



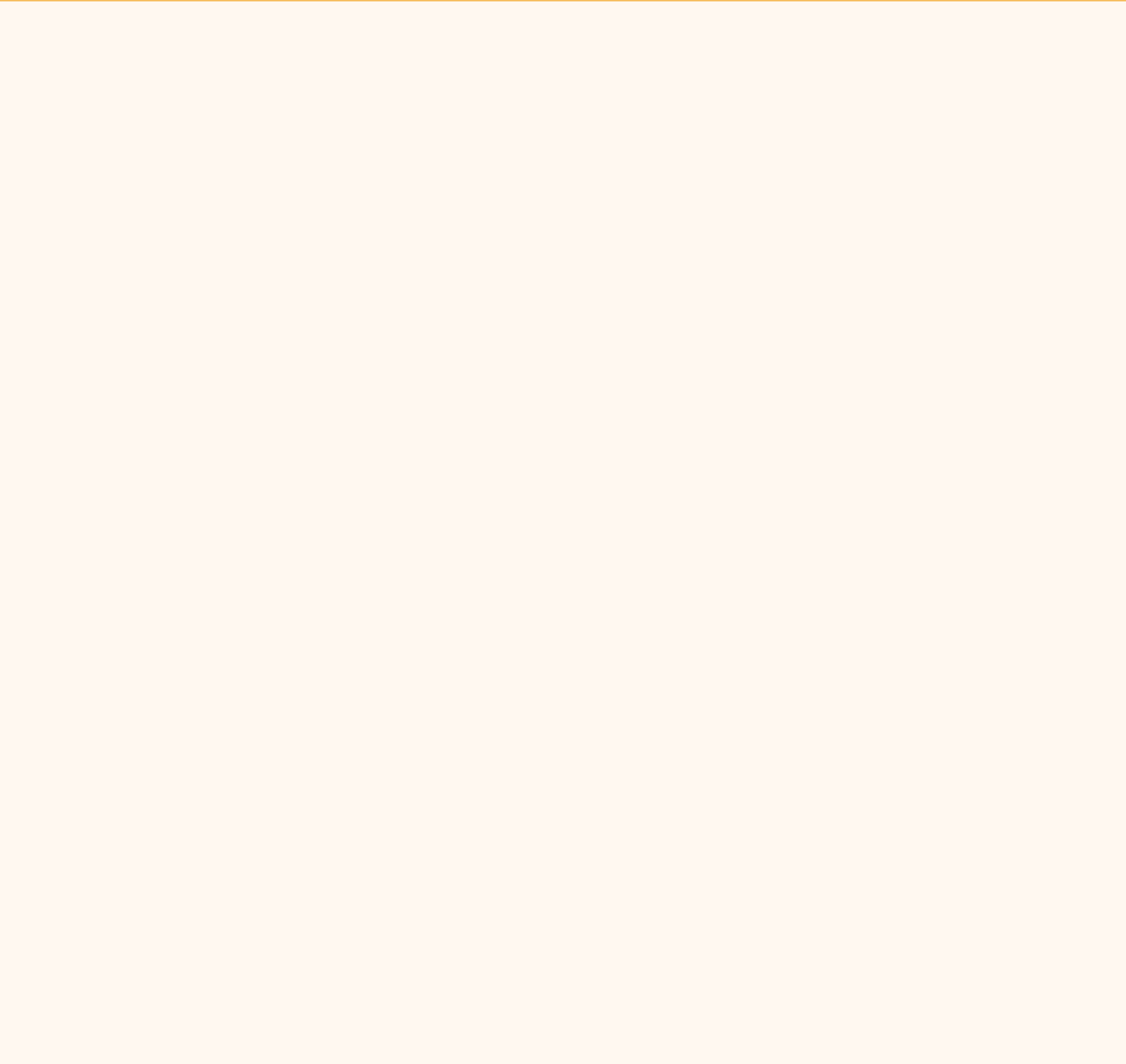
Global Movement
for Children

Who's looking after the children?

A report on the 2nd year of follow-up to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children



Produced by the Convening Committee of the Global Movement for Children in partnership
with the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Who's looking after the children?

Governments have accepted that they, along with parents and families, have a key part to play in looking after the children - in supporting families and achieving children's rights. They do this largely through ensuring the provision of quality basic services (such as health and education), as well as through measures to protect children from the harm caused by such threats as HIV/AIDS, child labour, conflict and trafficking.

190 governments of the world agreed in May 2002 that they had failed to do as well as they hoped in the 1990s and that they wanted to do better in the next decade. They did this at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children.

This short report looks at what has happened in the two years since the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children. It examines:

- Whether individual governments have taken the initial steps they agreed to undertake with the longer term goal of creating a world fit for children;
- To what extent the world as a whole is 'on track' to create a world fit for children in the timescales agreed.

The finding of this report is that governments have done much better in the first of these tasks than the second. A large majority of governments have taken, or are about to take, steps to integrate the goals of the Special Session into one or another of their national planning instruments. Although the process is taking longer than anticipated, this is partly because more efforts have been made to consult with a wider group of stakeholders than previously.

With regard to the achievement of the goals of 'A World Fit for Children', although there are outstanding examples of progress in certain areas, the majority of the available evidence gives grounds for pessimism. Use of the much more abundant data and analysis available on the child-focused Millennium Development Goals, to which the Special Session goals were seen as complementary, indicates that the world is seriously 'off track' if it wishes to achieve the goals on schedule. Urgent action is necessary if the promises made to children at the Special Session are not to be broken. In particular, the richer countries of the world need to provide the level of support, especially finance, to which they agreed at the Special Session and other international conferences. All countries of the world need to move decisively to honour their promises to children.



INTRODUCTION

What was the Special Session on Children?

The Special Session on Children was a three-day event organised in May 2002 in New York as a part of the business of the UN General Assembly.¹ It was held in order to examine what had happened to children since the 1990 World Summit for Children. In 1990 world leaders came together to agree a set of goals and targets that they wanted to achieve for children. Based on the results of an extensive review of their success and failures in the 1990s, the Special Session on Children agreed a declaration and new plan of action for the next 10 years with the title 'A World Fit for Children'.

'A World Fit for Children' represents the promises made by 190 of the world's governments to the children of the world. Building on the Millennium Declaration of the year 2000, they promise vitally improvements for children such as fewer avoidable deaths, more children in better quality schools, fewer child workers, an end to the sale and trafficking of children and significant falls in the numbers of children affected by HIV/AIDS. These promises provide an explicit basis for measuring progress and seeing to what extent these promises are being kept.

The main focus of 'A World Fit for Children' is on four priority areas for transforming children's lives:

- Promoting Healthy Lives
- Providing Quality Education
- Protecting Against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence
- Combating HIV/AIDS.

Each of these priority areas is accompanied by a set of more specific goals and targets, as well as by strategies and actions through which they could be achieved.

The goals of 'A World Fit for Children' are designed to be achieved within defined timescales – 2005, 2010 or 2015, depending upon the time that it was thought necessary to achieve them. Progress towards the goals is to be monitored, including through annual reports by the UN Secretary-General and a major, in-depth review in 2007.

1 For more information on the Special Session see 'Building a World Fit for Children', UNICEF, 2003 (available electronically at http://www.unicef.org/publications/pub_build_wffc_en.pdf).



The Purpose of this Report

The preparatory process for the Special Session on Children saw the birth of a new campaign designed to hold governments accountable for their promises to children. In January 2001 the Global Movement for Children [GMC] was launched with the aim of increasing the accountability of all those whose actions affect the lives of children. Led by some of the world's largest non-governmental organisations and UNICEF², the GMC is committed to promoting children's rights and to providing a watchdog role for the implementation of 'A World Fit for Children'. The GMC aims to mobilise a wide range of partners and different sectors in achieving this, including organised civil society, the private sector, professional groups, parents and their communities.

