



PART V

*Advocating for child survival
and development and women's
empowerment*

World Summit for Children

Update #4

18 May 1990

Update is a periodic compilation by UNICEF of developments, events and activities undertaken by governments, organizations, institutions and others in relation to the World Summit for Children. It also reports on official preparations for the World Summit.

International Herald Tribune plans Summit feature

World leaders travelling to New York for the World Summit will be reading a special four-page supplement on the Summit in the 29-30 September weekend issue of the International Herald Tribune. The IHT's Summit section will profile the issues the Summit will address, as well as expectations for the meeting itself. The international newspaper, published by the Washington Post and New York Times, anticipates extensive pre-Summit and Summit coverage.

UNGA Special Session pledges "fruitful" Summit

United Nations Member States, at the close of the Special Session of the General Assembly on 1 May 1990, pledged to "work for fruitful results" at the World Summit for Children. The special session, which focused mainly on international economic issues, adopted a consensus resolution that encompassed such social concerns as poverty, hunger, nutrition, health, education and the adverse social impact of adjustment.

Candlelight vigils to light the way to World Summit

NGO coalitions in nine countries - Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Kenya, Peru, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States - are planning candlelight vigils on Sunday, 23 September 1990, to focus attention on the World Summit. Beginning in Australia and sweeping around the globe, the vigils will demonstrate public demand for action on the urgent needs of children. For further information on the vigils, or to organize one in your country, write to Children's Vigils, 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002, USA; Phone: 202/546-1900; Fax: 202/546-3228.



World Summit Mobilization • 3 United Nations Plaza • New York, New York 10017 • 212/326-7522 • telex: 175989 • fax: 212/326-7464

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

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Survival and Development, New Resolutions in Africa

Twenty-five African heads of state made a new commitment to children at the 1990 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July.

Joined by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the African leaders adopted seven resolutions reiterating their concern for child survival and development in Africa.

Agreeing on the African Charter on the Welfare and Rights of the Child as a "message of hope" to take to the World Summit for Children, the OAU called on all African countries to ratify the UN Conven-

Living standards fell by 20 to 25% in 1989

tion on the Rights of the Child (14 states have done so as of Sept. 6).

The pan-African political body also urged member states to achieve 75 percent immunization by the end of 1990, to implement the World Declaration on Education for All and to step up the fight against the spread of AIDS. It recognized the Bamako Initiative, a program for accelerating the development of primary health care in Africa, as the cornerstone of health programs and an important factor in the revitalization of primary health care on the continent.

Following four decades of mod-

est gains in socioeconomic development — average life expectancy increased by one third, child death rates were almost halved, and school enrollment rates doubled — the 1980s brought progress to a halt. Throughout many African countries, living standards fell by an overall 20 to 25 percent as debt and recession met with civil war, drought and environmental disaster.

However, immunization coverage for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) has climbed from 10 percent a decade ago to over 50 percent for sub-Saharan Africa as a whole and to over 70 percent in Malawi, Botswana, Mauritius, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia, Burundi, Congo, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Lesotho.

Experts in international economic cooperation say that to resume overall progress, Africa needs more external help in the form of debt reduction, commodity price stabilization, and increased aid and investment. But it also needs political stability and policies that give a new priority to improving the lives and enhancing the capacities of the poor — particularly poor rural women, who grow more than half of the continent's food.

Nicholas N. Gouede

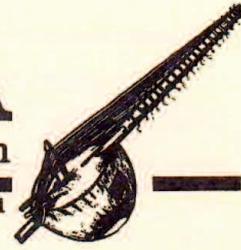
• Nicholas N. Gouede is a consultant for UNICEF, New York.

AFRICAN KORA

Journal of artists and intellectuals for children

January/February 1990

Volume 2 Number 1



Innovative ways to fight AIDS

by William Nibe in Yaounde

Godfrey, a 30-year-old native of Trinidad and Tobago, knew he had AIDS five years ago. His parents, who live in London, are still not aware of his ordeal. A headstrong and creative person, he has spent the past few years fighting against it, monitoring progress in the area of AIDS research and promoting AIDS education through drama.

