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Adolescent Executive Overview - Reference Book: Preparatory & Reference Documentation on the World Summit for Children (1990: July); Special Session for Children

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Notes
[Archives: CF/NYH/SP/SUM; Folder: S0355.] Contents: Section 1: Members of the Planning Committee - Schedule of (remaining) meetings and activities; Section 2: Schedule and Programme of the World Summit for Children; Section 3: Draft Declaration of the World Summit for Children - Draft Plan of Action; Section 4: Report of Meetings: - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Meetings of the Planning Committee - Meetings of the Working Group on Format - Meetings of the Working Group on the Declaration - Statement of Agreement of the six Initiating Governments -

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UNICEF | DB Name cframp01

Date: 9/22/98
Sender: Bruce Dick
To: Kelemework Shiferaw
cc: Maria Calivis, Marjorie Newman-Williams
Priority: Urgent
Subject: Final version of the Adolescent Executive Overview for the T
Please find attached the final version of the Executive Overview on Adolescents

Ttado5.wpd

Bruce

ADOLESCENTS -- A UNICEF 2000+ Agenda for Action
Executive Overview (revised 22.09.98)

Adolescents at a glance
General
- In the year 2000 there will be nearly 1.2 billion adolescents between 10 and 19 (20% of the population)
- Secondary school enrolment in developing countries: 52% boys, 41% girls
- There are at least 73 million adolescent workers aged 10-14
- WHO estimates that 70% of premature deaths among adults are largely due to behaviours initiated during adolescence - tobacco use, for example, typically starts before age 20, and HIV is often contracted during adolescence

Sexual and Reproductive Health
- 60 out of every 1000 adolescent girls give birth each year
- 1 out of every 10 births is to an adolescent
- At least 60,000 adolescent girls die from health problems related to pregnancy and child birth each year
- Each year up to 4.4 million girls aged 15-19 undergo unsafe abortions
- Every day more than 250,000 young people become infected with an STD (including HIV)
- Each year 1 in 20 adolescents contracts an STD
- Every day 7000 young people become infected with HIV, that is 50% of all new sexually transmitted cases -- adolescent girls have rates up to 5 times higher than adolescent boys
- An estimated 10 million adolescents are now living with HIV

Violence and Accidents
- Over 100 million young people are likely to be vulnerable to the effects of armed conflict by the year 2000, as soldiers, civilians and refugees
- In some countries in the Americas, homicide is the most important cause of death among young males
- Crashes on the road are the main cause of death amongst young men world wide, often related to alcohol and other drugs

Physical and Mental Health:
- Approximately 4 million adolescents attempt suicide each year, and of these at least 100,000 result in death
- 300 million young people use tobacco: 150 million of them will die of tobacco related diseases later in life

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There is a growing focus on adolescents by governments, UN organisations, Foundations and NGOs. While this increasing attention has been generated by, and in turn has generated improved availability of data relating to this period of the life cycle, there is still a dearth of information in many countries about a range of factors that undermine adolescents development, potential and opportunities -- information that is essential for advocacy and programme development.

Many of the specific problems facing adolescents have common antecedents and are linked together in terms of cause and effect, and there is a growing appreciation that (a) adolescent development increases adolescents' resiliency and protects them against many of these problems, and (b) adolescents' participation is fundamental to their development, and to ensuring that their rights are protected and met.

Adolescence is a pivotal period in the life cycle, with implications both for an individual's entire life (eg. life skills, tobacco use) and also for the next generation of children (eg. HIV/AIDS, violence). Although all adolescents are vulnerable, some require specific attention because they are particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged as a result of a range of factors, both individual

(eg. gender, marriage, disability) and environmental (eg. lacking family and community support, poverty, conflict, exploitation).

The case for a focus on adolescence is being made from a number of perspectives:

* *demographic* — the age groups 10-19 years and 10-24 years constitute 20% and 30% of the population respectively, with major increases projected in urban settings of developing countries

* *public health/nutrition* — immediate and long-term health implications, for this generation and the next: HIV/AIDS, drugs and tobacco use, chronic diseases, accidents and violence, child and maternal mortality

* *education/learning* — this is a time for developing the basic knowledge, skills and competencies needed for life

* *economic* — for past investments (survival for what?), for the present (adolescents as a resource and as purchasing power) and for the future (investing in the health and development of adolescents is central to the social and economic progress and stability of communities and countries)

* *gender equality* — a key period when inequalities, attitudes and behaviours are manifested and reinforced

* *democracy and peace* — participation in civil society and political processes (including the ballot box), and approaches to non-violence

