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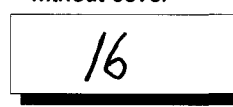
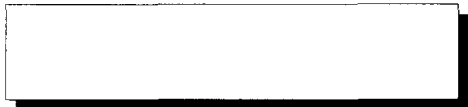
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CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Conclusions
of a round-table conference
held at Bellagio, Italy, 1-7 April 1964



UNITED NATIONS
CHILDREN'S FUND

CHILDREN
AND YOUTH
IN DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING

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UNITED NATIONS
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FOREWORD

THE CONCLUSIONS REPRODUCED in the following pages were adopted by a round-table conference held at Bellagio, Italy, from 1 to 7 April 1964. They represent the joint views of those who attended and whose names are given in the attendance list. They are ministers of planning and economists directly engaged in the planning of national development, and authorities in various fields of the needs of children and youth, including representatives of the United Nations family of agencies concerned. I hope that this statement will be of interest to persons in planning organizations and in ministries concerned with those aspects of planning relating to children and youth in the developing countries.

The initiative for this round-table conference was taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which authorized a "round-table conference, at which leading economists, planners, and specialists on children's problems would consider how best to take account of the needs of children and youth in economic and social planning in developing countries."

This was one of a number of measures decided on by the Board to promote appropriate consideration of children and youth in national development programmes. Established late in 1946 as an agency of emergency relief to children in war-ravaged countries, UNICEF was instructed, in 1950, by the United Nations General Assembly to give assistance in relation to the long-range problems of children in the developing countries. In the execution of this task it became clear that it was not sufficient to protect the child from death or illness, but that it was advisable also to assist countries "to prepare him for life." For many years, the Fund has been trying to assist projects that countries would

develop and carry on from their own resources, rather than special projects introduced from the outside. The increasing attention to planning in nearly all developing countries means that the kinds of projects aided will only be fully effective as they become part of each country's own development effort.

This evolution of UNICEF policy is, of course, by no means isolated from other currents of thought. The problems of economic development are now being studied in many parts of the world. Of great significance for children and youth has been the tendency to give much greater weight to the factor of human resources in economic development. However, the application of this knowledge to the developing countries is only beginning. The family of agencies of the United Nations has naturally been concerned with these questions, especially in their programme for the United Nations Development Decade, and in the work of the regional economic commissions and development institutes.

I wish to thank the Chairman of the round-table conference, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, and all those who attended, for their participation. Their valuable contributions will be more fully reflected in a report of the conference which is now in preparation, and of which the conclusions here extracted form one chapter.^a I wish also to express my thanks to the Rockefeller Foundation for the hospitality and facilities provided at the Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio.



MAURICE PATE

Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund

^a To be published in September 1964. It will also include the *rapporteur's* report of proceedings and summaries of the documents and main statements.

CONCLUSIONS

*Round-table Conference on Planning
for the Needs of Children in Developing Countries
Bellagio, Italy, 1 to 7 April 1964*

Premises

1. The round-table conference, composed of national planners and specialists in the needs of children, affirms the necessity of ensuring that the needs of children and youth are given adequate consideration in the national planning of developing countries. Plans for economic and social development normally reflect concern for the needs of children, starting with the premise that a rise in national income will redound to the benefit of the nation's children. Moreover, the planning of investments in manpower resources is generally regarded as imperative.
2. Nevertheless, a review of experience to date leads to the conclusion that more systematic attention should be given in the plan to all aspects which concern children and youth. This would include an examination of what the plan implicitly requires of them in such terms as manpower resources and other objectives for the development of the country. It would also cover the social needs of children and youth that should be reflected in the plan. Otherwise, crucial needs may be overlooked, fall between sectors, or not be given balanced emphasis. Neither a separate governmental sector for children nor a separate section of the plan for children is called for, but rather a deliberate analysis of the investments and consumption expenditures required for the protection and development of children and youth, within and cutting across sectors, in relation to the development objectives of the nation and its available resources. Such expenditures are justified from both an economic and a social point of view.

3. Each country, whether or not fully equipped with data and planning machinery, should develop a national policy for its children and youth. This policy should contain a statement of the major problems confronting the younger generation, and the nation's expectations for achieving results within given time periods. It should also involve a call for support from the nation as a whole, and for the participation of its people in realizing these objectives. In addition to specific targets of development to be achieved during given time periods relating to such material needs as health and nutrition, the national policy should include objectives designed to ensure and strengthen the transmission of fundamental values such as honesty, democratic attitudes, loyalty to home and country, and a deep sense of international understanding and solidarity.

