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REPORT ON A STUDY TOUR OF UNICEF-ASSISTED PROJECTS IN
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR MEMBERS OF

SOUTH AFRICAN NGOS AND THE ISSUE ARISING THEREFROM

I. BACKGROUND

UNICEF, as a organisation within the United Nations, continues to abide by the UN resolutions on South Africa. Therefore, it has not had an office nor any programme activity within South Africa, nor any links with the South African government. At the same time, UNICEF has been assisting those South Africans who have left their country and sought refuge from the apartheid regime abroad. This assistance has consisted of support for child health and nutrition programmes, for education programmes, and for training activities for women in agriculture and income-generating. Often this assistance has been coordinated through the liberation movements recognised by the UN, who support and represent the South Africans abroad.

In recent years, UNICEF has closely monitored the evolving situation in South Africa, and maintaining a dialogue on that situation with the concerned parties. In November 1989, a meeting was held with Mrs. Albertina Sisulu the honorary President of the United Democratic Front (UDF) of South Africa, now known as the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM). The purpose of the discussion was to explore ways in which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in South Africa could be assisted by UNICEF to address the situation of children and women in that country, without UNICEF being itself directly involved. It was suggested that, as many NGOs were unaware of the precise functions and operations of UNICEF, it would be useful if some of the relevant NGOs who were already working with on children's and women's issues -could be exposed to UNICEF's activities in other countries. It was agreed that a small group, representing the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) and the National Medical and Dental Association (NAMDA) would be invited to undertake a study tour of UNICEF-assisted projects in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. It was also agreed that, at the end of the tour in Lusaka, a further meeting would be held to assess what would be the next steps for both UNICEF and the NGOs to assist the children and women of South Africa.

II. SUMMARY OF THE STUDY TOUR

The study tour had the objective of exposing the members of the South African NGOs to the focus of UNICEF programme of cooperation, and the methodology by which it was undertaken. As it was not possible before the start of the tour to determine the precise background and expectations of the members of the tour group, the tour programme addressed a number of issues which had been raised by Mrs. Sisulu. These included the problems of urban street children and urban poor women, the structure and functioning of community based Primary Health Care (PHC) projects, and the support given to rural community groups in Child Survival and Development (CSD) projects.

A report of the tour group is included as Annex 1 to this

III. SUMMARY OF THE ROUNDUP MEETINGS HELD IN LUSAKA

As planned, meetings were held in Lusaka at the end of the tour to review the issues raised, and to assess the next steps to be taken. The tour group first of all held an internal meeting with the relevant staff members of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. These latter represented various departments and sectors of the ANC including the health, education, legal, projects, manpower development, women, youth, and international affairs departments and sections. It is noteworthy that the ANC already has an organisational unit established to address children's issues (the Children's Desk within the Department of Legal and Constitutional Affairs). Children's issues are also addressed in an operational manner by the Women's section. The report of these deliberations is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

Following the internal meeting, a joint meeting of the tour group, a representative from PEDSAW

(representing Mrs. Sisulu), of those who attended are given including

in Johannesburg the ANC, and UNICEF was held. The names are given in Annex 4 attached to this report.

2. statement from Dr. Jolly of UNICEF outlining the background to the tour and the contacts with the organisation concerned with children's issues in South Africa. He elaborated on UNICEF's mandate to address the needs of children everywhere, mentioning the various sides of a conflict situation where UNICEF has been able to work on both sides because of the

PAGE 3

all parties to survival, protection and development of children. The examples of UNICEF operations in Biafra, Kampuchea, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Sudan, and Uganda were cited. The point was made that UNICEF had the responsibility to fulfill this mandate for the children of South Africa too; while abiding by the UN resolutions on not having contact or dealings with the South African government or state apparatus. Dr. Jolly stressed that "UNICEF works in such situations with the acquiescence of governments, and not necessarily with the governments concerned. UNICEF has to work for children wherever they are vulnerable and at risk, without taking sides. The UNICEF mandate is flexible enough that it does not have to recognise governments to be able to support children's needs, and this was the key to the UNICEF programme in Kampuchea.