* *sustainable development* — adolescents as a resource, including their interest and engagement with environmental issues -- adolescents are a force for change

* *human rights* — adolescents have rights that need to be protected, and at the same time they are often responsible for protecting the rights of other children (as parents and care givers)

UNICEF has a long track record of responding to the rights of adolescents in need of special protection. However, during the past 6 years, stimulated by the AIDS pandemic, there has been renewed effort to mobilise and support programmes that meet the health and development rights of adolescents. UNICEF now has growing experiences around the world of advocating for adolescents rights and helping to meet and protect their rights to information and life skills; access to education and adolescent-friendly services (eg. health, juvenile justice); safe and supportive living and learning environments (working with peers, families, policies and the media); and opportunities to participate. All of these rights are fundamental to adolescents' development.

Many lessons have been learnt during the 90's, including the importance of focusing on:

adolescent development, that increases adolescents' resiliency and protects them against the specific problems that generate community and political concern (eg. the negative repercussions of unwanted and unsafe sex; drugs, including alcohol and tobacco; violence and accidents; poor nutrition and poor health, both physical and psychological);

adolescents participation, in programmes and in civil society

underlying issues, such as gender inequalities, societal values and norms;

the most disadvantaged, as emphasised in a number of global conferences dealing with sexual exploitation, child labour and the impact of armed conflict

Meeting Adolescents Rights to Development

Adolescents' Rights to Development	Strategies for meeting/protecting adolescents rights to development				
	National Policies, Laws and Planning processes	*Adolescent -friendly and health promoting schools*	*Adolescent -friendly services eg health , juvenile justice, recreation*	*Outreach through NGOs, religious groups & CSOs -- peers and families*	*News and entertainment media*
Information and opportunities to develop life skills & capacities					
Equal opportunities to access and benefit from a range of services					
A safe and supportive environment free from exploitation and abuse					
Opportunities to participate and be heard					

\#　The safe and supportive environment includes the immediate physical and social environment of families, friends and service providers, and the wider environment of societal values and norms, policies and legislation -- key elements of child protection.

Meeting Adolescents' Rights to participation

Participation in:	Participation in Programmes		Participation in democratic processes and civil society
	Programmes with a focus on adolescence	Participation in other programmes (eg. malaria, AIDS orphans)	
Assessment			
Analysis			
Action			

In addition to the need to focus on adolescent participation and development *per se*, it will also be important to develop national capacity to support adolescents as parents and care givers (the latter increasingly important in the wake of HIV/AIDS and war). It is now well established that the children of children are particularly vulnerable, and that once children become parents many of their rights are unlikely to be met (eg. their rights to education).

A FOCUS ON ADOLESCENTS -- Why UNICEF?

Adolescents compromise about 40% of all children as defined by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

What happens during this period of the life cycle has a profound impact on the survival and development of the next generation of children because of adolescents' roles as older siblings, heads of households, parents and members of civil society

Adolescence provides a unique opportunity to break a range of viscous cycles that perpetuate structural problems of priority concern to UNICEF -- to have an impact on a number of problems that undermine children's rights and that are perpetuated from one generation to the next such as gender discrimination, violence, poor nutrition and poverty

Adolescents are an important resource -- not only is adolescence a period of great change (in terms of physical and psycho-social development) but it is also a period when children themselves become a force for great change within their families and communities

Adolescents are a key target group for many of the Action Plans that UNICEF is currently supporting, including Rio, Vienna, Beijing, Cairo, Stockholm, Istanbul, Oslo and the Machel report

While other organisations are increasingly focusing on aspects of adolescent health and development, no other UN organisation is in a position to advocate for *"Adolescents"* in view of their restricted mandates in terms of sectors (eg. WHO, UNESCO, ILO), problems (UNFPA, UNDCP, UNEP) or target groups (UNHCR)

In terms of **defining a global 2010 agenda** for adolescents, UNICEF should take a leadership role in bringing key partners together to define such an agenda. This would build on and strengthen existing partnerships/collaboration and ensure wide ownership and commitment.

Meeting and Protecting the Participation and Development Rights of Adolescents: towards Goals

At a very general level there are a number of **overall goals** that are outlined in the WSC, CEDAW, and the Action Plans of Rio, WSC, Beijing, Cairo, Stockholm, Oslo, Istanbul, etc. (see "Global Commitments to Youth Rights") and in the World Action Plan for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (even if in general these are more aspirational than operational)

There are measurable indicators for specific **"problems"** -- the negative repercussions of unwanted and unsafe sex (eg. HIV/AIDS, STDs, pregnancy and its negative outcomes), substance abuse, tobacco, accidents, violence and abuse, suicide, nutrition, tuberculosis, etc. These vary depending on national/regional situations and priorities.