In May 2003 the GMC issued the first of its annual monitoring reports on the implementation of 'A World Fit for Children'³. These reports are designed to be independent 'alternative' monitoring reports to those prepared by the UN. This report is the second annual monitoring report on the follow-up to the Special Session on Children. It looks at two key aspects of the follow-up process:

- to what extent did governments meet their target of 31st December 2003 for integrating the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' into their national planning processes, e.g. through the preparation of National Plans of Action for children?
- What has happened to children's lives since the Special Session on Children and is the world 'on target' to meeting the deadlines for achieving 'A World Fit for Children'?

After looking at these two questions the report goes on to examine the obstacles being confronted and what might be done to overcome them.

2 The members of the Convening Committee of the Global Movement for Children (at time of publication) are the Alliance of Youth CEOs, BRAC, CARE, Enda Tiers Monde, NetAid, Oxfam, the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Children, Plan, Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision.

3 prepared in association with the Child Rights Caucus of NGOs that had worked throughout the Special Session process to coordinate NGO views and lobbying. See www.gmfc.org/publications.html.

SECTION 1 – PLANNING A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN

'A World Fit for Children' is a global plan of action. To make it a living tool for fulfilling children's rights it needs to be turned into practical actions in the everyday lives of children, their parents and other carers. One of the first steps towards achieving this was seen as the preparation, 'as a matter of urgency', of national action plans for children with a set of specific time-bound and measurable goals and targets.⁴ These were to be based on the global Plan of Action but adapted to local needs and contexts. Governments have had the option of developing specific National Plans of Action for children (NPAs) and/or integrating the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' into other plans and strategies, such as national development plans, sector policies and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers [PRSPs]. The 190 governments represented at the Special Session agreed that all this work should be completed 'if possible by the end of 2003'.⁵

At the same time it was assumed that existing work to improve children's lives would continue. Many of the goals and targets in 'A World Fit for Children' had been taken directly from those agreed at earlier international conferences and meetings such as the UN Millennium Assembly and the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. There was no need – or excuse – for delay if the agreed deadlines were to be met. The extent to which this has happened is something that will be examined in Section 2 of this report.

A Global Assessment⁶

This part of the report looks at the progress that governments have made towards meeting the deadline of 31st December 2003 for completing the preparation of their plans for creating 'countries fit for children'. It has to be acknowledged, of course, that the preparation of a plan does not in itself make a great deal of difference to the lives of children. However, it does indicate a seriousness of intent and it does provide the basis for an organised and deliberate approach to achieving the promises made to children.

The results are positive and definite progress is visible (see Annex 1 for the detailed country-by-country results). Nine out of 10 governments are known to have already incorporated their promises to children into either a specific National Plan of Action for children [an NPA] and/or other planning or policy processes - or are currently doing so.

The majority of governments who met or nearly met the end-2003 deadline did so by incorporating the goals into one or other of their broader national planning instruments such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. Developing specific National Plans of Action for children appears to demand more time than was originally envisaged. As a result, only a fifth (20% or 39 countries) met or nearly met the deadline by preparing a NPA. Three out of ten of these were using or had revised a plan they had already completed in the two years before the Special Session, so that only 25 countries actually completed and adopted new national plans specifically for children in the proposed timescale or shortly afterwards.

Another 55 governments, however, are already in the process of preparing their NPAs, with most scheduled to be completed in 2004; while 32 others foresee the development of an NPA in the future. Many of the governments who have developed or are developing NPAs are also among the 105 governments who are including the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' in other planning or policy processes.⁷

4. Paragraph 59 of 'A World Fit for Children', adopted by the UN General Assembly 10th May 2002

5. *ibid.*

6. This assessment is based on field reports reviewed and surveys carried out in the first quarter of 2004 by the GMC, the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Children, the NGO Group for the CRC and UNICEF. It is the result of desk based research of a range of information sources, including official documents, responses to a questionnaire survey and reports prepared by the three partners. Thanks and acknowledgements are due to Janet Nelson, the consultant on this work, for her significant contribution to the material in this report.

7. such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, national development plans, national policy papers and sectoral or multisectoral plans.

In total only some 10 governments (5% of the original total⁸) seem to have done nothing yet to honour their commitment at the Special Session to 'integrate the goals of the present Plan of Action into our national government policies'.

In summary it appears that most countries will need more time to complete the initial planning process than originally agreed. This is not necessarily a problem if the result is a set of plans that have a wider ownership inside and outside government and lead to actions that are more successful and sustained in achieving the intended outcomes for children. It is a problem, however, if – as in some countries - it reflects an absence of political will, a chronic lack of institutional capacity, political instability or conflict.

A Regional Assessment

Different regions of the world have moved at different speeds and have shown different preferences with regard to the best way to proceed. The region that appears to have made greatest progress – at least in terms of the finalising or preparing plans – is Central & Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. All but one country in that region has completed its planning or is well advanced in doing so. This region is also the one that has proportionately the highest number of new NPAs compared with all other approaches.

Both the Latin America and Caribbean and the Asia and the Pacific regions appear to have made substantive and widespread efforts since the Special Session on Children. In Latin America and the Caribbean there has been a major focus on developing new NPAs or revising existing ones. In the case of Asia and the Pacific, there has been a more diversified approach using a variety of instruments including not only NPAs but also National Development Plans and, in some countries, PRSPs and sectoral plans.

Of the 34 industrialised countries that attended the Special Session, 20 have or are preparing NPAs and 3 have chosen to use national policy or strategy papers on children. Compared with the relatively limited engagement of these countries in the follow-up process to the 1990 World Summit for Children this is a significant step forward. It seems to reflect a feeling that 'A World Fit for Children' has relevance to the North⁹ as well as the South⁹, building on a growing commitment to a clear focus on children in public policy in these countries.

The Middle East and North Africa is the region where follow-up has been most limited. This is the only region that indicated that more NPAs remain to be started than have either been completed or got underway.

Sub-Saharan Africa is different from the other regions because of its overwhelming preference for other approaches than developing an NPA specifically for children. Almost two-thirds (63%) of countries have opted to integrate the Special Session goals in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers or similar anti-poverty plans. Only slightly more than a third (37%) has indicated that they have or will develop an NPA. The reasons for this are clear – PRSPs are the main route by which these countries can now access enhanced debt relief and increased aid to help them develop and invest. With limited institutional capacity and the support of the World Bank it makes sense for these countries to try to establish and address their goals specifically for children within a more comprehensive national framework for poverty reduction.

8. Timor-Leste, which joined the UN after the Special Session on Children, has also incorporated the Special Session goals into its planning documents.
9. 'North' in this context corresponds to the so-called rich countries (members of the OECD), while the 'South' correspond to the so-called developing countries.

As discussed below, however, the reliance on the PRSP process has raised some concerns. Firstly, about whether children and young people have had adequate opportunities to contribute, compared with other planning instruments; and secondly, whether critical protection issues - such as juvenile justice, child labour, trafficking of children and women and the care and protection of orphans and other vulnerable children - can be satisfactorily handled within a PRSP framework. These concerns are particularly acute for the Least Developed Countries, many of which are relying on the PRSP process rather than national plans or other policies specifically addressing the rights of children.

The Quality of Planning

The 'quality' of a plan is difficult to measure although it is crucial to its success. The field reports and research on which this report is based did not provide the basis for making a full assessment of this. A more thorough evaluation of the quality of a plan would involve examination of such factors as:

- The extent to which all the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' relevant to the children of that country are expressed in the plan;
- Whether all the relevant stakeholders – including children and young people – were involved in developing the plan and creating a good foundation for sustained implementation;
- Whether national goals are expressed in a time-bound and measurable way;
- The time period covered;
- Whether goals and the process of planning are taken to the sub-national level;
- The extent to which problems of discrimination against particular groups of children are properly factored into the plan;
- Whether the involvement of children and young people – as well as the wider public - is built into implementation and monitoring of the plan;
- Whether budgets are identified for achieving the goals;
- The linkage made with monitoring and reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the use of human rights principles in the design of the plan;
- The extent to which adequate monitoring and review processes are built into the plan.