Godfrey was among key speakers to a symposium held

recently in Yaounde, Cameroon when over a thousand health education and information experts drawn from the world's five continents met for five days to map out a war plan against AIDS.

The most popular of Godfrey's plays is "One of our Sons is Missing", the story of a young bisexual man who contracts AIDS and dies leaving his parents distraught and his friends frightened. People in Trinidad who have watched his theatre project reacted so positively that he received financial support from the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society and the Caribbean Epidemiology Center to extend his activities.

Addressing a heavily attended panel discussion on AIDS information and education, Godfrey described theatre as an efficient medium for the targeting of specific information to exposed communities such as adolescents, the urban poor and delinquents. His lecture, the first ever delivered by an AIDS patient in Cameroon, left most participants deeply shaken, especially those who still do not see themselves as potential AIDS victims.

Conference sources said during the meeting that about two million people, half of them adolescents and children, have been infected by the HIV virus.

A WHO report also warned that at least 250,000 more African children will contract AIDS from their mothers by 1992 if a large scale information and education campaign is not launched to stop it from spreading.

A group of Cameroonian prostitutes working in Yaounde staged a play entitled "Les Amies de Rose et Douglas" and were given a standing ovation by hundreds of delegates when

Continued on page 3

Why the children are dying

by M.B. Jalloh in Freetown
(with A.O.D. George and D. Shiaka)

Friday prayers in Bumpah, a village located in the heart of Sierra Leone's diamond mining district. The imam, Sheikh Abu Bakar Conteh, had summoned his flock for a special "Kutuba" or Friday sermon. It brought the usual packed house for "Id'ul Fitri", the close of the Ramadan month; every available space in the mosque was occupied.

"For dis kutuba, I wan tell ona dae ttn wae dae make we pekin den dae die plenty", said Sheikh Conteh through a loud-

Continued on page 3

Contents

Innovative ways to fight Aids	1
Why the children are dying	1
Editorial	2
When a child cries	5
The Atananarivo Appeal	6
Country-level activities	8
They heard it from Hendl	10
News from outside Africa	11
News in brief	11
A monumental step forward for Children's Rights	12



A monumental step forward for Children's Rights

by Nicholas Goude

Over 500 children gathered at the United Nations in New York on 20 November 1989, to celebrate the adoption of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child by the General Assembly**. The commemoration, which was organized by an inter-agency task force, provided an opportunity for some young boys and girls to present petitions on children's rights and to have a dialogue with UN officials. Following are excerpts from statements and remarks made on that historic day.

"Let us all move even further than a written treaty: **STARTING TODAY**, let us work together in order to guarantee that the children of the world will have at last the opportunity to benefit from medical care, schools, clean water, food and basic education ... just like most children we all know!"

Guillaume Lemay-Thivierge, a 13-year-old boy who spoke as the official spokesperson for UNICEF in Quebec, Canada

"We are representing 80,000 children from Norway. We have asked our government to be one of the first countries to sign the Convention."

Martin Sandberg, a Norwegian child who presented a copy of some of the 80,000 signatures that have been collected

"We support the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. All countries must grant these rights for children, including adequate nutrition and medical care, protection from neglect, cruelty and exploitation, educa-

tion so that each child is encouraged to follow his or her dreams as well as becoming a useful member of society."

Malika Mitchell, a girl from the Eisenstein Community Center in Brooklyn, New York

"I have been around for almost 11 years and I came to the conclusion that if children don't know their human rights, they will have a hard time getting along in this world."

Ivan De Jesus, a boy from Central Park East II School in New York City

"Unproductive political confrontations were set aside while delegates from countries with different social and economic systems representing the various cultural, ethical and religious approaches to life, worked together with Non-Governmental Organizations in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect and with the best interests of the child as their paramount objective."

