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 Dat 8/1/2002
 Time 4:53:49 PM
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CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2002-01053

Full Item Register Number [auto] **CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2002-01053**

Ext Ref: Doc Series/Year/Number **SP/SSC/WSC-000.15**

Record Item Title

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

Date Created / on Correspondence
 7/1/1990

Date Registered
 12/28/2001

Date Closed

Primary Contact **Rijuta Tooker (Temp Assist)**
 Owner Location **Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =**
 Home Location **Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =**
 Current Location **Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =**

Fd1: Type: IN, OUT, INTERNAL
 Fd2: Sender Ref or Cross Ref
 Field

File Container Record ID
 File Container Record (Title)

CF/RAF/USAA/DB01/2001-06648
Background Documents (WSC)

N1: Number of pages
 0

N2: Doc Year
 0

N3: Document Number
 0

Full GCG Code Plan Number
 Record GCG File Plan

Da1: Date Published

Da2: Date Received

Date 3

Priority

Record Type **A01ed Item Corr - CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC**

Electronic Details

No Document

DOS File Name

Alt Bar code = RAMP-TRIM Record Number

CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2002-01053

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 -~~

Print Name of Person Submit Images

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EDWIN RAIKER

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Date: 9/24/98

Sender: Janice Clarke

To: Richard Morgan, Mohammed Waheed Hassan, Roger Shrimpton, Vincent Orinda, Srilakshmi Gururaja, Ludmila Lhotska, Kelemework Shiferaw

Priority: Urgent

Subject: FINAL FINAL version of Executive Summary on ECCD

Dear Colleagues:

Sorry, it was not attached.



4pager.DOC

Regards Janice

Early Childhood Care for Survival, Growth and Development Programming for the Young Child (0-8)

Prepared by an inter-sectoral working group on young child development
23 September 1998

INTRODUCTION

Child development is an inter-related and inter-dependent process. Optimum child development results from good child care and the convergence of activities that ensure child survival, growth and psychosocial development, as well as an enabling environment that is violence free and respects the rights of women and children.

Positive outcomes for young children are the result of adequate care for both mothers and children, their ready access to essential health services, food, clean water, a safe and sanitary environment, family knowledge about how children survive, grow and develop and time for mothers to care for themselves.

Equally important for positive young child development is the shared responsibility of fathers, and other males in the child's life, for child care and development. Mothers, fathers and other primary care givers also need time to interact positively with infants and young children, since positive interaction with adults is essential for the young child's cognitive, social and emotional development. Such interaction also helps children develop from an early age, the values, behavior and capacities for a life that is free of violence and discrimination.

PART 1

Specific Results for Children

In the increasingly complex and interdependent world of the year 2000, women and men will be expected to be creative, confident and flexible problem solvers. There is growing consensus that the foundations of such human capacity are laid prenatally and in the early years of each individual's life, and that the societies that make the essential investments early in children's lives are the ones that make quantum leaps in human development. It is also better understood today that social and economic development and optimal child development occur with best results, in societies where women participate in decision-making at all levels of society, have access to resources, and enjoy legal protection and respect.

A critical aspect of the enabling environment for the physical, mental, moral and social development of children is the ability of families and communities to be the frontline of

protection and care for children. The commitment of all governments to the full realization of children's and women's human rights through the implementation of the CRC and CEDAW helps to create such an enabling environment and is a necessary condition for the development of appropriate national legal and policy frameworks.

A supportive legal and policy environment is also important for the success of programmes that are child-friendly, family-focused and community-based. Such programmes facilitate the best use of human, organizational and economic resources for the development of the child's full potential.

If significant progress in human development is to occur in the next century, the following specific results for all children are necessary:

- Comprehensive and integrated child development programmes exist to guarantee good care for better development of children, especially for those who face multiple disadvantages and poverty;
- Available young child care that ensures adequate stimulation, interaction between children and caregivers and responds to a child's needs and growing capacities;
- Care that prevents illnesses and protects children from abuse, violence, sexual and economic exploitation;
- Care for sick children ;
- Safe environments for living and learning that are healthy, friendly and respectful of children's rights and allow them to grow, explore and begin to learn the skills, values and attitudes necessary for better life in the new century;
- Women and girls who are still overwhelmingly the primary caregivers, receiving adequate support and responses to their own needs;
- All women receiving adequate care during pregnancy and lactation;
- Children are protected from disabilities, disabilities are detected early and treated, and disabled children provided equal opportunities to develop their full potential;
- Young children make a smooth transition into welcoming, child-friendly schools.