The following comments therefore represent only initial observations on the quality of planning in the follow-up process to the Special Session on Children. In future GMC monitoring reports it is intended to look at this issue in more depth.

In general it appears that the majority of plans - especially the NPAs for children - are consistent with the goals and intent of 'A World Fit for Children'. They cover a wide range of health interventions in the areas of maternal, child, and adolescent health. They also include strategies for improving and – where relevant - extending pre-school, primary and secondary education; some also address university education. The majority include strategies to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, at least within the context of their health and education goals; and, in those countries with a significant rate of HIV prevalence, to provide services for AIDS-affected families and children orphaned due to AIDS. In addition, most of the NPAs recognise the need to review their existing legislation in relation to the standards and provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Many of the plans also recognise the need to provide a more protective environment for children and to offer special services to those that have been victims of exploitation, violence and abuse. However, PRSPs have a notable weakness in this area and significant extra efforts have been required to ensure that critical protection issues for children (which may vary in nature from country to country) have not been left out of the PRSP process. A similar problem can be found in relation to the extent to which PRSPs tackle discrimination against particular groups of children, compared, for example, with NPAs which tend to have a more explicit focus on the most disadvantaged.

Where PRSPs and national development plans tend to perform better than the NPAs is in relation to the more generic characteristics of national planning. In terms of results-based management, for example, many of the National Plans of Action for children do not yet include clear anticipated results with measurable goals, but instead assign responsibility for their development. Among those that do already include goals, some are well defined, while others set out overall objectives which are supported by lists of activities without clearly related indicators. Some NPAs have apparently interpreted "measurable" as meaning "quantifiable", and therefore have difficulty establishing valid indicators for objectives such as improving the quality of their educational systems, or bringing their legislation into compliance with the CRC and other international human rights treaties. And still others have measurable goals only in the area of health.

Similarly, in relation to costing and allocating budgets for areas of planned activity it is PRSPs that demonstrate better practice. NPAs by contrast are more aspirational and their budgets are often still under development. It is difficult to see that plans will be successful if there are no budgets accompanying them, and no clear and measurable goals and indicators. It will be important that civil society continues to work with governments to ensure the required budget allocations are made for the stated goals and also in monitoring expenditures.

The experience of developing NPAs for children in the 1990s demonstrated that questions of 'ownership' and civil society involvement in the planning process are central to their ultimate success. An encouraging feature of the current round of child-focussed planning has been the greater efforts made to involve a broad range of constituencies and social sector agencies. As well as greater involvement of a range of government departments – sometimes co-ordinated through a task force or committee created for this purpose – this has included NGOs, women's associations, professional groups, faith-based organisations and children themselves. Although by no means perfect or comprehensive, this is certainly a step in the right direction.

Although broad-based consultation has by no means been universal there have been encouraging examples of good practice in a number of Central American countries (e.g. Costa Rica and Nicaragua), as well as in Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Tunisia, Lesotho and elsewhere. Particularly encouraging has been the increased extent of the involvement of children and young people in the planning process, building on the successful experience of the Special Session itself.¹⁰ The only exception to this has been the development of PRSPs where it has been difficult to find a route to ensure the meaningful involvement of children.¹¹

10. For regular updates on this developing process and examples of good practice see Save the Children's NPA Briefing available on the Child Rights Information Network at www.crin.org

11. For a review of the involvement of children in PRSPs see Save the Children 'Children and Young People Participating in PRSP Processes: lessons from Save the Children's experiences' London, 2004.

SECTION 2 – OFF TRACK!

Although the main focus of this report is on the preparation of national plans to implement 'A World Fit for Children', it is important not to lose sight of the bigger picture. The Special Session on Children was held in order to make a real difference in the lives of children through prioritizing and pursuing certain key goals and actions. Is the follow-up process beginning to produce the desired results?

After only two years it may be argued that it is too early to draw any firm conclusions about this. It is certainly difficult to bring together enough firm and comparative evidence at the present time. Detailed and robust evidence may not be available in practice until the 2007 in-depth review.¹² Is there any other information that might help fill the gap or at least provide useful indications until better evidence becomes available? Such information might be particularly valuable if it suggests that failure is currently more likely than success and that urgent corrective or additional action is needed now.

Two possible sources of information suggest themselves. Firstly, the results of the 'end-decade review' and the analysis of the reasons for success and failure in the not-dissimilar process of goal-setting for children in the 1990s. Secondly, the growing body of evidence assessing the extent to which the world is 'on track' to achieve the closely-related Millennium Development Goals [MDGs].

The Evidence of the 1990s

The preparations for the Special Session on Children included some of the most extensive evaluations ever made of international commitments. A thorough 'end-decade review' was undertaken together with countries themselves of the goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children and an overall assessment was published as 'We the Children' (United Nations, 2001). This identified the fact that, as well as impressive achievements in some specific areas, 'a brighter future for all has proved elusive, and overall gains have fallen short of national obligations and international commitments'.¹³ In particular the so-called 'child survival revolution' of the 1980s became badly stalled, with the pace of decline in child deaths actually halving in the 1990s.

In fact one of the key objectives of the follow-up to the Special Session on Children has become the completion of the 'unfinished agenda' of the 1990s. This unfinished agenda includes such major tasks as preventing the avoidable deaths of some 10 million children each year, getting 100 million extra children into school and achieving universal access to safe water. Both before and since the Special Session there has been substantial work devoted to understanding how these goals might be achieved. What can be learnt though from the failure to achieve these goals in the 1990s?

Part of the problem was that certain difficulties encountered in the 1990s took on even greater significance than had been expected. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, for example, has had a catastrophic impact in several regions of the world. In many countries it undid much of the work that had produced significant gains in child survival in previous decades and created major new problems in terms of the growing numbers of AIDS orphans, HIV-infected children and parents and the loss of skilled staff in health, education and other key services. The explosion of ethnic conflict and civil war in the 1990s in countries like Colombia, former Yugoslavia, Liberia and Sudan also posed major difficulties.

12. The 2006-2007 review process will be able to take into account up to 30 country Demographic and Health Surveys undertaken in 2004 and 2005 as well as multi-indicator cluster surveys in over 40 countries to be carried out around 2005.

13. 'A World Fit for Children' Para. 2.

The end-decade review of actions for children in the 1990s also focused on:

- The time taken to translate international consensus into national action
- The endemic nature of child poverty
- The failure to invest sufficiently in known and proven solutions for the problems identified
- Insufficient commitment by some political leaders, including a preference for excess spending on armaments rather than on basic services for children
- A failure to combine strong partnerships with sustained political commitment involving the broadest possible range of people.

Any assessment of whether the world is 'on track' to achieve both the 'unfinished agenda' of the 1990s and the new goals set in 2002 needs to consider whether there has been a major reappraisal and shift in commitments in these areas. Regrettably, the balance of the evidence for progress in achieving the MDGs suggests not.



The MDGs – Grounds for Pessimism?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted at the UN Millennium Summit on 6-8 September 2000. They include 8 goals to be achieved by the year 2015 (see box below), as well as 18 targets and more than 50 indicators by which progress can be assessed. 7 of the 8 MDGs have a strong focus on children and the realisation of their rights.

The Millennium Development Goals

With starting points in 1990, each goal is to be reached by 2015:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Halve the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day.

Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education

Ensure that boys and girls alike complete primary schooling.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Eliminate gender disparity at all levels of education (and "preferably by 2005" in primary and secondary education).

4. Reduce child mortality

Reduce by two-thirds the under-five mortality rate.

5. Improve maternal health

Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Integrate sustainable development into country policies and reverse loss of environmental resources.

Halve the proportion of people without access to potable water.

Significantly improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

8. Develop a global partnership for development

(Targets include): More generous official development assistance for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) committed to poverty reduction.

Expand market access for LDC exports.

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries.