4. For this latter purpose, the receptivity and fresh outlook of childhood should be drawn upon to build understanding among all the peoples of the world. Not yet weighed down with artificial prejudices and narrow provincialism, the children of the world should have the opportunity to remain free of these stifling handicaps, enfeebling and dangerous to themselves and to the world at large. It is through values of universal brotherhood first felt in the hearts of children that the minds of men can become open to the eventual creation of a peaceful world community. Such values transcend, of course, questions of stages of economic development and are imperative for all countries. Progress in these directions can be achieved through national and international programmes of study and action.

Planning approaches

5. Whatever the degree of development of the country, periodic and systematic assessments of the situation of children and youth are urged, in order to determine the most important problems, to evaluate the results of previous actions, and to select logical points on which to concentrate.

6. Planning for the interests of children and youth would be aided by the expression and stimulation of public awareness through a national group composed of governmental as well as non-governmental leaders, who would serve to highlight the needs of children and youth and help in the formulation of a national policy for them. A committee of the legislative body should be formed to sustain governmental interest in this field. The organization of planning for the needs of children and youth should be co-ordinated at an inter-ministerial level and in the planning commission (or other corresponding central planning mechanism). Other means, more appropriate to the socio-economic structures of various countries, might be used to achieve the same objectives.

7. The final goals of a policy for children and youth can often best be expressed in terms of social values rather than in quantitative terms. It is, therefore, sometimes necessary to quantify means rather than ends. The planner should be supplied with as much quantitative data as possible, however preliminary and approximate they may be. Insufficient effort has thus far been devoted to locating and preparing relevant data in the quantitative terms most useful to planners. Efforts to remedy this situation should be encouraged. Education and vocational training have been recognized as investments. Similar recognition should be accorded to health, nutrition, and social welfare services.

8. Insufficient quantitative data need not preclude a programme of action. Among the guiding criteria for such action may be: the correction of flagrant distortions or inequities, such as imbalances in the development of the educational system or unusually high rates of nutrition disorders in certain geographical areas within the country; the removal of bottle-necks and preparation required for programmes in future development plans; feasibility rather than optimisation when few choices are possible; comparison with standards in other countries of similar economic position; the choice of simpler rather than more complex programmes; the economy, or better returns, to be obtained from developing complementary services; the

choice of low-cost programmes based on local resources which would otherwise not be used. Where the limitation of resources requires partial goals in social sectors, priority should be given to the needs of children and youth.

**Main needs of children and youth to be considered
by the planner**

9. Indirect as well as direct means of improving the situation of children and youth should be considered. Indirect means of great importance can include the use of fiscal policy, redistribution of income, price policy directed to foods, subsidized family housing, and other economic measures designed to help children within their families, particularly those in lower-income groups.

10. Many countries are concerned with the rapid growth of their population in comparison with their rate of economic growth. Programmes, addressed to the survival and well-being of infants and young children and the improvement of family hygiene and education in family life generally, may be expected to encourage family planning.

Health, and food and nutrition

11. The leading sources of child mortality and morbidity are malnutrition, infectious diseases, and poor sanitation. The plan should give emphasis to well co-ordinated preventive services, and the progressive extension of maternal and child health services in the framework of basic health services.

12. The problem of food and nutrition is most important in the pre-school age when the requirement of protein is high, and when the damage done by malnutrition and under-nutrition can be irreversible. Special attention should be given to the production of protein-rich foods and also to ensuring their availability to children and youth. There should be co-ordination of food planning policy and of nutritional programmes; this co-ordination could be secured either within the planning

commission or at a high inter-ministerial level. At least health, agriculture, and education should be represented in such a policy-making body. Similarly, the training of professional personnel in these fields should include nutritional orientation. There is also a need for wide-spread diffusion of nutrition education in the population at large through home economics, community development, social work, agricultural extension and multi-purpose workers at the village and local community levels.

Education and vocational training

13. One of the functions of education is to prepare the child for a constructive life. A long-term educational development plan should take account of the goals of the general development plan, and in particular of those goals relating to population policy, civic education, manpower needs, the preparation of managerial and supervisory personnel, and nutrition and health education. Educational development plans should try to meet the needs of children and youth who have not had any schooling or who have dropped out before completing it; literacy and other programmes outside schools for young people and adults should be extended. Pre-vocational and vocational training, including apprenticeship, should also be expanded through the use of resources in the public and industrial sectors. The planning and development of networks of both vocational training and educational facilities should be closely integrated, and related to the occupational opportunities for young people.

Urban and rural needs

14. Rapid industrialization, unless well planned, may lead to the creation of slum conditions which adversely affect the welfare of children and youth. To deal with this problem there should be co-ordinated action of health, sanitation, social welfare services, education, and training; low-cost food for infants and pre-school children; and low-cost housing and recreation areas.

