.

On 30 September [dec. 2005/20], the Board encouraged the joint meetings of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP/UNFPA and WFP to discuss and comment on one country case as a practical illustration of joint UN work in the field and invited UN agencies, funds and programmes to participate.

JIU reports
In January the Executive Board considered a secretariat note [E/ICEF/2005/4] on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) of specific relevance to UNICEF. The document provided information on reports prepared between September 2003 and September 2004, actions taken by the Fund in response to those reports, and the views of the Executive Director on the issues raised by the JIU inspectors.

Innocenti Research Centre
In July [E/ICEF/2005/13], UNICEF submitted to the Executive Board a progress report on the activities of its Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) (Florence, Italy), established in 1988 [YUN 1988, p. 649] as the International Child Development Centre to strengthen the capacity of UNICEF and its cooperating institutions to respond to the evolving needs of children and to promote a strong global ethic for them. The report reviewed IRC’s implementation of its 2003-2005 work programme, focusing on its research on issues pertaining to the implementation of the 1989 Con-
vention on the Rights of the Child [YUN 1989, p. 560] (see also p. 730), which assessed the impact of economic and social policies on children. An evaluation of the Centre’s work over the previous three programme cycles found that its studies were used to influence strategic policy processes within and beyond UNICEF, and benefited from partnerships and cross-disciplinary expertise; and that collaboration between IRC and UNICEF headquarters, regional and country offices and national committees had been further consolidated. The report presented a proposed work programme for 2006-2008, which would include further research on the impact of socio-economic policies on child poverty, developing research on children’s rights to raise awareness of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and supporting improved research methodologies in the areas of child trafficking, violence and the impact of armed conflict on children.

On 29 September [dec. 2005/14], the Executive Board authorized a three-year extension of the programme for the period 2006-2008, with a total allocation of $17 million in other resources, of which Italy pledged a minimum of 5.43 million euros (about $6.5 million) for its core activities. The Board invited all donors to contribute to the Centre’s programme activities in order to meet the full cost of implementing its 2006-2008 programme.

Youth

World Programme of Action for Youth

Tenth anniversary

In 2005, the United Nations observed the tenth anniversary of its adoption, in resolution 50/81 [YUN 1995, p. 1211], of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. As decided by the General Assembly in resolution 59/148 [YUN 2004, p. 1227], two plenary meetings, held on 6 October [A/60/PV.27, 28], were devoted to the evaluation of progress made in implementing the Programme of Action. During the debate, many Member States were represented by national youth delegates and representatives from youth organizations attended as observers. Also in accordance with Assembly resolution 59/148, the plenary sessions were preceded on 5 October by an interactive round table on the theme “Young people: making commitments matter”.

The plenary sessions culminated in the adoption of resolution 60/2 (see p. 1296).

Implementation

UN policies and programmes on youth during the year continued to focus on the implementation of the 1995 World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which addressed problems faced by youth worldwide and identified ways to enhance youth participation in national and international policy- and decision-making. The Programme of Action identified 10 priority issues for youth: education; employment; hunger and poverty; health; environment; drug abuse; juvenile delinquency; leisure-time activities; girls and young women; and participation in society and decision-making. The Assembly, by resolution 58/133 [YUN 2003, p. 127], had noted five additional issues of concern to young people: globalization; the increased use of information and communication technology (ICT); HIV/AIDS; the increased participation of young people in armed conflict, both as victims and perpetrators; and the growing importance of intergenerational relations in an ageing global society. In resolution 60/2 (see p. 1296), the Assembly added those issues as additional priority areas for the implementation of the World Programme.

During the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 9-18 February) [E/2005/26], a panel discussion took place that highlighted the youth development agenda of the Programme of Action and its linkages to the MDGs [YUN 2000, p. 51] and internationally agreed targets. In addition, several workshops were organized in the Arab region on youth policies and strategies in the context of the MDGs (Rahrain, 28-29 May; Sana’a, Yemen, 21-25 June; Rabat, Morocco, 6-8 July). In order to develop a draft set of indicators to monitor and measure the global situation of youth, an expert group meeting on youth development indicators was organized (New York, 12-14 December).

Report of Secretary-General.

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/133 [YUN 2003, p. 127], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/60/156] summarizing the views and recommendations of young people regarding the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The inputs were collected from young people through consultative meetings (Coimbra, Portugal, 31 January–4 February; New York, 14-17 February; Cairo, Egypt, 27-29 May) and in response to a booklet entitled “Making commitments matter: a toolkit for young people to evaluate national youth policy”, published by the UN De-
partment of Economic and Social Affairs in 2004. The views collected were grouped into three clusters, reflecting the 15 youth concerns identified by the Assembly (see p. 1294).