The UN Special Session on Children, which took place 20 months later, adopted a set of goals which, in the words of the UN Secretary General, "reinforce the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, seven of which directly address and affect the rights of children. Thus, building a world fit for children will be a major contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the achievement of which is of central importance to children."¹⁴

14. (para. 4, p. 3)

In other words, the Goals of 'A World Fit for Children' and the MDGs are highly complementary, with the Special Session goals acting as important milestones in achieving the MDGs. This, of course, was a sensible approach, avoiding the duplication of effort and the fragmentation of strategies and actions that might have resulted otherwise. Furthermore, the fact that the MDGs benefit from widespread support from UN agencies, bilateral donors and international financial institutions, including those whose mandate is not specifically for children, means that issues directly related to children are now high on the agenda of the international development community. In principle this creates a very positive environment for the achievement of the Special Session goals.

As noted above, many of the goals in 'A World Fit for Children' were designed as intermediate steps towards the MDGs, bringing more specificity to the actions which needed to be taken in order to achieve them. Assessment of the extent to which the MDGs are 'on track' should at least give an approximation of the extent to which many of the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' are being achieved.

Unfortunately, there is a growing body of evidence that the progress towards the MDGs is currently insufficient and increasingly 'off track'. This evidence comes from major institutions at the heart of the debate – including the World Bank and IMF, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Health Organisation, the OECD, UNESCO and the World Economic Forum.¹⁵ It is supplemented by a host of other sources such as the researchers grouped in the Bellagio Study Group on Child Survival and senior politicians such as the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown.¹⁶ The growing consensus of these groups and individuals is that most of the MDGs – and therefore most of the goals in 'A World Fit for Children' - will not be met, unless there is now a major intensification of action across the world.

Sounding A Warning Note

The World Bank: "...on current trends, most MDGs will not be met by most countries....Likely shortfalls are especially serious with respect to the health and related environmental goals - child and maternal mortality, access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Few if any regions will achieve the mortality goals."

OECD: "...[the MDGs will not be met] for health in most regions and in sub-Saharan Africa for many others"

UNICEF: "The signs in the first three years since the Millennium Declaration are not encouraging for universal education, or gender parity in education or for any of the other MDGs... the world will have to strain to the utmost to meet the commitments of the Goals."

UNDP: "If global progress continues at the same pace as in the 1990s, only the Millennium Development Goals of halving income poverty and halving the proportion of people without access to safe water stand a realistic chance of being met."

The World Economic Forum: "...for all of its most important goals, the world is utterly failing to put forward the needed effort"

15. Recent assessments by these bodies include the World Bank/IMF 'Global Monitoring Report 2004: policies and actions for achieving the MDGs and related outcomes' April 16, 2004; UNDP 'Human Development Report 2003' Oxford University Press, 2003; UNESCO Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2003/4' Paris, 2003; UNICEF 'State of the World's Children Report' 2004; World Economic Forum 'Global Governance Initiative: annual report 2004'; and the OECD/DAC '2003 Development Co-operation Report' Paris, 2003.

16. The Bellagio Study Group on Child Survival 'The Second Child Survival Revolution' 2003 and Gordon Brown 'Making Globalisation Work For All – the challenge of delivering the Monterrey Consensus' speech delivered at the Making Globalisation Work for All conference, London, 16th February 2004.

Let us look at what this potential failure means for children in some of the key areas affecting their lives – survival, health, education and protection.

Child Deaths. 30,000 infant lives are lost every day to preventable causes. The fourth MDG aims to cut child mortality by reducing infant and under-five mortality rates by two thirds by 2015. Two of the child health goals in 'A World Fit for Children' are explicitly seen as being 'in pursuit' of this MDG goal (para. 36).

The World Health Organisation, however, notes that the child health MDG "is commonly regarded as the furthest away from being achieved". The World Bank and IMF have recently estimated that only a small proportion of countries - 15-20 per cent - appear to be on track and that the goals will not be attained by most regions. The evidence suggests that 73 countries are far behind in meeting the MDG target for infant mortality, and 66 are far behind for meeting the target for child mortality. In fact the best current estimate is that the MDG for reducing child infant mortality will remain unmet in sub-Saharan Africa until 2165.

In the year of the Special Session on Children (2002) Oxfam estimated that, if current trends continued and the MDGs were not achieved, 56 million 'additional' child deaths would occur between the years 2000 and 2015 – 56 million child lives lost that the MDGs and 'A World Fit for Children' were intended to save.¹⁷

Universal Primary Education: Over 100 million boys and girls do not attend primary school and are denied their right to education to which their Governments have committed under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The second MDG promises to give all children a full primary education by 2015 and 'A World Fit for Children' has targets explicitly designed to help achieve this (para. 39).

Compared with the goals on child health, the prospects for ensuring that all children can complete primary education are slightly brighter. On current trends several regions of the world, such as Latin America and the Caribbean, will approach or achieve the goal of universal primary education. But significant shortfalls from the goal are likely in sub-Saharan Africa, and possibly in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. The price of this failure will be that 75 million children will continue to be denied access to primary education in 2015 – 70% of them in sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁸ The UK Government minister, Gordon Brown, recently suggested that the education MDG would not be met for sub-Saharan Africa until 2129 - 114 years after the promised date.

Children affected by HIV/AIDS: The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a massive and rapidly mounting disaster for children. Almost 3 million children are infected with the HIV virus or living with AIDS. More than 14 million children under the age of 15 have lost one or both parents to AIDS, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

By 2010, the number of children orphaned by AIDS globally is expected to exceed 25 million. But that is just a fraction of the number of children whose lives will have been radically altered by the impact of HIV/AIDS on their families, communities, schools, health care and welfare systems and local and national economies. With rates of HIV infection on the rise in many regions of the world, this crisis for children will persist for decades, even as prevention and treatment programmes are expanded.

17. Oxfam 'Last Chance in Monterrey: meeting the challenge of poverty reduction' Oxfam International, Briefing Paper 17, 13 March 2002.

18. Ibid.

The reaction of families and communities to the plight of these children has been compassionate and remarkably resilient. However, they are struggling under the strain. To date, few resources are reaching families and communities who are providing this front-line response, and little attention is given so far to orphans and vulnerable children in most national development agendas. Moreover, donors have yet to put forth comprehensive support programmes on this issue. Responding to the crisis of children affected by HIV/AIDS is clearly not yet seen as a global priority, despite the explicit commitments made in "A World Fit for Children".

Gender Equality in Education: Educational inequality is a major infringement of the rights of girls and young women. An estimated 57% of the 104 million out-of-school children are girls, with the highest numbers in sub-Saharan Africa and South and West Asia. The second MDG - and a similar target in 'A World Fit for Children' (para. 39) - hopes to eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005. UNESCO, however, estimates that 76 countries are likely to miss reaching gender parity at primary and secondary levels by 2005. This will therefore be the first MDG to be missed, in just a few months time.

A similar analysis could be done for a number of the other MDGs that are most closely linked to the goals of a 'A World Fit for Children'. The seventh MDG, for example, aims to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015. 'A World Fit for Children' seeks to contribute to this by reducing that proportion by one third by 2010. But it seems that at current rates of progress only one fifth of countries will achieve the targeted reduction, and among the Least Developed Countries only a tenth will achieve it.

Protecting Children from Abuse, Exploitation and Violence

The one major area where 'A World Fit for Children' deals with children's issues that are not directly dealt with by the Millennium Development Goals – although it is partly covered in the Millennium Summit Declaration - is that of protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence. The inclusion of goals in this area in 'A World Fit for Children' was an innovation, since they had been left out of the previous plan of action agreed at the World Summit for Children in 1990. This omission - in the face of a number of widespread and severe protection failures - seems to have reflected both the often 'hidden' nature of these problems and the greater difficulty in identifying specific and measurable targets and indicators to monitor progress in protecting children.

During the 1990s, however, protection issues such as child labour, sexual exploitation, child trafficking and the care of war-affected children acquired increasingly high profile. Major international conferences were held to discuss the development of new international standards and national plans of action in such areas as combating the worst forms of child labour, the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the recruitment of child soldiers. Reports such as Graça Machel study of the impact of armed conflict on children led to such initiatives as the establishment of the office of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on this issue. The adoption of two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child covering children in conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has strengthened the global standards for child protection. Partly as a result of this, the UN Security Council began to take much greater interest in the issue and a number of important Security Council resolutions were passed. The outcome of all this focus was that child protection became part of the new agenda for children in the 21st century and one of the four priority areas of the Special Session.