Dr. Jolly reviewed the previous support which UNICEF had given to the various liberation movements in Southern Africa over the last 15 years. He described the production of the UNICEF publication "Children on the Frontline" which had drawn worldwide attention to the situation of children in South Africa in a nonpolitical manner, as well as highlighting the impact of the war of destabilisation on the children in the surrounding countries. The need to bring children into the development agenda was emphasised by Dr. Jolly, noting that broad support for the children as a group to be protected was essential. He suggested that as a starting point in the South African situation, an in-depth analysis of the situation of children and women would be a very useful document to support a dialogue on children by all parties. He noted that UNICEF has special experience in supporting advocacy and social mobilisation for children. In the context of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF had been given a special role to monitor the changes which were occurring in the situation of children. Dr. Jolly stated that special emphasis was made by UNICEF on the reduction of infant and child mortality, as this was seen as an indicator of overall improvement in the situation of children.

In the broader context, Dr. Jolly mentioned the advocacy role which UNICEF has taken up in the global debate on Third World Debt, and on structural Adjustment. He briefly summarised the key arguments of UNICEF's policy on Adjustment with a Human Face. He also alluded to the goals being discussed for the fourth development decade, and mentioned that a document was available from UNICEF which gave details of these goals.

_ In closing, Dr. Jolly stated how impressed and moved the UNICEF group was by having the opportunity to meet with Mr. Nelson Mandela, the day before. The strength and commitment to the people of South Africa which Mr. Mandela had demonstrated through his 27 years in prison was a challenge to the rest of us to end it means to help the children of South Africa, future of that nation.

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who represent the

PAGE 4

The delegation of South Africans was led by Sister Bernard Ncube, the President of the Federation of Transvaal Women (FETRAW), who was representing Mrs. sisulĩ-\\201 who could not be present at the meeting. She thanked all those who had made the meeting possible, a meeting which she noted was most timely. There were very rapid changes occurring in South Africa, she said, but so far none of these changes has alleviated the basic situation causing \\200\\230suffering and hardship to so many. She stated that there was a great need for a UNICEF-type focus in South Africa, especially to consolidate all the ongoing activities into a programme for children. But she emphasised that such a programme must not only address the issue of healing the "wounds" experienced by children in South Africa, but also the causes of those wounds - in other words it must address itself to changing the system. She welcomed UNICEF\\200\\231S approach through the NGOS, which was a good approach, and thanked UNICEF for the assistance provided to the children of refugee South Africans and for the support provided by UNICEF for the study tour. In conclusion, she expressed the feeling that all present look forward to the day when all South African children will be free. A representative of the ANC made a statement on the situation of children in South Africa as perceived by the ANC. It is attached as Annex 3 to this report.

IV SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUES RAISED

A. Matters arising from the statements

1. Issue of exclusivity/impartiality

In various statements from the South Africans present, there seemed to be an expectation that UNICEF would be able to work exclusively through one group which would link with the relevant NGOs. However, it was emphasised that it was not in the spirit of UNICEF\\200\\231s mandate to work only through one organisation, but instead try to address children's needs in a broad and nonpartisan manner. Within the framework of the UN approved sanctions against the government of South Africa, UNICEF needs to remain impartial and ensure it is able to work with all committed organisations, especially NGOs.

2. . Child rights in South Africa

One of the most important issues raised was the issue of child rights, and the meeting was made aware that the ANC and other South African organisations had been Campaigning around these issues for a long time, using among other material, the UN Children's Charter.

There is a long history of the MDM making the world aware of the abuses of children in South Africa over the years. The recent approval by the UN of the convention on the rights of the child provides an opportunity for renewed adVOcacy for child rights in South Africa. "

3. Importance of building'oh existina organisations and on the high level of social and golitical mobilisation which exists While UNICEF has not been active in South Africa in promoting child survival and development, this is not to say that nothing has been going on with relation to these issues. A number of social development organisations have arisen to address the issues concerned, and some have how a considerable experience. In addition, South Africans have experienced a greater extent of political mobilisation than many other African countries in recent years as a result of the peopleâ\200\231s struggle for democracy and freedom. Often these political mobilisation campaigns were formed around a pressing social issue, thus laying the ground work for social mobilisation campaigns for C50 in the future. UNICEF must be cognisant of the work done by existing organisations and should carry forward and build upon this. The high level of social mobilisation in South Africa is a resource which should be utilised and supported.