The report concluded that the response to the request for inputs to the 10-year review indicated that the World Programme of Action for Youth continued to have importance in the lives of young people. The process of gathering the inputs had generated a great deal of interest and commitment at regional and national levels.

World Youth Report 2005

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/133 [YUN 2003, p. 1277], the Secretary-General submitted an abridged version of the World Youth Report 2005 [A/60/61-E/2005/7], an overview of the global situation of young people on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The report was also considered at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development [E/2005/20] (see p. 1190). The report stated that between 1995 and 2005, the world’s youth population (persons between 15 and 24 years of age) grew from 1,025 million to 1,153 million, 85 per cent of whom were living in developing countries. It also reviewed progress with regard to the 10 priority areas of the World Programme of Action and, in an annex, highlighted the five additional concerns (see p. 1294).

The report noted that the current generation of young people faced more complex challenges than previous generations. Over 200 million youth were living in poverty, 130 million were illiterate, 88 million were unemployed and 10 million were living with HIV/AIDS. While some progress had been achieved in a number of priority areas of the Programme of Action, the case for a renewed commitment to its goals was clear.

Recommendations presented by the Secretary-General for the Assembly’s consideration included: the scaling-up of investments in youth; the inclusion of young people as partners in achieving the MDGs; the development of integrated youth policies by Governments, paying special attention to the various disadvantaged groups of young people, including those with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth; the continuous evaluation of youth policy by Governments and the involvement of young people in the evaluation; and the development of a verifiable set of indicators that would allow for better measurement of progress achieved for young people in the future. The Secretary-General further recommended that the Assembly endorse the five additional issues of concern (see p. 1294) to complement the priority areas of the World Programme of Action and call on the UN system to enhance synergies among relevant system activities.

An expanded version of the Secretary-General’s report, World Youth Report 2005: Young People Today, and in 2015 [Sales No. E.05.IV.6], was launched as a UN sales publication on 4 October.

Youth employment

In response to General Assembly resolution 58/133 [YUN 2003, p. 1277], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/60/133 & Corr.1] containing a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment. In an overview of the challenges relating to youth employment, the report observed that the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that around 88 million young people were unemployed worldwide. Of the 186 million unemployed persons in the world, young people accounted for 47 per cent, despite making up only 25 per cent of the global working-age population. ILO also reported an increase in intermittent work and insecure arrangements for young people in both industrialized and developing economies. As at 30 June 2005, 39 Member States had submitted a plan or progress report on the elaboration of national reviews and action plans on youth employment, and many others had prepared, or were in the process of preparing, national action plans or other documents addressing the matter.

The report noted that the urgency of the commitment to give young people access to decent and productive work had only increased since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 49]. Unemployment and underemployment of young people were not only a social concern, but also had economic and political dimensions. In countries with social protection, such as unemployment insurance, youth unemployment represented an enormous drain on budgets and a waste of capabilities. In others without social protection, the burden was felt by families and communities. Based on a review of national plans, the report presented a number of broad conclusions; policies to address youth employment required a coherent and integrated approach that prepared young people for the labour market and the labour market for young people; youth employment policies tended to focus on the supply side and needed to be accompanied by measures to create additional employment opportunities; policies favouring youth employment should be promoted with a view to improving the employment situation for people of all ages in the labour market; and the participation of representative youth organizations in
the preparation of action plans was weak and the involvement of employers’ and workers’ organizations inadequate. In addition, most countries not only had a lot to learn from one another, but would welcome information and knowledge on how to address youth unemployment. The report also noted that meeting the Millennium Declaration commitment relating to youth employment required concerted and coordinated action at the local, national and international levels, and that developing strategies and programmes for youth employment provided a powerful tool for building political consensus and policy coherence in other areas, including security, peacebuilding and development. Finally, the report noted that the proposal of the High-Level Panel on Youth Employment of the Youth Employment Network (formed by the High-Level Panel on Youth Employment of the United Nations [UN]) for a major new policy and action-oriented initiative on the links between youth employment and collective security merited serious consideration and support.