Two years on, is the follow-up process to the Special Session on Children having any impact on the protection of children? Although it is more difficult to measure progress in this area, it seems likely that any assessment would be similar to that for the other three major goals. In other words, striking examples of good practice and success exist - but collectively there is no sign of the major breakthrough that would be required to achieve the 5 specific protection goals of 'A World Fit for Children'.¹⁹ The difficulty of ensuring the adequate inclusion of protection issues in one of the main instruments being used for planning the follow-up - Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers - increases the risk of failure.

Since 2002, conflicts in such countries as Sudan, Liberia, Colombia, Iraq and other parts of the Middle East have continued to create large numbers of refugee and internally displaced children whose survival and development has been put at grave risk. Globally, poverty and family breakdown leave many millions of children living on the streets, working in hazardous occupations, exposed or deprived of access to education. The growing numbers of HIV/AIDS orphans²⁰ mean that more and more children, in addition to those abandoned or abused, are in need of alternative forms of family care - but often find themselves in unsuitable institutional care or without any caregivers at all.

At the international level a positive breakthrough has been the UN Security Council's new-found willingness to 'name and shame' countries continuing to recruit and use child soldiers. However, more attention is needed to child trafficking as a human rights violation. Despite public awareness of the problem, trafficked children are the victims of crime, but also are too often stigmatized as criminals themselves, both socially and by national authorities. The UN Study on Violence Against Children mandated by the UN General Assembly in 2001 has so far made little progress beyond the appointment of the Independent Expert and the Director of the Secretariat. Furthermore, much of what is needed to achieve the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' will have to happen at the local and national level, and attitudes and practices towards children are often very slow to change.

It therefore seems unlikely that the protection goals of 'A World Fit for Children' will be reached in the timescale agreed. This is worrying in its own right - and also because of the role that improved protection could play in helping to achieve the other Special Session goals and the MDGs. Conflict and the need to work, for example, are major reasons why so many millions of children are not in school. It is difficult to see how the education goals of 'A World Fit for Children' and the education-related MDGs can be achieved without more effective strategies to rapidly re-establish education provision for refugee or internally displaced children, ensure school places and progress for orphaned children and reduce the numbers of working children.

19. para. 43.

20. 11 million in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

SECTION 3 – GETTING BACK ON TRACK

The above analysis points to major problems with achieving the goals set out in 'A World Fit for Children'. It does not, however, mean that the follow-up process to the Special Session on Children is already fatally flawed. What it does indicate is that there are very good grounds for concern and for urgent action to make up for lost time. The children of the world cannot wait until 2007 to discover that the promises made to them by governments in 2002 are not going to be fulfilled.

There are at least two reasons for believing that all is not lost. The first is that there are numerous, if all too isolated, examples of rapid progress in both individual countries and regions. Accelerated progress is possible but current efforts have to be scaled up and properly supported. Secondly, the balance of expert opinion of those working on these issues is that the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' and the Millennium Declaration are achievable if the political will in both the North and the South to make them achievable is there - in particular, through the provision of sufficient finance. The report now looks at both these points.

Success is Possible

There are several elements to this point. Firstly, that with respect to many of the goals of 'A World Fit for Children', the world already knows 'what works'. Solutions and policy options have been identified, tested and proven. What is needed is their application on a sufficient scale to make a real difference. This is the case, in particular, for the prevention and treatment of the most common childhood diseases that continue to kill 10 million children a year. Secondly, there are good examples – in every region - of successful innovation in improving the delivery of basic services to poor children. One such example is the Oportunidades (formerly known as Progresá) programme of conditional cash transfers to the poor linked to school and clinic attendance in Mexico²¹. Key components of such successful innovations need to be taken up in other countries. Thirdly, the track record of international action may be patchy but it includes sustained successes in such areas as adult literacy, immunization and micro-nutrient supplementation. There is no reason to believe that these successes cannot be mirrored in other areas if the political will is there. Finally, even in sub-Saharan Africa there are important success stories. Botswana doubled the proportion of children in primary school in 15 years, nearly achieving universal primary education, and has rapidly expanded the availability of treatments for AIDS. Very recently, Kenya brought more than a million extra children into its education system (see below).

21. World Bank 'World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work for Poor People' World Bank/Oxford University Press, Washington, 2003 p30-31



Kenya – The Abolition of School Fees

The Global Campaign for Education, a coalition of teachers' unions, development organisations and community groups from over 100 countries is urging governments to provide quality education to all children.

The Elimu Yetu coalition is the national umbrella campaign for education in Kenya and a member of the Global Campaign for Education. For several years it has been demanding that all charges for education be scrapped. Its campaign achieved a great victory when in January 2004, the new President, Mwai Kibaki, and Education Minister George Saitoti abolished all fees in government primary schools. An additional 1.3 million children subsequently enrolled in school.

The shanty town of Kibera is one of the most deprived parts of the capital, Nairobi, and home to 530,000 people. John Nzomo, 11, is now in class two at Shadrach Kimalel but in 2002 he had had to drop out of school because his parents could not afford to pay school fees. His parents point out: that "it was a miracle for us that Free Primary Education came, otherwise, John would still be at home".

The United Nations special envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa has been outspoken in his backing for the Kenyan government's emphasis on free education for all: "The new government and the voters understood that abolishing school fees would be costly in financial terms, but the free education campaign slogan said it all: 'If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.'"

There is still much to be done to make a reality of education for all in Kenya, especially in the slums. Around 40% of primary school age children in Kibera are still missing out on education because of a lack of government schools. The people of Kibera are campaigning and lobbying for the establishment of state schools in Kibera, so that their children can get free schooling too. And, with the Global Campaign for Education, they are also campaigning and lobbying for increased support for Kenya from rich countries, so that their commitment to education for all can be realised.

Kenya's problems have not been resolved overnight. But its example demonstrates the impact that pro-poor government policies can have on children's lives. Over 1 million more Kenyan children – more than half of them girls - now have the opportunity to get an education. And it has led to a new partnership between government and civil society in addressing how education for all can be fully achieved. It is a challenge to all of Africa, to all developing countries, and to donor countries, in how we respond to the evidence that government policy can really make the difference between opportunity and hopelessness for the world's children.

Source: Oxfam GB

Political commitment to basic education in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a good example of a country whose government – under pressure from women's groups – has really bitten the political bullet and taken decisive action on gender equity. Primary education was made compulsory by an act of parliament in 1990. A substantially strengthened women's movement helped to galvanise government commitment to abolishing the education gender gap. Their leverage was increased by the actions of international bodies, resulting in commitments to women's education and gender equity that were signed by the Government.

The Prime Minister launched the National Campaign for Social Mobilisation for Basic Education in 1992. Fees for rural girls were abolished, free uniforms were distributed to girls (later discontinued) and food for education and stipend schemes were piloted. Government spending on primary education began a significant upward trend.

The Social Mobilisation campaign used multi-media techniques to spread the message, including a cartoon series called 'Meena' highlighting the importance of education for poor girls. Simultaneously, the Ministry of Women's Affairs launched the Bangladesh Decade Action Plan for the Girl Child, called 'Samata' (equality). The Action Plan identified the problems affecting girls and women, and developed strategies to facilitate their access to basic education. It also prioritised actions needed with a focus on early childhood education as well as primary and secondary education and incentives for girls' education.

In the mid-1990s, satellite schools were started for Grade 1 and 2, fee-free education for girls was extended to Class 10, the Female Secondary Stipend Programme was extended, and a number of other incentives offered to girls and poor children in primary school. Bangladesh has consistently allocated more than 46 per cent of its education budget to primary and mass education since 1990, and the current share of education in the total budget is nearly 16 per cent.