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations

"For children, this is the Magna Carta ... Prior to this, the legal rights of children were limited to the extent that they were stated in international agreements that were scattered. This really is a historic watershed that has been crossed by this Convention."

James P. Grant, UNICEF Executive Director

"The rights of the child have now gone from a declaration of purpose into what will become a binding piece of international legislation. The Convention shows the positive and constructive results which international cooperation can yield."

Ambassador Joseph Garba of Nigeria, President of the 44th General Assembly

"The Convention is important because it is the most comprehensive and significant treaty on children's rights. It sets universally accepted standards to protect almost half of the world's population..."

Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you very much for the copy of *AFRICAN KORA*. I found the articles quite interesting. The report on "Children Retrace Slave Route" was of great interest to me. I think the human blunders and atrocities of the past should be brought to the attention of the younger generations.

I hope you will continue to focus on programmes and events which shed light on children in Africa. The youth are the hope of the human race. Africa's demographic situation underscores this fact better than anything else. Your journal is a mirror that could reflect adequately the hopes and dreams of African youth. We will help you move forward.

Sulayman S. Nyang, Ph.D., Chairman, African Studies & Research Program, Howard University, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

We have just been introduced to your journal, the *AFRICAN KORA*, the March and July/August issues. We are a privately-owned news agency and desirous to get involved in your laudable effort in the development of the African Child. Please tell us in what way we can help.

K.B. Brown, General Manager, Leontine Publishing Agency, Accra, Ghana

(We have suggested to our Ghanaian colleagues that *AFRICAN KORA* articles can be distributed and republished locally. The same is true in all countries. — The Editor)

Côte d'Ivoire: Lunch programme helps students cope with Côte d'Ivoire crisis

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The school lunch programme that helped boost primary enrolment in Côte d'Ivoire is now enabling students forced from their homes by civil conflict to continue their schooling, promoting peace and raising awareness about the threat of HIV/AIDS. UNDP has supported the programme since 1999, when the School Canteens Department of the Ministry of Education and Training launched it as a pilot project in 277 schools. It now operates in nearly 3,500 schools, almost half the country's primary schools, reaching more than 345,000 children.

"The programme is based on community mobilization and participation," said Odette Loan, its director. It helps set up village committees to operate the school canteens, focusing on women's participation, and encourages communities to provide land to grow food for their canteens. Friends of the World Food Programme, a civil society group, presented Ms. Loan with their "Leaders in the Fight Against Hunger" award this year in recognition of her work.

Healthy lunches improve students' nutrition, helping them do better in school and stay enrolled, which also bolsters efforts to reduce poverty. This has encouraged more families to enrol their children, particularly girls, in rural areas where children may have to walk several kilometres to school.

When she was only seven, Ms. Loan walked six kilometres to the nearest school. Memory of the hunger that gnawed at her during the day spurred her to start the programme. It has helped boost primary school enrolment by almost 40 per cent, she reports.

UNDP has provided nearly US\$800,000 in funding, with the UN Office for Project Services and the World Food Programme working with the School Canteens Department to implement it. The Government provides 40 per cent of the budget, and local communities and students' families also give support.

The programme has responded to the crisis caused by the civil conflict that erupted last year by opening 600 new school canteens for 65,810 displaced children. It is also helping 123,000 displaced children attend school through services provided at canteens already in operation.

Japan, UNDP, UNICEF and the UN Population Fund have contributed \$2.9 million towards these efforts. The Belgian Chamber of Commerce donated 2,250 books for displaced children.

To help communities cope with crisis, particularly around Abidjan, the capital, where many displaced families are sheltered, it is providing teachers and community activists with training on promoting peace, human rights and HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. So far, 680 teachers have received training through an initiative supported by France and UNDP. Psycho-social counselling is also provided to children traumatized by the conflict.