15. A similar co-ordination is required in the case of rural

children, including special attention to the provision of wholesome drinking water and proper environmental sanitation.

Social welfare services

16. Social welfare services for children and youth should not be exclusively provided for vulnerable groups. Social welfare services should become available to all children and youth, and their objectives should include improving the adaptation of the family to changing social conditions and social demands. Emphasis should thus be given to such measures as those designed to strengthen family life, to educate parents in child rearing and to help working mothers. Specific attention should be paid to prevention of emotional as well as physical deprivation. As resources permit, provision should be made to meet the needs of major vulnerable groups such as abandoned, neglected, illegitimate, delinquent, and handicapped children. In general, priority should be given to preventive rather than to remedial services, and to rehabilitation rather than to palliative assistance.

Youth employment

17. Many countries foresee a continuation of their grave problems of unemployment and under-employment of youth, even after their prospective plans have been completed, despite all measures currently being undertaken and planned for the future. It would be important to review whatever experience is available as a result of the attempts by various countries to cope with this problem, and to initiate further study and pilot projects.

Training and research

18. Training possibilities should be expanded as a priority for all those concerned with the welfare of children and youth, with particular attention to the preparation of auxiliary workers, and on-the-job training.

19. There is need for more research, especially applied re-

search, in several fields bearing directly on aspects of planning concerning children and youth. Research programmes, both inside and outside the family of the United Nations, could contribute greatly to resolving some of the pressing problems of services and planning related to children and youth.

Information for planners and specialists in the problems of children and youth

20. Those to be concerned with the planning of the social aspects of development, whether at the level of the general plan or in ministries, should be given basic knowledge of the specific problems facing children and youth in the developing countries. There is a parallel need for those in ministries, who are to be concerned with the planning aspects of services bearing on children and youth, to be given some basic knowledge of planning methods. For both these purposes, use may be made of existing training institutions and programmes, both inside and outside the United Nations family.

International action

21. The needs of the children and youth of the developing countries are such that external assistance continues to be required on a much larger scale than at present. All sources of aid, bilateral as well as international, are encouraged by the conference to consider how their programmes might take fuller account of the needs of children and youth. Such consideration might have particular relevance to nutrition problems, to which a number of programmes of the United Nations family, as well as bilateral programmes, might well be able to make a larger contribution in the future.

22. In view of the importance of human resources to economic development, the round-table welcomed the recognition recently given by international financial organizations to investment in education and training at certain levels, and hopes that similar

recognition may be extended to requirements in other social fields concerned with the rising generation.

23. It is recommended that UNICEF, in co-operation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and with the specialized agencies concerned, should explore the possibility of a thoroughly prepared World Conference on the place of children and youth in economic and social development. It is similarly recommended that UNICEF should explore, together with UNESCO and the other international agencies concerned, all possible measures to promote international understanding among children and youth.

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On. Ludovico Montini, the representative of Italy on the Executive Board of UNICEF addressed the round-table conference on 4 April and welcomed them on behalf of his Government.

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DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE

Country case studies

INDIA, P. D. Kulkarni	Indian approach to planning for the needs of children and youth
POLAND, Planning Commission, Social Division	Planned policy of improvement of living standards for children and youth in the Polish People's Republic
TANGANYIKA, Ministry of Development Planning	Development planning related to the needs of children in Tanganyika
TUNISIA, Government of	Planning for the needs of childhood and youth
USSR, M. J. Studenikin	Satisfaction of children's needs in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
USA, Department of Health, Education and Welfare	United States experience in planning and providing for the needs of children and youth
VENEZUELA, Hector Hurtado	The needs of childhood and youth in the socio-economic development of Venezuela

Working papers

Debré, Robert	The place of children in national development
Gopalan, C.	Planning for food and nutrition in relation to children's needs
Junqueira, Helena Iracy	The social consequences of urbanization for children
Kaser, Michael C.	Planning for children in the context of social and economic development programmes
McGranahan, D. V.	Problems of target setting in planning for the needs of children
Pusic, Eugen	Planning structures and processes in relation to the needs of children
Sauvy, Alfred	Demographic considerations in planning for children—the case of education
Schottland, Charles I.	Some observations on administrative arrangements to promote the welfare of children through national planning
Sicault, Georges	The scope of a policy for children Outline for country assessment of the needs of children and adolescents
Singer, Hans W.	Some neglected aspects of the role of children and youth in developing countries
Tinbergen, Jan	Targets and instruments of economic and social policy
UNICEF	Questions for discussion about the content, method, and organization of planning for children Some notes on costs of services in sectors benefiting children in developing countries.