Other factors encouraging girls to attend school have been the availability of micro-finance (through NGOs like BRAC) and expanding job opportunities in the textile and other industries. This consistent and high level support for girls' education has been paralleled in the NGO sector. Combined government and NGO efforts to promote access and equity in education have resulted in extraordinary gains in girls' enrolments in both primary and secondary schools over the past decade.

Source: Global Campaign for Education: "A Fair Chance: Attaining Gender Equality in Basic Education by 2005", http://www.campaignforeducation.org/resources_latest.php



What Can Be Done?

'A World Fit for Children' is a set of pledges made by the governments of the world to the children of the world. On present evidence, these pledges appear unlikely to be honoured in most countries. However, those that have studied this issue are almost unanimous in their belief that these pledges could be redeemed if the political will to achieve them could be mobilised. In particular a fundamental obstacle to the achievement of these goals is the question of financing the actions required.

Section C of the Plan of Action in 'A World Fit for Children' discusses the mobilisation of resources to implement the Plan. It notes that: 'the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Plan of Action and for ensuring an enabling environment for securing the well-being of children rests with each individual country, recognising that new and additional resources, both national and international, are required for this purpose'.

The question of national and international resources is worth looking at separately. In 'A World Fit for Children', all countries committed themselves to try and ensure the effective and efficient use of their existing resources devoted to children and to seek to mobilise new and additional resources. In the North, for example, countries such as Germany and the UK have already allocated budget increases towards children's services and programmes e.g. in order to reduce child poverty. In the South there have also been efforts in countries such as Sri Lanka, Peru, Georgia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Vietnam to increase the resources allocated to achieving the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' (see box below).

Improving Budget Management For Children

In Costa Rica, in 2002, UNICEF supported a study on social investment that contributed to the definition of the relationship between child goals and the public budget in Costa Rica. Continued support to this issue will come from a key budget allocation institution, an agency that subsidises a large number of social assistance and promotion programmes.

In Ecuador. A Social Investment for Children initiative led to a change in a budget resolution in the National Congress - as a result, additional fiscal resources were directed towards special protection programmes for children. In addition, a law was passed to promote the attention of local government agencies to vulnerable sectors, which stipulates that 10% of their budgets should go to finance social programmes for children and women in rural areas.

Across the South, there have been efforts to build on innovative work, pioneered in South Africa, on the development of 'Children's Budgets'. These represent a new approach to identifying budget allocations to children with much more precision, assessing whether they are being used most effectively and looking to see whether additional resources could be reallocated from other sectors.

Much more needs to be – and could be - done to increase resources and domestic budget allocations for children. Substantial additional resources could be freed up for example through reduced expenditure on weapons and other military equipment. Furthermore, the World Bank has suggested that there are many ways in which public expenditure on basic services such as health and education could be increased and made more efficient through, for example:²²

22. World Bank (2003) 'World Development Report 2004: making services work for poor people' World Bank & OUP.

- A greater emphasis on directing budget expenditure away from richer households and towards those with less resources
- Ensuring that budget allocations actually reach frontline services
- Careful monitoring of decentralisation policies to make sure that they have the intended effect of making services more appropriate and better managed
- Involving communities in budget choices and decisions (e.g. through participatory budget processes).

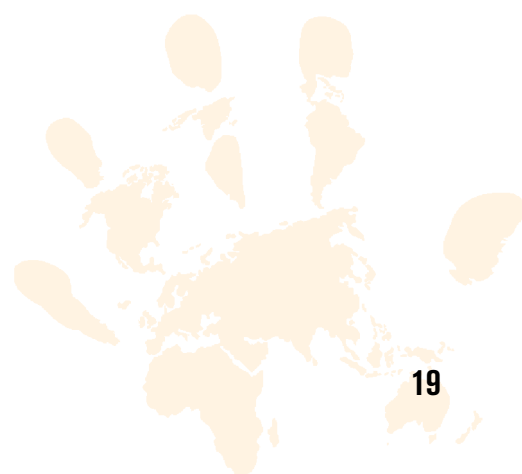
However, although the mobilisation of internal resources has a fundamental role to play in achieving the Special Session goals in the South, it is also acknowledged that a fundamental 'step change' requires a level of resourcing that can only come about with the support of significant resource transfers from the OECD countries.

One reason why the financing of 'A World Fit for Children' was not a significant part of the discussion at the Special Session was that the question of resources had been dealt with at the UN's 'Financing for Development' conference in Monterrey eight weeks earlier. At that conference the South agreed to improve their policies and governance, and the developed countries agreed to give stronger support, by providing more and better aid and by creating easier access to their markets.

Following the Monterrey conference aid levels began to rise for the first time for a decade. But much of this increase has been accounted for by special-purpose allocations (such as for emergency and disaster relief and debt relief) rather than being provided in forms that can flexibly help to meet the costs of achieving 'A World Fit for Children'. Furthermore, aid levels need to rapidly rise well above the modestly-increased levels of today. They need to allow, for example, for allocations of an estimated \$8 billion a year for the achievement of education for all²³ and another \$15 billion for combating AIDS and diseases affecting children such as TB and malaria²⁴. A key contribution to achieving these enhanced levels of aid would be for the richer countries to urgently honour their promise to raise the proportion of their GNI going to development assistance to the 0.7% level agreed many years ago. In 2006, even with the increases already announced, aid levels will be nearly 60% below this (see below).

23. Global Campaign for Education target.

24. Committed at the United Nations Special Session on HIV and AIDS.



Promises and Reality in ODA

The shortfall between actual ODA levels and the levels of ODA that would be achieved at the UN target percentage of 0.7% of GNI are enormous.

Taking the shortfalls in ODA since the year 2000 as an example, the figures are remarkable. The total shortfall accumulated by the 22 DAC countries totals US\$344 billion of resources lost by the South. For the past three years, the gap between actual ODA and target ODA levels has amounted to US\$114 billion in 2000, US\$116 billion in 2001 and US\$113 billion in 2002.

Despite the international community agreeing to the 0.7% target in the 1970s, only a handful of countries have met or exceeded that target. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, despite continually renewing their agreement to reach the UN level, the major developed nations have failed to come even halfway, with the US only reaching 0.13% in 2002 - although, post-Monterrey, the US is committed to a 50% increase in its aid commitments by 2006.

Making up the gap between actual and targeted ODA levels could address many of the key development issues. The average ODA shortfall among the OECD DAC countries is now US\$114 billion per year. If the extra money were spent on education, water and HIV/AIDS, the total increase would be of the order of \$26.5 billion, which still leaves \$87.5 billion to be spent on other 'World Fit for Children' and MDG targets. What is required is for the main industrialised countries to live up to their commitments agreed to at a number of international conferences, and contribute 0.7% of GNI to the South.

Data Source: DAC Development Journal Reports 2001-2004.

Of course, development aid is only one part of the picture. Agricultural protectionism costs the South an estimated US\$20 billion a year directly and up to \$100 billion indirectly²⁵ - twice the amount of development aid they receive. . As Gordon Brown said, "when 900 million farmers in poor countries struggle to survive each day on less than \$1 while rich countries spend \$900 million each day subsidising agriculture – more on agricultural subsidies than the total income of sub-Saharan Africa - ... we must do more - for world trade and for developing countries - to urgently tackle the waste of the Common Agricultural Policy, the scandal of agricultural protectionism around the world."²⁶ These resources are needed to help finance the Special Session agenda. These and other examples of the imbalances in the world trade system need to be redressed and a sustainable solution found to the debt problems of many of the world's poorest countries. Countries that are genuinely committed to achieving the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' should not be denied that opportunity simply because of the failure of the North to assist. As the President of the World Bank recently observed: "We spend US\$900 billion a year on defence globally. We spend US\$300 billion plus on agricultural subsidies, and we spend between US\$50 billion and US\$60 billion on development.... And that seems to me to be the most nonsensical thing you could imagine." ²⁶

25. Gordon Brown, 'Making Globalisation Work For All – the challenge of delivering the Monterrey Consensus' speech delivered at the Making Globalisation Work for All conference, London, 16 February 2004.