The Global agenda for children in the 21st century must include as a priority:

- Commitment by all partners to place children at the center of all development efforts and thinking;
- Protecting and strengthening family and community capacity to care for children, especially those who are most vulnerable;
- Mobilising all community actors around the care, protection and rights of young children;
- Mobilising alliances and resources to support governments and communities in meeting their obligations under the CRC and CEDAW;
- Strengthening accountability and mechanisms, both national and global, for monitoring implementation of the CRC and CEDAW;
- Integrating the respect for human rights into concepts and processes for

- good governance and institutional reform;
- Priority funding for programmes to ensure young child care for survival, growth and development.

Global Goals For Early Childhood Development:

- By 2015 all children aged 0-3 living below the poverty line as defined nationally, without discrimination on grounds of gender, class, ethnicity or other forms of discrimination or special circumstances, have access to the appropriate mix of integrated services needed to counter the negative impact of poverty and disadvantage on their ability to survive, learn and grow.
- Massive global mobilization to contain the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and reverse trends in rates of new infections especially in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia by 2005.
- Reduce death rates for infants and children under five by two-thirds the 1990 level by 2015.
- Reduce death among women due to pregnancy and childbirth by three fourths the 1990 level by 2015.
- By 2015 every woman has access to reproductive health services that include four prenatal visits, safe delivery attended by a trained professional and care for HIV + women
- Reduce malnutrition rates for children under two by 80 percent of the 1990 level by 2015
- Maintain 2000 goal of reduction of low birth weight to less than 10 percent
- Reduce developmental delays and disabilities in children by 50 percent of the 2000 level by 2015.

Collaboration with Partners in Child Development Programmes

UNICEF will continue to work closely with a range of partners, public and private sectors, and will especially seek the commitment of the United Nations system to this agenda for young child development. At the country level, the UNDAF process will facilitate this process.

UNICEF is a member of the Co-ordinating Committee on Health with WHO and UNFPA, and ACC/SCN together with 15 UN agencies. These are global level policy co-ordination fora. UNICEF is also a member of the Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development along with WHO, UNESCO, the World Bank, Save the Children, Bernard van Leer Foundation and other leading organisations working in the area of young child development.

PART 2

PRIORITY AREAS FOR UNICEF: SHORT AND LONG TERM TARGETS

UNICEF has a global mandate for children and a mission to develop and implement programmes that are shaped and guided by the principles of CRC and CEDAW, ensuring that the most vulnerable and “at risk” groups of children and women get priority attention.

UNICEF’s top priority in any country must be to ensure that the survival, growth and psycho-social development of young children has the first call on UNICEF’s resources and commands the necessary share of existing and potential national resources. A substantial share of UNICEF’s total resources must go towards those programmes that create and support the convergence of national policies and the implementation of comprehensive social services that strategically focus on ensuring the survival, healthy growth and cognitive development of young children in poor families and communities.

Given UNICEF strengths, including its ability to mobilise other partners and resources, and its decentralised country programming process, priority areas of work beyond 2000 should include the following:

- Advocacy and policy dialogue at global and national levels that stresses the importance of young child survival, healthy growth and cognitive development as the nucleus of all human development and emphasizes the fact that the trajectory of future human development is largely determined by what happens to a child in his or her earliest years.
- Strategies that emphasize good young child development as enormously important leverage in breaking cycles of persistent poverty, hence the need to ensure that poor children have equitable access to essential basic services and that the UNICEF programme of cooperation in any country is used as a vehicle for promoting the convergence of such services at community level.
- Cooperation that recognizes poor families as their children’s primary care givers and offers them the chance to seize opportunities they need to break through the major barriers to positive child development.
- Cooperation with a range of national partners and within the UNDAF process to give priority to the critical sectoral interventions for young child development and to ensure that actions converge at community level for best impact on child development.
- Capacity building to help families master parenting skills and knowledge about child survival, growth and development that equips families and key community actors (health workers, teachers, etc.) to support good care and stimulation for young

children.