"Access/utilisation" indicators are available -- in the education sector, for example, enrollment and completion/retention, and achievement. Many of the services that are provided will be of relevance to a range of specific problems

Some of the **target groups** in need of special protection are quantifiable -- married children, numbers in child labour, sexual exploitation, etc. (although we do not have good measures for the more generic categories, such as the number of children who "lack family and community care and support")

The main challenge will be measuring **adolescent development** -- there is a growing body of evidence that it is development that protects adolescents against a range of inter-related problems, and that measuring the problems effectively moves us away from the cause to the effect.

UNICEF's specific 2000-2010 agenda[1] will build of existing programme experiences, capacity, strategic advantages and partnerships, to focus at global, regional and country levels on:

1. **Assessing and analysing the situation of adolescents**, using the processes for obtaining the information and the information collected for:
   * advocacy
   * building alliances (including alliances with adolescents)
   * promoting and supporting action

2. **Developing and supporting programming approaches to adolescent development and participation** that includes a focus on:
   * information and life skills
   * safe and supportive living and learning environments
   * access to adolescent-friendly health services and juvenile justice
   * creating opportunities and developing capacity for adolescent participation

3. **Developing and supporting programming approaches to adolescents as parents and care givers**, including a focus on:
   * girls education
   * parenting programmes and life/livelihood skills, including linkages to ECCD programmes
   * innovative approaches to supporting adolescent parents and care givers and meeting their rights to development and participation

4. **Particular emphasis** will be given to:
   * ensuring a focus on the specific needs of girls and boys (gender disparities)
   * working with parents and families
   * developing and strengthening partnerships, including partnerships with religious organisation, the media and the private sector, and between adolescents and adults
   * a focus on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged
   * the country programming processes, which provide scope for different entry points to be used as opportunities to protect adolescents' rights to development and participation (eg. HIV/AIDS, violence and exploitation, nutrition, etc.)

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[1] A number of processes are already underway to prepare UNICEF for the above agenda, including the regional translation and adaptation of *"Youth Health -- for a Change"* (with key UN and NGO partners); the Inter-regional Working Group on *Meeting the Health and Development Rights of Young People in Crisis* (with UNDCP, WHO and UNAIDS); the WHO/UNICEF project on *"Adolescent Health and Development -- what to measure and how?"*; inter-regional initiatives on *meeting the development and participation rights of adolescent girls* and *programming for psycho-social support;* synthesising *global commitments to youth rights* and experiences of *adolescent participation in programmes and civil society*; and using the internet through *Voices of Youth* and the *PKN*

Overall activities for UNICEF, 1998 - 2010:

Area of Action	Key Strategies	2000 synthesis of good practice	2005 implement in selected countries	2010 take to scale, globally	UNICEF Strategic Advantages

| 1. Assessment, and analysis of adolescents' status for advocacy, alliances and action, including monitoring adolescents' rights to development and participation | Include a focus on Adolescents in country situation assessment and analysis (including the development and dissemination of support tools and capacity building)

Ensure a focus on adolescents in UNDAF and relevant Theme Groups

Promote and support a focus on adolescents in routinely collected statistics (with disaggregation by age and sex)

"The State of the Country's Adolescents" -- support the collection of data about adolescents, involving adolescents and using innovative approaches/partners (eg MTV, opinion polls, marketing), and including information about adolescents as parents and care givers

Support on-going reporting systems about/by adolescents, with dissemination to parents, service providers, policy makers, etc

Developing national/global targets and goals (based on existing commitments from international conferences, etc.)

Routine collection and analysis of information relating to the quality and coverage of: information, life and livelihood skills; child-friendly learning environments; adolescent-friendly health services; safe spaces for adolescents; policies and legislation ; adolescent participation in local/national development | Synthesis of approaches to assessing and analysing the state of the country's adolescents

Synthesis of approaches to the routine collection of adolescent data

Synthesis and consensus about global goals, including identification of a few marker statistics that could be collected in all (most) countries

Synthesis and consensus about approaches to monitoring adolescents rights | 25 countries | All UNICEF Offices | UNICEF has a long track record of developing and supporting measurement activities, and using the information for effective programming and advocacy

UNICEF has demonstrated (a) the effectiveness of national and global monitoring for programme support and advocacy, and (b) its capacity to develop and support systems for national and global monitoring |

| 2. Developing and accelerating programming approaches to adolescents' participation and development | Mobilise for and support the implementation of rights-based programming for adolescent development and participation, ensuring a focus on the most disadvantaged (early adolescence, adolescent girls, marginalised adolescents, discrimination, disability, adolescents as parents and care givers)

Develop new programme areas, including safe spaces; juvenile justice; psycho-social support; recreation/sports

Facilitate adolescent participation in adolescent programmes (AAA), local and national development (including WSC goals), democratic processes and local/national development (including the development of skills and processes to facilitate such participation)

Promote training/support/capacity building for adolescents, parents, service providers, members of CSOs, policy makers, the media, etc.