26. April 2004 World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings 'Education for all press briefing', see <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:20195326%7EmenuPK:34476%7EpagePK:34370%7EpiPK:34424%7EtheSitePK:4607,00.html>

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report has looked at the extent of follow-up to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children, two years after that meeting. It has considered the two essential components of that follow-up process: planning and action. So far, the news on planning appears to be more hopeful than the news on action.

Almost 9 out of 10 governments at the Special Session on Children have either undertaken or intend to undertake some sort of planning to operationalise the goals of 'A World Fit for Children'. Some 25 of those countries completed and adopted National Plans of Action [NPAs] for children by the preferred deadline of 31st December 2003 or shortly afterwards. In addition, a much larger number - approximately half of the total - have managed to complete the work to integrate the Special Session goals into other national policy and planning instruments such as PRSPs, national development plans, sectoral plans or national policy papers on children.

Other key findings on the planning component of the follow-up process to the Special Session on children are:

- There has been significant regional variation in the choice between different planning instruments. For example, the CEE/CIS region has adopted the NPA as its preferred, but by no means only, instrument for addressing national goals for children; while in sub-Saharan Africa a majority of countries have chosen to use the PRSP process or similar poverty eradication plans.
- The industrialised countries have played a significantly more active part in follow-up to the 2002 Special Session on children than they did following the 1990 World Summit for Children, although they have still done less than some other regions in terms of the overall level of planning activity.
- The Least Developed Countries overall have made less use of NPAs specifically for children; and tend to have done less than some other countries to compensate for the commonly-inadequate attention to protection and other children's issues in the development of PRSPs.
- The quality of planning has been variable, as has the degree of civil society and children's involvement in the process. But there have been a considerable number of good and innovative examples of civil society and children's involvement which should be widely shared and built upon.
- NPAs are often not accompanied by a budget and by measurable goals and indicators. This increases the risk of implementation failures.

The other aspect of the follow-up process is the extent to which action is ensuring that the world is 'on track' to create a world fit for children in the timescales agreed. Here the news is much less positive. Although data specific to the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' are not yet available, there are strong indications that the world has not yet taken sufficiently decisive action to ensure that the Special Session goals will be attained on schedule - or that they will be attained within a reasonable timescale thereafter.



The evidence on this comes primarily from an examination of the available data and analyses of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs]. Seven of the eight MDGs are directly child-focused and the goals of 'A World Fit for Children' were explicitly designed to contribute to their fulfilment, acting as intermediate milestones and complementary strategies.

The overwhelming body of available information suggests that the more child-focused MDGs - and therefore the Special Session goals - are already significantly 'off track'. The reasons for this are varied and complex, and include inadequate political will in a number of countries in the South and North alike. But a key factor is the failure of the richer countries to provide the financial and other resources they promised.

The commitment of the richest countries to the agenda of the World Fit for Children implies a major breakthrough in two major areas that require immediate action:

- (a) Trade: a fundamental change in the rules and practices of trade, so that trade is part of the solution to poverty rather than part of the problem; and
- (b) Financing: a major increase in the levels of quality finance for poverty reduction and basic social services to help fulfill children's rights in poor countries. This means moving towards at least doubling of aid from \$50 billion dollars to \$100 billion dollars a year, and following the example of Ireland, Norway or Switzerland in providing untied aid. It also implies the full and final cancellation of the debts of the heavily indebted poor countries committed to poverty reduction.

The issue of finance is fundamental to the success or failure of 'A World Fit for Children' as a global plan of action. The North has a major responsibility in ensuring policy coherence - so that their agricultural, trade, defense and other policies are not undermining their commitments to the world's children.

Meanwhile, the South needs to improve budget expenditure patterns to give higher priority to basic services that strongly benefit children and families in poverty. Planning alone will not ensure the success of 'A World Fit for Children'. Governments in the South need to move urgently to implement their plans and to increase their investment in essential services and protection for children. The monitoring and analysis of national budgets from the perspective of the impact for children (so-called 'children's budgets') is a promising approach to promoting increased resource allocations for children and maximising their effective use. Child-focused plans need to be accompanied by child-friendly budgets.

There is a significant risk that critical protection issues affecting children will be marginalised during the follow-up process. Special efforts are needed to ensure that they are not lost sight of in PRSPs and other planning frameworks.

Governments should be encouraged to publish regular reports on actions taken in the follow-up to the Special Session on Children and to incorporate their analysis of progress towards the goals of the World Fit for Children and the MDGs in their periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It is essential that civil society, communities, young people and children themselves take an active part in these monitoring and reporting efforts. The new peer review process in West Africa is an example of this.



Children, young people, civil society and communities can play a crucial part in achieving the goals of 'A World Fit for Children'. They should become key partners with government in implementing and monitoring the new action plans for children and should hold governments to account for their fulfillment. There should be high levels of civil society mobilisation in both the North and the South to press for fulfillment of the promises made to children at the Special Session on Children.

For this to happen, civil society has to achieve higher levels of coordination, avoiding duplication of efforts and waste of resources. The Global Movement for Children should offer a new impetus to strengthen that commitment, and should help to mobilise citizens of every nation, families, communities and civil society organisations to do more to protect the rights of all children. This Global Movement should lead to an unstoppable effort to end, at long last, the poverty, ill health, violence and discrimination that have needlessly blighted and destroyed so many young lives. It should help create an ethic in which we are all responsible and accountable for the world's children.



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Annex 1: Financing the fights against HIV/AIDS

When the committed resources to specific issues like HIV/AIDS are concerned, an equal gap emerges. The figures on funding for HIV/AIDS programmes in 2003 reveals a under funding of agreed levels need to combat the disease. The following table concentrates on the G7 countries, as the largest global economies, their level of commitment to tackling HIV/AIDS underpins the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

HIV/AIDS affects children in a multiple of ways – either through direct infection or through the loss of family members and parents. Today it is estimated that there are over 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world, 3 million of which are children under the age of 15. It is estimated that in 2003 alone, some 700,000 children became newly infected. Globally, some 14 million children are thought to be orphaned or vulnerable due to HIV/AIDS killing their parents and guardians. It is a crisis that needs resources and funding.

However, like the overall ODA statistics, the statistics for HIV/AIDS shows an equal lack of fulfilling commitments by the major international donor countries. This table looks at global spending on HIV/AIDS to all sectors of society and not just children by the G7 countries. Some consider the actual spending on children as a percentage of total HIV/AIDS spending to be in the region of 15%.

Donor ²⁷	Suggested equitable Contributions	Suggested equitable Contributions	Estimated giving* Global Fund	Estimated giving* Bilateral Aid	Estimated Total Giving	Deficit (-) or surplus (+) in (\$)
Canada	2.4%	\$151.20	\$15.00	\$94.00	\$109.00	-\$42.20
France	4.5%	\$283.50	\$35.00	\$36.00	\$71.00	-\$212.50
Germany	6.6%	\$415.80	\$22.00	\$134.00	\$156.00	-\$259.80
Italy	3.8%	\$239.40	\$60.00	\$36.00	\$96.00	-\$143.40
Japan	16.5%	\$1,039.50	\$48.00	\$95.00	\$143.00	-\$896.50
United Kingdom	5.0%	\$315.00	\$24.00	\$408.00	\$432.00	\$117.00
United States	34.8%	\$2,192.40	\$209.00	\$852.00	\$1,061.00	-\$1,131.40
Total G7	73.6%	\$4,636.80	\$413.00	\$1,655.00	\$2,068.00	(-)2,568.8

~ Gross domestic product (GDP), July 2003

* Global Fund plus bilateral giving. Of Global Fund grants, figures used in Table 1 are the 60% allocated to HIV/AIDS.

^ Human Development Index

Includes UNAIDS' estimate for resources allocated by affected households; only included as an informational item.

Note: The \$6.3 billion is the figure that UNAIDS estimated would be needed for prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS in 2003. The UNAIDS calculations did not include resource expenditures by HIV/AIDS affected households.