B. Discussion of future actions

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Two working groups were formed which discussed the issues which arose from the statements and the clarifications sought. The working groups addressed the issues of social mobilisation/advocacy and the preparation of a situation analysis.

At the end of the discussion it was agreed that all parties will report back to their respective leadership and governing bodies to further inform them about the results of the study tour. In particular, UNICEF will consult with its Executive Board.

On the South African side, it was agreed that the following actions would take place:

a

. A small meeting will be organised in South Africa to report back from the tour and the post-tour meetings which Will include a broad participation of concerned bodies for children in South Africa, including the MDM, etc.

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b. The meeting will be convened by Mrs. sisulu and Federation of Transvaal Women (FEDTRAW) in Johannesburg within a month. The participants in the meeting will include representatives of the following sectors: .

Health .

Education

Social Welfare

Churches and religious groups '

COSATU

UDF

ANC

c. The objectives of the meeting are as follows

1. Feedback from study tour of UNICEF~assisted projects and lessons learned _

2. Discussion and development of proposals for advocacy and social mobilisation activities focussed on the convention of rights of the child

3. Develop a better understanding of the situation of children through discussing :

(i)what tools are needed to understand the situation of children in South Africa better;

(ii)whether a situation analysis of children and women is needed to do this or not;

(iii)what resources may be required to do a situation analysis â\200\230

4. Make recommendations with regard to continuing the work of the Lusaka meeting in support of children in South Africa.

These issues will be addressed in both a longterm and a shortterm perspective of the situation of children in South Africa.

d. The mechanisms for holding this meeting are as follows:

1. Sister Bernard will report back to Mrs. Sisulu and the Executive Committee of FEDSAW/FEDTRAW

2. An organising committee will be formed by FEDTRAW with others from the MDM

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3. FEDmgAW will determine:

date '

duration

place

no. of participants (approx 40 - 45)

specific agenda

structure .

issue invitations (a draft .invitation .letter ia
attached as Annex 5) ' - ' ~

distribute background notes and information.

e. In preparation for the meeting the following actions will be
taken:

1. FEDTRAW will arrange for the translation of the
Convention on the Rights of the Child into Zulu{
Xhosa, Sotho, and Afrikaans. UNICEF will
reimburse the cost of this to FEDTRAW.

2. UNICEF documents on children will be distributed
at the conference. UNICEF will send the relevant
documents to FEDTRAW. These documents will
include Children on the Frontline, Facts for Life,
State of the World's Children Report, strategies
for children for the 1990s, etc.

3. The UNICEF framework for doing a situation
analysis would be made available at the March
meeting, including copies of some of the current
examples from other countries. Members of the
tour group will be available to brief the meeting
on the specifics and possibilities of the
situation analysis and further workshops.

f. At the meeting a mechanism has to be established to
undertake any further activities determined, and to maintain
continuing contact with UNICEF.

g. UNICEF Gaborone will be the appropriate point of contact for
support to the meeting, under the guidance of UNICEF HQ.

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Notes prepared by :

R. Mgiijima

N. Jinabhai

N. Myburgh

M. Mauras

M. Hogwanja

Finalised in New York on 15 March 1990

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CopiÃ©s circulated for comments to :

Members of the Study Tour

FEDSAW/FEDTRAW, Johannesburg -'fpr onforwarding to Mrs. sisulu

ANC, Lusaka

UNICEF offices in : '

Lusaka

Gaborone

Luanda

Nairobi Regional

Nairobi Country

Dar-es-Salaam

MNEX 1

I .

REPORT FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA : IUDU uROUf i0 IHHZHMLA. KtNxx amp gemufu.

FEBRUARY 1990

the tour included visits to a wide range of both urban and rural Community based projects assisted by UNILKp in the areas around Naxrooz. Harare, Harare, Harare. Dar es Salaam. Chze ostrlcx. ana Lu5drÃ© in Lemnta. In adultxox. some informative meetings with ofrxcxaie rrcm Nbu s community members.

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and government officials and aid agency workers.