Mobilize and collaborate with Foundations, research institutions, universities, etc. for research to guide and support programming for non-violence, peace and democracy | Develop and adapt training materials and resources

Initiate Technical Support Group type processes to develop programming approaches

Synthesise and disseminate good practice and lessons learned about programming for gender equality and non-violence (PKN and VOY)

Synthesise and disseminate effective approaches to involving adolescents in adolescent programmes and civil society (PKN and VOY)

Define research agendas and identify partners | 20 countries | 40 countries | UNICEF has a great track record of simplifying complex issues and taking specific interventions to scale

Builds on UNICEF's on-going support for education (with an emphasis on girls education); programming for young people's health and development; child protection, and commitment to the action plans of Stockholm, Oslo, etc.

UNICEF brings a unique programmatic perspective, and has growing experiences of processes that bring together researchers and programmers |

| 3. Advocacy and partnerships for adolescent development and participation | Convene a Global Advisory Group, that includes young people and represents a range of sectors and organisations, to be responsible for making recommendations to UNICEF on adolescent policies and programmes

Specific advocacy -- turn the spotlight on violence and exploitation, gender inequities, disadvantaged adolescents, and the factors that undermine the potential and development of adolescents

Work with the media to promote positive images of adolescents, to monitor their problems and the responses to them.

Strengthen the engagement of UNICEF National Committees, for advocacy and action | Develop a 2000-2010 advocacy plan, including a major event in 2005

Organise a global consultation on non-violence, peace and democracy.

Synthesise experiences of using the media as a programme intervention for monitoring rights

Develop and strengthen partnerships, within the UN, with youth NGOs and other CSOs, local authorities, the private sector, religious groups, the media, etc.

Include a focus on adolescents adolescents in the agendas of UNICEF National Committees | | | UNICEF has a well proven capacity for advocacy and mobilisation at national, regional and global levels |

Selected UNICEF Publications/Resources on Adolescents

Global Commitments to Youth Rights: a guide for young people to the government agreements from the UN world conferences from Rio to Istanbul. Commonwealth Youth Programme/UNICEF, 1997

Youth Health -- for a Change A UNICEF Notebook on Programming for Young People's Health and Development. UNICEF, 1997

A Picture of Health? A review and annotated bibliography of the health of young people in developing countries. WHO/UNICEF, 1995

Action for Adolescent Health, Towards a Common Agenda, recommendations from a joint study group. WHO/UNFPA/UNICEF, 1997

Report of the UNICEF Consultative Meeting on Youth Participation, Pawling, New York, 16-18 June 1997

Youth Participation: UNICEF's Experience with Working For and With Young People, an analysis of Country and Regional Trends in Promoting Youth Participation in Programming. UNICEF, 1998

Working with Young People, a guide to preventing HIV/AIDS and STDs, WHO/Commonwealth Youth Programme/UNICEF, 1995

UNICEF Statement to the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998

Adolescent Health and Development Programming: what should we measure and how? Report of the first technical consultation of the WHO/UNICEF Measurement Project, Morges, Switzerland, May 1998

Meeting the Development and Participation Rights of Young People in Crisis. Reports of the First and Second Inter-regional Programming Group Meetings. Pawling, New York, 13-17 October 1997 and Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, 13-17 July 1998

Life Skills in Action, report of an interagency consensus meeting on life skills programming, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, Geneva, 1998 (Draft)

Improving Adolescent and Maternal Nutrition: An Overview of Benefits and Options. UNICEF, 1997

Voices of Youth,<www.unicef.org>

Programme Knowledge Network on Young People's Health and Development, <www.unicef.intranet.org>

Claiming the future, Progress of Nations, 1998

Education for Conflict Resolution: A Training for Trainers Manual. UNICEF, 1997

Using Entertainment to Promote Health. UNICEF, 1996

It's Only Right! A Practical Guide to Learning About the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, 1993

Education for Development: A Teacher's Resource for Global Learning, Hodder and Stoughton, 1994, Heinemann, 1995