- The development of specific strategies for families at greatest risk especially those affected by HIV/AIDS, conflict or displacement.

Specific Short-Term Targets for UNICEF (2005)

- Ensure that all countries have comprehensive and multi-sectoral family and child development policies (with resource commitments to support them).
- Ensure that comprehensive and integrated programmes for early childhood care for survival, growth and development are developed in all countries and that in at least 40 developing countries by 2005 such programmes are fully functional. Special attention is needed for countries that are severely affected by conflict and HIV/AIDS. These programmes should be child-centered, family-focused, community-based and gender sensitive.
- Ensure that in all countries where UNICEF is operational, efforts are advancing to create the necessary convergence in child health, nutrition, education and water and sanitation activities necessary for early child development to occur. Specify process indicators to measure this progress.
- Define national goals for significantly increasing access to good quality family-based or centre-based programmes for the care and learning of young children, especially the poorest.
- Significantly increase participation of adolescents (male and female) and parents in education programmes concerning early childhood care for survival, growth and development.

This comprehensive strategy will include efforts to improve the status and participation of women and girls and respect for their rights, attention to the role of men in the lives of children and women and care for the young child's survival, growth and development. The following priorities constitute an "essential package", the contents of which would be determined locally to suit the specific needs of children in a given community.

Care for women during pregnancy and lactation.

Reproductive health services and family life education.

Quality child care that allows women to earn, girls to learn and protects orphans whose families cannot care adequately for them, especially due to HIV/AIDS, displacement or conflict.

Early socialization of children for gender equality, respect for equal rights, shared responsibility and life-skills.

Reduction of violence in the family and the community including gender based violence.

Universal immunisation.

Home and centre-based treatment of most prevalent illnesses including malaria.

Adequate macro and micronutrient intake.

Community and family focused support for safe water, sanitation and promotion of hygiene.

Breastfeeding and complementary feeding.

Parent, adolescent and caregiver education (including information on hygiene, health, nutrition, and psychosocial, cognitive and linguistic development) that promote better child care for better development.

Structured family or facility based programmes including daycare and opportunities for play and learning.

Creating an enabling environment for behavioural development and change which promotes tolerance, equality and non-violence.

Early detection and treatment of disabilities.

Child-friendly schools with content and methods of the early grades appropriate to the needs of the young child.

Building equality of men and women in decision making starting with decisions within the family and community on care for young child development.

The development of a set of core indicators to monitor progress in child development is essential for monitoring both process and outcome of the integrated programmes.

Long-Term Targets (2010)

- Ensure that comprehensive and multi-sectoral family and child development policies are in place and sustained in all countries where UNICEF is present.

- Expand comprehensive and integrated programmes for early childhood development from 40 countries to 80 countries.
- In 40 countries, programmes for early childhood development taken to scale and sustained by national resources.

Key Strategies for UNICEF Programmes

- Identifying and targeting the poor and most vulnerable. UNICEF supported programmes will target the poor and those with multiple vulnerabilities. Displaced children, children orphaned by AIDS, children in conflict, and children with disabilities will get higher priority.
- Assessing and analysing how children are supported and cared for in the local cultural context and identifying what gaps exist in such support and care.
- Learning from and building upon existing programme experience.
- Playing a catalytic and innovative role in service delivery by providing direct support and using UNICEF resources to mobilise additional resources.
- Strengthening national resources and capacity, especially at the family and community levels and promoting child-centered, family-focused and community-based programmes.
- Communication and advocacy to raise awareness and strengthen demand, and create behavioral change at all levels.
- Promoting community commitment, participation and networking in assessment, analysis, programme design, implementation, and evaluation.
- Ensuring that child focused interventions are guided by principles of CRC and CEDAW.
- Mobilising civil society including NGOs, and the private sector.

Programme Division
UNICEF, New York