Amongst some of the most startling xmoressxons were the following sxmxiÃ©ritxes between the situation at home in Sx and the planes vlsxtec:

the character and extent of the urban slum camps

the extensive informal sector activities there

the problem of street children

the extensive poverty and classism in income 4

the land tenure issue underlying many of the problems

the issues of women's role in the household/gender issues by a 200\234CH SERVICES

and this is occurring 50 years AFTER independence "

Amongst our other observations. was the devastating effect the absence of a sound economic Development has on community activities of every description. The ominous presence of structure: adjustment handling over or the countries we visited was another sad lesson for us to learn. It seems clear that comprehensive development programmes must not be maintained without adequate capital and a more truly international economic order.

HIVS was a problem we encountered everywhere we went.

During our visit of pearls we spoke with was most "QLDTUI. However no one prepared us for the horrific epidemic of cholera outbreak which we were reheatedly presented. that SOX or the INR in Harare as a result was due to plus. displacing the traditional enemies of child health by a large margin was regrettable. GISCOVEFY.

and the different

Oral health issues were sadly neglected in their absence. sometimes difficult

.to conceive of outside of the high fluoridated areas since the prevalence of

caries was evidently high in prevalence in many of these areas,

From a more general DQFCEQLDH of the character of development J

Conclusions we

noted that:

Ii; there was a lot of economic development taking place, the large sectors of national development programmes planned to be bilateral or unilateral did achieve.

III) In Tanzania we were impressed by the close UOVVina relationships between community. administrative govt. officials and the aid agency representatives. It seemed that the environment provided some very real opportunities for community participation in the programmes. One was also struck by the sense of pride and self reliance that seemed present in these communities,

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b) Prepare for a camoalqn on culturen s rzonls

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3. Consultative Conference

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a) Identafy the drauns to get znvolved ln nrriorxtv areas.

b) Develop a flve-vear-olan

c) Adopt the canventxon on the Nzohts 01 the thta.

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 ANC PARTICIPANTS
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 H5 Briquette "banal:
 Hr Samuel i-\202asemola
 Dr Ralnh i-\202qijima
 Mr Raymond Kokoena
 Nr Papa i-\202oloto
 Ms Irene Hatsape
 National women's Secretarzate
 Legal and Constitutional Htfalrs
 Manpower Development
 Health Secretariat:
 Internatzcnal Affaurs
 manpower Development Department
 Education Department
 â\200\2355 Baleka qusitsile women: Secretariate
 Mr Jacob Chilwane Proiects Denartment
 Sr Bernhard chube FEDfRnw
 UNILEF SIUDV QUUR PARTICIPHNIS - FEBRUARY 1990
 H5 Beatrice Nonsxkelelo Natal women; Group
 H: Dinah Nkobo FEDTRi-\202w
 Dr Neil i-\202yburqh NAHDh
 Dr CC Jinabhai NAHDH
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 Dr Richard Jolly
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OF CHILDREN AND NUIâ\200\230IEN 1N :uum Â«Hutu.

the crisis of children in South Africa has been hiuhlXnhteOv the statements
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conference in Amsterdam and also in the UNICEF nublxcatxon. "Lhztdren on the
Frontlineâ\200\234. We are sure that vaur oraanxsatxon ulll also have nao to aeax
with this crxsis lh some way. and may have noted the atstxnCt luck at
sustained national efforts structured to deal uxth such orobsems.

A number of our members and two reoresentatxves or mauve have recently
returned from a UNICEF-sponsored study tour or three :outnern ntrxcan
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confrontznq these ISSUES. Bulldan On some 01 theSe lnsxahts we propose to
convene an exploratory meetlng to axscuss the way Tormara aha uoula value the
narticipation of a representatxve from your oraanlsatxon.

lt 15 pronosed that the aaenaa be as open ano vlexzbze as 00551019. however
we wish to suggest that the oasslbxlxtv or CArryxho out a sxtuatxon analysxs
of chldren and women in South Atrlca. and also the nosszhxlxtv or hauntxnu a
campaan around the UN conventlon on chxlarens rlqnts. De censxuereo tor the
anenua. Information from our taur quun. together uzth vaerus other
documentation will be made available at the qeetano.

we szncereely hone your organlsatxon wall be aote to seho a representatxve to
what we feel will be a landmark event ln the well-Deth 01 women and chlhareh
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attached.

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