In areas where classes were suspended following occupation by rebel forces, the programme worked with UNESCO to reopen schools so that children would not lose a year of schooling.

The programme is also drawing on community involvement to support small-scale local development activities, supported by \$110,000 provided by a partnership with the Fund for the Development of Professional Training (FDFP), a national organization.

For further information please contact, Madeleine Oka-Balima (m.oka-balima@undp.org), UNDP Côte d'Ivoire, or Nicholas Gouede (nicholas.gouede@undp.org), UNDP Communications Office.

28 May 2003

United Nations Development Programme (New York) »

13 FEBRUARY 2004

Africa: UNDP Regional Gender Programme Stakeholders Workshop Maps out New Comprehensive Strategy to Advance Women's Gender Issues and Empowerment in Africa

PRESS RELEASE

New York — Over 100 distinguished representatives from 22 sub-Saharan African countries are meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 15-17 February at a high level workshop organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to discuss ways and means of promoting the role of women in the development process in Africa. A unique aspect of the workshop, which will examine ways to improve the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women, is that it involves the active participation of a wide range of stakeholder organizations, including international organizations, governments, women's community action groups, NGOs, donor agencies, foundations and the private sector.

"The workshop will not only discuss women's gains resulting from UNDP's previous Regional Programme for Africa, it will highlight the role of the Millennium Development Goals in monitoring and furthering gender equality and equity throughout Africa," says Abdoulie Jannah, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Africa.

The workshop, which will be held at the Intercontinental Sandton Sun & Towers in Johannesburg, will launch the second phase of UNDP's Regional Gender Programme for Africa. Additionally, it will underscore efforts to integrate African women into the advances in global trade arrangements being made through NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) and utilize UNDP's Africa 2015 initiative to focus efforts on rolling back the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which affects more women than men in sub-Saharan Africa (nearly twice as many young women compared to young men are HIV positive in the region). "This stems less from the physiological vulnerabilities of girls and women than the inequities that still beset them, whether in the household, school, market or workplace," observes Mr. Jannah.

Discussions will focus on three major themes of UNDP's gender programme: gender and economic empowerment; engendering good governance and peace building; and the links among gender, HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Workshop participants, who include representatives of leading women's NGOs, members of UNDP's Gender Advisory Board, human rights laureates of the Mano River Women's Peace Network and newly elected Commissioners of the African Union, will share experiences and views on a wide range of issues affecting women. African Union Commissioners will discuss ways in which the recent decision on gender parity in the composition of the Commission will further advance African development efforts.

In addition to developing a comprehensive strategy, plan of action and monitoring process, the workshop will also identify productive partnerships for the success of the initiative, including further exchanges and action within the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. The resulting workshop drafts will provide pointers for strengthening on-going alliances, as well as new partnerships, made over the past few years.

Private foundations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation working with the African Women's Media Centre and Sony Music Entertainment have joined forces with the region's traditional development partners—Canadian International Development Agency, the UK Department for International Development, the European Commission, and the U.S. Agency for International Development. New partners in development, such as the Global Summit of Women, the Business Women's Network, the Global Grassroots Entrepreneurs Trading Network and Daimler Chrysler have also joined as active participants in the expanded coalition to advance women's rights and empowerment in Africa.

For further information contact: Nicholas Gouede, UNDP Press Officer, e-mail: Nicholas.gouede@undp.org; tel NY 1-212-906-6801; fax: 1-212-906-5364; mobile in South Africa: +1 646 552-5725; Don Hinrichsen, UNDP Media consultant, mobile in New York: 917-715-9270, e-mail: don.hinrichsen@undp.org; or Sharon Chetty, UNDP Communications Officer, Johannesburg, tel: 27-12-354-8041; mobile: (0) 82 419-1555, e-mail: sharon.chetty@undp.org.

UNDP is the global development network of the United Nations system. It advocates for change, and links countries to the knowledge, experience and resources their people need to improve their lives.

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