The table does reveal that only 2/3rds (67.2%) of the estimated resources needed to combat HIV/AIDS were raised in 2003. The "40 non-G7 high HDI" countries are collective laggards, falling almost US \$700 million behind in their suggested equitable donations. If Australia, Ireland, Netherlands and Norway are excluded, the "40 non-G7's" combined giving falls to US \$116 million.

Most experts concerned with combating the HIV/AIDS scourge are disturbed with the 1/3rd-giving shortfall in 2003. Yet they are truly alarmed about the expected greater resource deficits in the future. UNAIDS would like funding for HIV/AIDS programmes to increase to US \$8.3 billion in 2004, rising about US \$ 2billion a year to US \$14.9 billion in 2007. Unfortunately, deficits are also anticipated to grow to over US \$3.1 billion in 2005.

Main sources:

- 1) Benedict Chin, "Global Fund or Global 'Under Fund': The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria," World Vision CEO Brief No. 63, 30 September 2003 (figures in column 2).
 - 2) Todd Summers and Jennifer Kates, "Global Funding for HIV/AIDS in Resource Poor Settings," Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, December 2003 (most figures in columns 4 & 5), <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=28514>
- Other Sources:
- 3) Global HIV Prevention Working Group. "Access to HIV Prevention: Closing the Gap," May 2003, <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/nr/downloads/globalhealth/aids/PWGFundingReport.pdf>
 - 4) Jennifer Kates and Todd Summers, "Global HIV/AIDS Support from G8 Countries," HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, May 2003, http://www.unc-gbcs.org/uploads/news/423aids_policy.pdf
 - 5) Richard Black, "AIDS Work Faces Cash Crisis," BBC News, 16 July 2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3070073.stm>
 - 6) Tim France, Gorik Ooms and Bernard Rivers, "The Global Fund: Which Countries Owe How Much?" April 2002, <http://www.aidspace.org/gfo/docs/gfo15.pdf>
 - 7) UNAIDS, "Global Fund Pledges," 23 December 2003, spreadsheet, <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/pledges&contributions.xls>
 - 8) UNAIDS, "Global Fund Grants," 15 December 2003, spreadsheet, <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/grantsstatusreport.xls>
 - 9) UNDP, "HIV/AIDS Goals Remain Elusive" Choices, December 2003, p. 4
 - 10) World Bank, "Global Fund Approves 623 Million to Fight AIDS, Other Diseases," DevNews Media Center, 17 October 2003, <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,date:10-17-2003~menuPK:278083~pagePK:34392~piPK:34427~theSitePK:4607,00.html#Story2>

ANNEX 2: Status of Follow-Up to the Special Session on Children

ASA		SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA		INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES	
6	Afghanistan	7, 10	Angola	10	Antigua and Barbuda	5	Algeria	4	Andorra
4, 7, 10	Bangladesh	5, 7, 10	Benin	4	Argentina	5	Bahrain	4	Australia
6	Bhutan	4	Botswana	a/	Bahamas	7	Djibouti	4	Austria
a/	Buna Darussalam	7, 10	Burkina Faso	10	Barbados	4	Egypt	4	Belgium
6, 7, 10	Cambodia	7	Burundi	4	Belarus	10	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3	Canada
1	China	5, 7	Cameroun	5	Belize		Iraq	a/	Cyprus
5	Fiji	7	Cape Verde	3	Brazil	4	Jordan	8	Czech Republic
4	India	4, 7	Central African Rep.	3	Chile		Kuwait	10	Denmark
4, 6, 7	Indonesia	7	Chad	4	Colombia	10	Lebanon	4	Estonia
4	Khazakhstan	7	Comoros	2, 6	Costa Rica		Ugban Arab Jamahiriya	4	Finland
3	Korea, Democratic Republic	5	Congo	4	Cuba	5, 9	Morocco	4	France
	Korea, Republic of	7	Congo, Dem. Rep. of	10	Dominica	5, 6	Oman	4	Germany
5	Korea, Republic of	4	Cote d'Ivoire	4, 7	Dominican Republic	5, 6	Qatar		Greece
4, 7	Lao People's Democratic Republic	9	Equatorial Guinea	4	Ecuador	5	Saudi Arabia	d/	Holy See
		7, 10	Eritrea	4	El Salvador	7	Sudan	4	Hungary
1b/, 6, 9	Maldives	4, 7, 10	Ethiopia	10	Grenada	4	Syrian Arab Republic	5	Iceland
4	Maldives	4, 7	Gabon	4	Guatemala	3	Tunisia	8	Ireland
5	Marshall Islands	7, 10	Ghana	5, 7	Guyana	5, 7	United Arab Emirates	a/	Israel
5	Micronesia (Federated States of)	4, 7	Guinea	4?	Haiti			3	Italy
3, 7	Mongolia	4, 7, 10	Guinea-Bissau	3	Honduras			5	Japan
5	Myanmar	c/	Kenya	4	Jamaica			10	Lichtenstein
a/	Nauru	7	Lesotho	3	Mexico			a/	Luxembourg
4, 6, 7	Nepal	7	Liberia	3	Nicaragua			a/	Malta
4, 7	Pakistan	7	Madagascar	4	Paraguay			a/	Marocco
5	Palaau, Republic of	4, 7	Malawi	3	Peru			4	Netherlands
4	Papua New Guinea	5, 7	Maldives	10	Saint Kitts and Nevis			2, 10	New Zealand
1, 5	Philippines	8	Mauritius	10	Saint Lucia			3	Norway
5	Samoa	5, 6, 7, 10	Mozambique	10	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			4	Poland
a/	Singapore	6, 10	Namibia	3	Suriname			a/	Portugal
3	Solomon Islands	4, 7	Niger	5	Tinidad and Tobago			4	San Marino
4, 7	Sri Lanka	2, 6	Nigeria	10	Venezuela			10	Slovenia
4	Taiwan	7, 10	Rwanda					4, 10	Spain
5, 6	Timor-Leste		Sao Tome and Principe	4				5	Sweden
5	Tonga		Senegal	10				d/	Switzerland
5	Tuvalu	6, 7, 10	Senegal					8	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
4	Vanuatu	a/	Seychelles					9	United States of America
1, 7	Vanuatu	7	Sierra Leone						
			South Africa						
		10	Swaziland						
		4, 7	Tanzania, United Republic of						
		7	Togo						
		6, 7, 10	Uganda						
		10	Zambia						
		10	Zimbabwe						
						CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES			
						2, 7, 10	Albania	4	Latvia
						3, 7	Armenia	4	Lithuania
						7	Azerbaijan	7	Moldova, Republic of
						3	Belarus	4, 7	Romania
						3, 7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	Russian Federation
						4	Bulgaria	3, 7	Serbia and Montenegro
						2	Croatia	3, 7	Tajikistan
						3, 7	Georgia	4	Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
						3	Kazakhstan		
						3, 7	Kyrgyzstan	3	Turkey
								5	Turkmenistan
								1	Ukraine
								2	Uzbekistan
<p>1. Have existing NPA in process = 5</p> <p>2. Existing NPA in process = 6</p> <p>3. New NPA completed = 25</p> <p>4. New NPA in process = 55</p> <p>5. New NPA frozen = 32</p>						<p>6. SSC follow-up through National Development Plan = 15</p> <p>7. SSC follow-up through Poverty Reduction Strategy - 53</p> <p>8. SSC follow-up through National Policy Paper = 4</p> <p>9. SSC follow-up through Annual Budget = 4</p> <p>10. SSC follow-up through SWApS & sectoral policies = 33</p>			

a/ No information

b/ In process

c/ Joined TN in September 2002

d/ Uncovered between NPA or sector plan

e/ Joined at the SSC; Switzerland joined the TN in September 2002

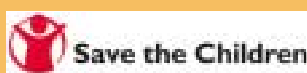
(Source: 2002 and 2003 UNICEF Annual Reports)



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Youth CEOs



Latin American
and Caribbean
Caucus



This is an independent report and does not necessarily reflect the views of all members of Convening Committee of the Global Movement for Children or the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.