Recommendations by the Secretary-General for the Assembly’s consideration included: encouraging countries to prepare or implement national reviews and action plans on youth employment, and to submit their reports to the Youth Employment Network as soon as possible and encouraging countries to develop their plans in collaboration with youth, worker and employer organizations and civil society, and to integrate action plans into development and poverty reduction strategy documents. Governments were encouraged to develop appropriate policy-oriented indicators to monitor and evaluate progress in implementing national action plans. The Youth Employment Network should coordinate its core partners’ work to improve indicators and Member States should be encouraged to consider youth employment as integral to their overall development and collective security strategies, giving renewed attention to the Millennium Declaration commitment concerning decent and productive work for young people. The Secretary-General also recommended that the Assembly renew its invitation, made in resolutions 57/165 [UN 2002, p. 1092] and 58/133 [UN 2003, p. 1277], to the Youth Employment Network to support Governments in the elaboration and implementation of national reviews and action plans; and to strengthen the Network’s Youth Consultative Group so that its constituent youth organizations could play a more active role in the development of action plans. He further recommended that the Assembly invite new countries and organizations to join the Network; encourage the lead countries to strengthen the Network as a peer exchange, support and review mechanism; and encourage Member States to provide additional financial resources to expand its work. He also recommended inviting ILO to update annually the global analysis of progress made in developing and implementing national reviews and action plans on youth employment.

At the fourth meeting of the High-Level Panel on Youth Employment (Beijing, 20-21 May), members concluded that the original vision for the Youth Employment Network [UN 2001, p. 1100] had been achieved and proposed a strategy for its future direction, including the following three areas of action: capacity-building for sustainable partnership engagement; knowledge management and communication; and coordination and facilitation, including leveraging and pooling political, technical and financial resources for youth employment initiatives.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 6 October [meeting 28], the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/2 [draft: A/60/L.2 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 62].

**Policies and programmes involving youth**

**The General Assembly**

1. **Reaffirms** the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;
2. **Recognizes** that the implementation of the World Programme of Action and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, require the full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels;
3. **Calls upon** Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and nongovernmental organizations to develop strong partnerships to scale up investments in youth and to encourage youth-led contributions to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, in particular those contained in the Millennium Declaration;
4. **Urges** Governments, in consultation with youth organizations, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies based on the World Programme of Action and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action;
5. **Requests** the United Nations regional commissions to organize, within their existing resources, regional consultations with Member States and youth organizations in order to evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action;
6. **Calls upon** the organizations, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to enhance inter-agency arrangements on youth policies and programmes with a view to improving coordination and enhancing synergies among relevant system activities in this regard;
7. Welcomes the commitment contained in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for young people a central objective of relevant national and multilateral policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, through, inter alia, the development of national action plans on youth employment, as well as by prioritizing therein the necessary resources for the implementation of these plans, and in this regard encourages relevant stakeholders to continue to assist and support, upon request, the efforts of Governments in the elaboration and implementation of national action plans;

8. Stresses the importance of the work of the Youth Employment Network as a peer exchange, support and review mechanism, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and partner organizations to strengthen and expand the Network at the national, regional and international levels;

9. Welcomes the participation of youth representatives in national delegations, and urges Member States to consider being represented by youth representatives on a continuing basis during relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance;

10. Invites all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute, inter alia, to the United Nations Youth Fund for the participation of youth representatives in national delegations, in particular from developing countries;

11. Welcomes the decision to convene the informal, interactive, round-table discussion, which created an opportunity for youth organizations to engage with Member States, and encourages the consideration of similar events in the future;

12. Calls upon Governments, the United Nations system, youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen efforts aimed at the implementation of the ten priority areas contained in the World Programme of Action;

13. Decides to add the following as additional priority areas for the implementation of the World Programme of Action: the mixed impact of globalization on young women and men; the use of and access to information and communication technologies; the dramatic increase in the incidence of HIV infection among young people and the impact of the epidemic on their lives; the active involvement of young people in armed conflict, both as victims and as perpetrators; and the increased importance of addressing intergenerational issues in an ageing society;

14. Requests the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session to elaborate the five priority areas mentioned above and to make recommendations on a supplement to the World Programme of Action to the General Assembly, to be adopted at its sixty-second session, taking into consideration other emerging issues of particular relevance to youth;

15. Requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations programmes and agencies, to establish a broad set of indicators related to youth, which Governments and other actors may choose to use to measure progress towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action;

16. Takes note of the three clusters presented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “World Youth Report 2003”, namely, youth in the global economy, youth in civil society, and youth and their well-being, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fifth session, with a comprehensive report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including the definition of goals and targets, in one of the three clusters mentioned above.

In other action, the Assembly, by decision 60/328 of 16 December, took note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the World Youth Report 2005 [A/60/53-E/2007/7]; a global analysis and evaluation of national action plans on youth employment [A/60/135 & Corr.1]; and “Making commitments matter: young people’s input to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond” [A/60/156].

Ageing persons

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (2002)

Report of Secretary General. In response to General Assembly resolution 50/150 [YUN 2004, p. 1012], the Secretary-General submitted a July report [A/60/151] on follow-up to the Second (2002) World Assembly on Ageing [YUN 2002, p. 1012]. He provided information on activities carried out by Member States at the national level in 2004/05 to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing [ibid., p. 1012], which was adopted at the Second World Assembly. He also described action taken by the UN Secretariat and the funds and programmes of the UN system, and by major NGOs, in support of national implementation and their efforts to mainstream ageing issues into international programmes. The report described progress made by countries in implementing the Plan of Action’s road map [YUN 2003, p. 1012], noting that action was being taken in several areas, including national capacity-building and promotion of institutional follow-up to the Madrid Plan; ageing-specific policy and programmes; and mainstreaming efforts.

The report noted that the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) was continuing to work on the technical assistance initiative, launched in 2003, to support Member States in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action, includ-
ing undertaking advisory missions to Kyrgyzstan in 2004 and to Egypt in 2005. However, lack of awareness of the Madrid Plan or its contents remained an obstacle to implementation in some regions, and even among UN staff in field offices. Overall, there was a need to strengthen the strategy for raising the visibility of the Madrid Plan at both the national and international levels.

The report observed that mainstreaming ageing in national plans and international strategies also remained a challenge. It also noted that ageing and the situation of older persons often continued to be addressed from a humanitarian perspective that ignored the potential of older persons to contribute to reaching national development objectives. It further noted that national capacity-building was essential for the implementation of the Madrid Plan, but the human and financial resources available to the UN system, and specifically to DESA, for providing technical assistance remained severely limited.

The Secretary-General suggested that the Assembly consider calling on States, UN system funds and agencies and NGOs to reinforce their advocacy campaigns aimed at informing major societal actors about the decisions taken at the Second World Assembly on Ageing. The Assembly should reiterate its recommendation that the situation of older persons should be taken into account in reaching development goals and stress the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to implement the Madrid Plan of Action.

International Conference. On 24 August [A/60/377-E/2005/92], Qatar transmitted to the Secretary-General and the General Assembly President the Declaration of the Doha International Conference on Ageing in View of Present-Day Changes (Doha, Qatar, 4-6 April). The Declaration contained recommendations relating to care and concern for the elderly and their participation in development, and appealed for the drafting of a universal declaration of the rights of the elderly, to be promulgated on the International Day of Older Persons (designated as 1 October by the Assembly in resolution 45/106 [YUN 1990, p. 820]).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December [meeting 64], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/60/502 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 60/135 without vote [agenda item 65].

Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolution 59/150 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/13 of 14 July 2005, in which the Council invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a ‘bottom-up’ approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004 entitled “Modalities for the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002”, in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years, with each review and appraisal cycle to focus on one of the priority directions of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recognizing that in many parts of the world, awareness of the Madrid Plan of Action remains limited or non-existent, which limits the scope of implementation efforts,

1. Calls upon Governments, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the non-governmental community to reinforce their advocacy campaigns aimed at informing all major societal actors, including older persons and their organizations, about the decisions taken at the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

2. Recommends that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, take into account the situation of older persons;

3. Calls upon Governments and, within their mandates, the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, and encourages the non-governmental community to reinforce their advocacy campaigns aimed at informing all major societal actors, including older persons and their organizations, about the decisions taken at the Second World Assembly on Ageing;

4. Invites Member States and the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to take into account the needs and concerns of older persons in decision-making at all levels;

5. Stresses the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, and in this connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

6. Calls upon Governments to consult and utilize the Research Agenda on Ageing for the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Valencia Forum in April 2002, as a tool for strengthening national capacity on ageing for the implementation, review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action;

7. Invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to encourage and support comprehensive, diversified and specialized research on ageing in all countries;
8. Invites the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council to integrate the issues of population and individual ageing into their work in order to promote implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

9. Recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women continue to consider the situation of older women, in particular those who are most vulnerable, including those living in rural areas;

10. Encourages those regional commissions that have not yet done so to elaborate a regional strategy for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action;

11. Takes note of Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to present his proposals for conducting the review and appraisal exercise at the regional and global levels to the Commission at its forty-fourth session;

12. Requests the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to strengthen the capacity of the focal points on ageing and to provide them with adequate resources for further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, in particular through appropriate mainstreaming action;

13. Stresses the importance of the collection of data and population statistics disaggregated by age and sex on all aspects of policy formulation by all countries, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations system to support national efforts in capacity-building, especially those of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, takes note in this context of the establishment by the United Nations of an Internet-accessible database on ageing, and invites States to submit, whenever possible, information for inclusion in the database;

14. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, and requests that it be forwarded to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-fourth session in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.